**Azrieli Accelerator**
*Transforming Neurodevelopment Research Across the Lifespan*

# Catalyst Grant Competition
## Applications due by December 1, 2022
Contact azrieli.accelerator@ucalgary.ca for more information

## About the Azrieli Accelerator
The Azrieli Accelerator at the University of Calgary cultivates and launches research that can transform neurodevelopment research across the lifespan. Our framework supports research that spans fundamental neuroscience to intervention and systems change, in the fields of neurodevelopment, neurodevelopmental conditions, and neurodiversity. Established in January 2022 in the Office of the Vice-President (Research), the Azrieli Accelerator seeks to strengthen transdisciplinary, multi-disciplinary collaborations across campus and launch big and bold research in the areas of neurodevelopment, neurodevelopmental conditions, and neurodiversity as it relates to all stages across the life course. We aim to strengthen connections across campus within the scientific community working in these areas, and also with the community our research serves - neurodivergent individuals of all ages and their families.

## About the Catalyst Grant Competition
This first catalyst grant competition is open to all UCalgary faculty members. We welcome applications that will catalyze new collaborative research related to neurodevelopment, neurodevelopmental conditions, and neurodiversity. Proposals submitted should articulate plans for how this funding will increase the applicant's (or, team's) competitiveness for larger scale external funding opportunities and including plans for knowledge translation and/or knowledge engagement.

**The funding pool**: Six grants up to $50,000 each

**Duration of award**: 1 year (with extension possible)

**Use of funds**: Eligible expenses include any aspect of the project (e.g., data collection, animal costs, participant fees), although a portion is expected to be spent on the salary for a person dedicated to catalyzing the research project (e.g., postdoc, grad student, research associate, etc.). All expenses must be justified.

**Proposal Criteria:** The Azrieli Accelerator Catalyst Awards are designed to initiate and catalyze research teams and projects to increase competitiveness for larger scale external funding opportunities. We encourage proposals submitted by interdisciplinary teams pursuing new research directions.

**The Team:** Please list team members as one of the following: Nominated Principal Applicant (only one), Principal Applicant, Co-Applicant, or Collaborator
- Teams must include at least two Principal Applicants and/or Co-Applicants
- Funds will be held by the Nominated Principal Applicant, who must be a UCalgary faculty member.
- Involvement of early career researchers and senior research trainees is encouraged.
- A researcher can only be listed as Nominated Principal Applicant or Principal Applicant on one Azrieli Accelerator Catalyst Grant application

- Proposals should outline contributions of each team member, including a description of relevant expertise.
- Proposals should consider equity, diversity and inclusion principles in the context of the research team as well as the proposed research activities.
- *If applicable:* Team members (both internal and external to UCalgary) may provide matching fund contributions (cash or in-kind) to increase the value of the award.

**Use of Funds:** In this first catalyst grant competition, we hope to receive a broad range of proposals that illustrate the breadth of research and creativity from across the UCalgary community working in the fields of neurodevelopment, neurodevelopmental conditions, and neurodiversity. Without being too prescriptive about the kinds of proposals we will fund, we outline examples of eligible use of funds here:
- Generating critical preliminary data: e.g., pilot lab tests and experiments, access to key data sources, survey development and generation, evidence review
  - This may include sex and gender-based analyses of new and/or existing data
- Capacity building: e.g., trainees and highly qualified research personnel to obtain preliminary data or develop research tools
- Team coordination and development: e.g., personnel to bring researchers and stakeholders together and synthesize information
- Creation of career advancement or leadership opportunities for researchers in the field of neurodevelopment, neurodiversity, neurodevelopmental disabilities, and/or trainees, care providers, and other stakeholders (utilizing EDI principles)
- Education and training: e.g., workshops and courses for new investigators, trainees, staff, and other stakeholders
- Team grant and program development: e.g., writing support
- Developing partnership with other strategies, including UCalgary's Indigenous Strategy: e.g., consultation and use of resources developed and managed through other strategies
- Fostering community partnerships: e.g., knowledge translation and exchange, compensation for front-line service provider and agency time spent on research
- Minor equipment and technology enhancements

**Expected Outcomes:** Catalyst awards are designed to ready teams for a future program proposal to grant funding opportunities through local, provincial, national, or international funding agencies and partners. Projects should also identify the groups who will apply the knowledge generated by this work. For example – will the results be applied by other researchers in this field? By community agencies? others?

**Adjudication:** Azrieli Accelerator staff will coordinate the review process and conduct an initial eligibility review with leadership. Full award applications will then be evaluated by reviewers with a broad range of expertise from across UCalgary who do not have any conflict of interest with applicants.

Proposals will be judged based on the following criteria:
- Scientific merit (**50%**): Impact of hypothesis, overall interest to the field, relevance to Azrieli Accelerator mandate, methods/approaches, feasibility
- The team (**25%**): complementary expertise, description of interdisciplinary collaboration

- The long-term objective (**25%**): need to catalyze the project, potential impact, sustainability; plans for future funding applications, expected outcomes
- Note: reviewer comments will <u>not</u> be provided but overall scores can be available upon request

**Instructions**: To apply, please submit a single .pdf file that includes the following to azrieli.accelerator@ucalgary.ca by 5pm on December 1, 2022:

## Section 1. Research Proposal (3 pages max)

- *Figures, charts, tables, etc. are included in the 3 pages max. Please use Arial 11pt font or Times New Roman 12pt font and set page margins to 0.5 in/1.27cm on all sides.*
- **A. Background**: brief overview of relevant background and/or rationale of the proposed research
- **B. Research Aims**: Indicate the broad goal(s) and specific research aims of the proposed research
- **C. Methods/Approaches/Timeline**: Provide brief overview of methodology that will be used to address each of the research aims
- **D. Significance/Outcomes:** Describe the expected *near-term* expected outcomes of the proposed research, highlighting the significance and how it advances neurodevelopment and/or neurodevelopmental disabilities research and/or neurodiversity. Define the deliverables expected that will be enabled by this grant. Describe the *long-term* objectives of the overall project as the ultimate goal for the newly catalyzed project (e.g., external funding, larger community engagement, etc) and identify who/which groups will apply and translate the knowledge (for example: researchers, clinicians, community groups, etc).
- **E. References** (unlimited pages) included as an appendix

## Section 2. Budget (1-page max)

- Provide a justification for use of funds, including descriptions of the staff required to complete the project (already part of the team or to be hired are both acceptable)

## Section 3. Description of the team (1-page max)

## Section 4: CVs for each applicant (5 page max per applicant)

*The Azrieli Accelerator Catalyst Grant Competition will be shared broadly with our partners in Faculties, Institutes and Centres from across UCalgary. If you have any questions, please reach out to: azrieli.accelerator@ucalgary.ca.*

**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY**
Azrieli Accelerator