Quebec Respiratory Health Research Network
Career Start-Up and Mentorship Program for Young Investigators **2022-23**

The Quebec Respiratory Health Research Network (QRHN) has set up a **Career Start-Up and Mentorship Program for Young Investigators**. The purpose of this program is to help young researchers who are **regular members** of QRHN to set up a laboratory, to perform experience and get preliminary data in order to apply for grants from granting agencies (CIHR and others) and industry. Under this program, a maximum grant of **$25,000** is available. Applications must be received no later than Friday, **October 28, 2022 at 11:59 p.m.**

Only junior investigators, that are regular members of QRHN and have a **university position for 5 years or less** since their post-doctoral fellowship (PhD) or their Fellow (MD) are eligible for this program. Candidates may hold a Research scholar Junior 1. Since the goal of the program is to promote young investigators at the beginning of their careers who have little or no research funding, the nature and amounts of other grants must be justified in relation to the nature of the project, the planned expenditures and its potential leverage effect.

Applicants will be required to pair with an **experimented mentor** from their university department, a regular member of QRHN, who can assist and advise them on the scientific, administrative and academic aspects of their careers.

The selection of projects to be funded will be based on their scientific value, the quality of the applicant's productivity, the innovative and emerging nature of the project, the potential leverage effect for a subsequent grant application to industry or granting agencies, the quality of the mentoring program, and the project's potential to promote the integration of the young researcher into QRHN. A young researcher can apply as many times as he/she wants to this program but will only be able **to receive the award twice.** The final decision and results will be announced in **December 2022.**

 Competition specifications

1.   The forms will be available on the QRHN website (https://rsr-qc.ca/en/programmes-financement/). Research grants are valid for one year.

2.   A PDF document containing all of the following sections must be linked to the application:

a) A detailed description of your research project (maximum 5 pages excluding references).
b) A justification of the expenses planned for your project (1 page)
c) Your Canadian Common CV (CIHR format) and that of your mentor
d) A letter of support from the mentor
e) The list and amounts of your other grants: start-up funds, research project funded as principal investigator or co-investigator.
f) Reason for applying to the mentoring program and justification of the application in relation to your other research funds (½ page).

3.   Applications must be received no later than **October 28, 2022 at 11:59 p.m. Applications received after this date will not be evaluated.**

4.   A member may not submit an application to more than one QRHN funding competition (Mentoring Program, Priority Project, Team Project) / year as a principal investigator.

Mentoring

Junior investigators Commitments

1.   Develop a research project on the respiratory system with well-defined objectives and timelines.

2.   Keep all data from the research project.

3.   Respect the ethical standards in force in his institution regarding the conduct of research, the use of animals and studies involving patients.

4.   Participate in the Network's activities.

Mentors' commitments

1.   Support and advise the junior researcher on scientific issues and help him/her determine his/her career plan and objectives.

2.   Facilitate integration into the university department / research centre.

3.   Inform the researcher of research ethics standards and institutional regulations.

4. Support and advise the researcher in the writing of scientific articles and grant applications.

General conditions of grant

1. The award of grants is subject to critical review by a panel of expert.

2. The young researcher must limit himself to the prescribed number of pages and format. <u>Non-compliant requests will be rejected.</u>

3. Grants represent a contribution to the direct costs incurred by a research project submitted by the young researcher (salary of technicians, purchase of supplies, purchase of equipment). The application cannot cover the salary of research scholars. Indirect costs (administrative, secretarial, building, etc.) are not eligible.

4. The young researcher must submit a development project that will be largely feasible within one year. Projects submitted must not significantly overlap with applications submitted or approved by funding agencies. If applicable, it is the responsibility of the young researcher to explain any relationship between the proposed project and other applications submitted or obtained.

5. Any subsidized project must have ethical approval from its environment before it is carried out.

6. In the event that the recipient is unable, for any reason whatsoever, to carry out or complete the research project to which the grant applies, the recipient must immediately notify QRHN.

7. Research work must be carried out in a Quebec research institution, with the agreement of the institution's executive director; thus, the grant ends as soon as the recipient leaves the institution.

8. The young researcher undertakes to **indicate in any communication or writing relating to research that his project is funded by QRHN**. QRHN may make public for translational reasons the lay summary of any research project benefiting from one of its grants.

9. The beneficiaries undertake to:
   - Provide a financial report and a scientific progress report at the end of the fiscal year as well as any other report requested by the Network.

   - Submit a grant application to the granting agencies or private industry in the 2nd year and provide proof of submission of the application to the Network.

- Participate in the Network's activities (annual conference, jury for funding applications or student presentations).

Evaluation grid

Title of the project:

Investigator:

Name of the mentor:

4.5-5.0	**Excellent**	3.0- 3.5	**Average**
4.0- 4.5	**Very good**	2.5 – 3.0	**Poor**
3.5-4.0	**Good**	2.5 and less	**Reject**

1. Academic training of the researcher

2. Project (originality and methodology)

3. Potential leverage effect to obtain future grants

4. Quality of mentoring

5. Budget

6. Nature and amounts of other research funds and rationale for applying to the mentorship program

7. Duration of implementation: Could this project be carried out largely within one year**?**

8. Overall recommendation and general comments:

     Overall score: /5
N.B. A score of 0 to 0.2 points will be added to each candidate's final average for the young researcher's participation in the Network's activities.
A score of 0 to 0.3 points will be added to each candidate's final average for their mentor's participation in Network activities.