



NSFC - FRQS Research Program on Cardiovascular diseases

Program category: International collaborations

DEADLINES

Submission of the Letter of intent (Québec researchers only):

April 19, 2018 4:30 p.m. (Montréal time)

Submission of the Complete Application:

June 14, 2018 4:30 p.m. (Montréal time) for Québec

June 19, 2018 4:00 p.m. (Beijing time) for China

Contacts :
<p>NSFC:</p> <p>Division Director Xiuping Liu +86 10 62325377 liuxp@nsfc.gov.cn</p>
<p>FRQS:</p> <p>Program Manager Manon Pelletier 514 873-2114 extension 1243 manon.pelletier@frq.gouv.qc.ca</p>

The purpose of this call for proposals is to support innovative international research projects focusing on cardiovascular diseases, involving researchers from China and Québec. It will encourage major scientific breakthroughs in the short and medium terms by combining and potentiating the strengths, expertise and sources of structural leverage of both countries, as well as fostering knowledge translation.

This call for proposals is led jointly by:

- National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC)
- Fonds de recherche du Québec – Santé (FRQS)

NSFC and FRQS will act jointly as the call secretariat for proposals.



PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

Priority themes	<p>For this program, the following themes have been prioritized:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hypertension (including pulmonary hypertension) • Atrial fibrillation and cardiac electrophysiology • Coronary heart disease and restenosis • Heart failure and cardiomyopathies • Metabolic cardiovascular disease
Objectives	<p>The aim of this program is to generate knowledge in order to better understand and treat cardiovascular diseases and improve patients' survival and quality of life.</p> <p>Projects should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be related to fundamental and/or translational research • Bring together researchers from a variety of disciplines, areas of expertise and research settings, and with an array of approaches • Cover fields where the interests and strengths of the researchers are already proven <p>The project will have to be structured in such a way to lead to a new added value that the researchers, funded by each of the two research funding agencies, could not achieve on their own.</p>

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

Conditions	<p>Research team structure</p> <p>The research team must be composed of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two (2) Principal Investigators (one from China and one from Québec) that will represent the project and be responsible of the management of the application as well as of the project's internal scientific management with regards to their respective agency and team members • 4 Co-Investigators or more (a minimum of 2 Co-Investigators from China and 2 Co-Investigators from Québec) • Up to 8 collaborators • Research teams must consist of researchers working in eligible institutions under the conditions and requirements of the relevant research funding agency (see below for more details) • Principal Investigators must demonstrate that they will be adequately involved to ensure the project success. In addition, all team members must demonstrate how they collaborate or intend to collaborate on the proposed research project and specify the time allocated to the project or the level of involvement <p>NSFC and FRQS strongly recommend including young researchers among the Co-</p>
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	<p>Investigators.</p> <p>Research team multidisciplinaryity will be considered an asset.</p>
Multiple applications	<p>Researchers may only submit one (1) application to this program, either as co-Principal Investigator <u>OR</u> Co-Investigator.</p>
IN QUÉBEC:	
Conditions	<p>All persons associated with the project as Principal Investigator and Co-Investigator must meet the definition of one of the following Research Statuses (see the Definitions section of the Common General Rules):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ University Researcher ○ Clinical University Researcher ● Clinical researchers must prove that they are members in good standing of the professional order governing them in Québec, have a valid license to practice in Québec and have professional liability insurance ● Postdoctoral trainees cannot apply to this program as Principal Investigator or Co-Investigator <p>In addition, the Principal Investigator and the Co-Investigators must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Be employed by a managing institution and be domiciled in Québec at the time the application is submitted (see section 2.1 of the Common General Rules). <p>Collaborators may be outside of Québec. However, no funds will be transferred outside the province.</p>
Ethics	<p>The Principal Investigator and Co-Investigators must comply with the ethical and Responsible conduct of research regulations (as defined in sections 5.3 and 5.4 of the Common General Rules), with the Policy for the Responsible Conduct of Research of the FRQ and the Standards du FRQS sur l'éthique de la recherche en santé humaine et l'intégrité scientifique.</p>
Basic training in research ethics	<p>Basic training in research ethics is mandatory for all FRQS funding recipients when their research project or program involves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Living human subjects ● Cadavers, human remains, tissues, biological fluids, gametes, embryos or fetuses, cells or genetic materials ● Personal information on file. Personal information is any information concerning a person which allows the person to be identified <p>Funding recipients must successfully complete levels 1 and 3 of the Online Tutorial in Research Ethics set out by the <i>Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux</i> (MSSS).</p> <p>The Principal Investigator and Co-Investigators must complete the training before receiving the first payment of their grant.</p>



