



Michael Smith Foundation for
Health Research

BCNRI Research Projects & Investigative Team Programs Competitions – 2010

REVIEW PROCESS

Background

Rigorous review processes are a cornerstone of MSFHR's operations, ensuring that MSFHR is accountable to the government of the province of British Columbia for the money it invests in health research. The purpose of the BC Nursing Research Initiative (BCNRI) and its funding programs is to support excellent health services and policy research that focuses on the roles of nurses in the context of the broader health services community. The Research Projects Program provides funding for up to two years to support research projects in four priority areas identified for attention through this initiative. The Investigative Team Program provides up to four years of funding to support the development of a program of research in the BCNRI priority area of Care Delivery.

The Review Criteria

Applications are assessed by an external review panel against the objectives of the programs and specified eligibility requirements.

To be eligible for funding, applicants for Research Projects and Investigative Team competitions must demonstrate meaningful participation by researchers and practitioners in the project or team, with at least one of the co-leaders being a nurse, and strong participation of nurses on the team. This does not imply that only nurses may apply as the lead or co-lead, or that the project or team must consist solely of nurses. The review panel will look carefully at the appropriateness of the team composition relative to the nature of the project or program of research that will be undertaken. This will include an assessment of the expertise and track record of the researchers involved as well as the skills, experience, expected contributions, and range of practitioners on the team.

The external review panel will also assess the applications against pre-determined criteria to determine the merit and potential as follows:

Research Projects

- Appropriateness and experience of the applicants
- Potential impact as related to the goals and priorities of the BCNRI
- Quality – clarity of the questions and/or objectives, appropriate project design and justification
- Realistic budget and expectations

Investigative Teams

- Quality of the Investigative Team
 - The experience and skills of the researchers on the team as these relate to the team focus and research plan
 - Appropriateness and expertise of those representing the practitioners on the team as these relate to the team focus and research plan
 - The nature and extent of the involvement of all members of the Investigative Team
 - Potential value-added by the team approach
 - Structure and accountability mechanisms in place to support activities of the team as defined within the context of this program
- Potential impact
 - Significance of the proposed research for advancing knowledge within the priority area of care delivery

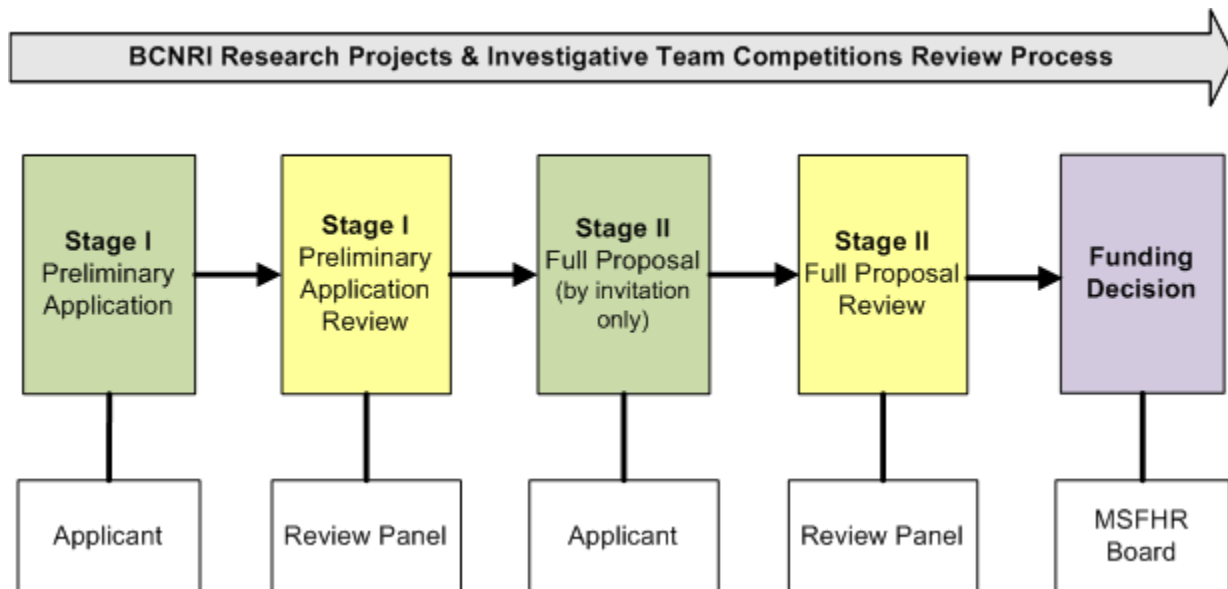
- Process and rationale for the selection of the research questions
- Potential for the team's knowledge exchange activities to bring research into practice and for the practice community to influence research directions
- Potential impact of the proposed research on patient/client health outcomes and/or the health system
- Potential for improving the quality of work life for nurses
- Potential for building and sustaining practice relevant nursing health services research capacity among all stakeholders (academia and practice)
- Potential for increasing the visibility of BC nursing health services research

The Review Panel

A panel consisting of seven members external to BC has been assembled to review the applications. Panel members are experienced nursing health services and policy researchers and nursing health system administrators/practitioners. In order to ensure the integrity of the review process, MSFHR ensures that the ratings and rankings of applications or proposals are fair and objective. As such, all MSFHR reviewers are required to observe the MSFHR Guidelines on Conflict of Interest. No member of the Review Panel may participate in or witness the review of an application where s/he may be in a real or perceived conflict of interest.

The Review Process

One investigative team and up to ten research projects will be funded through these two competitions. Developing a full proposal consumes considerable time and effort. For this reason and due to funding limitations, BCNRI has implemented a two-step review process, calling first for preliminary applications (Stage I). These will be reviewed by the external review panel and a select number of highly rated applicants will be invited to submit full proposals for Stage II. All Stage I applicants will receive feedback on their applications. For those that move onto the full proposal stage, the feedback will focus on areas that need strengthening to ensure the best proposal is developed.



Key Dates

Application Deadline – Stage I Preliminary Applications	April 28, 2010
External Review Meeting	June 15, 2010
Notification of Stage I Applicants	by June 30, 2010
Application Deadline – Stage II Full Proposal	September 15, 2010
External Review Meeting	early November, 2010
NRAC Endorsement of Panel Recommendations	November 5, 2010
MSFHR Board Approval	November 26, 2010
Notification of Stage II Applicants	November 30, 2010