



MOVEMBER RISING STAR IN PROSTATE CANCER RESEARCH

Part 1: Overview Information

Participating Organization(s)	Prostate Cancer Canada
Funding Opportunity Title	Rising Star in Prostate Cancer Research
Description	Prostate Cancer Canada (PCC) is offering a limited number of Rising Star in Prostate Cancer Research Awards, which provide salary and research support for outstanding researchers initiating a career as independent investigators in prostate cancer research. These awards provide the opportunity for research scientists within the first 5 years of their first academic or research appointment to develop and demonstrate independence in initiating and conducting high impact prostate cancer research.

Important Dates

Program Launch Date	September 14, 2015
Registration Deadline	September 30, 2015
Application Deadline	October 30, 2015
Peer Review	December, 2015
Interviews	December, 2015
Anticipated Award Notification Date	December, 2015
Funding Start Date	January 1, 2016

Part 2. Full Text Announcement

Section I. Funding Opportunity Description

Description

Prostate Cancer Canada (PCC) is offering a limited number of Rising Star in Prostate Cancer Research Awards, which provide salary and research support for outstanding research scientists initiating a career as independent investigators in prostate cancer research.

The goal of a Rising Star in Prostate Cancer Research Award is to provide support for a sustained period of “protected time” for intensive research career development in prostate cancer under the guidance of an experienced mentor. The expectation is that through this sustained period of research career development and training, award recipients will build independent research careers in prostate cancer.

These awards provide the opportunity for research scientists within the first 5 years of their first academic or research appointment to develop and demonstrate independence in initiating and conducting high impact prostate cancer research.

The proposed research project must be in the area of prostate cancer and may address any of the broad areas of prostate cancer research, including prostate cancer biology, treatment, diagnosis, survivorship and prevention. Basic, translational, clinical and/or population-based studies in all of these research areas are appropriate.

This opportunity is proudly funded by the Movember Foundation.



Section II. Award Information

Funding Instrument	Award
Application Types Allowed	New Application or Re-Application
Funds Available and Anticipated Number of Awards	Currently, the total amount budgeted is \$1.8M to fund up to 4 Rising Star in Prostate Cancer Research Awards.* Please note that the number of awards is contingent upon availability of funds and the submission of scientifically meritorious applications.
Award Budget	The maximum amount that can be applied for is \$150,000 per year (\$75,000 for salary support and \$75,000 for research expenses).
Award Project Period	The funding period is 3 years

**The amount available for this program is subject to funds raised. Should funding levels decrease, PCC reserves the right to reduce, defer or suspend financial contributions to grants received as a result of this funding opportunity.*

Section III. Eligibility Information

Eligibility to Apply

REVISED!

In order to be eligible for a Rising Star in Prostate Cancer Research Award, applicants must, **at September 1, 2015:**

- be an **independent investigator**;
- be an applied health researcher and/or hold an MD degree (or equivalent) and/or PhD degree (or equivalent);
- have an academic or research appointment at an **eligible institution**;
- have held an academic or research appointment as an **independent investigator** for **no longer than 5 years** at September 1, 2015.

Independent Investigator

To be eligible to apply for a PCC grant or award, applicants must be **independent investigators**.

An **independent investigator** is an individual who:

- has an academic or research appointment which:
 - must commence by September 1, 2015; and
 - allows the individual to pursue the proposed research project, to engage in independent research activities for the entire duration of the funding, to supervise trainees and to publish the research results; and
 - allows the individual to apply for and hold grant funding as a Principal Investigator from the Federal Tri-Council Agencies;

- obliges the individual to conform to institutional regulations concerning the conduct of research, the supervision of trainees and the employment conditions of staff paid with PCC funding;
- will assume financial responsibility for the award at their own institution and will be responsible for reporting this information back to PCC.

Eligible Institution

To be eligible to apply for a PCC grant or award, applicants must be affiliated with an **eligible institution**.

Eligible institutions must meet the following requirements.

