**CRAFT Project Award 2023**

**1. BACKGROUND**

The Centre for Research and Applications in Fluidic Technologies (CRAFT) is a unique partnership between the University of Toronto (U of T) and the National Research Council of Canada (NRC) that creates microfluidics-enabled devices for industrial and clinical applications. CRAFT aims to push forward the science and technology of microfluidics; provide Canadian trainees with unparalleled hands-on learning opportunities in government, private sector and academic labs; accelerate the creation, commercialization and adoption of leading-edge microfluidic technologies for biomedical applications; and stimulate industrial activity for large-scale manufacturing of these technologies in Canada. The Centre, which is located at U of T’s St. George Campus and NRC’s Boucherville site, comprises expertise and infrastructure for rapid device prototyping and fabrication, preclinical validation and rapid scale-up of device fabrication under certified conditions that can be transferred to industry for large-scale manufacturing.

**CRAFT Pillars:** CRAFT research activities are focused in the three following areas (each known as a ‘pillar’): Diagnostics & Bioanalytics, Organ-on-a-Chip and Biofabrication.

**2. DESCRIPTION OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY.**

The CRAFT Project Award 2023 will:

* support collaborative projects co-led by Research Officers at the NRC in Boucherville and U of T faculty members
* be awarded to projects that aim make fundamental advances in microfluidic technologies and their applications that align with one or more of CRAFT’s pillars
* provide $50K ($45K covering salaries, $ 5K operations) in seed funding from NRC that must be matched by an existing grant (not from NRC) held by the U of T faculty member.

The CRAFT Project Award 2023 is not renewable; during or after one year of support, it is expected that awardees will have sufficient results/outputs to successfully secure external funding in CRAFT related follow-up projects

**Project Requirements:**

* The U of T PI of the proposed project should hold a full-time academic appointment at U of T and needs to be able to hold research funds at U of T, as the award will be setup and managed at the university. No CRAFT funds will be transferred to a TAHSN hospital. If a PI is located at a TAHSN hospital, it is the PI’s responsibility to ensure that all of the necessary paperwork/agreements are in place to allow their hospital’s finance department to send invoices to their U of T department. CRAFT will not facilitate or support this process.
* The U of T PI must partner with an NRC researcher to build the application and be willing to advance the funded work beyond the seed grant through joint grant applications and innovation development (to find the most appropriate partner in NRC contact Teodor Veres (teodor.veres@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca))
* The project must be completed within one year
* Proposed projects should align with at least one of CRAFT’s three research pillars, listed above.
* Only one application will be accepted from each U of T PI.
* It is an asset to have a clinician-scientist from a TAHSN hospital included in the project team, however it is not a requirement.

**3. APPLICATION PROCESS and TIMELINE**

All interested U of T faculty members are asked to complete the application form (provided below) and submit it directly to CRAFT co-Director Teodor Veres (teodor.veres@cnrc-nrc.gc.ca) by 11:59pm EST on T, 2022.

The applications will then be vetted by NRC. Successful applications will be chosen by NRC based on project alignment with NRC interest, expertise and strategic priorities, as well as research excellence of the U of T applicant(s).

Request for applications (RFA) announcement: February 14, 2022

Application deadline: February 28, 2022

Review by NRC: March 2022

Notification of Award: March 15, 2023

Planned Funding Start Date: January 1, 2023\*

\*funds can be retroactively applied to cover costs incurred on/after January 1, 2023

**4. SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS**

Send your completed application as a single PDF by 11:59pm EST on February 28,2023 via email to: Teodor Veres, CRAFT co-Director, teodor.veres@cnrc-nrc.gc.ca. Late or incomplete submissions will not be accepted. The combined maximum file size of the document must not exceed 10 MB. Notification of receipt will be sent within one business day.

**5. EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION**

CRAFT, NRC and U of T are strongly committed to diversity in research. As such, we welcome applications led by and engage racialized persons/persons of colour, women, Indigenous/Aboriginal Peoples of North America, persons with disabilities, 2SLGBTQ+ persons and others who may contribute to the further diversification of ideas. NRC will consider EDI during its review and selection process.

**6. Conditions of Acceptance**

* All team members (including but not limited to U of T PI, NRC Research Officer and trainees) will meet monthly to present/discuss project progress.
* All teams will be required to give an oral/poster presentation at a CRAFT Research Symposium.
* PIs will be required to complete and submit CRAFT reporting survey every year in April.
* PIs agree to having a videoconference with the CRAFT IP & Commercialization Committee to introduce their projects and present their plans for publications and invention disclosures
* PIs agree to: being open to collaborating with industry; being a committed member of the CRAFT community by participating in its activities; the funded projects being designated as CRAFT Activity and any arising IP being designated as CRAFT IP (this does not mean that CRAFT will own IP); notifying the CRAFT Research Program Manager of any publications or presentations related to the funded projects; and to disclose all IP arising from the funded project (CRAFT Activity) to the CRAFT IP & Commercialization Committee by submitting an invention disclosure form to U of T, NRC and/or their institution.

**CRAFT PROJECT AWARD 2023: APPLICATION FORM**

*Please do not attempt to alter this form in any way. Text must be in arial 11 point font. Paragraphs must be single-spaced at minimum. Do not use condensed fonts or line spacing.*

**SECTION 1: PROJECT INFORMATION**

**1. Title of proposal:**

**2. Principal investigator**

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| --- | --- |
| 1. Name: | E-mail: |
| Position & Institution: | |
| U of T appointment? Yes  No  Clinician at [TAHSN hospital](https://www.tahsn.ca/members)? Yes  No | |
| Does the PI have $50K of funds (not from NRC) to match the $50K provide by the CRAFT Project Award 2023?  Yes  No | |

**3. Co-Investigator(s)**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name | Primary Appointment | Institution of Primary Appointment | E-mail |
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**SECTION 2: PROJECT OVERVIEW**

**5. Rationale & Objective (maximum 100 words)**

*Describe the rationale and the overall objective of the proposed research.*

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**6. Proposed Research & Deliverables (maximum 250 words)**

*Describe the proposed research project and what it will deliver at the end of the one-year funding period.*

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**7. Research Team (maximum 100 words)**

*Describe the experience, expertise, roles and responsibilities of the research team.*

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**8. Impact (maximum 100 words)**

*Describe the potential of the funded work to lead to intellectual property, industry partnerships and/or*

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**9. Equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI, maximum 250 words)**

*Describe how EDI is considered and addressed in the proposed research project and PI training plans. Describe, for example, specific actions you will implement/have implemented to promote participation from a diverse group of trainees and personnel, establish equitable training and mentorship approaches, and foster an inclusive research and training environment for all team members.**Applicants should not provide demographic information about team members. The* [*VPRI page for EDI*](https://research.utoronto.ca/equity-diversity-inclusion/equity-diversity-inclusion-resources) *carries numerous resources to help applicants meet CRAFT’s EDI requirements.*

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**10. Budget (maximum 100 words)**

*Provide a justification for the $50K provided by the award and the matching $50K.*

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