

## Collaborative Catalyst Funds

CIFAR aims to facilitate and support interdisciplinary research and its societal impact through *Collaborative Catalyst Funds*. These funds are designed to catalyze innovative, high-risk/high-reward collaborative ideas and projects led by CIFAR program members (minimum 2).

Catalyst Funds aim to spur new collaborations that: provide flexibility for early stage or seed projects that are often difficult to fund; encourage interdisciplinary collaborations that push research boundaries at the vanguard; address emerging and exploratory themes within research programs; and/or make progress towards a program's societal impact goal.

Catalyst funds provide seed funding for time-limited activities. **The funds are meant to encourage interdisciplinary collaboration and research or societal impact projects that may not otherwise be possible.**

A possible, but not exhaustive list of eligible catalyst-supported activities are listed below:

- Pilot projects
- Interdisciplinary projects involving a shared trainee
- Extended collaborative visits for fellows or trainees
- Extended collaboration with non-academic partners to advance program societal impact plans
- One-time, small-scale research workshops (at least 50% of participants must be CIFAR members)
- Large-scale, team-based grant proposal development
- Database development

## Proposals

[Proposals](#) will be accepted on a rolling basis, unless otherwise indicated. Questions should be directed to Lauren Goldstein, Manager, Strategic Research Initiatives (lauren.goldstein@cifar.ca). Proposals will be reviewed and recommended for funding by CIFAR program advisory committee members.

Proposals should include:

- Names of collaborating CIFAR program members (fellows, advisors and/or Azrieli Global Scholars) and/or non-academic partners (e.g. from industry, public sector, civil society, clinical practice, etc.), as applicable
- Title and brief description of the project or activity (1- 2 pages, approximately 500 words). This should include clear linkages to the research programs involved.
- As applicable, describe:
  - o potential for increased collaboration;
  - o potential impact on career development for trainees;
  - o potential outputs;
  - o further opportunities for interdisciplinary engagement.
- If aiming to catalyze **societal impact**, please include:
  - o Impact potential: How will this project make progress towards your program's societal impact goal?
  - o Project collaborators: How will the CIFAR program member and non-academic partner work collaboratively? What contribution (financial or in-kind) will the non-academic partner make?
- Estimated budget
- Proposed start and end date of the activity, with a detailed timeline (maximum 2 years)
- Name(s) of co-supervised trainee(s) (if applicable/known)

## Appendix: Terms of the Award

- Projects supported by catalyst funding cannot exceed a maximum of two (2) years of support and are non-renewable. Any changes to the proposed timeline should be discussed with CIFAR.
- For awards involving trainees (e.g. graduate students or postdoctoral fellows), the award is contingent upon the trainee continuing to work at the University under the supervision of a CIFAR program member. The support can be used to cover salary, appropriate benefits, and stipend related to the engagement with CIFAR.
- The funds are intended to support the activities outlined in the original grant proposal, but are flexible and can be transferred between budget categories without requiring CIFAR's approval.
- For awards involving workshops, please note that the workshop must take place within one (1) year of the date of this letter.
- The following research support acknowledgement should be included in all presentations and publications associated with this award: "This research is based on work supported by a CIFAR catalyst grant."
- Completing an annual report on the research progress of this grant is required. However, financial reporting is not required.
- Funding for new Catalyst projects is contingent upon all progress reports being complete.