

**Neuroscience Catalyst: Call for Letters of Intent**

**Instructions for completing the Letter of Intent (LOI) for the Neuroscience Catalyst program**

***What is Neuroscience Catalyst?***

An innovative collaborative partnership between the University of Toronto and Janssen Inc., the *Neuroscience Catalyst* will fund collaborative, open-source, pre-competitive, early-stage proof of concept research towards identifying and validating new therapeutic targets that can progress to the clinical treatment for mood disorders and Alzheimer’s disease. *Neuroscience Catalyst* was designed with the aim of leveraging the collective skills and resources of academia and industry to accelerate the pace of developing and bringing new neuroscience drugs to market and providing treatments for major brain disorders. Participating researchers will have access to cutting-edge drug discovery tools and information, as well as access to the Johnson & Johnson Innovation center compound product library, thereby facilitating research progress.

***Who can apply?***

LOI applications are open to any principal investigator holding a faculty appointment at the University of Toronto. It is recommended that funded research proposals have a research team comprised of at least one principal investigator holding a faculty appointment in the Faculty of Medicine or Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy at the University of Toronto.

Please note that the Neuroscience Catalyst is a unique funding opportunity and is not meant to replace an operating grant.

LOI applicants will be required to obtain institutional endorsement of their research application from the University of Toronto through the “My Research Applications” (MRA) portal.

**Review criteria**

LOIs will be scored on the following bases:

* Disruptive nature of project (novelty, game changing, impact, achievability).
* Collaborative approach to innovation and ability to inject novel thinking & science (Does the proposal consider the science beyond the applicant’s laboratory?)
* Attentiveness to healthcare with a direct impact to patient outcomes

***What is the application and review process?***

* Submitted LOIs will undergo review by a Joint Steering Committee (JSC) composed of representatives from the University of Toronto and Janssen Inc. Members of the JSC are subject matter experts and have extensive experience in drug discovery and development in industrial and academic settings, basic and translational research in mood disorders, Alzheimer’s and neurodegenerative disease, as well as extensive experience in biotechnology company creation and investment.
* Successful LOI applicants will be invited to meet with the Joint Steering Committee for a face-to-face presentation
* The top research teams at this stage will then be selected and invited to submit a full in-depth proposal. These teams will receive important advice and additional expertise required in crafting the full research proposal
* Applicants will submit full research proposals which will be sent for external peer review
* Top-ranked successful research proposals will be funded according to a budget developed in collaboration with the JSC.

***How much funding is available?***

Projects will be funded at various levels. Funding is typically available up to $250,000 per project. The duration of funding is not fixed and may be renewable upon successful completion of defined milestones. Whereas this is the typical funding level available per project, the Neuroscience Catalyst also anticipate making lesser awards to optimize investments in a portfolio of projects that will yield significant and important results. In rare circumstances, project may be funded for more than the target maximum funding level. This LOI is intended to leverage the existing resources, skills, and interests within academic laboratories, and is not intended to recruit new research personnel, launch major new research directions, fund general operating support for the lab, or purchase equipment with applications beyond the project. Subcontracting certain specialized aspects of the work may be permissible with consent from the Neuroscience Catalyst.

**CASE STUDIES – TO BE ADDED**

**Eligible Costs**

Eligible Costs are direct costs of the funded research including salary and benefit costs for staff involved in Funded Research and other project-related costs including supplies and materials, service contracts, usage fees and technical support for lab equipment and computers

***Confidentiality***

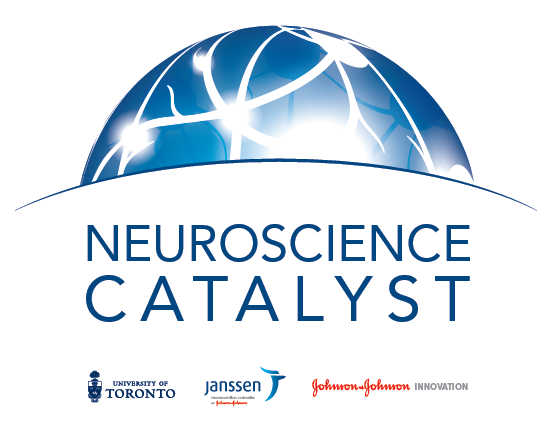
Members of the Neuroscience Joint Steering Committee will not share the information provided by applicants through the registration and application process except with directors, officers and/or representatives of the University of Toronto, Janssen Inc and their respective affiliates as deemed necessary. Nonetheless, applicants should not provide confidential information such as chemical structures at the LOI stage.

***Intellectual Property***

All pre-existing intellectual property will remain the exclusive property of the party that created it prior to or independent of the funded research. All Intellectual Property created during the funded research will be owned by the party that created such Intellectual Property.

***Communications and Publications***

All funding recipients shall have the right to disseminate information or otherwise publish the research results arising in performance of the funded research. Janssen’s support of the funded research will be acknowledged in all such publications.



**Neuroscience Catalyst: Call for Letters of Intent** (2 page maximum)

Call for Proposals Focus: Mood disorders and Dementia Spectrum Disorders

Submit LOI online at [www.neurosciencecatalyst.ca](http://www.neurosciencecatalyst.ca)

Due: January 16th, 2015

**Title**:

**Applicants/Institutions/Email**:

1. Principal Investigator(s):
2. Co-investigator(s):

**Funds requested**:

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| **I. Disruptive nature of project**  Please describe the novel insight, target, compound, biomarker, animal model, screen, assay, or technology that is relevant to this call for proposals. Include key preliminary data supporting the validity of your concept (may include clinical or preclinical work performed by your team or other researchers).  Clearly outline your project’s novelty and potential for translation, game changing, impact, achievability and commercialization.  [XXXX character limit] |

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| **II. Research and Collaboration Plan**  Please provide a brief outline of your research plan including an analysis of its strengths as well as the gaps and requirements for progressing your concept/idea forward. Please indicate required resources and capabilities that would accelerate the testing, validation and translation of your concept/idea (Eg. Tool compounds, animal models, medicinal chemistry capabilities, etc). In addition, please indicate specific  Janssen Inc resources that would advance your proposed research (see Janssen in-kind expertise document attached).  Clearly articulate a plan for collaboration and gaps to inject novel thinking and science external to your laboratory.  [XXX character limit] |

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| **V. Impact, Deliverables and Milestones** (eg. Healthcare and patient outcomes, patent, scientific paper(s), program/tool, other grants and timelines)  Please outline the impact of your project on patient outcomes and healthcare.  Please provide detail of clear deliverables and outcomes from the proposed project. Include milestones and timelines for achieving deliverables.  [XXX character limit] |

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| **IV. Membership Structure of the Research Team**  Please describe how the structure of your research team will enable you to achieve impact, deliverables and milestones. |