**VAST Outreach Initiative Funding**

VAST Outreach Initiative grants provide financial support to VAST co-investigators, research staff, or trainees who wish to conduct knowledge mobilization activities related to vascular and brain health, with the support of or a plan for engagement with a relevant community partner. Outreach activities should be aimed at promoting engagement with under-represented groups interested in STEM and should include a broad or varied range of research outputs.

Eligible activities, projects, or initiatives include:

* Presentations, workshops, hackathons, or symposia with members of the public (e.g., high school students, people with lived experience, health care workers),
* Networking events that build connections between researchers and the public,
* Development and validation of educational aids.

Allowable expenses include:

* Travel expenses (transport, accommodations, registration costs, meals),
* Catering and room bookings for in-person events,
* Salary support for students, patient partners, or staff to contribute time to working on the project – please see [CIHR’s Patient Partner Compensation Guidelines](https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/53261.html)

Applications for funding are accepted on a rolling basis. We especially encourage applications from early career researchers (faculty within 5 years of first appointment) and trainees. Applications include a proposal and justification for the use of funds and a full budget outline (see application guidelines and fillable application below). A report and expense form must be completed after the project for reimbursement. Applications may request up to a maximum amount of $5000. Applications are subject to VAST internal peer review. Funds must be used within 12 months following the notice of award.

Applications for funding will be assessed based on:

* Relevance to vascular contributions to cognitive impairment,
* Impact and value of proposed outreach initiative,
* Planned engagement with a relevant community organization,
* Feasibility of the proposal.

Where possible, we encourage:

* Inclusion of people with lived experience in development and planning,
* Collaboration within the VAST network,
* Consideration of under-represented groups (e.g., those at higher risk for VCI, under-represented groups in STEM research).

Following the project or event, receipts (proof of expenditures) must be submitted for reimbursement, as well as a 250-500 word summary and photo(s) detailing the visit and its impact on your research. Material from the summary report may be used to publish a summary on the VAST blog, or social media accounts.

Applications must be submitted electronically with all attachments in a single PDF file to [vast@ucalgary.ca](mailto:vast@ucalgary.ca).

We encourage applicants to consider also applying for a [SSHRC Connection Grant](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/programs-programmes/connection_grants-subventions_connexion-eng.aspx) and/or a [NRC Outreach Initiative Grant](https://nrc.canada.ca/en/support-technology-innovation/outreach-initiative-grants-contributions-program).

**VAST Outreach Initiative Funding Application**

Applicant Details

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| First name: |  | Last name: |  |
| Email: |  | Institution: |  |
| Role: |  | | |

(Proposed) Community Partner Details

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| First name: |  | Last name: |  |
| Email: |  | Organization: |  |
| Phone #: |  | Role: |  |

Proposal

|  |
| --- |
| Include full details of the project or event. Please explain how the project will advance public knowledge in the area of vascular cognitive impairment (max 500 words). |
| Type here |

Budget

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Include full details of relevant expenses including any travel expenses (transport, accommodations, registration costs, meals), catering, room bookings, support for students, patient partners, or staff, etc. Include any funding sought from other sources, and/or a source of remaining funding if cost is over $5000. | |
| Budget Item | Total Amount (CAD$) |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| Total: |  |