UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
LESLIE DAN FACULTY OF PHARMACY

**Dalla Lana**
School of Public Health

# Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy and Dalla Lana School of Public Health Partnership

# New Initiative and Innovation Award (NIIA) - Network for Improving Health Systems 2022-23 Competition

## GUIDELINES FOR RESEARCH FUNDED THROUGH LDFP/DLSPH

**Program Objectives:** *Role of Pharmacists, Primary Health Care, Health System, Interdisciplinary Collaboration, Capacity Building, Leverage Funding*

| Overview | |
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| Funding Envelope | **$750,00 total investment**<br>• $375,000 is allocated to Lead Principal Investigators affiliated with Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy (LDFP)<br>• $375,000 is allocated to Lead Principal Investigators affiliated with the Dalla Lana School of Public Health (DLSPH) |
| Individual Grant Value | Up to $75,000 per proposal inclusive of $72,500 for direct research costs and $2,500 assigned for central administration through the Centre for Practice Excellence at LDFP |
| Application Deadline | June 5, 2023 by 11:59 PM EST |
| Application Procedure | Proposals are to be submitted to m.folinas@utoronto.ca |
| Funding Start Date | July 1, 2023 |
| Grant Duration | 18 months; Grant end date December 31, 2024 |
| How to Apply | See application instructions |

## Purpose:

The purpose of the New Initiative and Innovation Award (NIIA) - Network for Improving Health Systems LDFP and DLSPH partnership is two-fold. First, to fund new and/or emerging research that is aimed at understanding a larger role for pharmacists and an expanded healthcare system that includes pharmacists. Second, to facilitate interdisciplinary research between LDFP and DLSPH in understanding a larger role for pharmacists and an expanded healthcare system that includes pharmacists. Applications will be accepted from teams that meet the key criteria outlined

below. Funding through this program will support research that is not currently funded is expected to be leveraged through external sponsors to further develop the respective program(s).

## Program Objectives:

The objectives of the NIIA - Network for Improving Health Systems is to:

- Study an expanded role of pharmacists in our primary health care system and identify how pharmacists can be part of a bigger health system that is organized around the patient;
- Fund research that catalyzes changes to the primary health care system;
- Strengthen interdisciplinary collaboration and capacity building between Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy and Dalla Lana School of Public Health;
- Stimulate opportunities for additional funding from external sources that can build on the research proposed; and
- Build capacity in health services and policy research focused on improving the health care system.

## Eligibility and Funding:

The program eligibility for this program is as follows:

**DLSPH -** open to all full-time or part-time professorial staff (tenured, tenure-stream, teaching stream), clinician scientists/educators (seconded), or status only and CLTA who hold graduate appointments and have teaching assignments with LDPF or DLSPH.

**LDFP -** open to all full-time or part-time professorial staff (tenured, tenure-stream, teaching stream), clinician scientists/educators (seconded), or status only and CLTA who have teaching assignments with LDPF or DLSPH.  A member of the team (PI, co-PI or co-applicant) must hold a graduate appointment with LDFP to be an eligible project.

**DLSPH & LDFP -** The Lead PI must be eligible to hold tri-council agency funds (e.g. CIHR, SSHRC, NSERC) for the duration of the award. Priority will be given to interdisciplinary project teams, led by core LDFP or DLSPH faculty or significantly engaging LDFP or DLSPH core faculty, and include LDFP or DLSPH PhD students and/or post-doctoral trainees. Researchers can only be Lead PI on one application and Co-PI on one application, but are welcomed to join multiple applications as a co-applicant or collaborator.  The Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy and the Dalla Lana School of Public Health recognizes that diversity is essential to creating a vibrant intellectual community that allows our researchers to maximize their creativity and contributions. Opportunities for LDFP and DLSPH trainees to be co-investigators are encouraged.

| Funding Envelope | Additional Funding and Eligibility Requirements |
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| LDFP allocation | <ul><li>A member of the team (Lead PI, co-PI or co-applicant) must have a primary graduate appointment at the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy</li><li>One additional team member in the role of co-PI must have an appointment with the Dalla Lana School of Public Health.</li><li>Funding will be held at the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy and the awardee must be eligible to hold funding at the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy.</li><li>It is expected that new funding leveraged by the NIIA grant would be held at LDFP</li></ul> |
| DLSPH allocation | <ul><li>The Lead PI must have a primary graduate appointment at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health</li><li>One additional team member in the role of co-PI must have an appointment with the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy.</li><li>Funding will be held at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health and the awardee must be eligible to hold funding at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health</li><li>It is expected that new funding leveraged by the NIIA grant would be held at DLSPH</li></ul> |

Disbursement of funds is conditional upon receipt of documentation from the University of Toronto Office of Research Ethics verifying protocol review and oversight (approval of a newly submitted protocol, a protocol approved by a hospital or provincially approved research institution, or waiver of protocol review); funds will not be disbursed until ethics approval has been received by the relevant Research Office.

