

## Innove-Onco: Optimizing the Integration of Innovation in Oncology

Category of programs: Grants

### DEADLINES

- Information session: **October 15, 2019 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. (1 p.m.-2 p.m. in French and 2 p.m.-3 p.m. in English)**
- Letter of intent submission: **November 14, 2019, 4:30 p.m.**
- Complete application submission: **February 18, 2020, 4:30 p.m.**

#### Program Managers

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**All documents referred in blue are available on the internet (link) or in the toolbox of the program web page on the FRQS website.**

### CONTEXT

Oncopole would like to work in partnership with key players in the field in order to develop better ways of optimizing the integration of innovative projects, processes or organizational methods in oncology within the health and social services system.

This grant program is offered by Oncopole in partnership with *Fonds de recherche du Québec – Santé* (FRQS), *Bureau de l'innovation* (BI), *Programme québécois de cancérologie* (PQC) of the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux and *Institut national d'excellence en santé et en services sociaux* (INESSS). It aims to accelerate the integration of innovations in oncology by ensuring a more substantial demonstration of value during the research and development phase and by determining the conditions for the successful integration of these innovations for the sustainability of the public health and social services system.

### ELIGIBILITY OF THE PROJECT

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| <b>General objective</b> | <p>Maximize the integration of innovations in oncology within the public health and social services system that meet expressed needs and whose added value is supported by conclusive data.</p> <p>More specifically, the program will help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Develop a better understanding of the process of integrating innovations in oncology using real-world evidence</li> <li>– Determine the necessary conditions for the successful integration of innovations</li> </ul> |
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- Gather conclusive data using real-world evidence that help to determine the value of an innovation and the relevance of its integration on a broader scale.

**Characteristics of funded projects**

The innovations that are proposed or used must have reached a high Technology Readiness Level (TRL of 7 to 9). They are pharmacological, technological and/or organizational, and fall within the [intervention priorities](#) of the Programme québécois de cancérologie. Therefore, the innovations meet a clearly defined need in oncology. They also aim to provide added-value for people by improving the quality and access to healthcare and services and/or optimizing treatment.

The funded projects will not aim to discover or design an initial prototype, but instead should offer a better understanding of the factors that either help or limit the introduction of the innovation, such as its performance measurement in a real-world or representative context in the intended field of operation for deployment.

*The funded projects must:*

- Demonstrate their relevance and justify the potential value that could be generated for patients.
- Illustrate or measure the changes in the trajectory of the current healthcare and services targeted by the innovation and identify the potential impact for the patient and network.
- Develop a data collection methodology that includes impact measurement throughout the episode of care (from screening or detection of the cancer, until the end of treatment).
- Adopt measurement indicators of outcomes in accordance with internationally recognized standards, such as those developed by the International Consortium for Health Outcomes Measurement ([www.ichom.org](http://www.ichom.org)) or other validated Patient Reported Outcomes Measures (PROMs).
- Plan for the participation of all who may be affected by the advent of the innovation, such as the patient and also natural caregivers, professionals, institution managers or the payer (MSSS).

**Expected results:**

*Upon completion, the projects would have contributed in one or more of the following ways:*

- Demonstrated how they are reflected by an improvement or lack of improvement in the quality and efficiency of the healthcare and services in oncology;
- Demonstrated how they have generated information on the optimal conditions for the integration of an innovation (product, process or organization) in healthcare and services in oncology;

- Identified the risks associated with achievement of the results and developed mitigation strategies from these which take into account the inherent objectives and incentives of various stakeholders.

There is a maximum budget of \$750,000 by project for 2 years.

## DEFINITIONS

### Definitions

Oncopole proposes the adoption of the definition of the Innovation de la Stratégie Québécoise de Recherche et d'Innovation from 2017:

*An innovation consists of new or improved methods of doing things that have value. Inventions become innovations only when implemented in a relevant manner. Innovation can take various forms, such as innovation in process, innovation in products or social and organizational innovation.*

- This definition outlines three features of innovation: the newness, the fact that it demonstrates added value and the importance of its implementation to generate expected outcomes.

