Emerging Research Innovators in Mental Health (e-RIM<sup>h</sup>)

2017 Detailed Overview
Emerging Research Innovators in Mental Health (e-RIM*)

The Royal’s Institute of Mental Health Research (IMHR), affiliated with the University of Ottawa, is pleased to announce the Emerging Research Innovators in Mental Health (e-RIM*) initiative, an exciting new career-launching opportunity that enables up to six early or young researchers to conduct cutting-edge, innovative mental health research. Through salary and grant support for up to five years, the e-RIM* initiative will provide these researchers with a ‘runway’ to launch their careers so they can explore highly novel questions that could result in a substantial impact on mental health prevention or treatment.

The ultimate goal of the e-RIM* initiative is to enhance mental health research capacity in Canada by enabling emerging researchers who have highly innovative research projects/ideas that are in line with the IMHR’s strategic priorities.

The IMHR focuses on leading innovative research that will improve clinical practice and strategically advance mental health research. Our overarching objective is to get people living with depression and related conditions (PTSD, suicidal ideation) better faster.
# Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Overview</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eligibility</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selection Criteria</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application Review Process</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guidelines on How to Apply</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Program Overview

The Royal’s Institute of Mental Health Research is pleased to present the Emerging Research Innovators in Mental Health (e-RIM) initiative which enables early career researchers to explore novel and innovative research ideas, enhancing their mental health research capacity and becoming established in the field of mental health research.

The program will support new graduates and scientists by enabling them to spend up to five years developing their program of research at The Royal’s Institute of Mental Health Research (IMHR), affiliated with the University of Ottawa. In addition to covering salary, this unique initiative provides operational funds to carry out the project which, rather than investing significant time and effort on seeking external research funding, enables the researcher to focus on discovering ways to unravel mental illness and to develop effective personalized interventions.

Applications for projects that are highly original and innovative are encouraged, possibly requiring preliminary test(s) of feasibility for two years (Stage 1). Based on positive results in Stage 1, support could be extended for an additional three years (Stage 2) to ensure adequate funding to help nurture and launch their career as an independent principal investigator.

This grant will support promising projects aimed at testing ‘out of the box’ ideas that may have scant supporting evidence, but could have a substantial impact on current thinking.

Emerging Research Leaders Innovators in Mental Health researchers will receive:

- a minimum of a two-year salaried scientific appointment (Stage I), with the opportunity to renew for an additional three years (Stage II) based on positive results of Stage I, for a total of five years;
- up to $100,000 per year in research support;
- mentorship by senior researchers;
- academic appointment;
- access to a network of researchers and leaders in mental health research at the University of Ottawa and/or Carleton University;
- leadership development training and support to help launch their careers within research and academia.
Eligibility

The IMHR’s goal for the e-RIM\textsuperscript{h} initiative is to attract outstanding scholars to engage in significant novel research and enhance interdisciplinary collaboration in the academic and wider community. As such, applicants must be able to contribute to the intellectual mental health research landscape of the IMHR.

To be eligible, applicants must:

- Be within the first seven years of completion of a MD and/or PhD degree;
- Be engaged in research that complements and contributes to mental health discovery and the strategic priorities of IMHR;
- Demonstrate an excellent level of research achievement and promise of future impact in mental health research, as evidenced by proposed research, quality of publications, awards received, and statements by referees;
- Demonstrate a track record of, or interest in, engaging across disciplines, as well as with sectors beyond academia to enrich and extend the impact of their research;
- Obtain and hold a valid work permit to work in Canada for the period of employment (there are no restrictions on citizenship);
Selection Criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on the following:

1. **Excellence in scholarly work and independent research (20%)**
   a. Qualifications and research experience
   b. Quality of contributions to research to date
   c. Scholarships and awards held
   d. Critical thinking, judgment, originality, initiative and autonomy

2. **Quality and innovation of proposed research (50%)**
   a. Merit and clarity
   b. Originality, innovation and novelty
   c. Potential for ground-breaking, precedent-setting significance
   d. Scientific, and/or technical significance

3. **Mental health significance and alignment with IMHR strategic priorities* (30%)**
   a. Alignment with IMHR’s strategic priorities
   b. Availability of the resources necessary to perform the research
   c. Appropriateness of the proposed budget and duration of the proposed research

*The IMHR’s key strategic priorities include, but are not limited to:
   1. Depression and related conditions (e.g. suicidal ideation, PTSD, anxiety)
   2. Brain and heart linkages
   3. Impact of stress and trauma on mental illness
   4. Use of neurostimulation modalities in understanding and/or treatment of mental illness (rTMS, ECT, TES, etc.)
   5. Development and use of multimodal brain imaging technologies aimed at early diagnosis and/or personalized treatment of mental illness
Application Review Process & Guidelines

1. The applicant completes and submits the application (ensuring all application materials are included) by the deadline date.

