CALL FOR PARTICIPATION
REGROUPEMENT 8- HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS

CONTEXT

With the support of the Canada First Research Excellence Fund to develop Robust, Reasoning and Responsible Artificial Intelligence (AI) (R³AI), IVADO has established 10 Regroupements, whose function is to deploy and implement cross-sectoral scientific programming in selected domains to achieve the R³AI vision.

Each Regroupement must hold an external call for proposals to fund innovative projects that complement their research program. The Regroupement 8 – Healthcare Systems research program seeks to develop and implement multimodal foundation models within the Quebec healthcare system to bridge the gap between fundamental AI research and its practical application in the healthcare system. To that end, this call for participation seeks to fund research projects involving the development or integration of artificial intelligence tools applied to healthcare in the following areas: therapeutic care, management, health promotion and surveillance, and One Health.

FUNDING

The maximum amount allocated per project is $25,000, of which a minimum of 80% must be allocated to salaries (research professionals, students, or postdocs). This amount is non-renewable and must be spent before March 31, 2027.

OBJECTIVES

This call aims to identify projects that will enrich or complement the R8 research program through contributions in the following areas:

- **Technical** : Integration of new models, development of connectors to existing models, etc.
- **Organisational :** Governance (e.g., policies, procedures, guidelines, templates), evaluation (e.g., criteria, guidelines, templates).

All other relevant contributions will be considered.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The main investigator must:

- Be a professor at a university in Québec
- Not have become a member of R8 before January 1, 2025
- Be sponsored by a R8 Investigator *(see Appendix 1).

Please note that R8 investigators must be listed as collaborators in the application. Each R8 researcher may sponsor up to two proposals. Each sponsor will assign a priority order for the evaluation of the proposals they sponsor.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

- Complementarity and alignment with the R8 research program.
- Diversity in relation to projects currently in the R8 portfolio (see Appendix 2).

IMPORTANT DATES

- Submission deadline : March 31, 2026 11:59 PM
- Call results : May 1, 2026
- Start of projects: as soon as possible
- End of projects and funding : March 31, 2027

APPLICATION

All applications must include the following elements:

- **Document 1:** Description of the research project (max. 2 pages: context, objectives, methodology, alignment of objectives with R8's programming, team composition, budget justification, anticipated benefits, timeline, DEI considerations)
- **Document 2:** Identification of the R8 member sponsoring the project and description of alignment with the R8 program, clearly identifying the contribution (e.g., technical, governance, implementation, other) (max ½ page).
- **Document 3:** CV of the principal investigator.

All applications must be sent by email to Audrée Janelle-Montcalm (audree.janelle.montcalm@umontreal.ca) by March 31, 2026 11:59 PM.

CONTACT

If you have any questions regarding this call for participation, please contact Audrée Janelle-Montcalm, Research Support Advisor for R8, by email: audree.janelle.montcalm@umontreal.ca.

APPENDIX 1- R8 INVESTIGATORS WHO CAN ACT AS SPONSORS

Name	Affiliation
Aubin, Carl-Éric	Polytechnique, CHU Sainte-Justine
Avram, Robert	UdeM, Institut de cardiologie de Montréal
Bzdok, Danilo	McGill
Chassé, Michaël	UdeM, CRCHUM
Cohen-Adad, Julien	Polytechnique, CHU Sainte-Justine
Després, Philippe	ULaval
Dumas, Guillaume	UdeM, CHU Sainte-Justine
Gagné, Christian	ULaval
Hussin, Julie	UdeM, Institut de cardiologie de Montréal
Lahrichi, Nadia	Polytechnique
Legault, Marc-André	UdeM, CHU Sainte-Justine
Longo, Cristina	UdeM, CHU Sainte-Justine
Manem, Venkata	ULaval, CHU de Québec
Moodie, Erica	McGill
Motulsky, Aude	UdeM, CRCHUM
Nasri, Bouchra	UdeM
Nikiema, Jean Noel	UdeM
Osmanlliu, Esli	McGill, CUSM
Rahimi, Samira	McGill, Lady Davis Institute
Régis, Catherine	UdeM
Rousseau, Louis-Martin	Polytechnique
Ruiz, Angel	ULaval
Schnitzer, Mireille	UdeM
Tang, An	UdeM, CRCHUM
Valdes Donoso, Pablo	UdeM

Appendix 2- Projects funded by R8

Principal Investigator	Project title
Venkata Manem	Building Equitable AI Systems: Developing Scalable AI Models to Bridge Racial Disparities in Cancer Care
Samira Rahimi	CARDIA: Cardiovascular Risk Detection among Women
Robert Avram	CardioGPT : Multimodal generative AI for precision cardiology
Julien Cohen-Adad	Transforming Multiple Sclerosis Lesion Monitoring Through AI-Driven Segmentation
Philippe Després	Multimodal foundation models: use case for lung cancer screening
Guillaume Dumas	Multimodal Timeseries Foundational Models with Federated Learning (FedFoMo)
An Tang	Foundational models for opportunistic screening of metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease and steatohepatitis
Jean Noël Nikiema	From named entity recognition to full content representation as knowledge graphs
Michaël Chassé	Project COMPASS
Pablo Valdés Donoso	Using AI to help detect difficult-to-diagnose diseases in companion animals
Nadia Lahrichi	Care trajectory prediction