Value is measured by the relationship between the results (outcomes) that are important for the patient and the production cost of these results. The INESSS specifies that value increases when the use and/or the implementation of an innovation in a real context contributes to the expected results by the healthcare system, meaning:

- Better management and improved healthcare and services experience for patients;
- Better health status and well-being for the entire population (equity);
- Reduced costs for responsible and sustainable resource management;
- Improved quality of work and well-being of healthcare/services providers.

## CALL FOR PROPOSAL STEPS AND PROJECTS FOLLOW-UP

### Steps

#### 1. Preparatory information session for the letter of intent (optional)

The purpose of the session, organized jointly by Oncopole and the FRQS, is to:

- Provide general information about the program and competition
- Find out about the priority issues of the competition

The webinar session will take place on October 15<sup>th</sup> **from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. in French and from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. in English.** Those who wish to attend must register with the Oncopole program manager, Maxime Dumais, by email at: **mdumais@oncopole.ca**. Interested parties must provide their name, institution, email address and telephone number in the registration email.

## 2. Letter of intent and evaluation of the relevance

Following the information session, interested parties will be invited to submit a letter of intent in accordance with the requirements mentioned in the REQUIRED DOCUMENTS and EVALUATION sections.

The relevance of the letter of intent will be evaluated, and recommendations may be made for the submission of the complete application.

## 3. Submission of the complete application and scientific evaluation

A mixed committee of peers, independent researchers and user representatives will assess the complete applications using the evaluation criteria outlined in the EVALUATION section.

## APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

### Team members

The team can be composed of researchers, health and social services professionals, managers and users. For the researchers, they must have the status of university researcher or university clinical researcher (see Definitions section of the [General Common Rules](#)).

### Research team structure

**The team must be composed of a maximum of 2 Principal Investigators (minimum 1):**

- **Up to two (2) university researcher or clinical university researcher** (see Definitions section of the [General Common Rules](#)). **These persons will represent the project and manage its internal and scientific direction** according to the administrative conditions/requirements of the FRQS. The managing institution of the grant will be the employing institution of one of the Principal Investigators (Project leader)

Other team members may join without any restriction on the number:

- Users, co-Investigators (including university researchers, university clinical researchers), health and social services professionals, and managers
- Collaborators: no minimum or maximum; the collaborator will be able to participate in the project without access to any amount of the grant

The role of each team member must be defined. Thus, team members, including users, must adequately demonstrate that they collaborate or actively collaborate on the proposed project and specify the time allocated to the project or the level of involvement.

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|  | All members of the team must be Canadian citizens or permanent residents (as defined in 2.1 of the <a href="#">General Common Rules</a> ) and domiciled in Québec at the time the grant comes into effect, except for collaborators.   |
| <b>Professional corporations</b>         | Clinical researchers, medical doctors and health and social services professionals 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.   |
| <b>Multiple applications</b>             | A person may participate to 2 complete applications within this program as a team member.<br><br>However, a researcher may <b>only submit one complete application</b> within this program <u>as a Principal investigator for a project</u> .  |
| <b>Responsible conduct of research</b>   | The Researchers must comply with the rules of responsible conduct in research and the ethical regulations (see sections 5.3 and 5.4 of the <a href="#">Common General Rules</a> ).   |
| <b>Basic training in research ethics</b> | <p>Basic training in research ethics is mandatory for all team researchers when their research project or research program involves human beings. Other members of the team are also encouraged to take this training.</p> <p>Research on human beings involves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation of human beings as subjects;</li> <li>• Use of human biological material (parts, products, tissues, cells, genetic material derived from the human body, from a living or deceased person);</li> <li>• Assisted reproduction activities or the use of embryos derived therefrom, within the meaning of the Act respecting clinical and research activities relating to assisted reproduction (R.S.Q. Chapter A-5.01); and/or</li> <li>• Use of administrative, scientific or descriptive data from human beings.</li> </ul> <p>This basic training consists of successfully completing levels 1 and 3 of the online tutorial set out by the <i>Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux du Québec</i>. <a href="#">Online tutorial</a>.</p> <p>Researchers must have successfully completed the basic training <b>before receiving their first payment</b>.</p> |

## REQUIRED DOCUMENTS – LETTER OF INTENT

### Transmission of documents (in PDF format only)

The FRQS is managing this Competition, on behalf of the Oncopole. The documents described below must be e-mailed to Manon Pelletier, program manager at FRQS ([manon.pelletier@frq.gouv.qc.ca](mailto:manon.pelletier@frq.gouv.qc.ca)).

