Advanced Training Opportunity Program (ATOP) Request for Proposals FY 2027

Background

Senior graduate students, postdoctoral fellowship and research associate programs represent the highest stages of training, where senior trainees are developing skills that will allow them to become independent scientists.

The Advanced Training Opportunity Program (ATOP) will allow senior GlycoNet HQP to formally develop the soft skills necessary for success such as grant writing, identifying milestones, budgeting, hiring personnel, and managing people.

This training award provides senior Network HQP with the opportunity to write a mini-NSERC Discovery grant, which, if funded, would allow them to hire an undergraduate or co-op student for 4 months with a small amount of operational funds.

Guidelines and Process

- Proposal will be written by the senior trainee, and will be awarded based on NSERC criteria: scientific excellence of the researcher (senior trainee), merit of the proposal, and contributions to HQP.
- Projects must align with at least one of GlycoNet's research themes.
- Funds will be held by the applicant's supervisor, who must be eligible to hold Tri-Council funds. The supervisor will also provide mentorship to the applicant.
- Any intellectual property (IP) generated will be managed through consultation between the applicant, the applicant's supervisor, and the host institution, in accordance with GlycoNet/institutional IP policies.
- Proposals will be submitted, through the GlycoNet Forum, to the Training Committee for selection of successful applications. Applications will include a title, summary of proposal, proposal, proposed expenditures, HPQ training plan, significant contributions, CV, and supervisor letter of support. The Training Committee may engage external reviewers in this process.
- An award agreements will be sent to successful senior trainees and their supervisors.
- Successful applicants will submit a final report within 60 days of the end of the project.
- Successful applicants will agree to mentor future applicants to the ATOP program.
- Applicants may not hold the award in two successive years.

Budget

Each proposal may request up to $9,000.

Deadline

Proposals must be submitted through the Forum no later than **January 26, 2026**, with projects carried out in the period between April 1, 2026 to March 31, 2027.