

Call for Abstracts to Compete

Submission Deadline: July 24, 2019 (11:59 PM MDT)

The Challenge

The W21C Innovation Academy is a biennial fast-paced scientific and business pitch competition taking place this year on **October 30, 2019** at the **University of Calgary's MacEwan Ballroom (402 Collegiate Blvd NW, Calgary, AB)**.

We are seeking abstract submissions for novel biomedical and social innovations, in any stage of development that seek to change health care and health systems delivery.

Submit an abstract to apply to compete in the W21C Innovation Academy today! Winners of this exciting event gain **prizes to support the development of their innovation, and opportunities for local, national, and international exposure.**

W21C Research and Innovation Centre and Innovation Academy Background

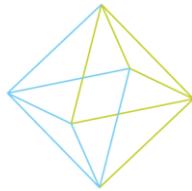
The [W21C](#) Research and Innovation Centre is based in the University of Calgary's O'Brien Institute for Public Health and Alberta Health Services, the provincial health authority. W21C is a beta test site for new biomedical technologies, exemplary hospital design, novel approaches to health care delivery, and human factors research. With our 'Living Laboratory' (the only one of its kind in Canada) located in Foothills Medical Centre, Calgary, Alberta, we are able to identify challenges directly in the health system, and solve problems right at the frontlines of patient care. W21C's primary aim is to *Make Care Better* through research focused on improving patient safety and the quality of health systems delivery.

The W21C Innovation Academy competition is part of an international innovation platform with sites currently in Switzerland, Hong Kong, United Kingdom, and Canada (Toronto and Calgary). The primary goal of this competition is to provide a platform for participants to showcase novel and creative strategies with potential to stimulate significant change in health care and health systems delivery. Throughout 2019, each of the partner sites will host independent Innovation Academies. The winners from each of these events will move on to compete against each other at the [2020 Global Healthcare Innovation Academy](#), taking place June 22-23, 2020 in Toronto.

Competition Streams

Submissions for this competition need to align with one of these competition streams, defined below. Clinical research may fall in either category depending on the nature of the study.

- **Biomedical Innovation:** The process of transforming scientific discoveries into novel therapies, better prognostics/diagnostics, vaccines, or devices that will improve patients' lives; this may include, but is not limited to, drugs, screening techniques, therapies, and devices.



- **Social Innovation:** A new approach for improving health that is more effective, efficient, equitable, or sustainable than current approaches; this may include, but is not limited to, improved access to care, policy development, health services delivery, interventions to advance the social determinants of health, or economic analysis.

Eligibility

Anyone can apply – we welcome all applications for either competition stream:

- If you have competed in a previous W21C Innovation Academy and did not receive an award, you are welcome to apply again for the 2019 competition, provided there have been significant enhancements to your entry.
- If you have previously competed in the W21C Innovation Academy and have been awarded funding, you are still eligible for this competition, but only for a distinctly new project.

Abstract Submission Guidelines and Notification of Acceptance

Deadline for submission is **July 24, 2019 - 11:59 PM (MDT)**.

- Individuals or teams must apply to one of the two competition streams (biomedical or social).
- Abstracts **must pertain to the scientific evidence behind your innovation only**. Submissions must include:
 - A brief description of your innovation (100 words).
 - The overarching health problem and patient/health provider population your innovation is targeting (100 words).
 - Scientific principles and evidence pertaining to your innovation (350 words).
 - A description of what makes your innovation unique compared to similar biomedical or social innovations (100 words).
 - A brief summary of how your innovation aligns with the overarching goal of the W21C Innovation Academy (100 words).
- Abstracts must be submitted through our online form, located at: w21cinnovationacademy.com.
- Abstracts will be blinded and reviewed by an external scientific committee. Only eight innovations (four in each competition stream) will be selected by the committee to compete in the Innovation Academy.
- Successful applicants will be notified by **August 7, 2019** and will move on to create a short scientific promotional video for their innovation (due **September 23, 2019**), and present a business pitch at the W21C Innovation Academy event on **October 30, 2019**.
- Applicants will be judged on the following four components:
 - Potential impact to patient care/healthcare delivery improvement
 - Scientific excellence
 - Novelty of innovation



- Alignment with the spirit of the competition (i.e., to present novel and creative strategies with potential to stimulate significant change related to innovations in health care and health systems delivery).

****Please note:*** All submitted abstract content will remain confidential with the planning and the abstract review committee. Successful abstracts will be published on the event website and in the event program.

The W21C Innovation Academy is a public event. Please apply at your own discretion if you have concerns around presenting the intellectual property of an innovation that has not been protected yet.

Competitor Requirements and the “Pitch”

If your abstract is selected, you are expected to:

- Prepare a 45-second scientific video about your innovation. This video must be easy to understand for a lay audience, and will be shared socially and on the W21C Innovation Academy website before the competition. Videos are due on **September 23, 2019**.
- A designated representative from your team is expected to be in attendance for the full day on **October 30, 2019**, and deliver an eight-minute business pitch. This will be followed by five minutes of questions from the jury.

Prizes

Prize categories include the following:

- First and second place prize for biomedical innovations
- First place prize social innovation
- Most Promising Idea (Jury Award)
- People’s Choice Award (Audience Award)

Prizes will be a combination of grants-in-aid and in-kind services to enhance your innovation and business case. Winners of the biomedical and social innovation prizes are expected to use them to further develop their innovation, and to support the presentation of their ideas at the Global Healthcare Innovation Academy, to take place June 22-23, 2020 in Toronto, Ontario.

Contact Us

For questions regarding the abstract submission process, or for general information about the W21C Innovation Academy, please contact us at w21c@ucalgary.ca. Information can also be found on the website: w21cinnovationacademy.com.