Documents must be attached to one another as a single (1) PDF document. The date and time of the transmission of the e-mail is proof of the date and time of the documents' filing.

**No extensions will be permitted. All forms not transmitted within the deadlines indicated will be automatically rejected.**

**Missing documents or documents that do not comply with the competition rules and forms may result in the file being ineligible.**

**Principal Investigator(s)  
(maximum 2)**

**NOTE: The letter of intent should be submitted to FRQS by the Principal Investigator acting as Project Leader from the managing institution and must include:**

- **Letter of intent form** (available in the Toolbox)
- **Canadian Common CV, Funding CV** version for FRQS (last update between June, 2018 and the Competition deadline)
- Detailed contributions (last update between June, 2018 and the Competition deadline); consult the **Guidelines for the CV attachment file** available in the toolbox
- For clinicians: a letter from the director of the clinical department 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)

The FRQS will send an e-mail confirming the acceptance or rejection of the letter of Intent to each applicant.

Only teams whose letters of intent were deemed eligible will be invited to submit a complete application.

**For the other team members**

- **Users, Health and social services professionals** that are team members, as well as **researchers acting as co-Investigators**, should only send their CVs when the full application is filed, if applicable.

## REQUIRED DOCUMENTS – COMPLETE APPLICATION

### Transmission of documents (in PDF format only)

**Missing documents or documents that do not comply with the competition rules and forms may result in the file being ineligible.**

**No extensions will be permitted. All forms not transmitted within the deadlines indicated will be automatically rejected.**

The documents described below must be e-mailed to Manon Pelletier, program manager at FRQS ([manon.pelletier@frq.gouv.qc.ca](mailto:manon.pelletier@frq.gouv.qc.ca)). Documents must be attached to one another as a single (1) PDF document. The date and time of the transmission of the e-mail is proof of the date and time of the documents' filing.

The CVs of all Researchers and Team members, including detailed contributions, must be inserted one after the other into this PDF document.

**Principal Investigator(s)  
(maximum 2)**

**Note: The complete application should be submitted to FRQS by the Principal Investigator acting as Project Leader from the managing institution and must include:**

- **Complete application Form** (available in the Toolbox)
- **Canadian Common CV, Funding CV** version for FRQS (last update between June, 2018 and the Competition deadline)
- Detailed contributions (last update between June, 2018 and the Competition deadline); consult the **Guidelines for the CV attachment file** available in the toolbox
- For clinicians: a letter from the director of the clinical department 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)
- Letter of support from the administrators of the institution or university department in which the Principal Investigator's research will be carried out, indicating their commitment towards the Principal Investigator and the project.

**For the other team members**

- **User who are team members:**
    - Motivation letter to participate in the project, the nature of the expertise they bring and their role in the project (Maximum of two (2) pages)
    - One (1) page summary CV
  - **Health and social services professionals who are team members:**
    - **Canadian Common CV, Funding CV** version for FRQS (last update between June, 2018 and the Competition deadline), if available
    - Detailed contributions (last update between June, 2018 and the Competition deadline); consult the **Guidelines for the CV attachment file** available in the toolbox, if available
- OR**
- An updated **CV**, two pages maximum, including the main contributions (publications, patents and other activities) for those who do not have a Canadian Common CV
  - **Researchers acting as co-Investigators:**
    - **Canadian Common CV, Funding CV** version for FRQS (last update between June, 2018 and the Competition deadline)

- Detailed contributions (last update between June, 2018 and the Competition deadline); consult the [Guidelines for the CV attachment file](#) available in the toolbox
- For clinicians: a letter from the director of the clinical department 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)

## RESEARCH SITE

|                                    |  |
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| <b>Choice of research location</b> | An FRQS research centre or institute, an institution administered by the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux (MSSS) or a Québec university.                              |
| <b>Change of research location</b> | The conditions surrounding changes to the research location and all other changes made during funding are described in section 6 of the FRQ <a href="#">Common General Rules</a> . |

