

## Research on Alzheimer's disease and related disorders Québec – France – Canada Collaboration

### Deadlines

Submission of the letter of notice: **October 19, 2009, 5 p.m. Montréal time**

Submission of the full application: **January 29, 2010, 5 p.m. Montréal time**

The purpose of the call for proposals is to support innovative international research projects focusing on Alzheimer's disease and related disorders, involving France, Québec, and the other Canadian provinces. It will encourage major scientific breakthroughs in the short and medium terms by combining and potentiating the strengths and sources of structural leverage of both countries, as well as foster knowledge translation.

This call for proposals is led jointly by:

- Fonds de la recherche en santé du Québec (FRSQ), in partnership with the Programme de soutien à la recherche : soutien à des initiatives internationales de recherche et d'innovation of the ministère du Développement économique, de l'Innovation et de l'Exportation du Québec (MDEIE) and with the ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux du Québec (MSSS);
- Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANR, France);
- the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), through the Institute of Aging and the Institute of Neurosciences, Mental Health and Addiction.

FRSQ will act as the coordinator and secretariat for the call for proposals.

Endowed with the equivalent of approximately \$2.5 million (CAD) or €1.6 million per year for 3 years, this call for proposals is part of the French, Québec, and Canadian governments' respective action plans on Alzheimer's disease:

1. The French 2008-2012 Alzheimer Plan (<http://www.plan-alzheimer.gouv.fr/>);
2. The action plan that the Quebec Government is developing based on the report recently published by its task force on Alzheimer's disease (<http://publications.msss.gouv.qc.ca/acrobat/f/documentation/2009/09-829-01W.pdf>); and
3. The priority given to the fight against Alzheimer's disease by the

Call secretariat

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### Toolbox

#### ALL APPLICANTS

#### Application toolkit:

■ Forms required for this program

[Conditions and requirements for researchers from Canada \(including Québec\)](#)

<p>Government of Canada through CIHR.</p> <p><b>The conditions and requirements specific to each research funding agency are available in the Toolbox and at the agencies' websites.</b></p> <p>Field</p> <p>Eligibility</p> <p>Documents required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Letter of notice</li> <li>- Full application</li> </ul> <p>Evaluation of full applications</p> <p>Tenure of grant</p> <p>Grant amount</p> <p>Funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Source</li> <li>- Management and funding rules</li> </ul> <p>Eligible expenses</p> <p>Applicants' agreement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Knowledge translation</li> <li>- Report and presentation</li> </ul> <p>Intellectual property</p> <p>Supporting departments and agencies</p>	<p><a href="#">Conditions and requirements for researchers from France</a></p> <p><b>Help</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <a href="#">Contact</a></li> <li>■ Computer compatibility</li> </ul>
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## SCOPE

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### Objectives

The aim of the research projects is to generate knowledge leading to better understanding of the aetiology of Alzheimer's disease and related disorders and to improved diagnosis, treatment and care for people suffering from these diseases and for their families.

Projects must:

- Be large-scale, and
- Bring together researchers from a variety of disciplines, areas of expertise and research settings and with an array of approaches, and
- Cover fields where the interests and strengths of the researchers are already proven.

The projects will have to be structured so as to contribute a new added value that the researchers, funded by each of the three research funding agencies, could not achieve on their own.

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### Priority themes

In this call for proposals, the emphasis is on, but not restricted to, the following five major research themes:

- Markers for detecting the diseases and tracking its progression (genetic, genomic, neuro-imaging, and neuropsychological)
- Animal models and preclinical studies
- Emerging therapies, and innovative studies and clinical trials
- Prevention
- Psychosocial aspects, behaviour disorders, quality of life, natural caregivers, families, end-of-life care, organization of care and services.

## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

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### Conditions

Research teams applying to this call for proposals must consist of researchers working in eligible institutions under the conditions and requirements of the relevant research funding agency.

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### Multiple applications

An investigator may participate in only one application under this call for proposals.