1. The Institution type must fall under one of the following categories:
 - Canadian post-secondary institutions and their affiliated institutions including hospitals and research institutes;
 - Canadian non-governmental, not-for-profit organizations (including community or charitable organizations) with an explicit research or knowledge translation mandate;
 - Canadian non-federal government departments or agencies, including regional health authorities, when specific programs of those departments or agencies do not fund the activity that forms the subject matter of the grant.
2. The institution must be a recognized legal entity.
3. The institution must have the necessary accounting systems and financial controls in place to manage PCC funds.
4. The institution must ensure that the researcher will have the time and infrastructure that will permit the pursuit of the planned research and the freedom to publish the results.

Applications from for-profit organizations **are not** eligible.

Non-domestic (non-Canadian) entities (foreign institutions) **are not** eligible to apply.

Key Components

The application will be evaluated based on the applicant's potential to further develop as a Rising Star in prostate cancer research. This will include looking at the applicant, the environment and a proposed research project.

The two key components of the application are:

- Applicant's Training, Experience and Career Plan (2,000 words)
- Research Proposal (2,000 words)

Career Development Program: The award provides salary support for three consecutive 12-month budget periods. At least 75% of the award recipient's full-time effort must be devoted to research. The remainder may be devoted to clinical service, teaching, administration or other research pursuits. The recipient is expected to further develop knowledge in prostate cancer research and enhance research skills relevant to their career goals. Award recipients with MDs may provide clinical services to the host institution during the period of the award, provided that at least 75% of full-time effort is protected for research.

Environment: The applicant's host institution must have a well-established record of research career development activities and qualified research faculty to serve as mentors. The institution must demonstrate a commitment to the development of the applicant as a productive, independent investigator and be willing to commit to at least 75% protected research time for the applicant. The applicant, along with the mentor(s) and institution, are encouraged to have a career development program that maximizes the use of relevant research and educational resources, and propose qualified faculty as mentors in the specific area of prostate cancer research.

Mentor(s): Applicants may name up to 3 mentors as appropriate. Each mentor will advise in the planning, direction, and execution of the applicant's program. The mentor should be recognized as an accomplished investigator in research and have a track record of success in training independent investigators.

Environment and Institutional Commitment to Applicant

Applicants must have a written commitment from the host institution, via letter from the Dean of Faculty/Head of Division or Vice President/Director, Research, which accompanies the application. The letter must include the following elements:

1. The host institution must provide a statement of commitment to providing an academic or research appointment, or pending academic or research appointment to the applicant if successful. Please include details such as start date, teaching load, committee work and any other administrative duties.
2. The host institution must define and document a strong, well-established research and training program related to the applicant's area of interest including a high-quality research environment with staff capable of productive collaboration with the applicant.
3. The host institution must provide a statement of commitment to the applicant's development into a productive, independent investigator and to meeting the requirements of this award.
4. Describe the resources and facilities that will be available to the applicant.
5. Describe how the institutional research environment is particularly suited for the development of the applicant's research career and the pursuit of the proposed research plan.
6. In a clear statement, provide assurances that the applicant will be able to devote a minimum of 75 % of his/her full-time effort in developing his/her research program for the duration of the award.

Number of Applications

Applicants may not submit more than one application in the current competition.

Section IV. Guidelines and Review Process

General PCC Guidelines

PCC policies and guidelines as outlined on the PCC website will apply to the applications submitted and awards made in response to this program announcement.

Allowable Costs

Salary Support for Applicant

Rising Star awards provide a maximum of \$75,000 per annum towards salary and fringe benefits for the award recipient (based on a full-time academic or research appointment). Any fringe benefits based on the host institution's rate and the percent of effort must be included in the \$75,000 per annum salary award maximum.

The host institution may supplement the Rising Star award salary contribution up to a level that is consistent with the institution's salary scale. Institutional supplementation must not require extra duties or responsibilities that would interfere with the purpose of the Rising Star in Prostate Cancer Research award.

Note: These funds cannot be applied to research costs.

Research

Rising Star in Prostate Cancer Research awards provide \$75,000 per annum towards the direct costs of research.

The following expenditures are eligible for funding:

- Direct research operating costs for the proposed research;
- Salaries of research assistants, technicians, project coordinators and other personnel who will enhance the collaborative research productivity of the research team;
- Stipends paid to trainees (e.g., undergraduate, graduate students, postdoctoral fellows) shall be in accordance with institutional policies, up to a maximum of \$21,000 per annum for graduate students and \$50,000 per annum for postdoctoral fellows.

