

“Innovation through Future Care Approaches in Healthy Aging”

University of Edinburgh (U of E) - Advanced Care Research Centre (ACRC)

University of Toronto (U of T) - AGE-WELL Institutional Strategic Initiative

First Call for Joint Research Proposals

The University of Toronto, through its AGE-WELL Institutional Strategic Initiative, and the University of Edinburgh, through its Advanced Care Research Centre (ACRC), is launching its First Call for Joint Research Proposals on “Innovation through Future Care Approaches in Healthy Aging”. This aligns with our institutional priorities, complementary strengths, and track record of cooperation. Proposals from all fields are welcome, and innovative proposals with a clear intention to advance progress in the following priority areas, including:

1. Housing environments and care models
2. Technology
3. Mechanisms for cognitive decline
4. Place and interventions
5. Complex care interventions
6. Care and case management

The goal of this Call is for collaborative projects to emerge between researchers involved in AGE-WELL and ACRC. We aim to build partnerships and grow our joint research moving forward. The long-term objective of these joint initiatives is to establish sustainable outcomes and foster collaborations that evolve into scalable partnerships.

University of Edinburgh - Advanced Care Research Centre (ACRC) and University of Toronto - AGE-WELL Institutional Strategic Initiative contributing matching funds to support collaborative research initiatives through a joint call for proposals. The aim of the fund is to provide initial support for the development of research links and catalyze further collaboration. Please note that faculty (or their PDF) are highly encouraged to apply for the 2024 AGE-WELL-ACRC call for proposals. Projects will be funded for 15 months.

Proposals will be assessed and recommended for selection by a committee composed of members of both institutions.

1. Project Proposals

1. To be eligible, a proposal must include a PI from U of E, U of T and other AGE-WELL Universities, and at least one other researcher on each team. We encourage early career researchers¹ (ECRs) to apply.
2. The total funding envelope comprises of \$100,000 CAD/ 57,410.00 £ from U of E and U of T. Up to four (4) joint projects will be selected.
3. The fund is open for proposals across all research fields that fall with the aforementioned priority areas.
4. Projects will be funded for a period of 15 months and should aim to start by September 2024 at the latest.
5. Proposals with the potential for sustainability beyond the initial funding period are encouraged.

¹**U of E:** Up to 5 years after obtaining a doctorate or after a first faculty appointment. This duration excludes any period of career break

¹**U of T:** an individual who is within five years of their first faculty appointment. This duration excludes any period of career break.

2. Costs and proposal

1. Proposals may include workshops (face-to-face and virtual), symposia, staff exchanges, research seminars/presentations and formation or development of a collaborative network.
2. Eligible costs include travel and subsistence, consumables and the cost of research assistants, research associates and technicians which are directly related to the project. Existing staff time including the Co-PIs time cannot be charged to the program. The fund does not support equipment, scholarships, PhD stipends, or tuition fees.

Eligible Costs	Ineligible Costs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel costs including flights, hotels and subsistence • Research costs, including consumables and research assistants (up to 25% of total requested budget). • Costs associated with organizing workshops, meetings and conference attendance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replacement research/teaching costs • Directly incurred staff e.g. teaching assistants • Directly allocated costs including applicants' time • Indirect costs/estates costs • Equipment • Scholarships • Tuition fees • PhD stipends • Honoraria

3. Eligibility

1. **U of E:** Academic staff members from all disciplines and at all levels are eligible to apply (excluding emeritus and honorary staff). The lead applicant must be a permanent member of staff.
2. **U of T and other AGE-WELL Universities:** Faculty members in continuing appointments from all disciplines are eligible to apply.

4. Timeline

Call for proposals opens	June 3, 2024
Deadline for submission	July 3, 2024 (11:59 EST)
Communication of results to applicants	August 16, 2024
Project start date	September 1, 2024
Project end date	December 31, 2025
Project Completion Report	March 31, 2026

5. Submission of Proposals

This is a joint call, as a single application should be submitted via email to laura.laird@uhn.ca .

The full proposal (maximum 5 pages excluding brief bios and references) is comprised of the following components:

- i. Proposal cover page that includes the faculty members and affiliations from each Institution with contact details.
- ii. A project description that includes the following items (in alignment with the selection criteria listed below):
 - a. **Abstract** that describes the project.
 - b. **Description of the planned activities** (for example, seminars, short courses, visits to other institutions that carry out research/teaching activities in cognate areas, etc.) including rationale and timeline.
 - c. **Methodology:** a short description of how the project will be carried out should be given in order to help the reviewer assess its feasibility. The repartition of work and interplay between the 2 teams should be explained.

- d. **Project impact:** Description of the expected academic gains for the project as a result of the proposed cooperation and mobility, and the identification of corresponding performance indicators e.g. a publication, blog, meeting report etc.
 - e. **Impact of collaboration:** Anticipated benefits of the collaboration to the faculty member's other active research and/or teaching projects and on strengthening the overall partnership between U of T and U of E. Provide a description of how the specific collaboration between AGE-WELL and ACRC will enhance and impact the proposed work.
 - f. **Graduate students, Post-doctoral Fellow (PDF), Post-doctoral Research Associates (PDRA) etc., involvement:** Any opportunities for engagement and anticipated benefits to the project and the individual(s) themselves as applicable.
 - g. **Equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI):** An assessment of how EDI issues are considered in the proposal will be considered positively considered in the evaluation.
 - h. **Capacity for future collaboration:** A description of the potential future collaborations and outcomes that will be possible as a result of having undertaken the current collaboration. For example: joint publications, joint supervision of PhD students, joint teaching, joint patent applications, joint reports to governments, joint funding applications
 - i. **Proposed budget:** A breakdown of the cost of the activity e.g. flights, travel, hotels etc.
- iii. Abbreviated Curriculum Vitae (not more than 2 pages) of the Co-PIs with a selected list of publications.

6. Reviewing process

A joint review committee will assess each full proposal according to the academic merit and compelling elements covered by the following criteria:

- **Project design and rationale (10 points):** How clearly presented and justified is the basis for, and design of, the project? How do the proposed activities assist with establishing new and emerging research collaborations? What are the anticipated benefits of involving ECRs and/or graduate researchers?
- **Potential impact (10 points):** What desired outcomes do the planned activities set out to achieve? What are the anticipated benefits of the activities to local or international communities? How does your proposal demonstrate strong relevance to strategic priorities of the participating institutions?
- **Graduate student/PDF/PDRA involvement (10 points):** What are the opportunities provided for students to engage in the collaboration? What are the anticipated benefits of student engagement to the project and for the students themselves?
- **Capacity for future collaboration/funding (20 points):** What is the potential for this project to foster ongoing collaboration, and through what mechanism(s)? How well does the proposed collaboration plan to access external funding?

7. Reporting After Project Completion

All awardees must, as a condition of receiving an award under this call, complete a narrative report by March 31, 2026, that describes the outcomes, nature of collaboration, project impact, graduate student/PDF/PDRA involvement and opportunities for future collaboration that evolved from their project (approximately 2 pages).

For more information about this call please contact:

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AGE-WELL / University of Toronto

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