**The DHDP Catalyst Program – Letter of Intent (LOI)**

**DEADLINE**: Send completed form by June 18th 2021 to dhdp@dhdp.ca

**The following information must be included in the application to render the application complete.**

**Applicant Identification:** *Applicant can either be the Professor or the Graduate Researcher (master, PhD or post docs)*

* First Name:
* Last Name:
* Title:
* Institution Name:
* Department Name:
* Email address:
* Mailing address (number, street name, building, room number):

**Partner Identification**

* Institution Name:
* Status (for-profit or not-for profit):
* Contact Person (full name and email address):
* Mailing address (number, street name, building, room number):

**Project Description**

* Target Research Area (Cancer therapy or Neurodegenerative disease):
* Project Title (Maximum 40 words) – insert word # here:

Write project title here

* Short Lay Summary (Maximum 150 words) – insert word # here:

Write Lay Summary here

* Scientific Abstract (State the objectives of the proposed research and summarize the scientific approach, highlighting the expected significance of the work. Maximum 500 words) – insert word # here:

 Write Scientific Abstract here

* Preliminary supporting evidence (Maximum 200 words) – insert word # here:

Write preliminary supporting evidence here

* Impact of the project (outline the intended outcomes and/or outputs of the proposed research project. (Maximum 250 words) – insert word # here:

Write project impact here

* Estimated number of months required for project completion:
* Estimated project completion date:

Insert References here

**The DHDP Catalyst Program - details**

**Deadline: Letters of Intent (LOI) due by June 18, 2021**

The Digital Heath and Discovery Platform (DHDP) provides a unique and excellent opportunity to design and deliver innovative interdisciplinary training to produce skilled STEM workers for Canada’s economy.

We are pleased to announce the **DHDP Catalyst Program,** a national mobilization and skill development program to engage key stakeholders, foster collaboration, share learnings and trigger new projects.

**Description**

This program will support the development of innovative and interdisciplinary training internships that will directly contribute to the development of highly qualified personnel through work-integrated-learning and advancement of state-of-the-art innovation, through which the benefits to the health and digital technology sector will be realized.

This initiative has three major goals:

1. Increasing AI data readiness of members to facilitate DHDP appliance deployment;
2. Develop AI specialists with appreciation of life sciences concepts and processes; and,
3. Upgrade clinical and scientific researchers' and trainees understanding of AI concepts to assist in science and health care.

The investments by our partners, like Mitacs, in training programs, R&D initiatives, and industrial internships will also develop a deep pool of expertise, with STEM graduates that have multi-disciplinary exposure, including AI, health-related topics, as well as in some cases entrepreneurship and business exposure.

**National Competition: Spring 2021**

Projects will focus on the advancement of next generation health data technologies including: data access; data ingestion; data federation and AI/Machine learning with applications in cancer and neurology.

This competition supports proposals within one of the following target research areas:

1. **Advances in Cancer Therapy** – Personalizing immunotherapies for each cancer patient.
2. **Advances in Neurodegenerative Disease** – Improving early diagnosis and management.

**Eligibility**

Applicants must be graduate researchers working with a faculty member at any Canadian university (who is eligible to hold Tri-Agency funds) or faculty at Canadian colleges. Applications must include one Canadian partner (including for-profit and not-for-profit partners) as a collaborator or research sponsor. Applications with a not-for-profit partner should demonstrate an economic or productivity orientation.

Internships will be based on the Mitacs Accelerate Program funding structure of four-month internship units, each valued at $15,000. Each internship unit includes a $7,500 contribution from the partner organization, which is matched through the Mitacs Accelerate Program by another $7,500. The graduate researcher receives, for each internship unit, a minimum stipend of $10,000 and the remaining funds are used to support research costs. Projects can include multiple internship units to support longer-term collaborations, for a period of no more than three (3) years. Funds are to be provided in collaboration with Mitacs, DHDP and other funding partners, where applicable.

  **Application and Review Process**

Each project will follow the standard Mitacs Accelerate Program funding structure with the option to build multiple researcher/professor applications for project purposes. Support for proposals will be facilitated through the DHDP Network and DHDP membership.

Applications will be reviewed in two stages:

**Stage 1**: Letter of Intent (LOI) submitted to the DHDP by **Friday, June 18, 2021**

**\*Please refer to the LOI application form for details.**

**LOI Evaluation Criteria**

Eligible applications will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

* **Innovation and originality**: originality of the proposed research question, including novel techniques/methods, as well as the potential for creating new knowledge.
* **Impact of the project on the researcher:** how conducting the project will allow AI researchers to improve their understanding of life sciences or will improve clinical and life science researchers’ understanding of AI.
* **Impact of the research**: how the project contributes to AI data readiness, and to improving the health of Canadian patients with cancer or neurodegenerative diseases.

The DHDP Review Committee will select a shortlist of LOIs that will advance to Stage 2. Applicants will be notified in writing and invited to advance to the next stage: - submission to Mitacs.

Note: Formal Mitacs applications should only be written and submitted once an invitation to advance to Stage 2 has been extended by the DHDP Review Committee.

**Stage 2**: Selected candidates are invited to submit their full proposal to Mitacs using the Mitacs Accelerate Program proposal template (see [Proposal | Mitacs](https://www.mitacs.ca/en/programs/accelerate/proposal)). Projects will need to meet eligible research and adjudication criteria (see [Mitacs-supported eligible research and adjudication criteria | Mitacs](https://www.mitacs.ca/en/programs/eligible-research)) as well as pass the external academic peer review process (managed by Mitacs). Mitacs will support applicants through this process.

All inquiries should be sent to dhdp@dhdp.ca