



Sepsis Canada

Suspect sepsis. Save lives. Support recovery.
Suspectez une septicémie. Sauvez des vies. Soutenez la guérison.

SEPSIS CANADA / MITACS TRAINEE AWARDS COMPETITION: 2022



**SUSPECT SEPSIS
SAVE LIVES
SUPPORT RECOVERY**



PROGRAM GUIDELINES

These guidelines are for teams submitting a Letter of Intent to the Sepsis Canada / Mitacs Trainee Awards Competition - 2022.

BACKGROUND:

Sepsis Canada is a single nationally coordinated network committed to supporting research and innovation that reduces the burden of sepsis for all Canadians. Specifically, our network is committed to understanding the causes of sepsis, improving the prevention, detection, and management of sepsis, advancing rehabilitation from this disease, and building capacity within the current and next generation of sepsis researchers. To advance research and innovation, Sepsis Canada has strategically partnered with Mitacs to bring this awards competition to the research community.

Mitacs is a national, not-for-profit organization that has designed and delivered research and training programs in Canada for 20 years. Working with 70 universities, 6,000 companies, and both federal and provincial governments, Mitacs builds partnerships that support industrial and social innovation in Canada.

Sepsis Canada and Mitacs have partnered together to fund a Trainee Awards Competition. The purpose of this awards competition is to encourage Sepsis Canada students and professors to form relationships with partner organizations, through a paid internship for students at partner organizations. The paid internship will allow students to apply their skills and knowledge in a non-academic environment and broaden their professional network. Paid internships must be formed via the [Mitacs Accelerate program](#). Sepsis Canada will provide up to \$5,000 in top-up funding to applicants who submit a successful Letter of Intent to Sepsis Canada and subsequently provide proof of a successful Mitacs Accelerate application. This funding call describes the requirements to apply for the \$5,000 top up funding from Sepsis Canada. Teams can find details on the Mitacs Accelerate program here: <https://www.mitacs.ca/en/programs/accelerate>.

OBJECTIVE:

Teams must develop a research project that advances one or more of the following focus areas:

- Understanding the **causes** of sepsis
- Improving the **prevention** of sepsis
- Improving the **detection** and / or **identification** of sepsis
- Improving the **management** of sepsis
- Improving **rehabilitation** from sepsis

MITACS ACCELERATE INTERNSHIP REQUIREMENTS:

Students can put their talent to work with a paid internship at a partner organization that needs their expertise. Funding starts at \$15,000, and the partner organization must commit

to contributing at least \$7,500 of the \$15,000 (Mitacs will match the partner organizations contribution towards the student internship).

- Undergraduates can apply for up to 3 x four-to-six-month internships (an internship unit), Masters Students can apply for up to 4 internship units, PhD Students can apply for up to 8 internship units, and Postdoctoral fellows can apply for up to 9 internship units.
- Internships start at four months and there is no upper limit on the length of the overall project.
- Students must spend approximately 50% of the internship with the academic institution and 50% with the partner organization. However, Mitacs can accommodate a 25:75 split of the intern's time depending on the needs of the project.

Full details on the Mitacs Accelerate program and the full application form can be found here: <https://www.mitacs.ca/en/programs/accelerate#student>.

Note: A full and successful application to the Mitacs Accelerate program will be needed before Sepsis Canada top-up funds are released. However, to apply for Sepsis Canada top up funds, teams are only required to submit a successful Letter of Intent to demonstrate that they will be able to put together a successful Mitacs Accelerate partnership.

If you have questions about the Mitacs Accelerate program or would like help finding potential partner organizations, please reach out to the Mitacs representative: Ryan Caldwell (rcaldwell@mitacs.ca).

FUNDS AVAILABLE:

Sepsis Canada will provide top-up funding for eight (8) successful Letter of Intent applications with up to \$5,000 in funding per application. Top-up funding will be awarded to the supervising professor's institution. Top up funds will be reserved as follows:

- \$10,000 will be reserved for two (2) projects focused on **biomedical research**
- \$10,000 will be reserved for two (2) projects focused on **clinical research**
- \$10,000 will be reserved for two (2) projects focused on **health services research**
- \$10,000 will be reserved for two (2) projects focused on **population health research**

RESEARCH TEAM:

Research teams must include:

1. A student – defined as an undergraduate student, graduate student, or post-doctoral fellows at a Mitacs partner university in Canada, who is also a Sepsis Canada member.
2. A supervising professor – with an academic appointment at a Canadian University, who is also a Sepsis Canada member.

