

Submitting a Grants-in-Aid of Research Application through ProposalCentral

Crohn's and Colitis Canada accepts Grants-in-Aid of Research (GIA) and Innovations in IBD (INN) applications via [ProposalCentral](https://proposalcentral.com/).

I. Using Proposal Central

1. Visit <https://proposalcentral.com/>
2. Login or create a new account if you are a first-time user.
3. Select the "Grant Opportunities" tab.
4. Filter the list by grant maker: "Crohn's and Colitis Canada."
5. Find the appropriate program on the list and click "Apply Now."
6. The system will take you through the application steps. Clicking "next" will save the previous section's entry.
7. Please **carefully review the application instructions in the light blue boxes on each application page.**
8. Upload all necessary documents (templates provided).
9. Validate your application & include signatures. Once your application is complete, print the Signatures Page and have it signed by the Principal Applicant (Principal Investigator), Head of Department, and Dean of Faculty (or equivalent).
10. Submit your application.

II. Submitting a Notice of Intent to Apply

Applications to Crohn's and Colitis Canada's Grants-in-Aid of Research (GIA) competition are submitted through a two-stage application process. Applicants must submit a Notice of Intent to Apply (NOI) via the online application.

These submissions are used by Crohn's and Colitis Canada to identify suitable peer reviewers to review full applications and to triage applications that are not Crohn's and/or Colitis related. Applicants who submit a Notice of Intent to Apply and meet

the eligibility criteria are invited to submit a Full Application by the specified deadline.

Here is a summary of the sections that must be completed to submit a Grants-in-Aid of Research (GIA) Notice of Intent to Apply.

Section 1: Title Page

Answer the following questions:

- **Title**

Proposed title for GIA grant application.

- **Resubmission**

Is the application a resubmission of a previously unsuccessful Crohn's and Colitis Canada application? If yes, how have previous reviewer concerns in this revised proposal been addressed?

- **Renewal**

Is this application a renewal of a previous Crohn's and Colitis Canada grant?

- **Early Career Researcher**

Is the Principal Applicant within their first five (5) years of faculty appointment? *Additionally, to account for the potential impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on research productivity, March 1, 2020, to February 28, 2021, will not be counted towards years as faculty appointment.*

Section 2: Download Templates & Instructions

- In this section, download the Grant Guidelines and Application Instructions.

Please note that there are no attachments to download and complete as part of the NOI.

Section 3: Enable Other Users to Access this Proposal

In this section, you can enable other users to access your grant application. This may include team members, lab staff, co-applicants or grant administrators. Different levels of permissions can be provided to different users (view, edit, administrator). Administrator access would allow the user to submit the NOI or final application.

Section 4: Principal Investigator

The individual who initially creates the application is pre-loaded as the Principal Investigator (PI). If the person creating the application is not the PI, they can manually change this information.

The Principal Investigator must provide their contact information under “Professional Profile” in Proposal Central. Please note that Contact Information is the only information Crohn’s and Colitis Canada requires under “Professional Profile.”

Please do NOT complete fields including date of birth, passport number, and social security number.

When completing the Full Application (NOT at the NOI stage), the Principal Investigator must complete and upload a Biographical Sketch using the template provided.

Section 5: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Questionnaire

Crohn’s and Colitis Canada is committed to ensuring that its programs and peer review processes result in all participants' fair and impartial treatment. We have included an Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion questionnaire to understand better how historically excluded populations (i.e., as identified in the [Employment Equity Act](#)) access Crohn’s and Colitis Canada’s funding. This information will be kept confidential and used only for Crohn’s and Colitis Canada’s demographic data purposes.

Section 6: Institution

The applicant’s institution is pre-loaded as the Lead institution. You can change the institution in this section.

Section 7: Co-Principal Investigators and Collaborators

In this section, enter all Co-Principal Investigators and Collaborators involved with this project.

A *Co-Principal Investigator* is an individual who is expected to participate in the proposed activities actively but not to direct them.

A *Collaborator* is an individual whose role in the proposed activities is to provide a specific service (e.g. access to equipment, provision of specific reagents, training in a specialized technique, statistical analysis, access to a patient population, etc.).

Biographical Sketches are not required to be submitted at the NOI stage.

Section 8: Project Summary & Keywords

Answer the following questions:

- **Summary of Proposal**

Provide a 2500-character (approx. 360 words) summary of the proposal that outlines this project's specific aims and experimental approaches. **This summary will be used to assist with scientific reviewer assignments and crucial to ensure the most relevant reviewer assignments.** It can be modified in the final application.

- **Reviewer Areas of Expertise**

List five areas of expertise you believe reviewers should have to provide a fair evaluation of your project (including technological/ methodological expertise).