Non-Allowable Costs

The following expenditures are not eligible for funding received through this funding opportunity:

- Indirect costs associated with the conduct of research (including, but are not limited to, heating, lighting, ethics review, CTA review, intellectual property and commercialization activities);
- Salary or honoraria for mentors;
- Conference travel (except as identified under knowledge translation activities)

Conditions of Funding

Successful applicants funded through this funding opportunity must fully comply with the following conditions:

- Acknowledgment of the funder's support in all publications and presentations that result from the funded research.
- Notification to PCC of all publications resulting from this award prior to their publication.
- Submit to PCC annual written progress reports that include a list of all publications resulting in whole or in part from this award.
- Financial statements must be submitted to PCC annually no later than 45 days after the end of each award year by the successful applicant's institution.
- Submit to PCC a final written report with a final financial statement.

Performance Indicators

Performance indicators will be developed in order to evaluate the success of the Rising Star program.

Review Process and Evaluation

A Peer Review Committee will review and rank Rising Star applications for excellence using the review criteria as described under "Evaluation Criteria". Selected applicants will be invited to make presentations to the peer review panel when it meets in early December. Applicants will be notified by email in early-mid November 2015 with details regarding the process and timing. Economy travel expenses will be reimbursed by PCC for those invited to present to the review panel.

Evaluation Criteria

Rising Star applications will be evaluated based on their excellence as judged against the following evaluation criteria:

Applicant

- Potential to develop as an independent and productive researcher
- Quality of the applicant's research, academic and (if relevant) clinical record;
- Commitment to meeting the program objectives as an independent researcher;
- Quality of the letters of reference from three referees evaluating the applicant's potential to pursue an independent research scientist career;

Mentor(s)

- Appropriateness of the mentor's research qualifications;
- Quality and extent of the mentor's proposed role in providing guidance and advice to the applicant;
- Previous experience in fostering the development of independent investigators;
- History of research productivity and peer-reviewed support;
- Strength of the mentor's statement.

Environment and Institutional Commitment to the Applicant

- Clear commitment of the institution to ensure that a minimum of 75% of the applicant's effort will be devoted directly to research;
- Strength of the institutional commitment to the career development of the applicant;
- Adequacy of research facilities and training opportunities, including faculty capable of productive collaboration with the applicant;
- Quality and relevance of the environment for the scientific and professional development of the applicant.

Research Project

A fundamentally sound research plan must be provided.

- Scientific and technical merit of the research question, feasibility, design and methodology;
- Significance of the proposed research on our understanding prostate cancer.

Section V. Submission Information

Please read all instructions before applying.

- **Registration deadline:** register online by **5:00 p.m. (Eastern time) on Wednesday, September 30, 2015**
 - **Registration will require the following information (no attachments):**
 - **Applicant details, date of first faculty appointment and host institution**
 - **Mentor(s)**
 - **Project title, area of research, keywords**
 - **Recommended Reviewers and Reviewers to exclude**
- **Full application deadline:** the application and all reference documents, reference letters and signature page must be submitted online by **5:00 PM (ET) on Wednesday, October 28, 2015**.
- Please ensure that your application is complete (includes all required sections) and is submitted on time to PCC.

Applications must be submitted online by completing the **Rising Star in Prostate Cancer Research** application which can be found online at: <http://pccgrants.smartsimple.ca>

Full Application Requirements:

Applicant Attach a brief free-form CV (approximately 3 pages in PDF format). The CV must include training and education, degrees, positions and honours, a list of relevant publications (past 5 years) and information on grants and awards held (source, type, title, amount/year, duration) (past 5 years).

A. Training, Experience, Career Plans (maximum 2,000 words)

Discuss your training and research efforts to this point in your research career; include any publications, prior research interests and experience. Discuss your long-term career plans. Provide evidence of your potential to develop into a leader in prostate cancer research.