3. A partner organization – defined as for-profit corporations and eligible not-for-profit corporations, and municipalities in Canada. As well as for-profit business operating outside of Canada.

ALLOWABLE EXPENSES FOR SEPSIS CANADA TOP-UP FUNDING:

The \$5,000 provided from Sepsis Canada in top-up funds must be used directly to support the student’s research. Examples of eligible research expenses include:

- The student’s stipend.
- Knowledge dissemination activities related to the student’s research (eg. cost of travel, conference fees, and / or accommodations for the student to present their research project).
- Research related costs (equipment, reagents, technician salaries, ect).
- Travel to and from the internship.
- Other student costs.

CONDITIONS OF SEPSIS CANADA TOP-UP FUNDS:

Successful teams must:

- Submit a proposal to the Mitacs Accelerate program and receive confirmation of funding within 12 weeks of being notified of Sepsis Canada funding.
- Integrate their project within the Sepsis Canada structure and be Sepsis Canada members (the professor and student).
- Submit a progress report to Sepsis Canada at the end of their Mitacs Accelerate internship.
- Acknowledge Sepsis Canada on any publications that arise from this funding.
- Allow Sepsis Canada to disclose the amount and nature of the award publicly.
- Follow the Accelerate and the Sepsis Canada Code of Conduct.

IMPORTANT DATES:



LETTER OF INTENT

Research Project

| Title of Project |
|------------------|
| |

Team

| Student Name | Department | Academic Institution | City and Province of Academic Institution |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| | | | |
| Academic Supervisor(s) | Department | Academic Institution | City and Province of Academic Institution |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| Partner Organization(s) | Contact Name at Partner Organization | City and Province of Partner Organizations | Partner Organization Legal Status (select from |
| | | | Select Legal Status |
| | | | Select Legal Status |

Research Abstract (Maximum 500 words)

| |
|---|
| Please include a description of the research problem to be addressed and its significance, objectives, and proposed methodology. This section must clearly summarize the research proposed. |
| |

Budget (No word restrictions)

| |
|--|
| Please include a budget outlining how the team will spend the \$5,000 in top-up funds provided by Sepsis Canada. |
| |

SUBMISSION:

Complete and convert the “Letter of Intent” section into a PDF document. Use the following naming convention for the PDF: Student Last Name_First Name_StudentAwards2022.pdf. Submit the PDF to Nubia Zepeda (zepedan@mcmaster.ca) by January 31, 2022 at 11:59PM EST. Note: No attachments outside of the ones listed above will be considered by reviewers.

REVIEW PROCESS:

Applications submitted late, incomplete, or not meeting the eligibility criteria will not be evaluated. The Managing Director of Sepsis Canada will perform a relevance review to identify applications that are in alignment with the objectives of this funding opportunity. Applications that are not deemed to be relevant will be withdrawn and the team will be notified.

The Sepsis Canada Awards Committee will evaluate full applications. Members of the committee will include researchers from across the four pillars of health research, members of Mitacs, and individuals with lived experience in sepsis.

Research proposal will be evaluated based on the criteria outlined below:

1. Potential Impact

- Does the proposed research include original or innovative ideas that have the potential to impact sepsis research across one of the four pillars of health research?

2. Methods and Approaches

- Is the research team employing the appropriate study design to answer the research question(s)?
- Is the sample size appropriate to answer the research question(s)?
- Are the appropriate populations and controls included in the study design?
- Are the proposed outcomes appropriate given the proposed study objectives?
- Has the research team accounted for potential sources of bias?

3. Research Team

- Does the research team and particularly the student and the supervisor have experience in sepsis research?
- Does the research team include a student, a supervising professor and a partner organization who are committed to sponsoring a Mitacs Accelerate Internship for the student.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

For all inquiries, please contact:
Nubia Zepeda, MSc.
Managing Director
Sepsis Canada
Email: zepedan@mcmaster.ca