

Background and Description of Opportunity

The Canadian Glycomics Network (GlycoNet) is a Network of Centres of Excellence that focuses on the role of glycans (carbohydrates) in health. Areas of focus for GlycoNet in Cycle II (2020–2025) are antimicrobials, chronic diseases (including diabetes & obesity), neurodegenerative diseases, and cancer. Additional information about Network research can be found at www.glyconet.ca.

A key goal of GlycoNet is to support research projects that are multi-disciplinary, as defined by the NCE program. Accordingly, this Request for Proposals seeks to fund projects that involve two or more research groups in different disciplines. Proposals that involve an investigator who is primarily funded on by one of the tri-council agencies (e.g., CIHR) working with others primarily funded by one or both of the other tri-council agencies (e.g., NSERC and/or SSHRC) will be viewed most favourably.

Requirements for Cycle II

Project applications must:

- Primarily address the gaps identified in the GlycoNet research themes (See attached Cycle II Research Gaps) and be targeted to the role/use of glycans in reducing the economic burden and/or treatment of infectious diseases, chronic diseases, neurodegenerative diseases, and/or cancer.
- Must have multi-disciplinary teams involving researchers as described above.
- Lead to tangible deliverables by the end of the project, leading to disease treatment or diagnosis.
 - Deliverables include intellectual property, processes, products, services, policies and/or clinical practice guidelines that can be developed with Partners and/or Stakeholders
 - **Partner** refers to an organization providing cash or in-kind contributions towards a Network project or the Network's activities. A **Stakeholder** is an end-user organization that does not provide a financial contribution.
- Present a knowledge mobilization plan to communicate results to partners and stakeholders.
 - **Knowledge Mobilization:** A continual strategy involving bi-directional learning with partners and end-users using communication and education events each year.
- Demonstrate a 1:1 financial match with partner funding; at least 50% of the matching funds should be cash. Partner funding must be NCE eligible; in particular, other Canadian Federal funding (e.g., CIHR, NSERC, SSHRC, CFI) is ineligible for matching. Please contact info@glyconet.ca if you have specific questions about matching eligibility. The project budget clearly shows the co-contribution of partner funds in alignment with NCE and eligible project expenses.
- Projects with a higher level of matching funds (e.g. 2:1, Partners:GlycoNet) will be viewed more favorably.
- Provide information on the number and type (i.e. undergraduate, graduate student, PDF, etc.) of expected Highly Qualified Personnel trained each year of the project.
- Demonstrate equity, diversity and inclusion within the project team and its activities.
- List the desired type of professional development training that GlycoNet could provide to HQP, for example, lab rotations, communication and writing skills improvement, etc.

Funding Available

All projects must be completed within 2 years (24 months). Projects will be funded up to a maximum of \$200,000/year and require 1:1 matching as outlined above. Therefore, the total project budget with GlycoNet funding and matching contributions would be a maximum of \$400,000/year. Projects requesting less than the maximum amount will be considered. We anticipate approving up to 12 proposals (ongoing and new) in the Cycle II application. Ongoing projects that wish to submit a proposal must apply and show clear evolution of the project towards translation.

Eligibility

Based on NCE requirements, this opportunity is open only to individuals who are eligible to hold Tri-Council funds; CIHR, NSERC or SSHRC. Furthermore, GlycoNet requires that all investigators receiving Network funding must have other peer-reviewed support. Such support need not be from the Tri-Council. Questions about project suitability can be directed to the GlycoNet Administrative Office (glyconet@ualberta.ca).

Letter of Intent, Proposal and Submission

There will be a two-step application process:

- **Letter of Intent (LOI):** Potential applicants must register by email to Karli Buckle (kbuckle@glyconet.ca) by July 3, 2018. Upon registration, applicants will receive detailed instructions for completing the LOI in the GlycoNet Forum. The LOI will include the project title, a project description, a list of investigators and partners involved in the project, and an anticipated budget request (including matching funds), LOIs will be peer-reviewed by external reviewers and the RMC by mid-October 2018. The deadline for LOI submission is August 9, 2018 (23:59 PST).
 - GlycoNet Management will conduct a review of the LOI to ensure compliance with NCE evaluation criteria. If an LOI is missing critical information, the applicants will be requested to provide the missing information within 48 hours, then re-submit through the GlycoNet forum. If an LOI is not updated as requested, it will be eliminated from the further review.
- **Full Proposal:** Following evaluation of the LOI, investigators involved in those moving forward to the full proposal stage will be invited to meetings to discuss synergies with other projects, non-academic partnerships, and socio-economic aspects. These meetings will occur in November 2018 and a key aspect of them will be to help integrate socio-economic aspects into biomedical/clinical research proposals and vice-versa. This process will lead to a series of projects from which full proposals will be requested and may also result in the combination of projects into a smaller number of larger broader-scale initiatives. Full proposals are due on February 15, 2019 and will be peer-reviewed by the RMC and externally with final approval by the Board of Directors. Successful Collaborative Team proposals will be included in the Network renewal application and funding is anticipated to begin on April 1, 2020, at the start of the Cycle II.

Deadline

The LOI must be submitted through the GlycoNet Forum by 23:59 (PST) on Thursday, August 9, 2018. LOIs received after this deadline will not be considered.

The full Collaborative Team proposal must be submitted by 23:59 (PST) on Friday, February 15, 2019. Proposals received after this deadline will not be considered.

Additional Information

Questions about this opportunity can be sent to info@glyconet.ca.