- **Research Priorities**

Select the category that best aligns with your research proposal: 1) Finding causes and triggers; 2) Discovering novel treatments; 3) Helping manage symptoms; 4) Getting the best care.

- **CIHR Pillar**

What is the primary research focus of the proposed project as categorized by CIHR's Pillars:

1) Basic/biomedical; 2) Clinical/translational; 3) Health services/system; 4) Social/cultural/environmental/population health.

Section 9: Attachments

There are no attachments to upload at the NOI stage.

Section 10: Suggested External Reviewers

Indicate three external reviewers who have the expertise to evaluate your application critically. You must NOT have a conflict of interest with these reviewers.

Also, name any reviewers that should not be used due to a conflict of interest or collaboration, excluding those already listed in this application as Co-Principal Investigators or Collaborators: Review Crohn's and Colitis Canada's Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality Policy.

Section 11: Validate

Click this page's 'Validate' button to check for any missing REQUIRED information. All missing required information will be listed on the screen. Please correct any missing information before submitting your application.

Section 12: Submit

To submit your NOI, click this page's 'Submit' button.

III. Submitting a Full Grants-in-Aid Research Application

Applicants are eligible to submit a full application if the following two criteria are met:

1. A Notice of Intent to Apply (NOI) was submitted before the deadline to Crohn's and Colitis Canada via Proposal Central; and
2. The NOI is approved by Crohn's and Colitis Canada to advance to the Full Application stage.

Here is a summary of the sections that must be completed to submit a Grants-in-Aid of Research application.

Section 1: Title Page

Answer the following questions:

- **Title**
- **Resubmission**

Is the application a resubmission of a previously unsuccessful Crohn's and Colitis Canada application? If yes, how have previous reviewer concerns in this revised proposal been addressed?

- **Renewal**

Is this application a renewal of a previous Crohn's and Colitis Canada grant?

- **Response to Previous Reviews**

If this grant is a resubmission to Crohn's and Colitis Canada, include the Scientific Officer notes received (if applicable), previous reviewer notes, and an itemized list of how this resubmission addresses previous reviewers' critiques—no character limit.

- **Early Career Researcher**

Is the Principal Applicant within their first five (5) years of faculty appointment? *Additionally, to account for the potential impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on research productivity, March 1, 2020, to February 28, 2021, will not be counted towards years as faculty appointment.*

Section 2: Download Templates & Instructions

In this section, download the Grant Guidelines, Application Instructions, Guidelines for Writing Lay Summaries, and the following templates:

- Biographical Sketch Template: To be completed by the Principal Investigator and any Co-Principal Investigators.

Section 3: Enable Other Users to Access this Proposal

In this section, you can enable other users to access your grant application. This may include team members, lab staff, co-applicants or grant administrators. Different levels of permissions can be provided to different users (view, edit, administrator). Administrator access would allow the user to submit the NOI or final application.

Section 4: Principal Investigator

The individual who initially creates the application is pre-loaded as the Principal Investigator (PI). If the person creating the application is not the PI, they can manually change this information.

The Principal Investigator must provide their contact information under “Professional Profile” in Proposal Central. Contact Information is the only information Crohn’s and Colitis Canada requires under “Professional Profile.” **Please do NOT complete fields including date of birth, passport number, and social security number.**

The Principal Investigator must complete and upload a Biographical Sketch using the template provided. Instructions are included below.

Section 5: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)

This section includes the principal investigator's date of birth, diversity, equity, and inclusion information. This section is confidential and used for Crohn's and Colitis Canada's internal demographic data purposes.

Section 6: Institution & Contacts

This section includes the names and contact information for the Principal Investigators' Head of Department, Dean of Faculty, and Financial Officer.

Section 7: Co-Principal Investigators and Collaborators

In this section, review and update the Co-Principal Investigators and Collaborators involved with this project.

A Co-Principal Investigator is an individual who is expected to participate in the proposed activities actively but not to direct them.

A Collaborator is an individual whose role in the proposed activities is to provide a specific service (e.g. access to equipment, provision of specific reagents, training in a specialized technique, statistical analysis, access to a patient population, etc.).

For all Co-Principal Investigators, complete and upload a Biographical Sketch.

Section 8: Application Questions

In this section, provide:

- **Project Summary**

Provide a 500-word technical summary, which will be used for as a scientific overview and **for assigning scientific peer reviewers**. Please ensure your abstract is self-contained, logically structured, and clearly addresses all four components listed below.

