



VSRN
Vision Sciences
Research Network

FUNDING for RESEARCHERS

COMMON INFRASTRUCTURE

2026-2027 Competition

FIRST APPLICATION – NEW INFRASTRUCTURE

INSTRUCTIONS

Deadline for submission:

November 23, 2026

Goal

The goal of the Common Infrastructures program is to provide resources and tools for researchers of the Vision Sciences Research Network (VSRN) that they could not otherwise afford, in an effort to promote vision research in Quebec.

Impact of the program

The VSRN common infrastructures (IF) have become essential to several laboratories of the Network. Their impact is undeniable in terms of number and quality of scientific articles published in peer-reviewed journals, presentations at provincial, national and international conferences, and research funds. Research based on the use of these infrastructures has, on several occasions, strategically influence knowledge transfer and implementation of new practices. For instance, the VSRN Database Visual Impairment & Rehabilitation has notably influenced policy for low vision care in Quebec. The Common Infrastructures program is by far considered as being the most useful and most efficient of the VSRN programs and we intend for it to remain so.

Eligible infrastructures

The types of infrastructures currently allowed to renew are listed below (**see Appendix 1**).

For funding of other types of infrastructure, please consult with the executive committee of the Network:

- Cell, tissue or other biological material database
- Genetic databases
- Clinical databases
- Registries
- Common technical platforms
- Tools to measure visual function (development and validation of questionnaires, etc.)

Equipment, even for multiple users, is not typically the type of infrastructure supported by the Network. An exception could be made for the maintenance and/or development of an apparatus to be used by a very large number of researchers, members of the Network. This program does not cover user fees (usually covered by operating grants).

The Network will **not fund an IF that will benefit only a small group of researchers or a single team**. The IF must benefit several researchers from several teams, and ideally from several institutions to be supported by the Network. The IF must be readily available to all Network members upon request.

Ethics

In the case of a clinical registry, clinical database, genetic material, or tissue bank, the endorsement by the Ethics committee of the institution responsible for the bank or the registry is a mandatory prerequisite to any access and/or use of this data bank or registry.

Evaluation Criteria

Funding applications for IF support will be evaluated based on performance criteria similar to those established by the FRQS for the evaluation of its Thematic Networks. These criteria are outlined at the top of each section of this form, as well as in the VSRN Scientific Report form. Applications will also be evaluated based on their cross-sectoral nature. If funded, the "Leverage Effect" (Section 6 of the renewal form) will represent a significant portion of your IF's evaluation. This criterion will allow us to assess your IF's effectiveness in ensuring a certain degree of sustainability in the medium and long term.

Amount and duration of grants

The financial support of an IF is granted for one year. The maximum budget for an IF is **\$ 30,000**. Occasionally, on demonstration of a particularly high performance, this amount may rise. In any cases, the amount will depend on the availability of funds. Funding is renewable upon completion of a renewal application. Funding is renewable upon completion of a renewal application. If the infrastructure demonstrates satisfactory performance, the network may propose a **SIMPLIFIED RENEWAL**. As we approach the production of the network's mid-term scientific reports or renewal application to the FRQS, certain sections could be added (use the **DETAILED RENEWAL FORM** for all types of renewals)

Commitment

- 1) It is mandatory to mention support from the VSRN in any publication or presentation resulting from the use of an IF funded by the Network. The manager of an infrastructure funded by the Network (i.e. who endorses the application) is responsible to ensure compliance of this rule by each of the users of that IF. Acknowledging the VSRN is free and it is a useful tool to demonstrate the impact of the VSRN.
- 2) Research resulting from the use of this IF must be presented at the Annual Meeting.

Scientific Report

For all funded IF, a [scientific report](#) including scientific impacts and leverage effects must be completed **at the end** of the grant (Progress Report sections). In the case of a renewal, this report will be **included** in the **Renewal application form** ("Progress report" section). These reports will be used integrally in the Network's Annual Report and Network renewal application.

Financial report

For any VSRN funded project, a [financial report](#) must be submitted to the FRQS ([portals - FRQnet](#)) at the end of the financial year (**Mach 31st**) following the grant year. The directives concerning the transmission of this report will be communicated to the infrastructure manager. As mentioned by the FRQS in their Network Management Guide, at the end of the grant period, the unexpended amounts will have to be returned.

Number of grants: dependent on the availability of funds

How to apply

The application must be submitted **as single PDF document followed by the updated Excel document:**

- 1) The **"FIRST APPLICATION FORM – NEW COMMON INFRASTRUCTURE"** duly completed;
- 2) Letters of support when applicable (certificate of partnership);
- 3) CV of researcher who manages the infrastructure (Narrative FRQ or CIHR CV – [instructions](#) – [template](#));

Incomplete and / or non-compliant applications will be rejected.

