



# DR ANDREW R BELCH MEET GRANT FOR YOUNG MYELOMA INVESTIGATORS

In recognition of Dr Andrew Belch's outstanding lifetime achievements and mentoring of young researchers in the field of multiple myeloma, Myeloma Canada, under the vision of our co-founder Aldo Del Col, established the *Dr Andrew R Belch Myeloma Education and Enriched Training (MEET) Grant* program for young myeloma investigators in 2019.

Dr Belch, now retired, has been a driving force in myeloma clinical research, providing Canadian myeloma patients access to novel agents through clinical trials years before they were made readily available. Dr Belch has been an active supporter of Myeloma Canada, including having served as Chair of the Myeloma Canada Scientific Advisory Board.

MEET grants are intended to support recipients' conference registration/participation fees, travel costs, and *per diem* (lodging, meals, incidental) expenses.

## MEET GRANT OBJECTIVE

To foster the development and participation of qualified young Canadian myeloma investigators at medical/scientific meetings or conferences.

## 2024 MEET GRANTS

Myeloma Canada will make six (6) MEET grants available, each in the amount of CDN \$ 4,000.

Based on the number and quality of applications received, a maximum of four (4) MEET grants may be awarded in Q1-Q2, 2024. The balance of available MEET grants will be awarded in Q3-Q4 2024.

## ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for consideration of a MEET Grant, applicants must be 35 years of age or younger during the year of application and either be;

- enrolled in a hematology, myeloma residency, PhD, MD, or fellowship program\*;
- affiliated with a Canadian university or cancer research lab.

*\*Applicants enrolled in programs outside Canada must submit a research project that is affiliated and conducted with at least one myeloma specialist practicing in Canada.*

## APPLICATION PROCESS

To apply, eligible applicants must:

- submit an abstract to a medical/scientific meeting or conference that is clinically directed or relevant for myeloma patients;
- be the primary author on the submitted abstract and be selected for an oral or poster presentation;
- email a completed [MEET Grant Application Form](#) to Myeloma Canada at [andrewbelchgrant@myeloma.ca](mailto:andrewbelchgrant@myeloma.ca) along with the following supporting documents:
  - curriculum vitae (CV) with the applicant's current position, institution, degrees, and affiliations;
  - copy of the submitted/approved abstract;
  - proof that the abstract was selected for an oral or poster presentation (*when available*).

Applicants may apply for multiple MEET grants for multiple projects; however, only one MEET Grant will be awarded per applicant. MEET grants cannot be deferred and are non-transferable.



## APPLICATION DEADLINES

Applications must be submitted at least 30 days prior to the meeting/conference where the accepted abstract is scheduled to be presented. Grant applications received prior to abstract acceptance will be considered incomplete until proof of abstract acceptance is provided to Myeloma Canada.

## EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS

Applications will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Novelty of the research concept and strategy
- Overall plan for bringing the research findings to clinical application
- Degree of alignment with Myeloma Canada's principles for funding research projects. The research should:
  - have a direct impact on improving patient quality of life and/or survival;
  - have a direct impact on increasing patient access to new therapies, new treatment combinations, or improved treatment administration;
  - contribute to the improvement of healthcare delivery for patients with myeloma and/or related plasma cell disorders.

Applications with abstracts accepted at one of the following major conferences are considered favourable:

- American Society of Clinical Oncology Annual Meeting (May 31-June 4, 2024)
- European Hematology Association 2024 Hybrid Congress (June 13-16, 2024)
- 21<sup>st</sup> International Myeloma Society Annual Meeting (September 25-28, 2024)
- 66<sup>th</sup> American Society of Hematology Annual Meeting and Exposition (December 7-10, 2024)

## APPLICATION SELECTION PROCESS

MEET Grant recipients will be selected by Myeloma Canada in collaboration with the Myeloma Canada Board of Directors Research Committee. Any member of Myeloma Canada or the Myeloma Canada Board of Directors Research Committee directly linked to an applicant will not be involved in the MEET Grant selection process.

Myeloma Canada will notify all applicants of MEET Grant decisions at least 14 days prior to the meeting/conference where the accepted abstract is scheduled to be presented.

## TERMS & CONDITIONS

Myeloma Canada reserves the right to publicize and report on MEET Grant recipients and their abstract on Myeloma Canada's websites and social media platforms, within Myeloma Canada publications (i.e., Myeloma Matters email newsletter, Year in Review, Impact Report), news and media releases, and in any other general public announcement. MEET Grant recipients must agree to:

- cite support from Myeloma Canada in any publication resulting from the research conducted during the grant period;
- collaborate with Myeloma Canada on public marketing and communication initiatives.

## QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions or require additional information regarding the *Dr Andrew R Belch MEET Grant* program, please contact Gabriele Colasurdo, Myeloma Canada's Director of Science and Research, at [gcolasurdo@myeloma.ca](mailto:gcolasurdo@myeloma.ca).