2. Application packages received are vetted for eligibility and completeness.

3. The Scientific Review Group, comprised of IMHR scientists, assesses eligible applications for scientific and technical merit as well as the novelty and fit of the proposed research to IMHR’s strategic priorities.

4. Short-listed applicants will be evaluated by an international Expert Review Committee*, comprised of distinguished researchers for the quality and potential significant impact of the proposed research, the applicant’s capacity, potential and desire to extend the impact of their research beyond academia and turn their results in meaningful impact for patients.

5. The Expert Review Committee ranks the applicants for the positions. Up to six successful candidates may be selected.

6. All applicants are informed of results when the competition has concluded.

*Expert Review Committee may include the following:
- Dr. Tony Phillips, Professor, Department of Psychiatry; Scientific Director, Institute of Neurosciences, Mental Health and Addiction, Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR); Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health, University of British Columbia
- Dr. Ulrich Hegerl, President, European Alliance Against Depression; Director and Professor at the Clinic and Policlinic of Psychiatry, University Clinic Leipzig

Summary of Key Dates:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 23, 2017</td>
<td>Competition opens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 30, 2017</td>
<td>Application &amp; reference letter deadline</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 31, 2017</td>
<td>Level 1 review completed</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 15, 2017</td>
<td>Level 2 review completed</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 1, 2017</td>
<td>Offers made to selected candidates</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 15, 2017</td>
<td>All applicants are notified of competition results</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How to Apply

- Applications must be submitted through our online application form: http://www.theroyal.ca/erimh/application-form/

- Application deadline is April 30, 2017, 11:59 PM Eastern Time Zone.

- Applications that are incomplete or submitted after the deadline will not be considered.

- Please direct any questions to research.awards@theroyal.ca.

Applicants are required to submit:

1. A completed application form (http://www.theroyal.ca/erim/application-form/).
2. A summary of how your research complements and contributes to mental health research and the strategic priorities of IMHR (500 words maximum).
3. A brief description of your most significant publications and/or research achievements (500 words maximum).
4. A summary of your engagement to date beyond academia to extend the impact of your research (375 words maximum).
5. A detailed overview of your novel research project and proposed future directions, how this would contribute to IMHR, and how this award would advance your research (3000 words maximum).
6. An overview of if and how your proposal could be considered as being novel or innovative, and its potential impact on current concepts/thinking on underpinnings and/or treatment of mental illness (3000 words maximum).
7. A current Canadian Common CV, including publication list
8. A copy of your Web of Science h-index and Citation Report.

Letters of Recommendation:
In addition, applicants must arrange to have three letters of recommendation submitted:

1. Who should provide reference letters?
   a. One letter must assess your research in terms of productivity, creativity, breadth, and potential for future leadership in the field. Preferably from an academic supervisor or mentor.
   b. One letter must address your leadership capacity and potential to expand your research impact. This letter can be from a leader outside your immediate academic sphere.
   c. A third letter of your choice must speak to your qualities as a researcher and/or leader.
2. **How do referees submit their letters:**
   a. **All letters of reference must be submitted to [research.awards@theroyal.ca](mailto:research.awards@theroyal.ca) by 11:59 PM (Eastern Time Zone) April 30, 2017.** Applicants are responsible for tracking the submission of their reference letters and for following up with referees to ensure all letters are submitted by the deadline. Letters submitted by other means will not be accepted.
   
   i. You should inform your referees that you are applying to the e-RIM\(^h\) initiative and secure their agreement to provide letters.
   
   ii. Make certain you have the correct e-mail address for each referee. You will submit the names and e-mail addresses of your referees through your application form.