2016

Geriatrics / Gerontology Research & Training at Post-Secondary Institutions

RTO/ERO members enjoy a day in the park.
Photo: Vanessa Paxton

RTO/ERO Foundation
2016 Grant Criteria
June 7, 2016

Charitable Registration number: 848662110RR0001
Founded in 2011, and inspired by the history of philanthropy of The Retired Teachers of Ontario / Les Enseignantes et Enseignants Retraités de l’Ontario (RTO/ERO), the RTO/ERO Foundation is a registered Canadian charity.

**Vision:**
Enhance the quality of life of aging adults.

**Mission:**
We are a registered Canadian charity that invests in innovative initiatives promoting healthy, active aging. Recognizing the urgency of an aging Canadian population, we are proactively engaging with donors, RTO/ERO members, community organizations and subject matter experts to achieve our vision.

**Our Legacy Started**
Drawing on the 2009 Special Senate Committee on Aging, among our top priorities is investing in geriatrics and/or gerontology research and training at post-secondary institutions.

The Foundation has already achieved a major milestone – the creation of the RTO/ERO Chair in Geriatric Medicine at the University of Toronto.

Dr. Paula Rochon, an internationally renowned Clinician-Scientist, was named the inaugural Chair holder, effective July 2015. She will work to advance collaborative research in Geriatric Medicine along with promoting discovery and education in the area of Geriatric Medicine.

> "I commend RTO/ERO and its members for their incredible foresight to invest in geriatrics research," says Dr. Paula Rochon, "Recognizing and learning more about the complexities of aging through science is key to promoting health among our older population."

**2015 Granting**
For 2015, the Foundation focused its granting cycle on this core, high priority – high impact goal: Geriatrics/Gerontology Research & Training at Post-Secondary Institutions. We invited grant proposals from the Faculties of Medicine across Ontario. Following a rigorous peer-review process, the Foundation Board approved full-funding to one project (to be named pending final approval by the Ethics Board).

**2016 Granting - New**
Our granting focus will be broadened as follows:

1. Geriatrics/gerontology research and training at post-secondary institutions
2. Social Isolation addressed through partnerships with community organizations - NEW
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The RTO/ERO Foundation is announcing a funding opportunity for research projects that focus on enhancing the quality of life of aging adults. This competition is open to all publically-supported post-secondary institutions based in Ontario.

Our vision: Enhance the quality of life of aging adults.

**Overall Goals**

- Provide financial support to qualified grantees (grant recipient must be employed by or affiliated with a publically supported post-secondary institution; grant will be made directly to the affiliated registered Canadian charity of the post-secondary institution) for endeavors that further the Foundation’s vision.

- Contribute to a variety of projects based in Ontario, thereby raising the profile of RTO/ERO Foundation and its vision.

**Granting Criteria**

The RTO/ERO Foundation Board of Directors, with support from the Grant Review Committee, will make decisions for funding approval.

Grants will be made of **up to $25,000**; projects should have a 1-year timeframe.

Decisions will be based on the following:

- The application was received at the Foundation Office on or before the deadline date.
- The research project team includes a geriatrician and a role for trainees
- The research project meets the Overall Goals, and these key criteria:
  - Research: preference for clinically-relevant/health services projects (not basic science) that focus on enhancing quality of life of aging adults.
  - Or
  - Training: preference for educational research projects that will build capacity in geriatric medicine.

- Preference will be given to projects that:
  - are developed with and for older adults
  - are multidisciplinary or collaborative with another post-secondary institutions or community or private organization
  - demonstrate how their reach can be broadened beyond local (i.e. to underserved areas)
Proposal Format

Please respond to the following in your proposal (to be submitted in electronic format):

- **Overview of Project:** Write a 600 word (max.) summary of the project in lay terms. Include how funds received from the Foundation will be used.
- **Research Project Description:** Maximum of 5 pages, double-sided, 12 pt. font, plus CVs of lead and key team members. Include:
  - Objectives - why it is important to older adults in Ontario
  - Methods - study design and team roles
  - Prospective benefits/expected findings and any risks
  - Evaluation criteria
  - Explanation of how research proposal findings/outcomes will be translated into action/benefits for older adults (including how results will be disseminated)
  - Timeline
  - Please disclose any corporate/pharmaceutical partners.

- **Budget:** The budget is detailed, complete and expenses are supported by quotation(s); other expenses (if applicable) are listed; identification of matching grants, other funders and amounts pledged (if applicable) are listed.

- **RTO/ERO Foundation Recognition:** Describe how the RTO/ERO Foundation will be recognized for its support of this project.