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### Research team structure

The project research team is to be structured as follows:

- a Named Principal Investigator (called "coordinateur" for ANR), who will represent the project and be responsible for management of the application and for the project's internal scientific management;
- one co-principal investigator for each research funding agency involved in the project (called "responsable scientifique" for ANR), who will be responsible for managing the project with regards to the specific agency in question (the Named Principal Investigator will also assume the role

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- of co-principal investigator for his or her research funding agency)
- and co-investigators (called “partenaires” for ANR).

Each project research team must comprise:

- **At least:** one researcher from France and one researcher from Québec; OR  
one researcher from France and one researcher from a Canadian province other than Québec; OR  
one researcher from France, one researcher from Québec, and one researcher from a Canadian province other than Québec.
- **And no more than** eight investigators in total, including the Named Principal Investigator, the co-principal investigators and the co-investigators.

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## LETTER OF NOTICE – DOCUMENTS REQUIRED

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### Documents

E-mail as attached documents to [alzheimer@frsq.gouv.qc.ca](mailto:alzheimer@frsq.gouv.qc.ca)

### Named Principal Investigator

- *Letter of notice* form

### Content

The letter of notice should:

- Contain the name, contact information and institutional affiliation for the Named Principal Investigator, the co-principal investigators and the co-investigators
- Briefly describe the objectives of the research team, the proposed methods and the anticipated outputs
- Briefly demonstrate that the proposed research project is in line with the topic of this call for proposals (Alzheimer’s disease and related disorders)
- Contain an overall budget estimate and estimates for each research funding agency involved

### Objective

The letter of notice serves to:

- Establish the applicant's eligibility for the competition
- Check the application against the topic of the call for proposals
- Help create an expert review panel qualified to review the submitted projects

### Procedure

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The letter of notice form should be:

- completed, saved in Word format and named "Named Principal Investigator nameFirst name(s) initial(s)\_LIAIz.doc" (for example SmithR\_LIAIz.doc)
- and submitted by the Named Principal Investigator to the call secretariat (FRSQ)
- according to the rules for submission and by the deadline.

**An investigator may submit only one letter of notice under this call for proposals either as Named Principal Investigator, co-principal investigator or co-investigator.**

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### **Delivery receipt**

An e-mailed acknowledgement of receipt of the letter of notice will be sent to the applicants by **October 20, 2009**, at the latest.

Applicants are advised to contact the call secretariat as soon as possible if they do not receive this e-mailed acknowledgement.

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### **Verification**

The letters of notice will be verified by the **call steering committee**, composed of scientific officials from the three research funding agencies.

#### **Criteria**

- administrative eligibility of the researchers and of the research teams
- fit between the objectives of the call for proposal and the proposed research project

**Only applicants whose letter of notice is deemed eligible and in line with the topic of the call for proposals will be invited to submit a full application.**

The call secretariat will notify successful applicants by e-mail by **October 30, 2009**, at the latest. These applicants will receive the instructions and further documentation needed for the submission of the full application at a later date.

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## **FULL APPLICATION – DOCUMENTS REQUIRED**

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**The instructions for submitting the full application will be available at a later date**

### **Applicants**

- Application form, in 2 sections:
  - a common section including, but not limited to:
    - \* Names and complete affiliation of all the researchers participating in the project
    - \* Grant period
    - \* Summary of the proposed research work
    - \* Detailed scientific description (including, but not limited to state of the art; innovative and highly original nature of the proposed project and its impacts; ethical considerations, where applicable; added value of this international collaborative initiative, including project management and communication between the team researchers)
    - \* Schedule and anticipated outputs (work description with milestones and deliverables)
    - \* Budget summarizing the overall cost of the project and its scientific justification
    - \* Knowledge translation strategies, public outreach activities and communication of project outputs and breakthroughs
  - A section containing the appendices specific to France and Canada (one common appendix will be submitted by researchers from Québec and researchers from Canadian provinces other than Québec), including the budget
- CVs from all the researchers (in the format prescribed by the research funding agencies)

## **FULL APPLICATION REVIEW**

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### **Procedure**

Applications will be evaluated by a review panel of scientists working outside of France and Canada and selected by the three research funding agencies.

