CATS Commitment to EDI: CATS values equity, diversity, and inclusion in our committee membership, review committees, presentation opportunities, and events; we are committed to the inclusion of diverse perspectives.

Goal of CATS Research Grant:
- CATS Research Grant will fund 1 research project up to $25k over 1 year for proposals that demonstrate sound scientific principles, robust methodology, answerable questions and are feasible within the budget and timeline proposed.

Process:
- Any CATS member in good standing (full, associate or resident) is eligible to submit a project proposal.
  - CATS member may be the primary applicant or the primary supervisor of the applicant
    - A CATS member may only submit 1 application as primary CATS applicant (i.e. PI or primary supervisor for trainee non-member)
- This grant should not be used for salary support for the primary applicant or the primary supervisor.
- A 5-page proposal (12 pt times roman font with 2.5 cm margins) will be reviewed by CATS Research Committees, with duplicate, blinded independent review by 2 separate reviewers.
  - One separate ADDITIONAL page can be used for budget, figures, or tables.
  - Final adjudication will be performed by the entire committee.
  - Lack of adherence to page and margin limits will result in disqualification of the application at the triage stage.
- Proposals should include the following headings:
  - Background & Rationale
    - Include preliminary results if applicable
  - Objectives & Hypothesis
  - Methods
    - Include sample size justification (if appropriate)
  - Expected Results & Future Directions
  - Pitfalls & Contingency plans
- In the event of a draw in scores between applications, these will be handled by the following hierarchy of steps:
  - Consensus of the Research Committee
  - If no consensus can be reached, then the application supported by the majority of the research committee will be awarded.
- If no majority can be reached, then the tie-breaking vote will be given to the Chair of the Research Committee.
- Reviewers with conflicts of interest will recuse themselves during any part of the review process that involves the conflicts of interest.
- Any application that has more than 3 members of the Research Committee as co-applicants/investigators will be considered INELIGIBLE.

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**Evaluation Criteria:**
- Funded proposals will:
  - ✓ Sound scientific principles (regardless of the type of research)
  - ✓ Show innovation
  - ✓ Robust methodology
  - ✓ Answerable question(s)
  - ✓ Feasible
  - ✓ Budget with justifications
  - ✓ Knowledge translation plan

**Transparency:**
- The titles of funded projects (and the CATS member awarded) will be shared with the CATS membership via the newsletter and at the AGM.
- A short paragraph describing the project outcomes will be shared with the CATS membership via the newsletter and a wrap-up will be presented CATS research meeting as 5-min progress update at year 1 post-award and 15-min final report at year 2 post-award.

**Funding:**
- Funding will be awarded directly to the CATS member (via electronic fund transfer) upon award (June).
- One award per member.