



Interdisciplinary Canadian Collaborative Myalgic Encephalomyelitis
(ICanCME) Research Network

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS:

DIRECTOR, ICanCME Research Network

The ICanCME Community Leadership Team is inviting applications for the position of Director of the Interdisciplinary Canadian Collaborative Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ICanCME) Research Network.

The ICanCME mission is to be the primary resource for initiating, supporting and sustaining innovative and collaborative Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME) research designed to benefit the health of all Canadians living with ME and those at risk of developing ME.

About Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME)

Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME), formerly known as Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS) and often still referred to as ME/CFS, is a devastating, chronic, complex, multi-system illness. ME occurs in children, adolescents and adults of all ages and backgrounds.

There is a growing recognition that ME is a serious disabling disease rooted in dysfunctions that impair energy production, the immune system, the nervous system and more.

The onset of ME is often sudden, but it can also develop gradually, typically following a viral or other type of infection. The SARS-CoV-2 virus (known as COVID-19) is the most recent example of this happening, with as many as 30% of acute COVID cases developing into Long COVID or PASC (post-acute sequelae of COVID-19), and 50% or more of those developing into ME.

About ICanCME

ICanCME is governed by a Community Leadership Team and an International Medical and Scientific Advisory Board. The Community Leadership Team provides strategic direction and leadership to ICanCME. The Community Leadership Team supports and provides guidance and oversight of the development and ongoing operations and financial performance of the Network.



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Some foundational principles of ICanCME:

- *Patient leadership and partnership.* Patient leadership and partnership is where people with lived experience are engaged in all levels of governance and research. Candidates are expected to either have significant experience in meaningful patient partnership or an interest in learning and continuing to champion this tenant.
- *Equity, diversity and inclusion.* A diversity of perspectives and experiences, especially those most affected by structural discrimination, are centered.
- *Collaboration.* Operations, governance and research at ICanCME is carried out in a collaborative way. This collaborative approach includes in partnership with patients, researchers, clinicians, policy-makers, and more.
- *Accountability.* Discussions and decisions are carefully weighted to consider their full potential impact on the broad community (including researchers, clinicians, patients, policy-makers and more). Impact considers how people in the ME community and their loved ones are centered.

There is an urgency to the work of ICanCME given that the ME community has historically been and remains marginalized, neglected, and dismissed. There is a need to be resourceful, and in an academic sense, also innovative and non-traditional, given the scarcity of resources for research in this area and the lack of research done to date.

About the Director Role

Candidates must have a demonstrated track record of leadership and research as well as a background in administration. They will possess administrative leadership experience with particular strengths in the areas of collaboration and communication.

The Director manages the operation of ICanCME. Responsibilities will include:

- Oversee the activities of the Network.
- Support and oversee the role of the Network Coordinator.
- Co-create and implement plans for the Network in collaboration with members of the Community Leadership Team.



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- Co-lead securing funds (as the Nominated Principal Applicant) for the Network in collaboration with the Community Leadership Team.
- Ensure accountability of ICanCME funds, including monitoring the budget against the operational plan and receiving regular budget reports from the Network Coordinator and providing quarterly updates to the Community Leadership Team.
- Participate in the monthly meetings of the NIH Consortium of ME/CFS Centers of Excellence, as stipulated in the agreement between the CIHR and the NIH.
- Be a champion and ally to the ME community in all activities inside and outside of the Network. This includes continuing to learn and unlearn in areas such as infection-associated chronic illnesses, intersectionality, inclusion and accessibility, as well as social and disability justice issues that impact individual health and community research, etc.

Candidates must hold an academic appointment at the rank of Assistant Professor or Associate Professor at a Canadian institution. They will be appointed for a period of **three years** (the remainder of the current grant term), with the possibility of renewal for additional term(s). The Director will not receive honoraria or other financial compensation. The Director will be reimbursed for appropriate Network related-expenses.

Applicants are asked to submit a letter of application, a Curriculum Vitae, and two letters of reference. The letter of application must include a statement of interest, relevant experience, and expertise as they relate to ICanCME's mission, and previous participation in ICanCME activities (if applicable). All documents should be sent directly to the Network Coordinator at info@icancme.ca.

Review of applications will begin on **Friday, July 10, 2026**.

Anticipated start date is **Monday, September 14, 2026**.