The abstract must include the following information:

1. **Rationale:** Briefly describe the scientific background that necessitates this research and explicitly state the critical knowledge gap the proposed project aims to address.
2. **Specific Aims:** Clearly and concisely list the discrete, short-term research goals that will be accomplished during the proposed project period.
3. **Experimental Approach:** Summarize the key methods, experimental designs, and data analysis plans that will be used to achieve the specific aims.
4. **Proposed Outcomes and significance:** State the broad, long-term goals and the ultimate scientific significance that the successful completion of this project will contribute to.

- **Summary of Project Progress**

If applicable, provide a 1,500-character (approx. 250 words) summary of progress from past or current Crohn's and Colitis Canada grants.

- **Relevance to IBD and Crohn's and Colitis Canada's Promise**

Describe in specific terms the relevance and potential importance of the proposed research to inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). If the application focuses on IBD-associated diseases and conditions (e.g., liver, intestinal cancer, arthritis, ophthalmologic), the applicant(s) **MUST** provide a strong rationale for how their project aligns with the Crohn's and Colitis Canada Promise. This rationale should include the proportion of IBD patients affected by the associated disease/condition—a maximum of 1,500 characters (approx. 250 words).

- **Impact on Patient Population**

Describe the percentage of the patient population the proposal could impact and the time to impact—maximum 600 characters (approx. 100 words maximum).

- **Patient Subpopulations**

Describe if and how the research proposal addresses patient subpopulations identified in the 2018 Impact of IBD Report as priority concerns—maximum 1,500 characters (approx. 250 words).

- **Research Dissemination with Crohn's and Colitis Canada**

Describe your commitment to working with Crohn's and Colitis Canada to share your research findings with stakeholders. Maximum 1,500 characters (approx. 250 words).

- **Hours Per Week**

State how many hours per week you must devote to this project.

- **Intellectual Property Protection**

State whether there is a possibility that any part of this work will lead to or has already led to Intellectual Property protection. If applicable, describe how.

Section 9: Project Summary

In this section, provide:

- **Lay Summary**

Provide a 2,500 character (approximately 400-word summary) of the proposed research project. **Your audience are lay reviewers with lived experience and a well-written lay summary is crucial to their comprehension and review quality.** Please review the [“Guide for writing lay summaries”](#). The summary should answer the following questions specifically:

- What is your project about?
- What are you trying to achieve?
- How will you conduct this study?
- How will this project benefit people living with Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis?
- If you achieve your desired results, what are the next steps?

- **Methodology**

Indicate your proposed project methodology using keywords. The keywords entered here will aid in recruiting appropriate reviewers for your grant.

- **Keywords**

Provide keywords best aligned with your project.

Section 10: Budget

Use the template provided to provide estimates of expenditures for a full year regardless of when the work proposed will begin.

The start and end dates must reflect the following:

- The start date for each year of funding is April 1.
- The end date for each year of funding is March 31.

Itemize by category and justify funds requested for each year of support. Include in the first year of the budget funds requested for all equipment purchases and other nonrecurring items even though these expenditures may be anticipated in other years during the tenure of the grant (travel costs are limited to \$2,500 annually). The amount requested must be quoted in Canadian dollars.

Section 11: Budget Summary and Justification

This section is populated based on the totals entered in **Section 10: Budget**. For each year of funding, provide a budget justification in the online application.

Section 12: Current and Pending Support

List all research projects for which the Principal Investigator has applied for other funding concurrently with this application. List projects you intend to apply for other funding in the next twelve months. Please state the nature of the overlap with this application.

If the PI holds operating grants totaling \$250,000, please provide additional information on how these grants do not overlap with this application.

Within the application, **upload** the summary and budget pages for every other grant currently held by the Principal Investigator, or applied for concurrently with this application, whether perceived as relevant or not.

In this section, also include the Co-Principal Investigators' *current or pending support that overlaps with this application*.

Section 13: Ethical Considerations

In this section, indicate if the proposed project involves:

- Human subjects;
- Human pluripotent stem cells;
- Animals;
- Biological and chemical hazards.

Indicate for each of the following if ethics approval is uploaded with the application to be sent or not applicable:

- Human subjects;
- Human pluripotent stem cells;
- Animals;
- Biological and chemical hazards.

Section 14: Publications

The Principal Investigator may add their publications from the past five years in this section. Alternatively, publications may be added as part of the Principal Investigator Biographical Sketch rather than be included in the online form.

Section 15: Upload Attachments

In this section, upload your attachments. Required attachments are as follows:

- Biographical Sketch for Principal Investigator (noted as Biographical Sketch of Key Personnel);
- Detailed Research Proposal;
- Signatures page.

Additional attachments that are also required depending on the application:

- Biographical sketch for each Co-Principal Investigator;
- A letter from the Dean of the Faculty is required if the applicant does not hold an academic appointment at the time of the proposal submission;
- Research Ethics Board Approval, if available.

