

Call for Applications

CANADA EXCELLENCE RESEARCH CHAIR (CERC) ON HIGHLY PATHOGENIC EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Posting date; April 5, 2022

Université Laval is one of the largest universities in Canada and is the oldest French-language institution of higher learning in America, and one of the oldest university in Canada. For many years, Université Laval has been recognized worldwide for its expertise in infectious diseases research. This recognition, established over the years, is the result of the prioritization of infectious diseases as a major field of research by Université Laval, the vision of great builders/researchers, the recruitment of high-quality researchers as well as the development of essential infrastructures for their work. The CERC holder will join a group of highly successful basic and clinical researchers in the Faculty of Medicine, Department of Microbiology-Infectiology and Immunology and will conduct his/her research in the Infectious and Immune Diseases Division of the CHU de Quebec Research Center, the largest francophone research center in North America.

We are seeking applications from world-renowned scientists with a PhD or MD degree (or equivalent) whose achievements have had a major societal impact in their field and who is recognized worldwide as a leader in the field of infectious diseases research . The successful candidate will have access to state-of-the-art facilities including CL2/3 animal facilities and laboratories, a clinical research unit, tissue engineering, analytical and medicinal chemistry, cytometry, imaging, “omics” facilities at the Centre de Recherche du CHU de Québec, a dynamic working environment where collaborations between investigators working in epidemiology, genomics, bioinformatics, virology, and microbiology are encouraged.

The person selected by the Nomination Committee must successfully pass an internal selection at Université Laval as well as the national selection as part of the [Canada Excellence Research Chair competition](#). For more information on the program and eligibility criteria, please visit the [Canada Excellence Research Chair website](#).

The successful candidate will receive:

- a full professor position;
- \$8 million over 8 years (\$1 million/year) in funding from the CERC Program;
- an allocation of \$800,000 from the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) to equip his/her laboratory (\$2M worth of equipment);
- competitive and attractive start-up funds
- Pension plan

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Statement

Valuing equity, diversity and excellence, Université Laval is strongly committed to provide an inclusive work and living environment for all its employees. For Université Laval, diversity is a source of wealth, and we encourage qualified individuals of all origins, sexes, sexual orientations, gender identities or expressions, as well as persons with disabilities, to apply.

Université Laval also subscribes to an equal access to employment program for women, members of visible or ethnic minorities, Aboriginal persons and persons with disabilities. Adaptation of the selection tools can be offered to persons with disabilities according to their needs and in complete confidentiality.

By choosing Université Laval, you will benefit from the following integration measures:

- welcome days for new professors
- peer mentoring
- free French courses for you and the spouse
- support for settling in Quebec City and job search assistance for your spouse,
- for professors from abroad a tax exemption (under certain conditions)

Career Interruption and Special Circumstances

Université Laval acknowledges that career interruption and special circumstances (e.g., maternity or parental leave, leave for prolonged illness, clinical training, care for a family member, the COVID-19 pandemic) as well as a disability may have an effect on productivity and contributions in research. Applicants are invited to explain, as appropriate, these effects so that they are taken into account in the assessment of their applications.

Accommodation

In complete confidentiality, accommodation can be offered to people with disabilities according to their needs in this competition, including accessibility. If you need accommodation, we invite you to contact the equity officer using contact information below.

Patricia Neitthoffer

Equity Officer

patricia.neitthoffer@edi.ulaval.ca

Job Description

The successful candidate is expected to establish an active research program in the field of highly pathogenic emerging infectious diseases that requires research in Containment Level 3 (CL3) facility. Laval University is also actively planning to build an academic CL4 infrastructure to better prepare for the next pandemics. The selected candidate will work collaboratively with an expert team of basic scientists and clinicians carrying work in pathogenesis-immunology-vaccines-treatments-clinical trials of dangerous pathogens. The chair-holder will be expected to create links with industrial partners, as well as governmental and non-governmental organizations, to accelerate translation of research results into

improved health outcomes, ensuring equitable access to the knowledge produced and to the social and health benefits that will flow from that knowledge.

Requirements

Applicants must meet the [CERC eligibility requirements](#). They must be full professors or associate professors who are close to obtaining tenure. Applicants from outside academia must have the necessary qualifications to be nominated as full professors.

The full application package must be sent to vdres@fmed.ulaval.ca and include:

- Cover letter (1-2 pages)
- Curriculum vitae (max. 50 pages)
- Career Interruption and Special Circumstances (1 page-if needed)
- Research plan (5 pages)
- Training and collaboration philosophy (1-2 pages)
- Names of three references
- the [UL self-identification form](#) (in French only)

Competition Stages and Evaluation Criteria

1. Competition Stages and Submission Deadlines

Full application deadline	May 15 2022
Interview	May 20-25, 2022
Results announcement	May 30, 2022
Application deadline at VPR Office	June 13, 2022
Final results announcement	End of June 2022
Full application deadline at CERC Program	October 13, 2022
CERC Program results announcement	Spring 2023

2. Evaluation #1

A Nomination Committee selects one application based on the following criteria and sub-criteria:

1) Academic and Training record

The applicant must have demonstrated an outstanding record of research achievements that have had a major societal impact in the field of infectious diseases including publications in major scientific journals and of training and supervising highly qualified personnel.

2) Experience in multidisciplinary research and leadership skills

Proven leadership skills in leading and being part of successful multidisciplinary research team while championing equity, diversity and inclusion.

3) Proven expertise with research with highly pathogenic emerging infectious diseases. Must have expertise in working in Containment Level 3 facilities in the field of vaccine generation/testing, pathogenesis, prophylactic and therapeutic options against risk group 3 and/or 4 pathogens.

4) Research proposal and potential for internal interactions and external collaborations. The candidate must presents the research program he/she intends to pursue and indicate possible collaborations with researchers from Laval University and international collaborators.

The Nomination Committee is composed of five professors from the faculty of medicine specialized in the field of infectious diseases. In addition, an equity officer will take part in the committee meetings to ensure the conformity of the evaluation process. All committee members receive clear instructions on their role, the expected definition of excellence as well as on the impact of career interruptions and special circumstances in the evaluation of applications. Members must also complete unconscious bias training in peer review.

3. Evaluation #2 at Vice-President Research (VPR) Office

The application of the selected candidate will be sent to the VPR Office for a final internal selection according to the [selection criteria of the CERC Program](#).

Starting Date: up to 12 months following CERC Program results announcement in Spring 2023.

Contacts

Dr. Louis Flamand
Chair of the selection Committee
Email: louis.flamand@crchudequebec.ulaval.ca

Application call process

The CERC recruitment uses a two staged process where interested applicants must first apply to the open job posting at the University. The successful applicant from that first stage enters the second stage, where they will co-develop an application with the University to the federal government funding program. Université Laval will provide substantial institutional support in the preparation and development of the application. Appointment as a CERC holder is contingent upon the applicant being awarded a Canada Excellence Research Chair by the Tri-agency Institutional Programs Secretariat.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION: Candidates must be available between May 20 and May 25, 2022 for a possible interview.

Questions related to EDI principles

Patricia Neitthoffer

Equity Officer

EDI Office

Vice-rectorate for equity, diversity, inclusion, and human resources

patricia.neitthoffer@edi.ulaval.ca