Role of Successful Applicant

The successful applicant agrees to the following terms (to be outlined in a formal letter):

- The RTO/ERO Foundation will be recognized in materials (print and electronic) related to the project including, but not limited to: announcements, press releases, promotional material, reports, etc. as well as plaques and naming opportunities as appropriate for the grant and the institution.
- A report will be prepared for the Foundation, upon completion of the project, detailing the outcomes of the project.
- RTO/ERO Foundation will be given access to key individuals involved in the project for the purpose of our own marketing and promotion; as well as liaison with local RTO/ERO members.

Submitting Proposals:

- **Electronic format in English**
- **Deadline:** Thursday, September 15, 2016, 4:30 p.m.
- **Email:** ybronstein@rto-ero.org
- **Subject:** RTO/ERO Foundation Grant - Geriatrics

Main contact: Yolanda Bronstein, Executive Director, RTO/ERO Foundation
300 – 18, chemin Spadina Road, Toronto, ON M5R 2S7
Telephone: 416-962-9463 x 245 Toll Free: 1-800-361-9888
Website www.rto-ero.org/support-the-foundation
Guidelines for Grant Recipients

To ensure you understand what is required as a grant recipient, please read the information below.

The Principal Investigator and/or the sponsoring institution are responsible for notifying the Foundation of any significant changes to the project, including but not limited to methodology, budget or personnel prior to the changes being implemented to ensure all aspects of the project continue to meet the Foundation’s funding criteria.

Project Duration
The Principal Investigator (PI) is to provide a start date and end for the project, which will also represent the start and end of the granting period. Please note: the Foundation will use these dates to determine when to expect the interim (if applicable) and final reports from the grant recipient.

The project must start within six months of the date of the letter from the Foundation offering funding (the notification letter) and be completed within the approved period.

Project Extensions
If the project is delayed for any reason that will result in the project duration exceeding beyond the scheduled end date, please email your request for an extension to the Foundation before the original scheduled project end date. The request for extension must explain in detail the reason for the project timeline extension, a budget update and the state of the progress of the project to date and a revised project end date. Please note that such extension request cannot contain a request for additional funding of the same project.

Research Ethics and Standards
The Foundation requires that all funded research projects adhere to the sponsoring institution’s policies and procedures as well as accepted research standards. Grant recipients must provide evidence of all applicable ethics and research standard approvals and registrations with the same title as that of the application approved by the Foundation.

Please note that the first payment of funding, and subsequent payments if applicable, are conditional upon receipt of all applicable approval certificates and registrations. Upon expiry, approval certificates must be renewed and provided promptly to the Foundation for funding to continue.

Recognition of Support from RTO/ERO Foundation
All publications and presentations arising from the funded project are to include acknowledgement of funding from “The RTO/ERO Foundation”. Furthermore, the Foundation’s logo should be included whenever possible. Additional recognition and stewardship opportunities will be discussed and mutually agreed upon on a case by case basis.
Reporting

Final Project Report
A final report, including final accounting, must be submitted within three months of the granting period’s end date. The Foundation reserves the right to withhold 10% of the value of the grant until the PI submits the final report.

The PI must report the results of the project, including publications and presentations, so the Foundation can track the outcomes of all funded projects. Subsequent applications will not be considered unless the previously funded research project has met all reporting requirements. Where papers are published or presented, reprints or copies must be submitted to the Foundation. Please note that you may send electronic copies by email.

Project Budget
Grant funds must be used according to the approved project budget. However, the Foundation understands that the PI is the best judge of the use of the funds awarded and may propose a change in the use of the grant funds, except where the Foundation has specifically excluded an expense item from its funding. Please note: the PI must notify the Foundation of any significant changes in the project budget before the change is made to ensure the proposed changes meet the Foundation’s eligibility criteria.

A statement of disbursement of the funds awarded must be submitted to the Foundation at the completion of the project. In projects that exceed a year in duration, an accounting at the end of each twelve month period is required as well as the final accounting at the end of the granting period.

When work is completed or cannot be continued for any reason, unused funds must be immediately returned to the Foundation.

Leave of Absence
The PI must notify the Foundation of any leave to be taken, apart from ordinary vacation, in order to make adjustments as applicable to the status of the study and to the payment of the funds. The Foundation must be notified before the leave starts. During the absence of the PI, another investigator with an academic appointment at the same university (or institute) as the PI may be given the responsibility of monitoring the project, supervising the personnel working on the project, as well as act as signing authority for the grant. Please note that the arrangement must be outlined in writing to the Foundation from the original PI, the replacement PI and the sponsoring institution.