## DURATION OF THE GRANT

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| <b>Term</b>               | Maximum of 2 years |
| <b>Funding Start Date</b> | May 2020           |

## AMOUNT OF THE GRANT

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| <b>Amount</b>                          | <p>The maximum amount for this program is a total of \$750,000 per project over 2 years.</p> <p>The program has a minimum budget of \$1,500,000. As a result, at least 2 projects can be funded.</p>   |
| <b>Institutions managing the grant</b> | <p>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.</p> <p>The managing institution is the employing institution of the Project Leader (see section 6.2 of the <a href="#">Common General Rules</a>).</p> |
| <b>Indirect costs of research</b>      | This program does not benefit from the amount paid out by FRQS and its partners to cover indirect costs of research of the institutions.   |

## ELIGIBLE EXPENSES



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|----------------------------|---|
| <p><b>Eligible</b></p>     | <p><b>In addition to the list of eligible and non-eligible expenses detailed in Section 8 of the FRQ <a href="#">Common General Rules</a>, the following expenses are eligible:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Master's and doctoral awards or scholarships, postdoctoral fellowships and supplements, and, where applicable, salary for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows</li> <li>• Salaries for research assistants</li> <li>• Fees and reimbursement of travel expenses for research human subjects</li> <li>• Key resource people that are essential to the project, including the cost of leave of absence to participate in team activities, when the leave of absence requires a replacement. The institution may be compensated directly from the project budget for replacing the professionals who are participating in the project</li> <li>• Compensation for doctors for their time dedicated to professional activities for the project that are not billable to the RAMQ in accordance with agreements between the MSSS and the medical federations (FMOQ, FMSQ) <b>(excluding the project principal investigators)</b></li> <li>• Compensation for users who will be involved in the research process</li> <li>• Costs incurred in Québec where the project is taking place to cover expenses incurred to complete the project and those of the evaluation team.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Not eligible</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Salaries for Researchers</li> <li>• All costs related to the development, refurbishment, rent and maintenance of the facilities, as well as costs paid by the host institution</li> <li>• Remuneration for employees in the health and social services network working in the institution or medical clinic during the development of the project and who are not replaced for their regular duties</li> <li>• Purchase of major equipment</li> <li>• All costs incurred by the institution or its partners, before the project is presented to the FRQS</li> <li>• No funds will be transferred outside of Québec</li> </ul>  |

## EVALUATION

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|--------------------------------|--|
| <p><b>Letter of intent</b></p> | <p>A relevance evaluation committee made up of representatives from Oncopole, <i>Bureau de l'innovation</i>, PQC and INESSS will review and select letters of intent according to the relevance criteria that meet the objectives of the program.</p> <p>Only the teams whose letter of intent has been selected by the relevance evaluation committee will be asked to submit a complete application. The FRQS will confirm to the co-Leaders by email if their letter of intent has been selected.</p> |
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The recommendations from the relevance evaluation committee will be sent to the candidates, as well as to the mixed committee responsible for reviewing the complete applications.

**The relevant criteria are as follows:**

- The added value and relevance of the proposed innovation in regards to the issue to be resolved;
- The innovative nature of the proposed solution compared to the current healthcare and services trajectory;
- The priority level of the issue to resolve for the MSSS, and the HSSN, and the adequacy of actions plans with ministry or governmental orientations or strategies;
- The estimated benefits of the proposed solution with regards to the direct or indirect impact on user-patients and their caregivers, institution, the HSSN and the *Ministère*.

**Complete application** The complete application will be reviewed by a mixed committee made up of scientific as well as health and social services professionals, according to the FRQS regulations in effect for the composition of review committees. Users can also be part of the mixed review committee.

The evaluation criteria for the complete application are as follows:

**Project (30 %)**

- Scientific quality of the project and accurate methodology
- Originality and coherence of the project
- Clarity of objectives
- Realism and Importance of f expected results

**Team (15 %)**

- Scientific quality of researchers
- Complementarity of team members' expertise
- Importance and quality of scientific achievements (publications, development of structuring initiatives, national and/or international impact, etc.)

