TO: Associate Deans (Research)/Research Liaison Officers  
FROM: Dr. Digvir S. Jayas, Vice-President (Research and International)  
DATE: December 2, 2016  
RE: Call for CFI John R. Evans Leaders Fund (JELF) to the June 15, 2017 competition

The CFI JELF-Unaffiliated program is designed to help institutions attract and retain the very best researchers at a time of intense international competition, by acquiring infrastructure to undertake cutting-edge research.

ELIGIBILITY

Only New Investigators who are within the first three years of their appointment at the University of Manitoba, as of June 15, 2017, are eligible to apply. Proposals will also be accepted for an identified candidate whom the University is in the process of recruiting to a full-time academic appointment in an area of strategic importance. Proposals for ‘teams’ of up to three New Investigators are also acceptable.

The requested infrastructure must be essential for the research program of the New Investigator(s), who must be recognized leaders in their fields of research or show promise of becoming research leaders. They must be engaged in or embarking on, an innovative research program for which the infrastructure is essential and will provide an enriched research training environment. A strong plan for ongoing operations and maintenance of infrastructure with identified support is also a requirement.

New Investigators who have previously been supported through any of the CFI funding mechanisms, e.g., main user named in a recent CFI Innovation Fund award, are eligible to apply, but the added value of an additional award must be clearly demonstrated through results and outcomes of the previous award.

NOTE: Those who are beyond the first three years of their first full time academic appointment at the University of Manitoba are strongly encouraged to apply to the CFI Innovation Fund (IF) program, which is intended to serve the needs of larger groups, centers, departments, or other participating institutions. IF competitions are normally held every two years, with the next competition expected in 2018.
Timelines and assessment process for JELF proposals

Full proposals must be submitted to the Office of Research Services attention: Birtukan.Gebretsadik@umanitoba.ca, Research Grants Officer, by the Dean/Director or designate of the lead Faculty/School on behalf of the Project Leader by 4:30 pm, Wednesday, March 1, 2017. Units are advised to establish their own earlier internal review deadlines. If submitting more than one proposal, please indicate a rank ordering in terms of their importance to your unit’s strategic development of research and research training. Full details of the JELF program and application form can be accessed at CFI’s website: https://www.innovation.ca/awards/john-r-evans-leaders-fund

Proposals will be reviewed by members of the University’s CFI Advisory Committee, with recommendations made to the VPRIO for submission to the CFI. Decisions will be provided to Deans/Directors by April 17, 2017.

ORS Institutional Programs staff will conduct workshops on proposal development on both campuses as follows:

- January 11, 2017, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm at Fort Garry, Helen Glass Centre for Nursing, Room 210 (Boardroom);
- January 12, 2017, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm at Bannatyne, Betty Havens Seminar Room, R060, Medical Rehab Bldg.

For proposals recommended for submission to the CFI, project leaders will work to refine their submissions with assistance from ORS Institutional Programs staff, their unit’s research facilitators (as available), and a peer identified from within their unit and/or the CFI Advisory Committee.

A strong emphasis is placed by the CFI on alignment with the institutional Strategic Research Plan (http://umanitoba.ca/research/media/Strategic_Research_Plan.pdf) as well as infrastructure sustainability and management plans. Therefore, the University expects that Faculties/Schools, through their Associate Deans (Research)/Research Liaison Officers, will become involved at the earliest stages of proposal development. Investigators can also seek assistance from the ORS and unit research facilitators in the proposal development prior to the internal submission deadline (i.e. March 1).

Excellence of the investigator(s), a clear argument for recruitment or retention and proposal completeness (all sections addressed and questions from the CFI Assessment Criteria answered) are important considerations (incomplete applications may be returned to the Faculty/School and will not be reviewed by the CFI Advisory Committee). Evidence of sufficient research operating support is also a requirement for a successful application.

Assessment criteria for a JELF award

The criteria used for assessment of JELF include the following:
- The proposed research or technology development program;
- The expertise and ability of the candidate to undertake the proposed research or technology development program;
- The requested infrastructure and how it will enable the proposed research or technology development program;
- The expected benefits to Canada;
The institutional support in this area of research or technology development and for this particular project; and
- The operating and maintenance needs of the infrastructure.

**Value of the award**

The total project costs will be for a maximum of $400,000, where $160,000 will be requested from each of the CFI and Research Manitoba. Securing the remaining funds (up to $80,000) is the responsibility of the Project Leader and the Faculty/School submitting the proposal. Projects with total costs lower than $400,000 are also encouraged.

For teams, the project envelope will be dictated by the number of participating investigators:
   i) for two, up to $600,000 total project costs with a $240,000 CFI and Research MB component;
   ii) for three, up to $800,000 total project costs, with a $320,000 CFI and Research MB component.

If you have any questions regarding the eligibility of New Investigators, the JELF program or the application process, please do not hesitate to contact Tracy Mohr, Associate Director (Tracy.Mohr@umanitoba.ca) or Birtukan Gebretsadik (Birtukan.Gebretsadik@umanitoba.ca), Research Grants Officer, of ORS’ Institutional Programs.