



# **POGO Seed Funding Grant 2019/2020**

## **Information Package**

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## THE POGO RESEARCH UNIT (PRU)

### Background

The Pediatric Oncology Group of Ontario (POGO) plans and coordinates childhood cancer services for Ontario and advises the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) on childhood cancer control. POGO is a multi-disciplinary professional network, committed to dialogue, surveillance, research (quantitative and qualitative), policy development, and program evaluation. POGO addresses the development, organization, delivery, and financing of childhood cancer control across the continuum of care within the province of Ontario. The organization also advocates on behalf of childhood cancer patients, their families, and the professionals who care for them. Major components of current POGO activities include:

- A unique database on childhood cancer (POGONIS - Pediatric Oncology Group of Ontario Networked Information System);
- A provincial program for the delivery of pediatric oncology care at satellite sites throughout the province in order to deliver cancer care close to home;
- A network of AfterCare Clinics for survivors for the surveillance, intervention, and investigation of the late effects of childhood cancer;
- Supporting families through the POGO Financial Assistance Program;
- Assisting childhood cancer survivors to achieve their educational and career goals through the Successful Academic and Vocational Transition Initiative (SAVTI);
- A conference and education events program providing frequent educational opportunities for health care professionals, including the annual POGO Symposium, Satellite Education Days and SAVTI Education Days; and
- An analytic centre, the POGO Research Unit (PRU), whose mandate is to: stimulate and promote pediatric oncology research; engage in collaborative multi-disciplinary investigations of childhood cancer; conduct research in the areas of tracking and forecasting within the childhood cancer population; undertake program evaluations (including utilization of health care resources); and assess the burden of illness in the form of long-term health status and health-related quality of life.

POGO provides a stimulating, educational environment for multi-disciplinary and inter-institutional policy development and analysis. It is linked via its health sciences based partners to five universities in Ontario and to the University of Toronto by a chair in childhood cancer control within the faculty of medicine. For more information about POGO and associated programs, please visit our website at [www.pogo.ca](http://www.pogo.ca).

### Overview

The POGO Research Unit (PRU) undertakes research activities that focus on specific priorities within the spectrum of childhood cancer control. The PRU has access to an extensive database maintained by POGO, encompassing a wide range of data elements referable to children diagnosed and treated within Ontario's academic health science centre based oncology units. In November 2005, POGO was designated as a 45(1) entity under the Protection of

Personal Health Information Act (PHIPA, 2004). Under this legislation, POGO is able to collect, use, and disclose personal health information for the purposes of "analysis or compiling of statistical information with respect to the management of, evaluation or monitoring of, the allocation of resources to or planning for all or part of the health system, including the delivery of services" (PHIPA, 2004).

The PRU promotes and actively sustains a collegial and supportive inter-disciplinary environment that increases the quantity and quality of research in childhood cancer. These efforts improve communication and implementation of knowledge, resulting in informed policy development and enhanced delivery of care. The unit is committed to

improving the care of children with cancer through research and evaluation of strategies that will diminish the morbidity and mortality associated with malignant diseases and their treatment. The PRU uses existing information and contributes to the generation of new knowledge in addressing this agenda.

Through current and future POGO research supported by the PRU, POGO achieves the following goals:

1. The creation of research expertise that can be utilized by investigators seeking consultation, advice, and relevant expertise in developing research projects within the spectrum of childhood cancer control; and
2. The enhancement of research skills and output among all health disciplines in the childhood cancer community.

These goals are embodied in the following research areas:

### A. Epidemiological Studies

- i. Epidemiology, including environmental and molecular interactions, especially relating to those cancers of increasing incidence in childhood (e.g. malignant lymphomas and brain tumors)
- ii. Disease distribution by cluster analysis
- iii. Trends analysis and projections, notably in regard to the anticipated increment in incidence and projections of resource utilization
- iv. Disease, treatment, sociological, and system determinants of clinical outcomes (e.g. time to diagnosis).

### C. Health Economics

Including, but not limited to:

- i. Investigation of existing methodologies for estimation of costs attributed to childhood cancer, and development and application of new measures
- ii. Study of cost, cost effectiveness, and cost benefit of differing forms of therapy for similar diseases
- iii. Studies of economic burden of illness on children and families
- iv. Comparison of costs of programs delivered in different settings (e.g. inpatient, outpatient, and community).

