Overview
The Catalyst Grant competition is a strategic initiative of the Centre for Genetic Medicine. The objective of the competition is to advance innovation of research and discovery in Human Genetics/Genomics through the transformation of novel ideas and aligned to the mission of the Centre. Submissions to this grant competition should only be made for new project ideas and this competition is not intended to support the continuation of a current research project.

Even though long-term goals for the proposed research may extend beyond the means and time-line of the grant, it is anticipated that within one year the results of the catalyst grant projects will enable the investigative research team to develop proposals that are eligible for funding in national or international peer reviewed competitions and be ready to submit for publication.

The expected results should catalyze improved outcomes in Human Genetics/Genomics in the following areas; changing current institutional practice, establishing or influencing new clinical care guidelines and models of care, and enhancing translational knowledge to outcomes to influence therapeutic interventions.

The Centre for Genetic Medicine will fund up to 2 awards of up to $50,000 each for the most promising proposals and adjudicated by a Grant Review Committee. The Centre is not obligated to fund any grants should the reviewers find the applications do not meet the requirements of the competition. Grant Review Committee members are eligible to apply for catalyst grants but will not participate in the adjudication of their own projects.

Eligibility Criteria
Principal applicants must hold a full time, faculty level appointment. Students and fellows without staff appointments may be listed as team members but cannot apply as Principal Applicants. Principle applicants may only submit one application per competition. Only one Principle Applicant and unlimited Co-Applicants can be listed per application. Multi-disciplinary collaborations are encouraged.

Specific criteria for award; i) relevance to the Centre strategy, ii) scientific merit and methodological rigor, iii) potential impact with an identified knowledge translation plan, iv) feasibility (strength of team, budget, timeframe, likelihood of success), v) stated collaborations, vi) expected outcomes to be achieved in year 1, vii) current or future opportunities to leverage funding / probability of future grant awards / matching funds, and viii) potential for commercial application.

Application Format and Submission Guidelines
Application Format: The grant application must be written in Cambria font 12 pt with page margins no smaller than 1” (including top and bottom). The application must be submitted as three separate PDF files: 1.) Application Form; 2.) Research/Project Plan (maximum 5 pages) with clear goals and specific Objectives/Aims, ‘Relevance Statement’ linking to Centre priorities, Background and rationale, methods and expected results, potential impact of project in Human Genetics/Genomics, timeline for deliverables (over a one-year period), budget and budget justification, figures and tables if applicable, description and justification of the team; 3.) Curriculum Vitae for Principal Applicant (maximum 5 pages)

Budget: Applications may request up to $50,000 CAD with justification for each budget category in the research/project plan. The funds may be used to leverage other funds, but not overlap with what is currently funded. Eligible expenses include supplies, project necessitated travel, equipment, salaries (students, research or clinical fellows, research or clinical co-ordinators/associates, technical and professional assistants, statisticians). Ineligible expenses include administration, conference registration fees, travel to conferences, and overhead. Sub-granting to other organizations is not permitted.

Condition of Funding: The principal applicant will be required to submit a Final Report at the end of the project, or at the end of year-1, whichever comes first. The report shall include a summary of the project including methods and findings, and list any applications to granting agencies, or any abstracts or manuscripts submitted (or pending), which resulted from the funding provided by this grant. The principal applicant must acknowledge the Centre’s seed funding in any presentations, invited/submitted posters.

Application Process: Submissions must be made electronically to the attention of Tamar Altschuler at tamar.altschuler@sickkids.ca. Submission deadline is December 31, 2015 with final adjudication and award announcement to take place by February 15, 2016.

Inquiries: Please submit all inquiries to Chris Carew, Centre for Genetic Medicine at chris.carew@sickkids.ca.

References: National Institute of Health, The Hospital for Sick Children - Centre for Global Child Health