

## **SEAMO Clinical Research Fellowship Program Terms of Reference**

### **1. Background**

In its 2012-2015 plan for the strategic investment of residual SEAMO funding, the Governing Committee allocated \$810K to the establishment of a clinical research fellowship program. By increasing SEAMO's capacity to produce clinician scientists, this investment supports SEAMO's objective of expanding its clinical research enterprise.

### **2. Purpose**

The purpose of the Clinical Research Fellowship Program (CRFP) is to support the establishment of new clinical research fellow positions by providing compensation funding. The CRFP enables departments to engage in planned, targeted recruitment by identifying trainees with high potential for success as clinician scientists and ensure they receive the necessary training and mentoring.

### **3. Scope and Guidelines**

- i) For the purpose of the use of this fund, a clinical research fellow defined as:
  - A medical resident undertaking postgraduate training or a physician who has completed postgraduate training in a medical specialty, recognized by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada
  - Who, for the duration of his or her CRFP award, devotes no less than 80% of his or her professional time to research.
- ii) Awards will be for one year and renewable once. The value of an award is \$50,000 per annum. Departments may, at their discretion, supplement these awards.
- iii) CRFP awardees must undertake their fellowships within established research programs and be supervised or co-supervised by a SEAMO physician.
- iv) In order to maximize the effect of the CRFP funding, an awardee must apply for external funding of his or her fellowship. If an external award is obtained, the CRFP award will be reduced on a dollar-for-dollar basis. Application and

funding timelines of external agencies may preclude the submission of an application for the first year of a CRFP award. Nonetheless, it is expected that Departments will make their best efforts to obtain external funding for the first year of an award. Renewal of a CRFP award will be contingent on submission of an application for external funding.

- v) As the objective of the CRFP is to train physicians for careers as clinician scientists, applications for CRFP awards must clearly articulate how the proposed research training will enable this career path.

#### 4. Administration

- i) The Strategic Priorities and Recruitment Committee (SPRC), a committee of SEAMO Governors, has responsibility, authority and accountability for the administration of the CRFP.
- ii) The Clinician Scientist Program Committee (CSPC), an advisory sub-committee of the SPRC, will manage the CRFP application and review process and make recommendations to the SPRC regarding candidate funding.
- iii) Departments make application for awards on behalf of candidates who they have identified. In order for a candidate to be eligible for a CRFP award, a department must make the following commitments:
  - a) The awardee will devote no less than 80% of their professional time to research.
  - b) The awardee will apply for external funding for his or her fellowship from agencies appropriate to the awardee's discipline. Departments must acknowledge that acquisition of an external award will reduce the CRFP award on a dollar-for-dollar basis.
- iv) Departments will submit applications for CRFP awards to the CSPC following their identification of potential candidates. The following factors will be considered by the CSPC in evaluating applications and making recommendations regarding awards:
  - a) Quality of the candidate, including:
    - Research qualifications and training
    - Research performance/productivity
    - Research potential
  - b) Quality of the research training environment, including:
    - Characteristics of the supporting research group(s)

- Experience of the proposed supervisor in training and mentoring clinical research fellows, postdoctoral fellows and/or graduate students
- Available infrastructure and startup resources
- Mentoring and support systems
- The relationship of the proposed research training to the candidate's career planning