IN CHINA:

Conditions

This call is open to:

- Principal Investigator or Co-Investigator(s) with the status of independent investigators or independent clinical investigators, and working in a university or an institution which has been registered at NSFC
- Postdoctoral trainees cannot apply to this program as co-Principal Investigators or Co-Investigators

In addition, the Principal Investigator must:

- Have a senior academic title
- Be a grantee of current or former NSFC research project
- Not exceed the limit of number of NSFC projects in a certain year. Please refer to NSFC website regarding the eligibility requirements.

(<http://www.nsf.gov.cn/nsfc/cen/xmzn/2018xmzn/xxsq.html>)

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS – LETTER OF INTENT (FOR QUÉBEC RESEARCHERS ONLY)

Since the letter of intent will be shared with our NSFC partners, it must be written in English. Any other correspondence with FRQS can be done in French.

Transmission of the documents:

Any missing document or document that is not in conformity with the program rules and forms may result in the ineligibility of the funding application.

No extensions will be permitted. After the application deadline, forms that are not already submitted will be automatically rejected.

All documents described below should **be sent by e-mail** to Manon Pelletier, Program Manager at FRQS (manon.pelletier@frq.gouv.qc.ca). Documents should be sent as one (1) PDF document. CV of the Principal Investigator as well as the detailed contributions should be inserted after the form.

The date and time of the e-mail transmission is proof of the date and time of the documents' sending.

Québec Principal Investigator

NOTE: the letter of intent must be submitted by the Québec Principal Investigator to the FRQS only

- **Letter of intent form**
- **Canadian Common CV , Funding CV version** for the FRQS (updated since June 2015) for the Principal Investigator
- Detailed contributions updated at least since June 2015. Consult the **Guidelines for the CV attachment** available in the toolbox for detailed contributions content. Detailed contributions must be attached to the email



with the form and CV for the submission of the letter of intent

The FRQS will send an e-mail confirming the acceptance or rejection of the letter of intent to each Principal Investigator.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS – COMPLETE APPLICATION

Transmission of the documents:

Any missing document or document that is not in conformity with the program rules and forms may result in the ineligibility of the funding application.

No extensions will be permitted. After the application deadline, forms that are not already submitted will be automatically rejected.

IN QUÉBEC:

All documents described below should **be sent by email** to Manon Pelletier (manon.pelletier@frq.gouv.qc.ca) at FRQS. CVs of all researchers (including the detailed contributions) should be attached into one (1) PDF document, one after the other. Biographical sketches of researchers from China should also be included. The date and time of the transmission of the e-mail is proof of the date and time of the documents' sending.

IN CHINA:

A matching Call for Proposals will be released on the NSFC website. Chinese Principal Investigators should log onto the NSFC ISIS system and fill out and submit an application form online, as well as send a printed copy of the application form and all the documents required by courier to the address listed in the Chinese CFP. The courier receipt will be considered as proof of the date of sending.

