

BRIGHT Run Research Fund Disbursement/Administration Policy

Policy Contact: BRIGHT Run Event Chair
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The BRIGHT Run: An Overview

The BRIGHT Run is a non-competitive, family friendly 1 KM/5KM walk or run which is held annually on the first Saturday after Labour Day. The BRIGHT Run depends on 200+ volunteers (no paid staff) who give of their time and talent year round to make this fundraiser a community success.

The BRIGHT Run exists to support breast cancer research through which advances in prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care are made.

More than \$6 million has been raised since the first BRIGHT Run in 2008. Every dollar raised by BRIGHT Run participants supports breast cancer research at Hamilton's Juravinski Cancer Centre and McMaster University. This research has the potential to impact the lives of thousands of breast cancer patients; locally in this region and beyond.

BRIGHT Run funding is important because there is enormous competition for research funds across the country. It can be difficult to attain funding for smaller studies that often form the groundwork for larger projects.

Funded BRIGHT Run research projects can be found at <https://brightrun.ca/category/funded-projects/>.

Policy Statement

This Policy outlines the BRIGHT Run's commitment, as an autonomous entity, to ensure funds raised through the BRIGHT Run must support approved local breast cancer research initiatives within Hamilton at Juravinski Cancer Centre and/or McMaster University.

BRIGHT Run proceeds are administered by the Hamilton Health Sciences Foundation (HHSF). Their registered charitable number is 131159543 RR0001.

Applications should demonstrate alignment with the BRIGHT Run's commitment to advancing breast cancer research that improves prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and care.

Applications that consider diverse patient populations, such as younger patients or underrepresented groups, are encouraged.

Granting

The following criteria (elaborated upon throughout this Policy) will guide funding decisions: multidisciplinary collaboration, mentorship and team development, innovation and local impact, commitment to equity and inclusion, and knowledge translation, i.e. clinical trials, basic science and health services.

Funds are granted to Principal Investigators who must either be employees or have an appointment in a department at Hamilton Health Sciences and/or McMaster University. A student or resident/fellow can be a co-applicant; but (is) not eligible to be a Principal Investigator.

Each Principal Investigator may have a maximum of three projects underway, funded through BRIGHT Run, at any given time and each project must engage, at minimum, one junior researcher (within five years of their McMaster appointment)/co-investigator. Applicants are advised to include a statistician and/or research trained methodologist on the team, as well as at least one patient or survivor.

Applications that foster mentorship – particularly those involving teams of early-career and senior investigators working together – will be prioritized.

Preference will be given to projects or research questions that have the potential to fill knowledge gaps, lay the groundwork for future larger studies, or translate directly into improved patient care as it relates to breast cancer.

Range and Duration of Grants

Proposals should have a clear, achievable scope suitable for the BRIGHT Run's funding range and demonstrate thoughtful use of funds.

Funding is available to projects that bring together diverse perspectives from clinical, scientific, psychosocial, and/or community health disciplines and all disciplines conducting research directly related to breast cancer i.e. engineering, genetics, psychosocial support, physical rehabilitation, medical/radiation/surgical oncology, imaging.

Funding will not be considered for publications, equipment, ancillary expenses or staffing unrelated to the funded project(s).

The suggested minimum individual grant amount is \$50,000. The maximum individual grant amount is \$250,000. Projects must be initiated within six months of funding approval, and project grants are to be utilized within three years. Funds will be distributed in equal portions over the term of the grant.

A maximum of two projects can be funded up to the \$250,000 level to any one Principal Investigator at any given time.

Reporting

Principal Investigators must provide results and impacts/outcomes supported by relevant data to Hamilton Health Sciences Foundation (HHSF) annually following standard reporting guidelines and funding conditions.

Review Process

Each January, there is an online call for proposals, made available at <https://www.hamiltonhealth.ca/grants>. The call for applications will close on April 30. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Eligible applications for BRIGHT Run grants go through a rigorous peer review process conducted by the Grants and Distribution Committee, made up of academic and medical professionals from McMaster University and Juravinski Cancer Centre, as well as one lay reviewer. There are also two statisticians on

the committee as well as two ad hoc members who specialize in Artificial Intelligence (AI). Committee co-chairs will approach a “field expert” for specialized knowledge if needed. The committee must include at least one community/patient representative with “lived” breast cancer experience.

A no-cost extension of 12 months will be considered on an exception basis, i.e. in the case of health, personal or family circumstances such as maternity/paternity leave. Requests should be brought to the attention of the Hamilton Health Sciences Foundation for presentation to the Grants and Distribution Committee.

Terms of Funding

Approved projects will receive funds according to HHSF’s stated Grants & Distribution Terms of Funding Agreement. BRIGHT Run will be acknowledged as the project funder in all communications.

Marketing and Public Relations Opportunities

The BRIGHT Run promotes funded projects on its website, eNewsletter and in other marketing materials; at the BRIGHT Run event in September, and at Juravinski Cancer Centre/McMaster University events.

Funded Principal Investigators and their co-investigators will be asked to provide their CV and headshot for placement on the BRIGHT Run website.

Principal Investigators should plan to disseminate results to both academic and community audiences through the marketing/public relations opportunities provided above; and by attending the BRIGHT Run in September where they can engage and informally share their research with participants and patients.

Changes to this Funding Policy

The BRIGHT Run Executive will review this Policy annually and amend as needed. The most current version of this Policy may be found on the BRIGHT Run’s website at <https://brightrun.ca/funded-projects>. For more information, please contact the BRIGHT Run Event chair at info@brightrun.ca.