



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO

RESEARCH ALERTS



Medicine by Design Funding Call for Convergent Working Groups - Deadline Extended to Oct 5th

September 19, 2022 • Reply to [Francesca Assisi](#)

[Medicine by Design](#) is now accepting applications for its funding call for [Convergent Working Groups](#). Medicine by Design will invest up to \$1 million in this funding call.

The deadline for Phase 1 proposals has been extended to October 5, 2022.

This call is seeking broad participation from the University of Toronto and the broader Toronto Academic Health Sciences Network (TAHSN), across multiple disciplines (spanning the physical and life sciences, medicine, engineering, and social sciences) and across the academic, private and not-for-profit sectors, in setting new research priorities for Medicine by Design to fulfill the commitments of its new [Strategic Plan](#).

The Convergent Working Groups will integrate convergent disciplines and experiences that are new to the regenerative medicine community together with those who have been involved with Medicine by Design for many years. Industry partners, regional accelerators and the patients and communities we expect to serve and engage will also be involved.

Successful teams will receive up to \$25,000 in Phase 1 funding to **address one of the identified research themes (defined below)** through a workshop that will produce a white paper with a call to action.

Funded groups will then be eligible for Phase 2 funding of an additional \$200,000 to implement a 1-year pilot research program

Under its [Strategic Plan](#), Medicine by Design has made three commitments to advance its mission to “*harness Toronto's extraordinary expertise across convergent disciplines and institutions to invent, develop, scale and implement living therapies that will transform healthcare for Canada and the world*” and to make Toronto “**a globally leading ecosystem for regenerative medicine innovation**”.

These commitments are:

1. Advance transformative research and early-stage translation in regenerative medicine;
2. Enable the commercialization of accessible, living therapies at-scale;
3. Prepare health systems, clinics and communities to implement living therapy innovations.

Funded by the [Canada First Research Excellence Fund \(CFREF\)](#), Medicine by Design harnesses world-leading regenerative medicine expertise at the University of Toronto and its affiliated hospitals, and encourages creativity, risk-taking and excellence at the convergence of science, engineering and medicine.

Convergent Working Groups Research Themes

Medicine by Design invites investigators to submit proposals addressing one of the following research themes.

Advance transformative research and early-stage translation in regenerative medicine

- Leveraging new technology platforms to accelerate discovery and early-stage translation of engineered, bespoke living therapeutics
- Enabling faster, better recovery from organ failure, severe infections and/or cancer
- Strategies that support maternal and children's health

Enable the commercialization of accessible living therapies at-scale

- Innovative biomanufacturing strategies to drive technological breakthroughs that will enable affordability and accessibility of living therapies
- Policy frameworks to support the delivery and widespread uptake of regenerative medicine innovations and to ensure a constructive impact on the local bioinnovation ecosystem
- Novel business models and/or frameworks for the payment, distribution and delivery of regenerative medicine therapies

Preparing health systems, clinics, and communities to implement living therapy innovations

- Frameworks for engaging diverse communities (inclusive of Indigenous and other equity-seeking populations) and integrating culturally sensitive, patient perspectives to explore disparities, gaps and needs
- Needs assessment for clinical trials of new living therapies and their adoption into the health system
- Methodologies for evaluating the cost-effectiveness of regenerative medicine therapies

Eligibility

Before submitting a proposal for Phase 1, prospective applicants must email awards.mbd@utoronto.ca to schedule a meeting with Medicine by Design leadership to discuss the proposal idea.

Only one application will be accepted from each lead investigator, who will act as the coordinator of the workshop. Additional co-investigators will constitute the core organizational team. Medicine by Design encourages proposals led by Early Career Researchers as well as investigators new to the Medicine by Design community (e.g., those who are new to the regenerative medicine field, or who have not previously led a Medicine by Design-funded project and/or received funding from Medicine by Design).

Principal Investigators (lead or co-) must have a faculty appointment at the University of Toronto and be eligible to hold tri-council funding.

The proposal form for Phase 1 is to be submitted with all required documents by **October 5, 2022**.

Please click [here](#) to learn more about the Convergent Working Groups, and how to apply.

If you have questions, please contact awards.mbd@utoronto.ca.

The University of Toronto recognizes that diversity is essential to the creation of a vibrant intellectual community that allows our researchers to maximize their creativity and their contributions. Medicine by Design is therefore strongly committed to diversity in research and especially welcomes applications from racialized persons/persons of colour, women, Indigenous/Aboriginal Peoples of North America, persons with disabilities, LGBTQ2S+ persons, and others who may contribute to the further diversification of ideas. Convergent Working Groups are also asked to describe how the team composition addresses EDI principles and how their work will integrate considerations of sex/gender and diversity.

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