**Feasibility (20 %)**

- Scientific, technical and operational feasibility of the project
- Realistic deadline
- Relevance of monitoring indicators

**Project benefits (20 %)**

- Project registration in accordance with the concerted efforts and goodwill of Oncopole, *Bureau de l'innovation*, PQC, INESSS and FRQS in order to optimize the adoption of innovations in oncology with the demonstration

or a strong plausibility of added value for the Québec Health and Social Service system.

**Knowledge transfer (15 %)**

- Proposed strategies in order to ensure that the results translate into a better understanding of the factors that either help or limit the introduction of innovations

**Budget (qualitative)**

- Detailed and realistic justification of the requested budget

Note that the minimum passing score for a funding opportunity will be 70%.

**RESEARCH RESULTS, FOLLOW-UP AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER**

**Submission of reports**

In accepting the grant, the grantees agree to submit:

- Annual financial reports and a final financial report at the deadlines indicated by the FRQS
- An annual scientific report and a final report not more than 3 months after the end of the grant

The funded team is committed to participating in mobilization activities of Oncopole and its partners, such as annual events or specific workshops.

**Use and dissemination of the results by partners**

Upon accepting the award, the investigator grants a non-exclusive and non-transferable license to the FRQS (for the Oncopole), the *Bureau de l'innovation*, the PQC, INNESS as well as any partners that may be added after the launch of the program, of his/her copyright on the final scientific report without territorial limits, for an unlimited duration and for non-commercial purposes. This license allows the FRQS (for the Oncopole) and the other partners, if applicable, to reproduce, adapt, publish, translate and communicate the final scientific report to the public by any means available (conferences, websites, Facebook, Twitter, etc). The grantee guarantees to the FRQS (for the Oncopole) and the other partners (if applicable) that he/she holds all rights to enable his/her consent to the present copyright license. The co-funding partners are committed to acknowledge the authors for any use of the material.

**Open Access**

In accordance with the Open Access Dissemination Policy of the Fonds de recherche du Québec, the Investigators and co-Investigators of a funded project must undertake to make their scientific publications available in open access no later than 12 months after publication. To know the requirements of the FRQ on this subject, please consult our [Open Science](#) page.

**Knowledge mobilization**

The FRQS encourages awardees to conduct and participate in knowledge mobilization activities (transfer, sharing, development, enhancement and dissemination) with practice settings and the public, where such activities are relevant. Please read the document [Knowledge Mobilization](#) in the toolbox.

## AGREEMENTS

All applications submitted under this Competition are subject to the conditions set out in the Letter of Intent and Complete Application forms.

## ÉNONCÉ SUR L'ÉQUITÉ, LA DIVERSITÉ ET L'INCLUSION

The Fonds de recherche du Québec wishes to contribute to supporting a research ecosystem based on equity, diversity and inclusion. Measures have been put in place to strengthen the consideration of these principles. The people we fund are also encouraged to focus on these principles in the context of their research activities. For more information, please see [our statements on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion](#).

## INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

The grantees, and the institutions they are affiliated with, hold all copyrights for the intellectual property with respect to the original raw data, interim research works and funded project results, in keeping with the internal regulations for intellectual property of the institutions.

Furthermore, since the Oncopole's mission is to mobilize oncology resources in Québec and because of Oncopole's federating vision, copyright holders from funded projects, including the institutions involved, are expected to remain involved and update the Oncopole so that the results of the co-funded project can be instrumental in the pursuit of Oncopole's objectives, with the ultimate objective of the results of each project helping the Québec community.

## PARTNERS

**Oncopole**  
**Fonds de recherche du Québec – Santé**  
**Bureau de l'innovation en santé et services sociaux**  
**Programme québécois de cancérologie**  
**Institut national d'excellence en santé et en services sociaux**

**Note:** By accepting a grant under this program, the grantee agrees that the partner (s) will communicate with her/him for activities related to the grant.

## APPENDIX A PROTECTION OF PERSONAL AND SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION

The forms completed under this Competition 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). FRQS will confidentially share this information and evaluation reports with the Oncopole Executive Management Team (whose offices are located at Université de Montréal) and its partners (including those that could be added after the launch of the Competition). 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).

The FRQS will share the letters of intent, the complete applications, the evaluation reports as well as financial and scientific reports to each of the Competition Partners.

For more information, please refer to [The Statement regarding the protection of personal and confidential information in applicant and funding holder files](#).