



# **POGO Project Funding Grants 2023**

## **Information Package**

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**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**THE POGO RESEARCH PROGRAM (POGO Research).....3**

Background ..... 3

Projects That Do Not Fit Within the POGO Research Agenda ..... 3

Project Funding Grants Themes for 2023 ..... 4

POGO Project Grants: Improving Supportive Care for Children with Cancer, Survivors and Families ..... 4

**PROJECT FUNDING GRANT.....5**

Funds Available ..... 5

Applicant Eligibility ..... 5

Review Process ..... 5

Expectations of Successful Applicants ..... 6

Registration Process..... 6

Deadline ..... 6

Notification ..... 6

Policy on Deferring Awards..... 6

## THE POGO RESEARCH PROGRAM (POGO RESEARCH)

### Background

The Pediatric Oncology Group of Ontario (POGO) works to ensure that everyone affected by childhood cancer has access to the best care and support. We partner to achieve an excellent childhood cancer care system for children, youth, their families, survivors and healthcare teams in Ontario and beyond. POGO champions childhood cancer care, and as the collective voice of this community, is the official advisor to Ontario's Ministry of Health (MOH) on children's cancer control and treatment. POGO provides leadership and support for regular, province-wide consultations, resulting in long-range system plans that have been enormously effective in shaping and coordinating childhood cancer care in Ontario, including the current Childhood Cancer Care Plan, endorsed by the Ministry.

POGO ensures access to high quality, coordinated care and support through various activities including:

- A unique database on childhood cancer (POGONIS - Pediatric Oncology Group of Ontario Networked Information System);
- Eight POGO Satellite Clinics bringing patient care closer to home in communities across Ontario;

- POGO Interlink Nurses providing excellent nursing support to the young cancer patient and helping families identify useful resources and services in the community, including the POGO Financial Assistance Program;
- Development of clinical practice guidelines which provide a way to translate scientific evidence into clinical practice and help optimize outcomes and improve patient quality of life;
- The POGO Financial Assistance Program\* which provides much-needed financial support to families for food while their child is in cancer treatment;
- Seven POGO AfterCare Clinics across Ontario monitoring survivors regularly for long-term effects from cancer treatment;
- POGO School and Work Transitions Counsellors\* who help survivors get the support and assistance they need to finish high school and move on to post-secondary education or work;
- A conference and education events program providing educational opportunities for health care professionals, including the annual POGO Symposium, Satellite Education Days and S2S Network presentations;
- An analytic centre, the POGO Research Program (POGO Research) with a mandate 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.

*\*Donor-funded program*

### Projects That Do Not Fit Within the POGO Research Agenda

Basic science research that investigates the biological mechanisms of cancer do not fit within the POGO Research mandate. The POGO Research agenda promotes research 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 POGO Research agenda, please email [research@pogo.ca](mailto:research@pogo.ca) prior to submission.

## PROJECT FUNDING GRANT THEMES FOR 2023

<p><b>Evidence-informed Supportive Care</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supportive care encompasses the prevention and management of adverse effects of cancer and management of physical and psychological symptoms, and treatment-related side effects across the continuum of the cancer experience.</li> </ul>	<p>Spring 2023</p>
<p><b>Psychosocial Needs of Patients, Survivors and Families</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prevention and management of late effects and optimizing access to quality psychosocial care is critical in promoting emotional well-being and optimal functioning for both patient and family during and beyond treatment.</li> </ul>	<p>Spring 2023</p>
<p><b>Evaluation of Interventions to Improve Outcomes for Survivors</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Optimizing access to appropriate care, prevention and management of late effects are critical features of survivorship. POGO will support research that improves the quality of evidence that guides survivorship care.</li> </ul>	<p>Fall 2023</p>
<p><b>Data-Driven Evaluation of Unmet Needs in the Pediatric Cancer System</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>POGO will support work that utilizes or enhances pediatric cancer data holdings to improve the planning, monitoring and evaluation of childhood cancer related programs and initiatives.</li> </ul>	<p>Fall 2023</p>
<p><b>Collaborative Care Models</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improving equitable access and optimal experiences for patients, survivors and families, and supporting oncology professionals in the delivery of quality health programs and services is integral to POGO's work. POGO will support multidisciplinary collaborations working to address gaps and challenges and develop opportunities and actions that strengthen the childhood cancer care system.</li> </ul>	<p>Fall 2023</p>