B. Mentor(s)

- The applicant may name up to 3 mentors as appropriate. Mentors will advise on the planning, direction and execution of the applicant's research project. The mentor should be recognized as an accomplished investigator in research and have a track record of success in training independent investigators.
- **Mentor Statement** must provide: 1) information on their research qualifications and previous experience as a research supervisor; 2) a mentoring plan describing the nature of the supervision and mentoring that will occur during the proposed award period; attach in PDF format
- Similar information must be provided by all mentors. If more than one mentor is proposed, the respective areas of expertise and responsibility of each should be described. Co-mentors should clearly describe how they will coordinate the mentoring of the applicant.
- Each mentor must agree to provide annual evaluations of the applicant's progress for the duration of the award.
- CVs must be attached for each mentor. Attach a brief free-form CV (approximately 3 pages in PDF format); include training and education, degrees, positions and honours, a list of relevant publications (past 5 years) and information on grants and awards held (source, type, title, amount/year, duration) (past 5 years).

C. New Application or Re-application?

Indicate whether you are submitting a New application or Re-application. Note: Applicants from the 2015 competition may select either option. **Re-applications** have the opportunity to respond to previous reviewer comments. For Re-applications ONLY, provide a response to previous critiques (maximum 400 words); must attach copies of previous reviews in PDF format.

D. Lay summary (maximum 250 words)

Using clear and non-scientific language, provide an overview of the proposed research project. Include a short summary of aims of the project, and a statement of how this

proposal will improve our knowledge of prostate cancer and, ultimately, how it will improve the lives of those living with prostate cancer.

E. Scientific abstract (maximum 250 words)

Provide a summary of the proposed research, indicating specific aims, methodology of the proposed research, intended outcomes and potential significance to prostate cancer.

F. Research Proposal (maximum 2,000 words not including Reference bibliography, Tables and figures)

Provide an overall description of the research project and clearly outline the following elements:

- Central hypothesis or research question;
- Specific objectives of the research project to be undertaken;
- Background and rationale;
- Description of the importance/significance of the central hypothesis or research question on our understanding of prostate cancer and expected findings;
- Description of methods and proposed analysis, including timelines;
- Relevant experience and skills of the applicant to carry out the research proposed;
- Any institutional support for the research project.

Related information that may be attached in PDF format:

- Reference bibliography
- Tables and figures

G. Current and Pending Funding

List all current and pending funding for the applicant and named mentor(s): create one list for all, listing each grant only once (status, source, type, title, amount, start and end dates); Attach abstracts in PDF format; ensure that title is on each abstract.

H. Budget

Submit detailed annual budgets for three years, with full justification for all budget items relative to the proposed research using the following budget categories:

- **Rising Star Salary Support**
 - **\$75,000 per year** as defined in Allowable Costs (Section IV)
- Salaries and Fringe Benefits
 - Salaries of research staff; research assistants, technicians, project coordinators and other personnel who will enhance the collaborative research productivity of the research team;
 - Stipends to trainees (e.g., undergraduate, graduate students, postdoctoral fellows) shall be in accordance with institutional policies, up to a maximum of \$21,000 per annum for graduate students and \$50,000 per annum for postdoctoral fellows

- Small equipment (maximum 5% of total budget)
- Research materials and supplies
- Services
- Data collection, database management
- Regional, national and international networking activities
- Knowledge translation activities (provide breakdown by activity in justification)
 - Travel to conferences when presenting results from the funded research grant/award (up to 1% of funding)
 - Publication costs relating to the funded research
 - Other knowledge dissemination activities
- Other expenses

Provide full justification for all budget elements; show breakdown year by year where appropriate.

Attach budget support documents in PDF format such as quotations for equipment items or contracted services.

I. Letters of Reference (3 required)

Applicants must arrange for three letters of reference to be submitted directly from referees (must not be Mentor(s)). Letters must be in support of the applicant and providing evidence that the applicant has a high potential for becoming a leader in prostate cancer research.

J. Signature page

Each application must be accompanied by a document with required signatures from the applicant, mentors and Host Institution representatives uploaded into the application prior to the deadline. This form is available for download from the Signature Page tab of the online application. Attach in PDF format.

Contact Information

For questions relating to the Rising Star program please contact:

Jenna Fong, PhD
 Manager, Research
 416-441-2131, Ext. 243
jenna.fong@prostatecancer.ca

Joanne Reynolds
 Manager, Research Operations
 416 441-2131, Ext. 226
joanne.reynolds@prostatecancer.ca

For more information about Prostate Cancer Canada, visit prostatecancer.ca.
 For more information on the Movember Foundation, visit www.movember.com.