Following the peer review, the call steering committee will establish a final ranking of the applications, based on the projects' scientific merit, as assessed by the peer review panel, and on the balance between different approaches and themes. The steering committee will then submit funding recommendations to the three research funding agencies' ruling bodies.

The process for the final ranking of the applications will be sent to the applicants invited to submit a full application.

### **Peer review panel criteria**

- Originality and innovative aspects of the project
- Fit with the priority themes

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- Track record of the researchers and scientific excellence of the application as defined by the panel of peers
  - Relevance and rigour of research hypotheses and experimental protocols
  - Added value of the collaboration involving researchers from France, Québec and/or other Canadian provinces
  - Québec – France – Canada research team interdisciplinarity and complementary expertise
  - Projects of an interinstitutional and interthematic nature, and where applicable, clinical collaboration
  - Chosen methodologies
  - Feasibility of anticipated outputs and realistic view of their significance
  - Proposed strategy for knowledge translation (towards the scientific community and the general public)
  - Budget feasibility and justification
  - Training of highly qualified personnel

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#### **TENURE OF GRANT**

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**3 years maximum, not renewable**

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#### **GRANT AMOUNT**

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This call for proposals is endowed with the equivalent of \$2.5 million (CAD) or €1.6 million per year. A maximum of 5 projects will be funded.

There is no set maximum or minimum with respect to funds being requested.

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#### **FUNDING MECHANISM**

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##### **Source**

Awardees from Québec will be funded by FRSQ and CIHR.

Awardees from France will be funded by ANR.

Awardees from Canadian provinces other than Québec will be funded by CIHR.

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##### **Funding and management rules**

Grants will be administered in accordance with the research funding agencies' respective general rules and regulations. Applicants are subject to the rules and regulations of the research funding agency that will provide funding.

## **ELIGIBLE EXPENSES**

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Eligible expenses, such as salaries, equipment, other project-related expenditures, as well as travel expenses, are subject to the rules and regulations of the research funding agency that will provide funding.

## **APPLICANTS' AGREEMENT**

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In accepting this grant, the applicants agree to comply with the conditions and requirements stipulated in this call for proposals as well as with the rules and regulations of the research funding agency that will provide funding.

Applicants are responsible for learning and knowing these rules and regulations, and are strongly advised to carefully read the annex that applies to their research funding agency and/or contact the appropriate research funding agency representative.

Failure to comply will result in cancellation of the grant.

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### **Report and presentation**

In accepting this grant, the Named Principal Investigator agrees to:

- Send the call secretariat a mid-term progress report not exceeding 5 pages in length recapping the key messages of their research work, a Statement of Account and a scientific report
- Send the call secretariat a final report not exceeding 5 pages in length within 6 months of termination of the grant period, recapping the key messages of their research work, a Statement of Account and a scientific report. The investigator is encouraged to use Reader-Friendly Writing 1:3:25 prescribed by Canadian Health Services Research Foundation (CHSRF).
- Give an oral presentation of the key messages of the research work at an event such as a symposium organized by the three research funding agencies.

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### **Knowledge transfer**

The applicants agree to authorize the three research funding agencies to use the final report and published research outputs (scientific publications, conferences, symposia, conventions or e-publication) for reproduction, translation, execution or public extension purposes through whatever means or for any other non-commercial purposes, provided there is no infringement of copyright law.

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## **INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

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Sharing of intellectual property rights and user rights must comply with the rules of the three research funding agencies.

## **SUPPORTING DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES**

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<b>Québec</b>	<b>Ministère du Développement économique, de l'Innovation et de l'Exportation du Québec (MDEIE), Programme de soutien à la recherche : soutien à des initiatives internationales de recherche et d'innovation</b> <b>Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux du Québec (MSSS)</b> <b>Fonds de la recherche en santé du Québec (FRSQ)</b>
<b>France</b>	<b>Agence nationale pour la recherche (ANR)</b>
<b>Canada</b>	<b>Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)</b>