Section 16: Suggested External Reviewers

This section is optional. If you would like to indicate any suggested reviewers you did not previously indicate in your Notice of Intent to Apply, please do so. Indicate at most three reviewers *who have the expertise to review your application and are not in a conflict of interest.*

Section 17: Validate

Click this page's 'Validate' button to check for any missing REQUIRED information or files. All missing required information will be listed on the screen. Please correct any missing information before proceeding to the next step.

Section 18: Signatures

After you have completed all the proposal sections, click one of the Print buttons to open and print the cover/signature pages and application files.

You will need the signatures of the following:

- The Principal Applicant (Principal Investigator);

- The Head of the Department;
- The Dean of Faculty (or equivalent).

While the Head of Department and Dean of Faculty should review the application in its entirety before signing, Crohn's and Colitis Canada only requires the completed Signature Page (first page of the application) to be uploaded as an attachment. Ink or electronic signatures are accepted.

Section 19: Submit

To submit your Proposal, click this page's 'Submit' button. You cannot submit if you have not provided all the required information. Any missing information will be listed on the screen. If your submission is successful, you will receive a confirmation message on the screen, and a confirmation email will be sent to the applicant.

Attachment: Detailed Research Proposal

Your Detailed Research Proposal must be uploaded in *Section 15: Upload Attachments* of the online application. The detailed proposal must include the following:

- Current state of knowledge related to proposed work;
- Relevant work by the principal investigator;
- A clear and concise outline of the research proposal;
- Rationale for choice of methods and approaches; and
- The objectives and research plan are clearly described; and
- A knowledge translation plan

A **maximum of 13 pages may be submitted**. The page limit INCLUDES tables, charts, figures, and photographs, which should be EMBEDDED throughout the proposal. Applicants can submit figures and/or tables describing preliminary data and relevant legends. Legends should be succinct. Bibliographic references are EXCLUDED from the 13-page limit.

Detailed descriptions of methods and discussion of results should be included in the body of the proposal; they should not be in the legends or included as an appendix. Questionnaires and consent forms may be attached as appendices, where applicable.

Detailed Research Report Formatting:

- Text must be single-spaced, 11-point Arial font size (including labels and descriptions accompanying figures, tables, charts, photographs, etc.), with $\frac{3}{4}$ inch margins on all sides.
- Header: "Grants-in-Aid Research Proposal" in the left corner with the applicant's name in the right corner.
- Footer: Number pages consecutively with page numbers centered.

Pages over the maximum will be removed from the application.

Attachment: Instructions for Biographical Sketch

The Principal Investigator and Co-Principal Investigators must complete and upload a Biographical Sketch using the provided template. The template and guidelines have been adapted from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) template and guidelines. DO NOT EXCEED FIVE PAGES.

A. Personal Statement

Describe how you are well-suited for the role(s) outlined in the project. Relevant factors may include training, previous work on this or related topics, technical expertise, collaborators or the scientific environment, and/or past performance in this or related fields.

B. Research Interests and Expertise (Keywords)

Provide keywords that summarize your research interests and areas of expertise.

C. Positions and Honours

List in chronological order the positions you've held *relevant* to this application, concluding with your present position. List any relevant academic and professional achievements and honors.

D. Contributions to Science

Briefly describe your most significant contributions to science.

For each contribution, include the following:

- The historical background that frames the scientific problem;
- The central finding(s);

- The influence of the finding(s) on the progress of science or the application of these finding(s) to health;
- Your specific role in the described work.

E. Research Funding – Current and Past five years

List current and completed research projects from the past five years that you want reviewers to know about. Include briefly the overall goals of the projects and your responsibilities.

Details must be provided in Section 12: Current and Pending Support for projects or outstanding proposals that overlap with this current application.

Additionally, for the Principal Investigator only, summary and budget pages for grants currently held must also be uploaded to Section 12: Current and Pending Support.

F. Relevant Peer-Reviewed Publications – Past five years

List relevant peer-reviewed publications from the past five years. The Principal Investigator may add their publications to their Proposal Central application's "Section 14: Publications" section.

G. Number of Publications

Complete the table with the number of each publication type you hold.

IV. For Assistance with your Application

For technical support with the online application, contact Proposal Central:

pcsupport@altum.com

1-800-875-2562 (Toll-free)

Weekdays, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (EST)

For program information or application content requirements, contact Crohn's and Colitis Canada:

Crohn's and Colitis Canada

439 University Ave, Suite 2110



Toronto, ON M5G 1Y8
Attn: Research Grants Coordinator
416-920-5035 x 251
research@crohnsandcolitis.ca