NOTE: one single application form must be submitted to both agencies (in English)

Principal Investigators

Please follow the instructions above to send the following documents:

- **Application form**
- CVs of the two Principal Investigators (in the format prescribed by the respective research funding agencies) (**Canadian Common CV , Funding CV version** for the FRQS (updated at least since June 2015) for Québec PI)
- Letter of support from a collaborator or a partner, if applicable

For Québec researchers only:

- Detailed contributions updated since at least June 2015 for the Principal Investigator. Consult the **Guidelines for the CV attachment** available in the toolbox for detailed contributions content. Detailed contributions must be attached to the email with the form and CVs for the submission of the complete application
- Letter of support from the administrators of the institution or university department in which the research will be carried out



- Clinician: a letter from the director of the clinical department or the dean of the faculty specifying the number of hours for which the applicant will be released from his/her clinical obligations to carry out the research project (only for clinicians who are not recipients of an FRQS career award)
- A copy of the work VISA if applicable

For Chinese researchers only:

- Collaborative agreement document (see NSFC website)

Co-Investigators

- CVs of all Co-Investigators (in the format prescribed by the research funding agencies) ([Canadian Common CV](#) , [Funding CV version](#) for the FRQS (updated at least since June 2015) for Québec Co-Investigators)

For Québec researchers only:

- Detailed contributions updated since at least June 2015 for all Co-Investigators. Consult the [Guidelines for the CV attachment](#) available in the toolbox for detailed contributions content. Detailed contributions must be attached to the email with the form and CVs for the submission of the complete application
- Clinician: a letter from the director of the clinical department or the dean of the faculty specifying the number of hours for which the applicant will be released from his/her clinical obligations to carry out the research project (only for clinicians who are not recipients of an FRQS career award)
- A copy of the work VISA if applicable

RESEARCH LOCATION

IN QUÉBEC :

Choice of research location An FRQS centre or institute, an institution administered by the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux (MSSS) or a Québec university.

Change of research location The FRQS expects that the funding recipient will conduct their project at the same institution or university that initially endorsed the application throughout the entire grant period.

The funding recipients who wish to change their research location must submit by e-mail an official request to the FRQS. The request must detail the reason(s) for the change and describe all possible consequences on the research project.

University or institutional authorities must notify the FRQS in writing once they have approved the change of location.

Authorities of the new university or institution must notify the FRQS in writing that they accept to host the funding recipient.



IN CHINA:	
Choice of research location	A centre, institute, or institution registered at NSFC.

TERM OF THE GRANT

Term	Up to three years, non-renewable A maximum of five (5) projects will be funded.
Effective date	January 1st, 2019

AMOUNT OF THE GRANT

Amount	FRQS will provide CAD\$1.5 M total to the program (up to \$300,000 per project for three (3) years). NSFC will provide RMB 15M total (up to RMB 3M per project for three (3) years).
Source	Researchers from Québec will be funded by FRQS. Researchers from China will be funded by NSFC.
Management	For Québec: The list of institutions that can administer funding from the FRQ is limited to the managing institutions recognized by the FRQ, including universities, CIUSSS, CISSS, some institutions of the healthcare network and colleges. The managing institution is the employing institution of the funding recipient (see section 6.2 of the Common General Rules). For China: The list of institutions that can administer funding from the NSFC is limited to the NSFC-registered institutions , which include universities, institutes, centers and hospitals.
Indirect research costs	For Québec researchers: The grants awarded under this program are eligible to receive an additional amount to cover indirect costs of research of the institutions. The details on indirect costs of research reimbursement will be available at the time of the granting.



For Chinese researchers:

The grants awarded under this program are eligible to receive an additional amount to cover indirect costs of research of the institutions. The amount of indirect costs is calculated automatically based on the direct costs.

Funding and management rules

Grants will be administered in accordance with the research funding agencies' respective general rules. Applicants are subject to the general rules of the research funding agency that will provide funding.

ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURES

Eligible expenditures, such as salaries, research material, equipment, other project-related expenditures, as well as travel expenses, are subject to the rules and regulations of the research funding agency that will provide funding.

