

## TERMS OF REFERENCE: REQUESTS FOR DIRECTED FUNDING AND PARTNERSHIP/ FUND LEVERAGING OPPORTUNITIES

### Purpose

To ensure the ALS Society of Canada (ALS Canada) is making appropriate investments in research and clinical support.

### Overview

The ALS Canada Research Program utilizes peer-reviewed competitions as the primary avenue of allocating donor dollars and the annual budget does not contain funding pockets for programs requested within that calendar year.

Occasionally, research or clinical projects/initiatives arise that are worthy of ALS Canada funding that are outside of the formal peer-reviewed competition process. These may be proactive on the part of ALS Canada or reactive in the form of evaluating individual requests. This works towards ALS Canada's Strategic Impact to "lead Canada's contribution to global ALS research."

### Eligibility

Individuals or groups seeking directed funding should consider whether their request is applicable to the ALS Canada grant program. Projects or initiatives that can be applied as part of an ALS Canada Research Program peer-reviewed competition will not be considered unless a significant case is made for directed funding as the only option. Considerations may include, but are not limited to: time sensitivity, significant partnership opportunities and leveraging of funds, and national platforms. These opportunities are not intended to support individual, hypothesis-driven research, even if these considerations are met.

Any directed funding through the ALS Canada Research Program must meet the following criteria to be considered:

- Have significant impact towards the strategic priorities of ALS Canada
- Have national scope in either its execution or impact
- Not be applicable to an ALS Canada peer-reviewed grant competition

Value added items that should be considered prior to a request for directed research funding include:

- Partnership with other national or international organizations or industry
- Leveraging of funds

## Process

Individuals or groups seeking directed funding for initiatives or projects are encouraged to contact the Research Team ([research@als.ca](mailto:research@als.ca)) first to discuss the possible recommendations and funding based on evaluation criteria.

Requests for directed funding may seek funds available:

- Through the Research Program budget for the following year (if requested by September 1<sup>st</sup>)
- From non-renewable reserve funds

If the criteria are met, requests must be made by formal letter addressed to the ALS Canada Research Team and will first be brought for discussion and evaluation by the Scientific and Medical Advisory Council (SMAC).

## Adjudication

SMAC will discuss and evaluate the request to determine if a positive recommendation for funding can be made to the Board of Directors. Failure to achieve a positive SMAC recommendation will result in communication back to the applicant through the ALS Canada Research Team and the request will not be elevated to the Board. A report of the SMAC evaluation process will be provided to the Board of Directors.

Positive recommendation for funding by SMAC will elevate the request to the Board of Directors for a decision on funding. Formal notification of the Board decision will be communicated by the ALS Canada Research Team.

Should SMAC decide not to recommend a request, the CEO and ALS Canada Research Team would have the option to refer the matter to the Board for consideration and decision regardless, should they, in their management roles, be of the opinion that the request has merit for the organization.

## Reporting

A reporting schedule will be setup specifically for any directly funded project. At minimum, annual progress reports will be required, consistent with other ALS Canada programs.