To submit your application or for more information:

Vision Sciences Research Network (visionnetwork.ca)

reseau.vision@ircm.qc.ca

Teleworking: 438-825-1425

Réseau thématique soutenu par le

Fonds de recherche
Santé
Québec 



PROGRAM

COMMON INFRASTRUCTURES

2026-2027 competition

FIRST APPLICATION – NEW INFRASTRUCTURE

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: **November 23, 2026**

SECTION 1: IDENTIFICATION

TITLE OF THE COMMON INFRASTRUCTURE (IF)

French:

English:

SHORT TITLE OF THE IF (maximum 35 characters)

French:

English:

LAST NAME, First name and titles (IF manager):

Main affiliation:

Address:

Email:

Phone number:

Statement and signature of the person responsible for the IF:

As the manager of the Infrastructure mentioned above, I declare that, in the case of a clinical, genetic or human tissue register or database, no data will be transferred or used without the prior consent of the ethics committee of the institution of the researcher who will use them;

As the manager in charge of the Infrastructure mentioned above, I declare that contributors and users have been advised of their inclusion in this report.

Name of the IF manager

Signature date

Axis (not limited to one check):

- ☐ Biology and Pathology of Vision
- ☐ Emerging Technologies
- ☐ Vision Neurosciences
- ☐ Rehabilitation and Social Issues of Visual Disorders

Type of research (not limited to one check):

- ☐ Discovery
- ☐ Clinical research
- ☐ Translational research (pre-clinical research)
- ☐ Social sciences
- ☐ Politics and public health

Sectors involved (not limited to one check):

- ☐ Health
- ☐ Natural sciences and engineering
- ☐ Social and human sciences
- ☐ Arts and letters

Language of correspondence:☐ English☐ French**Language in which you will submit your project:**☐ English☐ French**Is this project focuses on eye diseases?**☐ yes☐ no**SECTION 2: ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

Complete information of the Finance Director or the representative who will manage the grant

LAST NAME, first name:**Email:****Phone number:****Institution's name** (to which the cheque will be payable to)**Complete address:**

(office number, civic number, street name, city, postal code)

Fund number (if available):

*** No check will be mailed — ATTACH A BANK DOCUMENT (direct deposit) ***

SECTION 3: CONTACT INFORMATION

Contact information to whom requests to use the infrastructure data should be directed.

LAST NAME, first name:

Email:

Phone number:

Institution's name:

SECTION 4: SUGGESTION OF POTENTIAL EVALUATORS (5 names)

The evaluators must not have published with you with the researcher outside Quebec during the last five years.

Include: LAST NAME, first name, titles, affiliation, email, phone, expertise.

SECTION 5: INFRASTRUCTURE DESCRIPTION and SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMMATION
(maximum 3 pages)**Page 1**

- Describe the infrastructure: **(1) nature and mission of the infrastructure**, **(2) type of data** or biological material, type of studied parameters, number of patients, etc.
- Describe **(3) how this infrastructure is the managed** and describe its **(4) accessibility** to the members of the Network.
- Describe the **(5) the management of the ethic aspect**

Pages 2-3

- Describe the planned **projects and / or opportunities** for the upcoming year using this common infrastructure and its potential impact
- Describe the **added value** for Network members and the scientific community
- Identify the **type of users** (i.e. who will use the infrastructure) and estimate a **number of potential users** for the upcoming year

SECTION 6: BUDGET and JUSTIFICATION (maximum 2 pages)

Detail the amount requested from the VSRN

- Detail and justify
- Detail, if appropriate, the **types** and **amounts of support** to be obtained from sources other than the VSRN (partnerships, using fees, etc.) for the funding the infrastructure over the next year. Partnerships are strongly encouraged, since they help the VHRN justify their funding

Support letters and **partnership certificates** may be attached (optional)

SECTION 7: IF SUSTAINABILITY

These data will be used for exploratory studies at the Network only.

Identify potential external supports that could help ensure the sustainability of your FI for medium or long term (not limited to one check and specify):

☐ Organisms	
Please specify	
☐ Foundations	
Please specify	
☐ Pay-per-use	
Please specify	
☐ Other	
Please specify	

Appendix 1

2026-2027
LIST OF VSRN COMMON INFRASTRUCTURES
ELIGIBLE FOR RENEWAL

- 01_QUEBEC RETINA BIOBANK (**A. DIRANI**)
- 02_DRUSEN/DMLA DATABASE (**A. JOHNSON**)
- 03_scGenAP (**J.S. JOYAL**)
- 04_ PATIENT REGISTRY FOR IRDS (**R. KOENEKOOP**)
- 05_UVEAL MELANOMA DATABASE (**S. LANDREVILLE**)
- 06_OCULAR TISSUES BANK (**S. PROULX**)
- 07_CORNEA BANK (**M.-C. ROBERT**)
- 08_ORVIS (**W. WITTICH**)