Eligible

In addition to the list of eligible and non-eligible expenses detailed in section 8 of the FRQ Common General Rules, and in the section of the NSFC funding rules, the following expenses are eligible:

- Master's and doctoral awards or scholarships, postdoctoral fellowships and supplements, and, where applicable, salary for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows
- Fees and reimbursements of travel expenses for research human subjects (if applicable)
- Participation to conferences (up to 3% of the annual grant amount for Québec funding recipients, as of the first year of the grant). No maximum limit for NSFC grantees
- Research material (including purchasing and housing for animals) and all other expenses required to carry out the research project, conditional upon adequate justification in the proposal budget
- Expenses to acquire or rent equipment including maintenance contracts for common services and shared facilities, conditional upon adequate justification in the proposal budget
- Costs related to knowledge translation and transfer to users (including other researchers, the general public, practitioners, decision-makers and industry representatives) as appropriate for the research project
- Translation costs
- Coordination-related costs: project administration (office supplies, reproduction of documents) and reasonable and clearly justified travel expenses for attending joint meetings

Non-eligible

For Québec only:

- Remuneration of the Principal Investigator, Co-Investigators and collaborators
- All indirect expenditures related to layout organization or reorganization, facilities leasing and maintenance



- For China only:**
- Funds cannot be transferred outside of Québec
 - NSFC will not fund salaries of the researchers who already have their salaries paid by the home institutes
 - Funds cannot be transferred outside of China

EVALUATION

Letter of intent

The letter of intent is used to:

- Establish the eligibility of the applicants, particularly for the Principal Investigators, upon the criteria of each agency (if applicable)
- Assess the relevance of the application based on the program's objectives
- Establish a peer review committee with relevant expertise

The eligibility of the Québec investigators will be established by the FRQS. A list of all the Chinese investigators will be provided by email to the NSFC who will confirm their eligibility.

Only applicants whose letters of registration are accepted will be asked by FRQS, by e-mail, to submit a complete application.

Complete application

The complete applications will be evaluated by a peer review committee composed of international experts from clinical and scientific communities chosen by the FRQS and the NSFC according to the rules in effect for the constitution of review committees.

N.B. Evaluation reports related to this committee will be shared between the two funding agencies.

Evaluation criteria

Research project

- Originality and innovative aspects of the project
- Compliance with the priority themes
- Clarity of the objectives and scientific excellence of the project

Research team

- Scientific quality and track records of the researchers



- Complementarity of the researchers' expertise and multidisciplinary
- Added value of the collaboration involving researchers from China and Québec

Feasibility

- Scientific and technical feasibility of the project, choice of methods
- Accuracy, importance and rigour in defining the project's structure, expected results and milestones
- Realistic timeline and relevance of monitoring indicators

Impacts

- Impacts of the project in terms of knowledge and skills acquisition
- Impacts of the project on the development of new concepts and models, instruments, approaches and methods
- Proposed strategy for knowledge translation (towards the scientific community and the general public)

Budget

- Adequate budget justification in the proposal

RESEARCH OUTCOMES AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

Submission of reports	<p>In accepting the grant, the applicants agree to submit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual scientific and financial progress reports following the rules and by the deadlines determined by their respective funding agency • Final financial report to their respective agency • Joint final scientific report required at the end of the term of the grant to both funding agencies
Use and dissemination of the results by the research funding agencies	<p>Applicants authorize the FRQS and NSFC to use the final report and published research outputs (scientific publications, conferences, symposia, conventions or e-publication) for reproduction, translation, execution or public extension purposes through whatever means or for any other non-commercial purposes, provided there is no infringement of copyright law.</p>
Knowledge mobilization (For Québec's researchers)	<p>The FRQS encourages awardees to conduct and participate in knowledge mobilization activities (transfer, sharing, development, enhancement and dissemination) with practice settings and the general public, where such activities are relevant. Please read the document Knowledge Mobilization in the toolbox.</p>



APPLICANT'S AGREEMENT

In Québec:

In submitting a letter of intent or an application, the applicant must:

- Comply with the obligations outlined in the [Common General Rules](#), the [Policy Regarding Open Access to Published Research Outputs](#) of the FRQS as well as the terms and conditions stipulated in the form and the program rules
- Submit additional files linked to the grant, if requested by the FRQS or NSFC
- Comply with the ethics, integrity and responsible conduct standards as outlined in the **Ethics** section of the Program Rules
- Authorize the FRQS to retain and use all personal and scientific information contained in the application documents, in keeping with the terms and conditions outlined in the document entitled [Protection of personal and scientific information](#) (as set out in the Appendix to these Program Rules) and provided that individuals who are granted access to the information respect its confidentiality