### B. Health Services Research

Including, but not limited to:

- i. Evaluation of innovative developments and determinants of success in health care delivery (e.g. "shared care")
- ii. Evaluation of practice guidelines
- iii. Studies of knowledge transfer – from science into care delivery and policy, and from the professional to the public realms
- iv. Study of the application of new technologies to childhood cancer care.

### D. Status of Survivors/Quality of Life

- i. Investigation of short- and long-term health outcomes
- ii. Identification and study of interventions intended to alter long-term health status, including preventive strategies and health promotion interventions
- iii. Assessment of family coping and survivors' late effects
- iv. Measurement of health status and health-related quality of life during and after therapy.

## Projects That Do Not Fit Within the PRU Agenda

Classic biological research that attempts to move discoveries made in a laboratory context to the bedside do not fit within the PRU mandate. The PRU research agenda promotes translational research of a different kind (i.e. stimulating investigations that focus on population-based cohorts that address issues consistent with the vision of health as a state of physical, psychological, and social well-being, and that are conducive to translation into policy and program planning). If you are unsure if your project complements the PRU agenda, please email [research@pogo.ca](mailto:research@pogo.ca) prior to submission.

## Dissemination of Knowledge

The PRU ensures a clear, regularly renewed, and widely disseminated statement of current priorities in childhood cancer research and fellowship activities. To promote the prompt application of new information to the care of children with cancer, the PRU prepares regular accounts of progress in its areas of endeavour and presents these to the members of POGO, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, partners of the PRU, the scientific and health policy communities, and the general public through professional bodies, meetings, the media, POGO's website, and annual reports.

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## SEED FUNDING GRANT

Since 2006, POGO has offered Seed Funding Grants (of up to \$15,000 each) to facilitate or support feasibility studies, self-contained studies, the development of grant applications, or projects that have the potential to generate data to inform larger studies. The subject matter of the Seed Funding Grants should either fall within one of the above-noted PRU research pillars or demonstrate relevance to the goals and objectives of POGO and the PRU.

### Applicant Eligibility

The aim of the Seed Funding program is to develop research capacity in Ontario. While the POGO Seed grant is open to all applicants, primary consideration will be given to Ontario citizens and landed immigrants within the province. Projects must be conducted at a hospital, research institute or university in Ontario, although applicants do not have to be permanent residents of Ontario. The Primary Investigator should be on staff at an Ontario university, teaching hospital, or equivalent institution and be able to hold research funds. All awards will be paid to the institution of the primary investigator.

### Review Process

Applications will be adjudicated by the Seed Funding Review Panel consisting of established researchers in pediatric oncology who are not in any way involved with the project.

The Seed Funding Review Panel will evaluate the applications based on the following criteria:

- Relevance to the vision and goals of the POGO Research Unit;
- Scientific merit;
- Potential impact on children with cancer and their families (present and future);
- Whether the application meets the required components; and
- How the Seed Funding Grant will facilitate the project work.

## Expectations of Successful Applicants

Successful applicants will be required to:

- Provide POGO with a brief (one page) update on the work related to this Seed Funding Grant by the end of each fiscal year (March);
- Acknowledge funding from POGO on all outcomes (publications, presentations, posters, etc.) relating to the project, including affixing POGO logos to abstracts, posters and presentations;
- Prepare and present a poster on the project at the annual POGO Symposium or other POGO educational events as requested;
- Provide copies of all publications resulting in whole or part from the Seed Funding Grant to the PRU at least 60 days prior to publication; and
- Submit a final report (no more than three pages) no more than two months after the project's completion, including an indication of next steps in the development of the research (where the Seed Funding Grant provided preliminary or feasibility data).

## Registration Process

The deadline for registration is **December 9, 2019** by 5:00pm. All applicants must complete the [online registration form](#) by the deadline, expressing their intent to submit a full application. All applicants must provide the following information in the registration form:

- Project title
- Name and institution of the primary investigator
- Name of all co-investigators
- A 250-word lay summary of the proposed project

Applicants will receive an e-mail with a link to the full application form shortly after registration.

## Deadline

The deadline for submission of the **full application** is **January 24, 2020** by 5:00pm EST. Please note that applications must be received by the deadline. Hardcopy applications are not required. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

## Notification

Successful applicants will be notified by the end of March, 2020.

## Policy on Deferring Awards

Deferrals are not supported by the PRU although may be considered under exceptional circumstances. Should a deferral be granted, it may be for a period no longer than one year.