

Research Committee

Principles for the CAGS Operating Grant

PRINCIPLES FOR THE CAGS OPERATING GRANT:

1. The grant should support and foster the development of research program by **new and emerging surgical researchers** (within the first 5 years of primary appointment, not including interruptions and delays for parental leave, relocation, extenuating circumstances related to clinical service etc...)
2. The grant is designed to provide seed funding to initiate a project or support one aspect of a larger project, with the goal of increasing the researchers success rate when applying for more substantial grants, including CIHR.
3. Grants will be accepted in any area of research, including translational research, quality improvement, clinical trials, clinical epidemiology, surgical education.
4. While funding envelopes continue to limit the size of the grant, a grant value of \$40-50,000 would be reasonable. The amount of the grant is fixed and can be spent over 1 or 2 years.
5. The grant can be used as matching funds for other granting opportunities.

REQUIREMENT OF THE GRANTEE:

6. The applicant must be a licenced general surgeon practicing in Canada. Residents are not eligible for this grant competition. Residents/Fellows in their final year with an appointment the following year are eligible to apply with a letter confirming the start date of their appointment.
7. The applicant must be a CAGS member at the time of application. If not already a member, a membership request may be submitted concurrently with the grant application.
8. The grant is for a one or two year duration with the potential for an additional 1 year no cost extension.
9. A financial and a written end of grant report are required. If a 1 year no cost extension is requested this must be requested in writing with justification on or before the due date of the end of grant report.
10. The grant will be awarded at the CSF. The grantee is strongly encouraged to attend the CSF to accept the award. The registration fee for the CSF would be considered an eligible expense for the grant for that year.
11. The grantee must agree to present their research at the CSF 2 years after grant receipt. The registration fee for CSF would be considered an eligible expense for the grant for that year.
12. The applicant must have some "protected time" for research and how the time is being protected must be defined by their Division or Department Head (within the letter of support).

EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR THE GRANT:

13. The grants will be peer reviewed by members of the Research Committee based on overall expertise. If required, an external review will be requested if the stated research falls outside of the expertise of any of the committee members.
14. All applicants will receive a short written assessment and a score.

15. If no grants meet the minimum score (as determined by the Research Committee) then no grant may be awarded in a given year.
16. The grants will be evaluated based on:
 - i. The track record of the applicant in relation to the number of years post first appointment (12.5%).
 - ii. The importance and novelty of the research question (25%).
 - iii. The feasibility and methodological rigour of the proposed project (25%).
 - iv. The importance of the project to the researchers overall research program and the potential for this project to lead to subsequent per reviewed funding (25%).
 - v. The research environment, including local resources and external collaborations (12.5%).
 - vi. Incorporation of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) principles and practices (yes or no)

OPERATING GRANT COMPETITION 2025

The Canadian General Surgery Foundation (CGSF) was founded in the early 1980's to promote research performed by general surgeons and general surgery residents in both clinical and basic science. The CGSF currently funds one research project per year as well as sponsoring a Resident Research Retreat.

Applications are requested for Operating Grants from the Canadian General Surgery Foundation.
The deadline for receipt is January 26, 2025.

2. There is one operating grant currently \$40,000 available this year.
3. Applicants must be CAGS members.
4. Applicants must have a full time appointment at a Canadian institution which could support the administration of the grant funds (questions of eligibility should be directed to CAGS by email).
5. Applicants must be new investigators within their first 5 years of practice, not including interruptions, such as medical/family/parental leaves, relocation, or extenuating clinical service requirements.
6. Applicants may only submit one application as PI per competition

The application should include:

- A title page with information regarding all co-applicants and contact information for the principal applicant, including an email address
- A summary/abstract of the application (max. ½ page)
- A statement of the impact or the potential impact on surgery in Canada (max. ½ page)
- A detailed description of the proposed research that includes a clear rationale, a hypothesis or research questions, specific aims, methodology (including pitfalls and mitigation strategies) and expected outcomes. (maximum 4 pages, including figures)
- **FOR GRANT RESUBMISSIONS**-please include a ½ page rebuttal to the reviewer comments from the application previously submitted
- A list of references cited (no maximum)
- a detailed budget explaining how the funding will be allocated
- A curriculum vitae of the principal applicant (max. 3 pages not including the list of perreviewed publications)
- A letter of support from the Head of the Division of General Surgery or Chair of the Department of Surgery of the institution where the work will be performed. This must include an indication of the amount of protected time for research and how the applicant's time will be protected to allow successful completion of the project.

- Any delays that have impacted research productivity or that extend the new investigator timeline should be described (optional, max ½ page)
- Equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) strengthen the quality, social relevance and impact of research. Incorporation of EDI principles into the research design and development and training of the research team CAGS strongly endorses incorporation of EDI principles into surgical research. Please describe how the current research proposal incorporated EDI principles in the development of the research team, the research environment and the conduct and interpretation of the research itself. (max ½ page). *For additional information on EDI principles and how to incorporate them into your research, please refer to the following resources from CIHR (<https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/52553.html>).*

The **deadline for submission is January 26, 2025 at 11:59 pm. Applications should be emailed as a single PDF file to: Karin Lindsay (karin@cags-accg.ca)**. Applications not received by the stated deadline or not conforming to these requirements will not be considered for funding.

For further information please contact:

Dr. Guillaume Martel

CAGS Research Committee Chair

Email: gumartel@toh.ca

Grant Receipt:

An approved REB or lab/animal care protocol is required prior to disbursement of funds to the awardee.

Grant Reconciliation/Reporting

The CAGS Operating Grants are provided through the generous support from the CAGS Foundation and its donors. To ensure transparency in the use of these funds and to engage and provide feedback to our donors, all applicants are expected to submit a complete financial report and written summary report, including the impact or potential impact of the research, at the end of the granting period. All grant monies must be reconciled within 1 year from the end date of the grant.

All grantees are also asked to return as a speaker to the Canadian Surgery Forum 2 years following receipt of the grant to present their findings. Grantees will also be asked to participate in communication of their research findings and their impact with the CAGS Foundation. This may include, when appropriate, participating as a speaker, being interviewed, or identifying patients who might be willing to share their impact story. The grantee should also agree that any practice-changing research findings should be translated to practice through the CAGS education committee.