OMSA/AMS COMPASSION AND TECHNOLOGY MEDICAL STUDENT EDUCATION RESEARCH GRANT (MSERG)

2021 CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The Ontario Medical Students Association (OMSA) is excited to announce the fifth annual Medical Student Education Research Grant (MSERG) Call for Applications in partnership with the AMS Healthcare!

The 2021 MSERG will provide grants valued at $5,000 each to fund nine projects designed by Ontario medical students. This will enable students to conduct research projects in medical education; **six** of these nine awards will be granted in the Compassion and Technology Stream. Of the nine MSERG awards, at least one award will go to a student project from each of the six Ontario medical schools, provided that they meet the eligibility criteria. **Please note that the MSERG is a scholarship for the student. The grant is not intended to fund the project itself, although you are free to do so if you choose.**

Funding for the 2021 OMSA/AMS Compassion and Technology MSERG is generously provided by AMS Healthcare: http://www.amshealthcare.ca.

Please visit the following link to access frequently asked questions about the MSERG: omsa.ca/en/mserg.

Do not hesitate to email omsa.mserg@gmail.com if there are any questions you may have that are not answered in this application package or the FAQ section of our website.

PROGRAM GOALS

OMSA works to support Ontario's medical students. OMSA is the student section of the Ontario Medical Association (OMA), in which all of Ontario's medical students have membership. OMSA creates opportunities to provide organizational and financial support to students across the province to assist with the personal and professional development of Ontario's medical students. More information on OMSA is available at www.omsa.ca.

AMS focuses on healthcare's past and its future. Its work fosters a Canadian healthcare system that advances technologically, while remaining rooted in compassion and a rich understanding of our medical history. They convene networks and fund crucial activities in medical history and in healthcare research, education, leadership and clinical practice. By combining work on the past and the future of healthcare, they ensure that people are always at the centre of Canadian care.

The AMS' Compassionate Care in a Technological World strategic priority focusses on promoting the integration of digital technology and compassionate care in the delivery of healthcare services, education of healthcare professionals as well as facilitating the leadership needed to realize the promise of technology

More information on AMS Healthcare is available at https://www.amshealthcare.ca

In keeping with the goals of these two organizations, the 2021 OMSA/AMS Compassion and Technology MSERG will fund medical students engaged with university faculty to perform research **with a focus on the impact of technology on medical practice, patient care and the education of physicians**.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for funding, all of the following criteria must be met:

Criterion	Remarks
Student affiliation	The applicant must be an undergraduate member (any year) of the Ontario Medical Association (i.e. matriculated to a program leading to the M.D. degree at a medical school in Ontario). **IMPORTANT: Applications are limited to a maximum of TWO co-applicants. Individual application is encouraged, however, two applicants may be included on an application.**
Principal Investigator affiliation	Hold a faculty position with a publicly funded college, university, academic hospital, or other recognized health service organization (e.g. emergency medical services) in Ontario.
Principal Investigator credentials	Hold a health professional degree and/or a Master's/Ph.D. in educational research (or a related and relevant field, such as engineering or psychology).
Nature of project	Research topics focus on **the impact of technology on medical practice, patient care and the education of physicians**
Status of project	Eligible projects include new projects (i.e. not started) and projects in progress (on the condition that findings have not been presented at a conference or published). **Completed research projects are not eligible for this award.**
Funding	The research team is expected to have enough funding available to cover the expected costs of the proposed research project. Confirmation of funding to support the project must be included in the Principal Investigator's letter of support.

Please note that OMSA Executive members and members of the OMSA Education Committee are ***not*** *eligible for the OMSA/AMS grant.*

ETHICAL REVIEW

It is not necessary for projects to be submitted for ethical review prior to application for MSERG funding. However, for a successful proposal requiring ethical review (according to the Principal Investigator's local Research Ethics Board and/or the Tri-Council Policy), the protocol must be approved by a Research Ethics Board (REB) before funds will be released. **Approval MUST be obtained by April 19th, 2021.**

To ensure that your project, if successful, will be funded, we strongly recommend submitting the protocol to your REB early enough to receive approval by April 19th, 2021. This may mean submitting your protocol before we have announced the grant program results.

