



## **DR. IAN AND SHIRLEY ROWE RESEARCH FUND TO EXPLORE INNOVATIVE WAYS OF MANAGING PSYCHOSIS IN THE COMMUNITY**

### **DESCRIPTION**

The purpose of the Dr. Ian and Shirley Rowe Research Fund is to provide seed funding for pilot projects that explore innovative approaches to address the hospital-home transition and support the community living needs of individuals and families living with schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, or mood disorders with psychosis and lack of awareness/anosognosia as well as their families/caregivers. Enabling better adherence to recommended interventions and fewer involuntary readmissions is a goal. The aim of the Dr. Ian and Shirley Rowe Research Fund is to support research that will bolster the continuum of services delivered to such individuals and their families and support the bridge between Hospital and Community.

The intent of the funding is to provide an opportunity for the design of studies and collection of pilot data (a) that will support the application for larger grants from agencies such as the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), the Ontario, and the National Institutes of Mental Health (NIMH), or (b) facilitate Knowledge Translation to bolster more effective mental health in-community services thereby strengthening the health care system through fewer readmissions.

### **GOVERNANCE**

This funding opportunity will comply with The Research Institute of St. Joe's Hamilton Dr. Ian and Shirley Rowe Research Fund Guidelines and the **015 – RSJ-H Research Institute Award Program Policy**.

### **PROCESS**

The Dr. Ian and Shirley Rowe Research Fund competition consists of a single application process for eligible independent researchers. The deadline to apply is by 11:59 pm on April 30<sup>th</sup>. All applicants will be notified of the results in July.

### **FUNDING**

The value of the grant is from \$10,000 up to a maximum of \$25,000 in funding. Funding will generally start the following September.

The number of awards on offer for any given year's competition is dependent upon funding availability and will be communicated on the Research Institute [website](#). Approval from the Hamilton Integrated Research Ethics Board (HiREB) is required before funding is released.

## **EXCLUSIONS**

Projects that focus on genomic expression, pharmacological treatment, laboratory studies, or exploration of the pathophysiology of psychosis are excluded.

## **PROJECT PROPOSAL**

The research project must conform to the following requirements:

- 1) Projects must be evidence-based, novel and act as a catalyst to advance research examining how to address the hospital-home transition and support the community living needs of individuals and families living with schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder or related mood disorders with psychosis and lack of awareness and insight into their illness.
- 2) Projects including pilot studies must be feasible to complete within a two to three-year period.
- 3) Projects must engage participants or partners responsible for the delivery of new services in the Hamilton region.
- 4) Projects must support one of a combination of the following strategies:
  - i. Promote successful adherence to treatment for individuals with psychosis who have deficits in illness, awareness and insight, and assist in the prevention of future relapses
  - ii. Support successful transition into the community, to independent living, and a productive lifestyle
  - iii. Assist family members in understanding and supporting patients who have deficits in awareness and insight and offer the opportunity to leverage technology, such as virtual visits, social media and artificial intelligence.
- 5) Must include a budget and justification of how the funds will be allocated.

## **APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY**

- 1) Available to independent researchers (as defined below) who are principally located at (a) McMaster University and/or (b) one of the St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton campuses and are affiliated members of the Research Institute of St. Joe's Hamilton.
- 2) Applicants may be a physician, psychologist, a resident, fellow or postgraduate student, regulated healthcare professional or other clinician with graduate level training in research who demonstrates a commitment to the provision of services to individuals with schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder or related psychotic disorders and mood disorders with psychosis and lack of awareness or insight into their illness in the Hamilton region.
- 3) Applicants who are students or trainees; oversight must be provided by a principal investigator qualified to hold research awards and who meets the qualification of independent researcher (as defined below) and (i) holds an appointment at McMaster University and/or is (ii) an affiliated member of the Research Institute of St. Joe's.

Independent Researchers (derived from CIHR definitions <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/34190.html>)

## PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

- Projects must be evidence-based, innovative, and act as a catalyst to advance research examining how to best support individuals in the community with schizoaffective disorder, schizophrenia, or mood disorders with psychosis who have lack of awareness and insight into their illness.
- Projects including pilot studies must be feasible to complete within a two to three-year period and involve participants in the Hamilton region.
- Projects must support one or a combination of the following strategies:
  - Promote successful uptake and adherence to treatment for individuals living in the community with deficits in illness, awareness, and insight, and assist in the prevention of future relapses and repeat hospitalizations.
  - Support successful transition into the community to independent living and a productive, healthy lifestyle, while living with their psychosis.
  - Assist caregivers in understanding and mobilizing resources for supporting family members who have deficits in awareness and insight.
  - Novel and innovative projects that involve interdisciplinary research or cross sector partnerships are encouraged.

## PREPARATION OF APPLICATION

Please go to the Research Institute of St. Joe's Hamilton [website](#) to access the application. **The Research Institute of St. Joe's will NOT accept paper-based applications.**

**Applicants must submit their application no later than 11:59pm EST on March 31.**

**Late or incomplete submissions will not be accepted under any circumstance.**

## REVIEW PROCESS

Applications will be reviewed by the committee, struck by the Scientific Director ("Committee"). The composition of the committee will be at the discretion of the Scientific Director. A peer review process of the application will be conducted by the Committee.

The review criteria for the Application include:

- Applicants' Curriculum Vitae
- Publication activity
- Other research activity i.e. abstracts, patents
- Originality
- Background preparation
- Research Project – Design, Feasibility, Impact
- Research resources
- Impact on patient care or health care

## **NOTIFICATION OF AWARDS**

The following conditions will be observed when notifying candidates on the status of their application:

- The recommendations of the Committee will be forwarded to the Scientific Director who is the final authority for approval
- The deliberations of the Committee are confidential
- All awardee(s) will be required to sign a terms and conditions agreement prior to receipt of funding
- All applicants will be notified of the results of their application in July of the competition year

## **REPORTING**

The award recipient must complete and submit an annual progress report on the anniversary of their award funding. This report will be reviewed by the Scientific Director and the recipient will be notified accordingly. A final completion report will be due to The Research Institute of St. Joe's Hamilton upon completion of the award term, which should highlight how the results will be disseminated, put into practice, or provide a foundation for funding from larger agencies.

An in-person presentation of the research findings leading into where the research might lead will be discussed with the Rowe family, who will also receive a copy of the final report.