**Value of the Award:**
The value of each NIIA - Network for Improving Health Systems award is up to $75,000. At least ten applications are expected to be funded with up to five funded through LDFP and up to five funded through DLSPH. The number of funded applications may be higher, depending upon the amounts awarded. The competition will be repeated in 2023-24. **No extensions will be allowed**.

Funding for this call for proposals is provided by the Network for Improving Healthcare Systems, a collaboration between the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy and Dalla Lana School of Public Health supported by Shoppers Drug Mart (SDM). The University of Toronto is responsible for the management of the funding and funds shall be awarded at the discretion of the Dean of the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy and the Dean of the Dalla Lana School of Public Health (or their delegates), based on recommendations made based on a joint peer review process.

**Budget development and eligible expenses:**
The NIIA - Network for Improving Health Systems Award will provide support for direct costs of research including:
- Personnel required to carry out the research (i.e. research staff, stipends for trainees; justified funding for clinical team members to offset time engaged in research activities including development/implementation of research as a part of program development/delivery, etc.)
- Materials, supplies and services including software used for research purposes;
- Travel for research (e.g., fieldwork), up to a maximum of $2,000 per project;
- Computer equipment to a maximum of $7,500;
- Payment for patient partners, community partners, or Indigenous Elders/Knowledge Keepers. Justification should be consistent with the CIHR Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR) considerations (https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/51466.html)

Each award will include an assigned budget of $2,500 per project to be administered by the Centre for Practice Excellence at the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy. Funds will be used toward overall project management of this suite of awards, including creating a synthesis of project progress reports for the Advisory Committee, website communication, fostering synergies between LDFP and DLSPH projects, and linking project teams from the Network for Improving Health Systems to external networks including other research networks such as the Ontario Pharmacy Evidence Network.

**Ineligible Expenses:**
Ineligible expenses include, but are not limited to:
- Principal Investigator and Co-PI salary remuneration;
- Partnership-building activities;
- Travel to conferences
- Publications

Funding received cannot overlap with existing funding/applied for funding elsewhere.

**Competition Deadline:**
The deadline for receipt of applications is **June 1, 2023**.

**Application Content:**
Applications should describe, in language suitable for a multidisciplinary review panel audience, the new and/or emerging area(s) to be addressed and the plan for bringing key complementary and synergic perspectives to bear on a solution. Competitive applications will be no more than 13 pages and address the following:

- A concept that addresses program objectives (see above);
- The rationale for the proposed study and the potential impact of the expected results;
- Propose high-quality methodology well suited to answer the proposed research question(s);

- Meaningful involvement of highly qualified personnel (e.g. undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral trainees, research associates, etc.);
- Due consideration of equity, diversity, and inclusion in the development of the project team and the project (where applicable);
- Rationale for the inclusion of internal and/or external partners (including co-applicants, collaborators, and/or other institutions within government or the private sector);
- Goals that are reasonable and achievable within the term of the award;
- Be gateways to external funding sources;
- Potential tangible outcomes, including the potential to attract major research investment to the LDFP or DLSPH;
- A statement confirming that there is no overlap with existing funding/funding applied for elsewhere

Projects need to address the areas of focus listed below.

| Funding Envelope | Areas of Focus |
| --- | --- |
| LDFP allocation | All funded proposals must meet at least two of the criteria listed below.<br><br>• Identifies gaps in care that could benefit from low acuity or other services that could be met by community-based pharmacists working on their own or as part of a larger clinical team;<br>• Evaluates implementation of existing pharmacist centred services or new pharmacist-led approaches that better integrate community pharmacists into the primary healthcare system including monitoring/follow-up;<br>• Demonstrates the effect of care by community-based pharmacy teams on patient reported outcome or experience measures<br>• Includes an approach for community-based pharmacists to electronically receive data from or electronically share data with patients or other health care providers including patient self-report, diagnostic, laboratory or other clinical data;<br>• Addresses socio-cultural considerations related to pharmacy practice;<br><br>Within the funding envelope and if project proposals are considered fundable in peer review, one project each will be funded that:<br><br>• Addresses minor ailments<br>• Addresses virtual care as a means to leverage collaboration for care provided by community pharmacy and at least one other type of health care organization and includes implementation and evaluation in collaboration with the DRx |

