

Grant attribution rules and guidelines

This document is intended for researchers interested in applying for funding from Ataxia Canada - Claude St-Jean Foundation and contains information on available grants and the application process.



Important Announcement from the Ataxia Canada Foundation

We are excited to announce an annual research theme for this year, 2024-2025!

Since its very beginnings, the Ataxia Canada Foundation has had the mission of supporting research in order to contribute to the development of therapies targeting both the causes and the effects of the different forms of ataxia. The pursuit of this objective is still very much alive and well within the administration and members of the Foundation.

The Ataxia Canada Foundation invites researchers to submit research projects around the following themes:

Adaptation / Rehabilitation / Clinical Research

We are launching this competition this fall and we look forward to discovering innovative proposals that will contribute to improving the quality of life of people living with ataxia. We are prioritizing projects that include a component with a final deliverable intended for patients, caregivers and healthcare professionals affected by ataxia.

Although there is a priority theme, we are willing to evaluate all ataxia research projects as described in the table "General Research Priorities for Ataxia Canada - Claude St-Jean Foundation."

Here are just a few examples of this year's theme:

Adaptation:

Exploring adaptive technologies and tools that assist individuals with ataxia in daily living.
Investigating environmental modifications and their impact on patient independence and safety.

Rehabilitation:

Evaluating the effectiveness of various physical therapy and occupational therapy interventions.
Assessing the long-term benefits of intensive rehabilitation programs on ataxia symptoms

Clinical Research:

Conducting randomized controlled trials to determine the efficacy of new rehabilitation protocols
Exploring the use of wearable technology to monitor and support patients remotely
Measuring the impact of rehabilitation and adaptation strategies on patients' quality of life and functional independence.
Gathering patient and caregiver perspectives to inform future research and clinical practice.

Research funded by Ataxia Canada

Ataxia Canada funds relevant research where ataxia is the primary symptom and is genetic (recessive, dominant or mitochondrial) and progressive in nature. This includes conditions such as Friedreich's ataxia (FA), Beauce's ataxia (SCAR8, ARCA1), spinocerebellar ataxias (SCA), ataxias with oculomotor apraxia (AOA1-4), episodic ataxias and other cerebellar ataxias.

Eligibility

Academic researchers, academic institutions, private research companies, research centers of the health network, qualified persons or collaborative groups formed from these combinations are eligible for funding.

Ataxia Canada only accepts grant applications for which the principal applicant has his research activities in Canada. The Foundation is however willing to evaluate requests grant to researchers working outside of Canada if their research present an immediate potential benefit for people with ataxia.

Ataxia Canada is a small charitable organization, the following particularities should be taken into consideration:

- The research grants awarded are normally for a period of one to two years and between 5 000 \$ and 20 000 \$CDN as total annual budget allocated, although in exceptional circumstances it may be higher.
- The candidates are encouraged to seek co-funding from other organizations. We also encourage pan-Canadian collaborative research.
- Long-term research projects (more than two years) are normally not supported; Ataxia Canada prefers to fund a variety of seed projects and allow researchers to then seek more substantial funding elsewhere. It may be possible to make exception for a continuation of funding for special projects.

The number of research projects funded annually depends on the number and quality of the applications received as well as the annual budget total granted by the Foundation.

In all cases, the projects submitted must clearly explain the expected benefits in terms of therapy development. Projects concerning therapeutic trials or the search for new specific therapeutic routes for one or more forms of ataxia are particularly encouraged.

An yearly report must be submitted to the Board of Directors, including a description of the expenditures. Ataxia Canada also requires a summary presentation for communication to the members through our website and by presentation at the annual general meeting.

Exclusions

It should be noted that Ataxia Canada has decided not to fund research into conditions such as multiple sclerosis, ataxic cerebral palsy, or other conditions in which ataxic symptoms are also present following another underlying condition. Research on ataxia from stroke, head trauma and toxicity are not considered for funding. Also, the Foundation does not fund research on ataxia telangiectasia and ataxia of Charlevoix-Saguenay, because there are Canadian charitable organizations that support these forms of ataxia (Ataxia Telangiectasia Children's Project Canada and Fondation de l'Ataxie Charlevoix-Saguenay).

Application Process

Applicants are invited to submit a full application (application form is available on the Ataxia Canada website). All duly completed research proposals will be analyzed.