REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS: RESPIRATORY CARE

SUMMARY
Muscular Dystrophy Canada is a national, non-profit organization of dedicated volunteers and staff who continually work to provide support and resources to people impacted by neuromuscular disorders, and fund high-quality research striving to find better treatments, and a cure as soon as possible. We cover over 150 different types of neuromuscular disorders.

The intent of this request is to solicit applications from researchers interested in conducting research related to improving respiratory care among people living with neuromuscular diseases. Successful applicants will be awarded funds for a one year period. Applications must be relevant to respiratory care (applications not meeting this criterion will not be reviewed).

Research proposals may cover a broad spectrum of issues related to respiratory health and healthcare/services. For example:

- Prevention and early intervention strategies
- Health services
- Usefulness of and access to therapies and equipment
- Cost effectiveness studies
- Evaluation of educational interventions
- Advancement of best practices in care and treatment
- Assessment of pilot training programs
- Outcome measures
- Natural history
- Evaluation of diagnostic tests
- Knowledge translation
TIMETABLE

Launch of the request for proposals – Tuesday May 6, 2014
Deadline to submit applications – Monday June 16, 2014
Peer Review – June/July 2014
Anticipated notice of decision – Monday August 25, 2014
Funding start date – Wednesday October 1, 2014

INTRODUCTION
Muscular Dystrophy Canada, recognizing the importance of respiratory issues related to neuromuscular
diseases, chose to make respiratory care a priority initiative for the organization. Subsequently a case for
support report was developed in 2012 which provided background information on the scope of the
problem and identified gaps and opportunities in education, service, advocacy and research. Full report

BACKGROUND
Research shows that proper respiratory care can extend the life of people with neuromuscular disorders
and has a significant impact on their quality of life. Respiratory failure is the number one cause of death
among people with Duchenne muscular dystrophy, yet today there are preventative measures and
interventions that can be beneficial in maintaining and prolonging comfort of life. The costs associated
with invasive ventilation are high as many people are unable to live in the community due to mechanical
ventilation and are therefore forced to reside in ICU, often unnecessarily. Options of non-invasive
ventilation are not well known and understood by both patients and health care providers. Prevention of
secondary complex medical conditions is critical in order to prevent long term hospital admissions, loss
of independence and or life threatening conditions (McKim et al). Also, there is much provincial variation
in the level of care and access to equipment across Canada.

GENERAL OBJECTIVES
The overall objectives of this initiative are to:

- Strengthen capacity within the research and medical communities to address respiratory issues
- Potentially influence partnerships between researchers and users of evidence
- Provide the opportunity to gather evidence that can help support other components of the respiratory care strategic plan
  (e.g., education, advocacy, services)
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES
Research proposals may cover a broad spectrum of issues related to respiratory health and health-care/services for people affected by neuromuscular disorders. For example:

- Prevention and early intervention strategies
- Health services
- Usefulness of and access to therapies and equipment
- Cost effectiveness studies
- Evaluation of educational interventions
- Advancement of best practices in care and treatment
- Assessment of pilot training programs
- Outcome measures
- Natural history
- Evaluation of diagnostic tests
- Knowledge translation

Please note: This request for proposals is not directed at basic science submissions.

Proposals need to:

- Provide a rationale for their proposal based on perceived need or gap
- Describe relevance to respiratory care for condition of interest and neuromuscular conditions in general
- Describe the nature of any collaborations between different institutions, sites and stakeholder groups and various levels of government, where applicable
- Describe research team composition
- Provide a work plan with corresponding timelines
- Include a detailed budget
- Outline possible knowledge translation implications including key target audiences / stakeholders that may benefit from the research results

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ELIGIBILITY
Potential lead applicants must hold an affiliation with a Canadian or international recognized academic institution.

Eligible research institutions include those that are accepted under CIHR’s grant policies. Other institutions, including those outside of Canada, will be considered on an ad hoc basis as part of the peer review process, and may be required to provide additional documentation to support the application.

Funding will not be provided to private corporate entities.

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FUNDS AVAILABLE
Muscular Dystrophy Canada has made available up to $150,000 to invest in eligible projects for a one year period. It is anticipated that 3-5 proposals will be awarded funding and that each proposed budget will be in the $25,000 – $50,000 range. Length of grant will not exceed 12 months.

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ALLOWABLE EXPENSES
The application must include a detailed budget. Allowable expenses include:
The completed application form and all appendices should be sent together to Research@muscle.ca

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Download the application form

CONTACT US
If you have any questions, please contact:

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