

The Interdisciplinary Trainee Research Innovation Challenge (iTRIC) Program 2020 Request for Applications

EXTENDED REGISTRATION DEADLINE: FRIDAY, AUGUST 28TH, 2020 BY 5:00 PM EDT

Description of iTRIC Program:

COVID-19 has presented many challenges to trainees working in the research areas of aging and neurodegenerative diseases. To ensure that CCNA core strategic research priorities remain a focus, CCNA trainees are invited to assemble interdisciplinary research teams of trainees and investigators for an application to the iTRIC Program.

The iTRIC Program is a Training and Capacity Building (T&CB) initiative focused on trainee development and intended to provide a unique collaborative learning experience that increases exposure to an interdisciplinary research approach. The iTRIC Program will add value to formal training and supervision by having trainees stretch beyond discipline-specific boundaries to enhance communication and interdisciplinary teamwork with peers and future colleagues. iTRIC Research Teams will develop innovative research proposals that cross CCNA strategic priorities: Prevention, Treatment, and Quality of Life.

Trainees participating in the iTRIC Program will move through four phases:

Phase 1: Trainees assemble an iTRIC Research Team of CCNA-affiliated trainees and investigators from different scientific backgrounds to develop an innovative interdisciplinary research question/proposal that focuses on CCNA core strategic priorities.

Phase 2: Teams develop a creative video pitch (~10 minutes) outlining their research question/proposal. Teams record video pitches to be presented to the iTRIC Review Committee on Virtual Science Day, Wednesday, October 14th, 2020 from 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm EDT. Recorded pitch presentations will be followed by 10 minutes of Q & A/feedback from the iTRIC Review Committee (Hint: think Dragons' Den). Questions and comments will be allowed from the CCNA community via chat box. Teams will have an opportunity to debrief with Review Committee members virtually. Where feasible, the T&CB Program will assist all iTRIC Research Teams to make connections, identify resources, and refine their research question as they work toward a final presentation.

Phase 3: Teams have one month to refine their proposals. Final presentations will take place the week of November 23rd, 2020 (Exact date to be announced). The highest ranked 4 teams will be awarded \$10,000 each to help develop their research question/proposal and refine key deliverables. Smaller prizes will be awarded to runner up teams who complete the iTRIC Program. Judging criteria for final presentations will be provided by the T&CB Program following presentations on Virtual Science Day, Wednesday, October 14th.

Phase 4: The awarded teams will develop plans/timelines to meet select iTRIC Program deliverables and participate in quarterly calls with the T&CB Program to evaluate progress. They will provide a brief interim report at 6 months and a full final report at 12 months.

To be eligible to participate in iTRIC, Research Teams must include:

- A single trainee will act as the primary applicant. Primary applicants will assemble all requested registration materials and serve as the contact person for the iTRIC Research Team registration.
- CCNA trainees from a minimum of two CCNA Teams. CCNA Teams may be within or across CCNA Themes, but iTRIC Research Team members must include trainees from 2 or more different disciplines. It must be clearly indicated in the registration that trainees are from different teams.
- CCNA investigators from a minimum of two CCNA Teams and at least one of these should be the primary trainee applicant's supervisor.
- Trainees and investigators must be CCNA-affiliated. Am I a CCNA-affiliated Trainee? Click [here](#).
- The primary trainee applicant's supervisor must agree to participate as a member of the team. Both will ensure that the eligibility criteria are met and that the team fulfills the iTRIC Program deliverables. The primary trainee applicant's supervisor must agree to hold the award funds at their institution and assist the primary trainee applicant with managing the funds.

Trainees registering for the iTRIC Program should:

- Be the primary applicant, identify trainee and investigator iTRIC Research Team members, and confirm involvement of their supervisor as a participant in the iTRIC Program.
- iTRIC Research Team registration extended deadline: **Friday, August 28th, 2020 by 5:00 pm EDT.** Primary applicants can register any time before the deadline.
- The T&CB Program Coordinator will communicate with registered teams on **Monday, August 31st, 2020** with information on preparing a video pitch.

To register for iTRIC, please visit the CCNA website: <https://ccna-ccnv.ca/itric-registration-form/>

Research question parameters:

- The primary focus of the research question should reflect the strategic priorities of the CCNA.
- The research question can and, where appropriate, should recognize the COVID-19 pandemic as an important contextual factor.
- iTRIC Research Teams should make an effort to consider economic, social, and ethical implications of their research question/proposal.
- Preference will also be given to those teams that demonstrate alignment with at least one of the priority cross-cutting components of the CCNA in their research proposal. For a list of CCNA Cross-Cutting Programs, click [here](#).
- We encourage trainees to show creative use of existing data (e.g., COMPASS-ND) in their application.

General expectations for CCNA trainees involved in the iTRIC Program:

- Collaborate with interdisciplinary peers to develop the research proposal.
- Take this opportunity to network with colleagues and make connections.
- Respect the needs and opinions of other team members.

- Synthesize and integrate group ideas.
- Develop skills and understanding of peer mentorship.
- Trainees on iTRIC Research Teams receiving award funds are expected to collaborate in the development of project deliverables, attend quarterly Zoom meetings with the T&CB Program, and produce an interim and final report.

General expectations for CCNA investigators involved in the iTRIC Program:

- Direct trainees to resources, assist the team with connections to other CCNA investigators, provide subject matter guidance or feedback, and support trainees as they prepare their final presentation and deliverables.
- CCNA investigators involved should have a minimum of 2 meetings with iTRIC Research Team members over the course of the competition.
- The primary trainee applicant's supervisor must agree to hold the award funds at their institution and assist the primary trainee applicant to manage these funds.

Award funds can be used in a number of ways that develop the research proposal further. These include:

- Pilot work;
- Skills acquisition;
- Obtaining access to research datasets;
- Drafting and submitting a manuscript; and
- Knowledge Translation and Exchange activities.
- Teams are required to demonstrate how the funds were applied to the development of the research proposed.

Important deadlines:

1. Extended registration deadline: **Friday, August 28th, 2020 by 5:00 pm EDT.**
2. Registered teams receive information on preparing a video pitch: **Monday, August 31st, 2020.**
3. Video pitches due: **Thursday, September 24th, 2020 by 5:00 pm EDT.**
4. Recorded video pitches presented and teams receive live feedback from Review Committee: **Wednesday, October 14th, 2020 from 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm EDT.**
5. Final team presentations: **Week of November 23rd, 2020. Exact date to be announced.**