

Background and Description of Opportunity

The Canadian Glycomics Network (GlycoNet) is a Network of Centres of Excellence with more than 160 research groups in 35 universities. The Network focuses on the role of glycans (carbohydrates) in health. Areas of focus are neurodegenerative diseases, infectious diseases, chronic diseases, in particular diabetes & obesity, genetic diseases involving errors in glycan metabolism, and cancer. Additional information about Network research can be found at www.glyconet.ca.

Academia Sinica, Taiwan's premier research institution, focuses on conducting ground-breaking research that advances the frontiers of knowledge, in glycoscience. Academia Sinica has more than 30 research groups in six institutes carrying out research in glycoscience. Additional information about Academia Sinica can be found at www.sinica.edu.tw/en.

GlycoNet has formalized a partnership with Academia Sinica to co-fund collaborative research between the two entities that could lead to tangible deliverables by the end of the project. Tangible deliverables can include publications, patent applications, new analytical methods, drug candidates, disease treatment or diagnosis. Accordingly, this Request for Proposals seeks to fund projects that involve at least two groups, one in Canada and one in Taiwan. GlycoNet will fund research conducted in Canada, while Academia Sinica will fund research conducted in Taiwan.

Requirements

Project applications must:

- Primarily address the GlycoNet research themes 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.
- Have multi-disciplinary teams involving researchers from Canada and Taiwan as described above. Projects involving more than two research groups will be viewed favorably.
- Present a summary of knowledge and technology exchange and exploitation potential.
- Present the relevance and impact (including socio-economic) of the project and identify the key deliverables.
- Demonstrate equity, diversity and inclusion within the Canadian project team and its activities.
- Demonstrate at least an equal financial match from Academia Sinica, with a letter of support. Note that GlycoNet funding will only be for Canadian groups and the Taiwanese counterparts will be funded through Academia Sinica. Additional matching from other sources will be viewed more favorably. A letter of support for each partner will be required.
- Provide information on the number and type (i.e. undergraduate, graduate student, PDF, etc.) of expected Highly Qualified Personnel trained in the project.

Funding Available

GlycoNet has set aside up to CAN\$200,000 for this competition for GlycoNet researchers. Proposals may request up to CAN\$100,000 from GlycoNet in funding. Projects requesting less than the maximum amount will be considered.

Projects require at least a 1:1 matching as outlined above from Academia Sinica (e.g. CAN\$100,000 from GlycoNet and at least CAN\$100,000 from Academia Sinica). Matching from Academia Sinica could contain 50% in-kind contributions. Additional matching contributions from other sources (industry, foundations, etc.) will be viewed more favorably. Projects must be completed within 12 months.

Eligibility

To apply for the GlycoNet funding, individuals in Canada need to be eligible to hold Tri-Council funds; CIHR, NSERC or SSHRC as per NCE requirements. 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).

Proposal, Submission, and Review

This is a rolling competition. Applicants can submit their proposals when they are ready. Competitions will be offered on a quarterly basis and will depend on funding availability. Please check the website for the next deadline.

The proposal will be reviewed by the GlycoNet Research Management Committee and recommended to the GlycoNet Board of Directors for funding approval. The proposal will be reviewed according to research excellence, feasibility of the project, collaboration between the research groups, training, and requirements described above. The budget request will be scrutinized against proposed activities and may be reduced based on the Research Management Committee's recommendation.

Potential applicants must register by email to Claude Larrivee Aboussafy (clarrivee@glyconet.ca). Please provide the project title, anticipated budget request, a 500-word (maximum) summary of the project, and list of investigators involved in the project. This information can be modified when the application is submitted although the overall focus must remain the same. Upon registration, applicants will receive instructions for completing the application.

Additional Information

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