In China:

In submitting an application, the applicant must:

- Comply with the obligations outlined in NSFC's annual Guide to Programs
- Comply with the requirements outlined in the Regulations on the Management of International (Regional) Cooperation Programs of NSFC
- Authorize the NSFC to retain and use the personal and scientific information included in the application documents provided that the people who are granted access to the information respect its confidentiality

RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS AGREEMENT

IN QUÉBEC

The research institutions will provide:

- Functional laboratories and research facilities as well as basic equipment required to carry out the research project
- An environment respectful of the ethics and integrity standards outlined in the FRQS document [Standards en éthique de la recherche et d'intégrité scientifique](#) and in the [Policy for the Responsible Conduct of Research](#) of the Fonds de recherche du Québec

IN CHINA

The research institutions will provide:

- Functional laboratories and research facilities as well as basic equipment required



to carry out the research project

- An environment respectful of the ethics and integrity standards outlined in the NSFC document [Regulations on NSFC Registered-institution](http://www.nsf.gov.cn/publish/portal0/tab475/info70264.htm) (<http://www.nsf.gov.cn/publish/portal0/tab475/info70264.htm>)

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Sharing of intellectual property rights and user rights must comply with the rules of the two research funding agencies.

CONTACT INFORMATION

In Québec:	Fonds de recherche du Québec – Santé Manon Pelletier, Program Manager manon.pelletier@frq.gouv.qc.ca
In China:	National Natural Science Foundation of China Xiuping Liu, Division Director Division of American and Australasian Affairs, Bureau of International Cooperation liuxp@nsfc.gov.cn

PARTNERS

China	National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC)
Québec	Fonds de Recherche du Québec – Santé (FRQS)



APPENDIX (for Québec researchers only)

PROTECTION OF PERSONAL AND SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION AT THE FRQS

The forms completed under this program are intended to collect personal and scientific information about you. This information will be used and kept by the Fonds de recherche du Québec – Santé (FRQS). The FRQS is subject to the *Act respecting Access to documents held by public bodies and the Protection of personal information* (CQLR, c. A-2.1) (Access Act).

In the context of FRQS' activities, it is important to note that:

- The required personal and scientific information is used for the evaluation of letters of intent and grant applications, for the management of the program and allocated funds, and for the internal and external evaluation of the program. They are also used, aggregated with data from other candidates to generate statistics, inventories, evaluations and analyses related to the FRQS' mandate to promote and financially support health research
- The information provided in these forms is mandatory for the analysis and evaluation of the letters of intent and grant applications. Failing to provide all the information required by the forms, the FRQS will not be able to review the application
- Individuals who have access to the information collected by the FRQS are members of the evaluation committees (including external experts), consultants, and authorized FRQS staff. Individuals who have access to this information commit to respect its confidentiality
- The content of letters of intent and grant applications, both personal and scientific information, is confidential and is only communicated with the consent of the person concerned or the person signing the application or in accordance with the provisions of the Access Act
- Each individual has the right to access his/her personal or scientific information held by FRQS. He or she may require that any inaccurate, incomplete or equivocal personal information be modified. For further information on procedures for access, rectification or protection of personal information and access rights under the Access Act, the person responsible for Access Act to information at FRQS should be contacted
- The three Fonds de recherche du Québec (Fonds de recherche du Québec – Nature et technologies, Fonds de recherche du Québec – Santé et Fonds de recherche du Québec – Société et culture) share their administrative services in accordance with the Act respecting the *Ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur, de la Recherche, de la Science et de la Technologie* (RLRQ, c. M-15.1.0.1). As a result, the FRQS may share the personal and scientific information provided on the forms with FRQNT and FRQSC staff whose collaboration is required to ensure optimal administration of funding programs and sound management of public funds
- In the context of this program, personal and scientific information provided to the FRQS in the letters of intent and in the complete applications will be shared with the NSFC. FRQS and NSFC scientific evaluation reports will be shared between both agencies. Individuals who have access to this information commit to respect its confidentiality.