



CUASF Research Grant for Female Pelvic Medicine Grant Program

Terms of Reference 2025-2026

Background

Female patients represent 30% of urological patients. Female pelvic floor disorders are extremely common affecting 1 in 4 women, at some point in their lifetime. Urinary incontinence affects up to 50% of all women while 25% and 12% of women will experience fecal incontinence and pelvic organ prolapse, respectively. More than 50% of women will develop urinary tract infections (UTIs), of which 25% will suffer with recurrent UTIs. Although the prevalence is challenging to capture, symptoms of interstitial cystitis/bladder pain syndrome (IC/BPS) may affect 6-11% of women, based on survey studies. In addition, genitourinary syndrome of menopause affects between 27-84% of postmenopausal women. Each of these conditions is known to lead to a profound decrease in quality of life.

The CUA is devoted to supporting research that will enhance our knowledge of topics related to female pelvic medicine.

Key Dates

Application deadline: **March 1, 2026**

Grant review: April-May 2026

Notification Date: CUA Annual Meeting

Study update submitted to CUASF: within 6 months of receipt of the funding.

Objectives and Scope

The objective of the CUASF Female Pelvic Medicine Grant is to support peer-reviewed research that promotes excellence and expands knowledge of urological research related to female pelvic floor disorders and female urological conditions. Research that supports an understanding of the etiology,

natural history, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of female pelvic floor disorders and/or female urological conditions will be considered. Research assessing access to care and healthcare disparities are welcomed. Both basic science and clinical research will be considered for funding.

Grants will be awarded to the successful applicant(s). It is anticipated that up to 1 grant will be awarded in the amount **\$50,000** per year. Amount per grant to be funded is dependent on the requests and the quality of the application.

Eligibility

CUASF will receive, process, and evaluate the submitted proposals. Eligible applicants must fulfill all the following criteria:

- The principal investigator (P.I.) must be a CUA member.
- The principal investigator must be a urologist. If the P.I. is a non-urologist, a urology co-P.I. is mandatory.
- The principal investigator must be a M.D. or Ph.D. trained individual training or practicing in Canada.
- The applicant must be agreeable to execute an Investigator-Initiated Study Agreement with the CUASF
- The applicant is agreeable to provide a progress report and publication plan to the CUASF for dissemination of study results.

Eligible Research Projects

Research proposals must clearly outline how the project relates to female pelvic medicine and/or a female urological condition. Novel research studies/ projects with the most significant impact will be prioritized. The proposal may belong to any of the following categories:

- Clinical, translational, or interventional studies
- Basic science research
- Epidemiology, health outcomes, and quality of life studies
- Care enhancement projects, where the primary focus is to understand the results of healthcare practices and interventions as well as monitor and improve quality of care.

The study should aim for completion within 12-24 months of receipt of funding. The current Grant is not meant to complete funding for larger projects.

Non-eligible Research Proposals

1. Previously funded projects, including industry and government sponsored projects.
2. Projects not related to female pelvic medicine and female urological disorders.
3. Projects concurrently submitted to another CUA funding opportunity.

Review Criteria

The Grant proposals will be reviewed and approved by appointed CUASF grant review members, including a representative from FRUSC. Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Scientific merit
 - a. Rationale
 - b. Originality
2. Methodology
3. Impact
 - a. Contribution to advancement of scientific knowledge or patient care in Female pelvic medicine
4. Feasibility – study design, methodology, analysis, proposed timelines
5. Budget

Rating Scale

Applications will be ranked on a scale of 1 to 10 based on the following:

- Topic in line with grant priorities (0.5)
- Significance of research question or project objective (2)
- Background (1)
- Study design and methodology (3)
- Feasibility (1.5)
- Project risk mitigation strategy (1)
- Research team/ infrastructure (1)

Application Submission Process

The completed application form plus supporting documents are required. The completed application must be submitted electronically to the CUASF office via www.cuasf.org no later than **March 1, 2026**. An email confirmation will be sent following the receipt of your submission.

Guidelines for Applications Format

The following are requirements for preparation of the project proposal.

- 5 pages (not including application form and supporting documentation) but inclusive of references, tables, and figures.
- Font: 12 Times; minimum 2 cm margin
- Avoid condensed/ narrow font sizes or type density.
- Smaller text in tables, charts, figures, and graphs is acceptable if it is legible when the page is viewed at 100%.
- Minimum single line spacing (do not use narrow line spacing)

Suggested Outline:

- 1) Statement of Objectives
- 2) Lay Summary (approx. 250 words)
- 3) Brief review of literature and background information
- 4) Impact of project
- 5) Hypothesis
- 6) Design and Methodology
- 7) Analysis of Data
- 8) Risk mitigation strategy.
- 9) Budget

Required Supporting Documentation

1. REB approval or proof of submission, if required depending on project methodology
2. Letter of support from Department or Division Chair
3. Current curriculum vitae of the P.I. (and co-P.I., if applicable)

Obligations for Award Recipients

1. Presentation of the results of the project at future CUA annual meetings and to submit their work for publications in peer-reviewed journals.
2. Acknowledgment of support from CUASF Female Pelvic Medicine Grant in all presentations and publications
3. Submission of a progress report and a final report by dates determined at the time of the award.

Financial Considerations

The amount of the Grant should include direct costs (labour and study costs) and indirect costs (publications, software license fees, etc.). Grant payment will be made in installments according to milestones of the project.

Inquiries

Canadian Urological Association Scholarship Foundation

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