Call for Proposals for
UVic Research Accelerator Fund

Objectives of the RAF Program
We are pleased to invite proposals for the UVic Research Accelerator Fund (RAF). The RAF is a new initiative to create opportunities for donors to support essential, strategic investment in innovative, life-changing research that generates meaningful change and shapes our success as a leading Canadian research university. The focus of this first call for the RAF is to support COVID-19 research partnerships that respond to the urgent needs of communities by rapidly advancing resilience and recovery efforts.

This program is open to members of all Faculties and is a separate competition from the UVic Collaborative Health Grants and the UVic Internal Research and Creative Project Grants. Faculty members are eligible to apply to all competitions but will not be awarded funds from more than one program for the same project.

Research Partnerships and Funding Timeline
This funding is intended for existing initiatives from any discipline that support societal resilience and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic through engaged partnerships with community, government, health authorities or industry.

The deadline for submission of applications is 1 PM, January 15, 2021. Applications must be submitted to Sally Lin, Health Research Officer (healthproj@uvic.ca). Questions about this competition may be sent to the Director of Strategic Research Initiatives (SRIdirector@uvic.ca). Applications will be adjudicated by a multidisciplinary committee appointed by the Vice-President Research and successful applicants will be notified by February 28, 2021. Funding will begin shortly thereafter.

Application Requirements
Applicants may request any amount up to a maximum of $40,000 to support existing health research or creative activities that have the potential to produce significant impact in our community (local or beyond). Due to the intent of this program to accelerate research, only already existing projects will be considered. This program is not designed to seed or support new initiatives. RAF funds will have to be spent by March 31, 2022.

Higher priority will be given to projects that have the potential to achieve measurable impact on society by the end of the initiative.

The lead applicant must be a regular tenure-track or tenured faculty member at UVic. The engagement of at least one external partner organization (in the private, public or not-for-profit sector) is required. The partner organization must be engaged throughout the research process and will utilize the expertise or the research results from the project.

In alignment with UVic’s Health Initiative, selected projects must make a significant contribution to one of the signature areas of the UVic Health Initiative: Healthy Aging, Indigenous Health, Mental Health, and Translational Medicine. The intention is to distribute the
available funds across all four signature areas. A detailed description of these areas and associated methods and approaches is available in the UVic Health Sciences Initiative concept paper (see p. 4).

Each proposal should list all primary members of the project team (including external partners) and their affiliations. The main section of the proposal should explain how the proposed research or creative activity will help with COVID resilience and recovery, describe the partnership, and explain the plan to maximize the positive impact in the community.

Download: Research Accelerator Fund Application form

Evaluation Criteria

(a) Required elements for all proposals:

• research team is led by a regular, tenure-track or tenured faculty member at UVic.
• proposed project is in collaboration with at least one community organization, government, health authority or the private sector. A letter of support is required.
• proposed project is relevant to at least one of the four signature areas of the UHI
• proposed budget provides some amount of funding for a student or postdoctoral trainee

(b) Criteria to be used by the adjudication committee (it is not expected that a successful application will meet all of these criteria, but stronger applications will meet more of them):

• Quality of the proposed project (40%)
  - originality and feasibility of the proposed research or creative activity.
  - capacity of the research or creative activity to address critical pandemic challenges, including how our communities recover from COVID-19.
  - need for RAF support to accelerate an already existing research initiative.

• Expected impact (30%)
  - expected rapid and meaningful impact of the completed project in the community, at local, national, and international scales.
  - ability of the project to translate outcomes into solutions that address partner organization questions or issues in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - potential to advance one or more of the signature areas of the UVic Health Initiative.

• Strength of the partnership (30%)
  - degree to which the proposed team members and partner organizations bring complementary expertise to the research or creative project.
  - record of past achievements of team members.
  - diversity of the team, including early-career faculty and members with different backgrounds and from underrepresented groups.
The lead applicant for any successful application is required to provide a final report that describes the impact of the work to the office of the Vice-President Research no later than September 1, 2021. Any extensions to this deadline must be approved by the VPR in writing.

**Budget preparation**

Examples of eligible and ineligible expenses are provided here. More extensive guidance regarding allowable expenditures can be found in the newly issued [Tri-Agency Guidelines](#).

- **Eligible expenses:**
  - Salaries
  - Supplies and operating expenses
  - Equipment and related infrastructure
  - Research travel
  - Child care expenses as allowed under Tri-Agency guidelines
  - Knowledge mobilization expenses

- **Ineligible expenses:**
  - Society membership dues or journal subscriptions
  - Entertainment
  - Spousal travel expenses (unless the spouse is a project collaborator)
  - Cell phone charges
  - Cost of teaching release*

*Note: For this year only, recognizing the negative impact of COVID-19 on time available for research, teaching release may be requested through the regular Internal Research and Creative Projects Grants program. This is open to all faculty who have a course load of at least 3 single term classes and who are either applying for an internal research grant or currently hold an active tri-agency or other external peer-reviewed research grant.