### POGO Project Grants: Improving Supportive Care for Children with Cancer, Survivors and Families

It is well recognized that achieving the best outcomes for children with cancer requires not only technical expertise in the delivery of treatment, but also the optimal delivery of many associated supportive care programs and services. Supportive care, as defined by Multinational Association of Supportive Care in Cancer, “encompasses physical and functional, psychological, social and spiritual well-being to improve the quality of life”.<sup>1</sup> This includes the management of physical and psychological symptoms and side effects across the continuum of the cancer experience from diagnosis through anticancer treatment to post-treatment care.

POGO has a strong record of contributing to the optimal management of children with cancer through the creation and dissemination of

evidence-based supportive care guidelines,<sup>2</sup> which largely focus on the best available evidence for managing treatment-related toxicities. Further, it is increasingly well recognized that access to high quality services to address the psychological and social needs of patients, survivors, and families remains very challenging. Both of these areas are encompassed in this funding opportunity.

The overarching objective of this opportunity is to support research evaluating needs and/or developing scalable interventions to improve supportive care for children with cancer, survivors, and their families. Research supported through this funding opportunity is expected to demonstrate how results can inform the development of population-level interventions to improve supportive care.

1. Olver I, Keefe D, Herrstedt J, et al: Supportive care in cancer-a MASCC perspective. Support Care Cancer 28:3467-3475, 2020

2. Pediatric Oncology Group of Ontario: Clinical Practice Guidelines. Available at: <https://www.pogo.ca/healthcare/practiceguidelines/>

## PROJECT FUNDING GRANT

Project grants are intended to support investigator-initiated projects that have the potential to generate data to inform larger studies. The subject matter of the Project Funding Grants should fall within one of the above-noted research themes. Applicants should review guidelines for individual requests for proposals.

## FUNDS AVAILABLE

The total amount available for this funding opportunity is **\$200,000**. Individual projects may receive up to **\$100,000**. All awards will be paid to the institution of the primary investigator.

### Applicant Eligibility

The aim of the Project Funding Grant program is to develop research capacity in Ontario.

While Project Funding Grants are 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, or affiliated with an Indigenous non-governmental organization in Canada with a research and/or knowledge translation mandate or an Indigenous non-governmental organization in Canada with a research and/or knowledge translation mandate.

### Review Process

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

Applications will be evaluated based on:

- Extent to which the application aligns to the objectives stated above
- Potential for the proposed research to contribute to the development and/or implementation of population-level interventions to improve supportive care related to childhood cancer
- Feasibility of the proposed research approach, timelines and deliverables
- Consideration of potential barriers or difficulties that may be encountered in the research and the inclusion of strategies to manage them
- In keeping with POGO's goals to enhance research capacity across Ontario and among a variety of health disciplines, when scientific merit is considered comparable, preference will be given to projects that are multidisciplinary and include investigators and patients from more than one pediatric oncology program in Ontario.

## Expectations of Successful Applicants

Successful applicants will be required to:

- Provide POGO with a brief (one page) update on the work related to this Project 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;
- Provide copies of all publications resulting in whole or part from the Project Funding Grant to POGO Research 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 Project Grant provided preliminary or feasibility data).

## Registration Process

The deadline for registration is **January 30, 2023**, by 5:00 p.m. 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 a link to the full application form shortly after registration.

## Deadline

The deadline for submission of the **full application** is **February 21, 2023** by **5:00 p.m. 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 in March.

## Policy on Deferring Awards

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