

Shastri Covid-19 Pandemic Response Grant: Call for Innovative Solutions

Covid-19 pandemic has brought the world to a standstill. People are staying indoors with a very little to no access to common places as governments across the globe have restricted mobility and movement of people to contain the spread of the virus. It has been realized that the global crisis of such a nature cannot be tackled alone and it is here that the critical and crucial role played by science, technology, research and innovation comes to fore in the global fight against this pandemic. The need to build capacity, a strong network, scientific partnerships and collaborations between the countries is important more than ever, and also the most viable way to leverage on each other's strengths, expertise and knowledge to contain its spread further and recover ailing global economy. Covid - 19 pandemic has presented a public health emergency globally which is calling companies, scientists, engineers, entrepreneurs, startups and global health professionals of the world to join hands and come together to bring about rapid, innovative solutions to arrest its spread, meet challenges that occur along the way and facilitate care to the ones affected.

The Proposal

In an attempt to support global scientific and non-scientific communities towards contributing to find innovative solutions, SICI is proposing 'Covid-19 Pandemic Response Grant'. It intends to call for project proposals to conduct joint (applied) research (virtually) and provide solutions to deal with both the immediate and long-term effects of the global crisis in terms of building new devices, creating new knowledge, development of vaccine, new methods of treatment & diagnosis, and ways of dealing with the socio-economic and psychosocial consequences of the outbreak, so as to address the urgency created by Covid-19. As an objective, this grant also aims to build on the strengths of diverse and interdisciplinary teams of Indian and Canadian member institutions of SICI of two or more researchers to meet the assigned goals.

Objective

To build an opportunity for solutions related to the management of Covid-19, its detection, prevention against transmission & spread, methods and ways to protect people and most importantly, its societal impact. The bi-national teams of faculty, entrepreneurs and innovators from SICI's member institutions from India and Canada with following characteristics are eligible to apply:

- Innovative product or technology beyond the idea stage
- High societal impact
- Significant potential to commercialize within 2-3 years

Proposals must include a minimum of one partner from each country. It is highly recommended that the teams to have a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary group of researchers from STEM, Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. The bi-national teams can include:

- Incorporated companies including start-ups; or
- Non-incorporated entities; or
- Individuals or consortia from academia, government laboratories, non-government R&D institutions

Award Grant

No. Of Grants: Four (04)

Value of award:

INR 20 lakhs each grant is admissible under Covid-19 grant to the bi-national teams from SICI's member institutions in India and Canada.