PEER REVIEW AND SCORING

All applications will undergo a standardized peer-review and scoring process. Applications must be anonymized by the applicant upon submission; however, the Director of Education will also ensure any identifiers have been removed prior to review. **Points may be deducted if applications are not properly de-identified.** The Grant Committee will consist of representatives from the OMSA Education Committee. External OMSA reviewers may also be included in the review process. All applications will be scored and ranked according to the criteria outlined below. Decisions made by the Grant Committee are final and not eligible for appeal.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The MSERG is meant to support high-level education research. Achieving research at this level ensures that the voices of Ontario's medical students will be heard by educators and researchers throughout the province. Research of this level aspires to publication in peer-reviewed journals. To be published in such journals requires the researcher to ask sophisticated questions about medical education research practices. These questions attempt to move beyond outcomes research of single-use innovations by asking questions that press into the nature of what it means to learn medicine, to become a physician, and to practice medicine.

For more information on writing for publication, please see:

Norman, G., & van Berkel, H. Instructions for Authors. *Advances in Health Sciences Education.* **7:** 243-250, 2002 (link)

Durning, S., & Carline, J., eds. *Review Criteria for Research Manuscripts,* 2ⁿᵈ ed. Association of American Medical Colleges, 2015 (link)

Grant applications will be evaluated and scored according to the following criteria:

Criterion	Remarks
Relevance	Clear relevance to the impact of technology on medical practice, patient care and the education of physicians.
Originality	Targets an identified gap in education or knowledge related to the impact of technology.
Potential impact	Potential to lead to the creation of important new knowledge that will make a positive impact on the use of technology in healthcare. The OMSA/AMS Compassionate Care MSERG will target projects that emphasize the technological impact on clinical practice, patient care and medical education.
Objective	The hypothesis, research question, or research goal is clear and of appropriate scope.
Methods	The method is valid for testing the hypothesis or appropriate for answering the research questions. The sample population, sample size, metrics, and analysis methods are appropriate. No preference will be given to qualitative vs. quantitative approaches.
Applicants	The project team includes investigators with qualifications, experience, and expertise in domains relevant to the project. All named team members have a clear role in the project. **The student applicant(s) must demonstrate a clear and substantial role in the project.**
Feasibility	Appropriate human and physical resources are available, the ethical implications are acceptable, there is sufficient funding to support the research, and the timeline is adequate to successfully complete the project. Feasibility to publish/present results in one year from time of completion.
Content	Proper sentence structure, grammar, and punctuation are necessary for reader understanding. The applicant should be able to write in a clear, concise manner and will be scored based on appropriate formatting and adherence to word limits. The applicant should also be sure to properly de-identify their application (not including the CV or letter of support, which should be sent in separate files).

IMPORTANT DATES

12 April 2021	MSERG Application deadline
19 April 2021	Ethics approval deadline (if applicable)
7 May 2021	Decisions made and applicants informed
10 May 2021	Signed funding agreement deadline
01 Jun 2021	Project start date
01 Oct 2021	Final report due

Funds will be released to the successful applicant once the funding agreement has been signed and evidence of approval by an REB (if applicable) is provided to the Grant Committee. Successful applicants who have not submitted proof of REB approval by April 19th, 2021 may have to forfeit funding.

RECIPIENT OBLIGATIONS

Recipients will be required to submit a final report after completion of the project, no later than October 1st 2021. The final report should be no longer than 300 words and of sufficient quality for publication in Scrub-In, the magazine for Ontario's medical students; however, this does not guarantee publication in the magazine. Please include in the final report any abstracts or manuscripts submitted by the grant recipients that pertain to the supported research.

Failure to submit this report will disqualify the investigators from future OMSA funding opportunities until a satisfactory report has been submitted.

Financial support from "The 2021 Ontario Medical Students Association (OMSA) Medical Student Education Research Grant" must be acknowledged in all publications and presentations resulting from this funding.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications must be submitted using the relevant application form.