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| | • Addresses management of one or more chronic conditions (e.g mental health care, cardiovascular care, multimorbidity) and includes implementation and evaluation in collaboration with the DRx<br><br>All funded proposals are expected to collaborate with the Discovery Pharmacy as a knowledge user or as an implementation or evaluation site. It is recognized that all projects will have learnings based on findings from research and education findings that would be of interest to Discovery Pharmacy but also that some projects will not have an education or research implementation component suited for Discovery Pharmacy. Please review the NIHS site for more information or connect with Ernie Avilla directly. |
| DLSPH allocation | All funded proposals must address at least one of the areas listed below:<br>• The larger role for pharmacists and an expanded public health and healthcare system that includes pharmacists<br>• Policy analysis of issues in integrating community-based pharmacists into integrated care teams / broader health care system, including studies of the role of data, data sharing, emerging ethical issues, integrating datasets, identification and monitoring of population-based care needs/gaps;<br>• Evaluation of pharmacist health human resource needs in Ontario;<br>• Systems level demonstration of approaches to identify, monitor or address population-based care needs/gaps that could be managed by community-based pharmacists;<br>• Economic evaluation of existing pharmacist centred services or new pharmacist-led approaches that better integrate community pharmacists into the primary healthcare system.<br>Within the funding envelope and if project proposals are considered fundable in peer review, one project will be funded that:<br>• New data science methods, approaches, or applications to inform policy changes in relation to primary care |

## Review Committee:

A committee constituted of professorial staff members within the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy, the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, and individuals external to the Faculties and/or University will review all applications. To be successful, applicants must write their applications for non-specialist reviewers.

## Evaluation Criteria:

Applications will be assessed by a multidisciplinary panel according to six criteria. The onus is on the applicant to address each criterion in the application. These include:

1. Merits of the proposal
   a. Significance as a new or emerging opportunity with a potential for meaningful impact (10%)
   b. Excellence in research proposal and plan including a clear overarching goal (5%),
   c. Well justified methodology (15%),
   d. Measurable outcomes (10%), and
   e. Feasibility (10%)
2. How well the proposal addresses the preferential consideration criteria (15%)
3. Qualifications and strengths of the principal investigators and associated team including demonstrated collaboration between LDFP and DLSPH; (10%)
4. Training of highly qualified personnel (HQP); (10%)
5. EDI statement (5%)
6. A gateway to additional funded partnerships which has a similar goal of fostering new interdisciplinary partnerships and expectation of future major funding (10%)

## Reporting Requirements:

The award recipient will be required to submit a brief interim report by March 30, 2024 to report on the first nine months' work and a final report by December 31, 2024 at the end of the project.

## Collaboration and Knowledge Translation Expectations

The recipient will be expected to

- agree to have the research team and brief summary of research profiled on the Network for Improving Health System webpages;
- develop the research for academic presentations and publications as suitable;
- present progress on their work on behalf of their project team and the Network at least once before June 30, 2024 at an existing seminar or lecture series at DLSPH or LDFP. The combined set of presentations by all funded researchers will constitute the Network for Improving the Health System seminar series across LDFP and DLSPH;
- present their research methods or results at least once at one of the planned purposely focused Network events to be held in the Fall 2023, Winter 2024 or Spring 2024;
- work with LDFP and DLSPH communications to highlight aspects of the research when requested;
- work with Centre for Practice Excellence and Ontario Pharmacy Evidence Network administrative staff to develop purposeful documents aimed at helping inform policymakers and the public about plans for the research and findings generated by the research.
- acknowledgment of NIIA funding in all related publications and presentations

**Questions**

If you have any questions about the program please contact your respective Office of Research:

- LDFP led applications: Mike Folinas (m.folinas@utoronto.ca)
- DLSPH le applications: Office of Research at DLSPH research.dlsph@utoronto.ca