



MSK Innovation Competition 2024 Proposal Guidelines

The Bone and Joint Institute in partnership with the Morrisette Institute for Entrepreneurship invites London-based entrepreneurs working in the area of musculoskeletal (MSK) health to pitch innovative ideas to a panel of friendly judges. This five-stage competition includes: 1) an innovation workshop, 2) submission of initial proposals, 3) selection of teams, 4) a mentorship program for selected teams and 5) a final pitch event. Sponsored by Western Bone & Joint Institute, this annual event will offer \$30,000 to invest in the most promising commercializable MSK innovation idea.

While the idea should be novel and sound, the competition is for the best pitch – i.e. the presentation that best convinces the panel on the value of the idea and how the \$30,000 award would improve and/or better illustrate the potential and commercial value of the innovative idea itself. In addition to the grand prize, \$5,000 will be awarded to a second team that shows high potential for success.

Objective & Eligibility

What ideas are in scope?

Pitch ideas can be related to any MSK topic and at any stage of development.

Enhancing, supporting and celebrating a culture of entrepreneurship and commercialization among MSK experts is a priority at Western University. This initiative endeavors to cultivate skill sets that enable ideas to be successfully pitched to investors and promote entrepreneurial spirit. The MSK Innovation Competition is open to any London-based entrepreneurial MSK expert (e.g. from academic centres, research institutions, hospitals, startups, etc.). Each team is required to have at least one Western faculty member, but anyone with the entrepreneurial itch can lead an application! Pitches from transdisciplinary teams are encouraged. Pitches from transdisciplinary teams are encouraged. If you need assistance in identifying a faculty member or other key team members, please contact westerns.bji@uwo.ca.

Submit Your Proposal

The proposal will allow the competition organizers and reviewers to determine who the team members are, how novel and sound the innovation idea is, what the target market is, if the team can articulate the value of the idea, and how the \$30,000 award would improve its potential and commercialization.

Proposals will undergo a review process and up to 6 teams will be invited into the mentorship program to prepare for the pitch event. The proposal should clearly articulate the idea and convince the panel that an investment of \$30K would greatly contribute to moving the idea forward.

Proposal should be submitted online at:

http://boneandjoint.uwo.ca/events/MSK_Innovation_Competition.html

by **April 10th at 5:00 pm.**

Incomplete applications will not be forwarded to the committee for review. We encourage you to prepare your proposal using the **worksheet** (*available on the competition website*) and then copy and paste sections into the online form.

The Award

The award is non-renewable. The award provides money to advance the potential and commercial value of an MSK innovative idea, it is not to sustain or augment ongoing projects. Each team must include a nominated applicant to handle administrative aspects of the grant (e.g. correspondence, finances, ethics approvals, etc.). Applicants can be listed on more than one proposal as long as they meet the criteria for applicants.

Criteria for applicants: To be listed as an applicant, individuals must:

- have contributed to the conception and/or design of the proposal;
- have assisted in writing the application and approved the final version;
- agree to share responsibility for carrying out and be accountable for all aspects of the proposed work; and,
- trainees must have obtained permission from her/his supervisor(s) to participate as an applicant.

Ethics, animals & biohazards: All proposals involving ethics (human subjects), animal subjects, or biohazardous materials must be approved by the appropriate Western certification review committee. If awarded, funds will be encumbered and the work may not commence until appropriate approvals are confirmed.

Funding Details: The award will be set up as an “unrestricted research account” through Research Western expected to be accessible by July 1. Alternative payment arrangements will be considered upon request. Applicants are expected to expend the funds in the manner proposed in the original request within 18 months. Final report of expenditures will be requested. Any unspent funds will be returned to BJI.

Reporting: To support the BJI mission of transdisciplinary research, innovation, translation and education, each Nominated Applicant, or designated team member, is required to take part in the BJI Showcase Series (progress update showcase presentation of 10-15 min) at project initiation and project completion. Showcases are typically one hour with 2-3 presenters and they are open to the broad BJI membership. Funds will not be released until these events are pre-scheduled with Shannon Woodhouse at: westerns.bji@uwo.ca. As a final report, the Nominated Applicant will work with BJI’s communication team to produce a news article. Additional project updates will be requested from time to time for Institute Annual Reporting.

Note: Acknowledgment of support from the *Bone and Joint Institute* in presentation or publications should be listed as: “This work was supported by the *Bone and Joint Institute* at Western University”.