In addition to this form, applicants must submit:

- A current Curriculum Vitae for the applicant (please limit to three pages and include school affiliation, education/qualifications, research experience, recent grants received, and recent publications, if applicable);
- A letter of support from the Principal Investigator. This letter must include confirmation that sufficient research funds are available to cover the expected cost of the project. The applicant should submit the letter of support with their application (i.e., it should not be sent separately by the PI).

The application form can be found here: **https://forms.gle/Sz2zbeHZ7HgCRvAXA** Please attach all documents to the google form and ensure that all entries are completed appropriately. **Applications are due by 23:30 EST on April 12th, 2021**. Applications submitted past the deadline will not be accepted.

Acknowledgement of receipt will be sent within three business days.

GUIDELINES FOR DE-IDENTIFICATION

To ensure that all applications are judged fairly and equally, we ask that all applications adhere to the following guidelines when completing the "Proposal":

- Remove all full indications of your name, which can be accomplished by searching with "Ctrl+F" on Windows or "Command+F" on Mac (**Example 1**)
- Avoid the use of self-referral for studies from your own research group, especially if citing your own first-author publications (e.g. "our lab) (**Example 2**)
- Remove all references to your school name, the name of the principal investigator and/or co-investigators, and research center associated with the study (**Example 3**)

Example 1. Applicant name is visible in the title

Title:

Impact of augmented reality on procedural skills acquisition in a simulation-based training curriculum for polypectomy: A randomized controlled trial (John Smith)

Example 2. Cited literature and reference to "our lab"

Research design and methods: Word count: 300

This will be a single-blinded, parallel group, randomized controlled trial.

Assessment: All assessment will take place in an integrated scenario, which involve participants completing a colonoscopy procedure on the VR simulator while interacting with a standardized nurse and standardized patient; this model has been based on previous work by our lab at the University of Toronto[6]. All participants will be assessed pre-training, immediately post-training, and 4 to 6 weeks after training. All assessments will be video-recorded and edited, which allows for blinding of participant identity.

Example 3. Reference to both research center and supervisor

Timeline: Word count: 115

Research ethics: Our team has already submitted an application for institutional REB approval at St. Michael's Hospital under the supervision of Dr. Smith. We plan to have full approval for research activities by April 2019.

Data collection: Data collection will take place over 14 months, starting in June 2019 and ending in August 2020.

Blinded video review: Blinded video-based assessment will take place over 3 months, starting in September 2020 and ending in November 2020.

Data analysis: Data analysis will take place over 3 months, starting in December 2020, and ending in February 2021.

Knowledge translation activities: Knowledge translation activities, which include poster/ oral presentations at national and international conferences and manuscript preparation, will take place over 3 months, from March 2021 to May 2021.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF APPLICATION TERMS

My response and signature below confirms that I have accessed and reviewed the entirety of this document and understood the standards and policies for applying for an OMSA/AMS Compassionate Care Award.

I understand that:
- I am not applying to both the OMSA/AMS Compassionate Care Award and OMSA Open MSERG Award with the same project.
- My project meets the above AMS project guidelines as stipulated above in the section titled "Eligibility".
- I will ensure that my project has received ethical approval from the Research Ethics Board (REB) by April 19th, 2021 and I will provide the confirmation to the MSERG committee before this deadline in order to be eligible for this award.
- I have read the section titled "Peer Review and Scoring" and have properly anonymized my application, and in particular my research proposal package (*note: this excludes the letter of support from the Principal Investigator, which does not need to be anonymized*).
- I have attached a letter of support from my Principal Investigator as a separate file in my application package.
- Upon receiving an MSERG award, I will have to complete a final report due no later than October 1st, 2021.
- Upon receiving an MSERG award, I will acknowledge "The 2021 OMSA/AMS Medical Student Education Research Grant" in all publications and presentations resulting from this funding.
- I will send my entire application consisting of this signed contract, my project proposal and a letter of support from my Principal Investigator, no later than 23:30 EST on April 12th, 2021 on the following form: https://forms.gle/Sz2zbeHZ7HgCRvAXA

Full Name: _____   Date: _____

Signature: _____