

REQUEST FOR DECISION

Committee Name: Joint Committee of Chairs and Professorships, University Council

Date: May 14, 2026

Presented by: Scott Walsworth, Chair, Vice-Provost, Faculty Relations

Subject: Hospitals of Regina Foundation Pediatrics Chair in the Origins of Health and Disease

MOTION

It is recommended by the Joint Committee on Chairs and Professorships that University Council and the Board of Governors approve the Hospitals of Regina Foundation Pediatrics Chair in the Origins of Health and Disease in the College of Medicine.

CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

The Hospitals of Regina Foundation Pediatrics Research Chair will be a visionary and internationally recognized clinician-scientist who will lead the development of a high-impact research consortium focused on advancing knowledge about the early-life origins of chronic diseases. As most chronic diseases are associated with altered inflammation and immune responses, the Chair will be accomplished in studying the roles prenatal and early childhood inflammation and immunity have on influencing the occurrence of future diseases.

The Chair will forge collaborations with other researchers investigating early life genetic, environmental, psychosocial, and lifestyle determinants of chronic conditions such as diabetes, asthma, obesity, and autoimmune and cardiovascular disorders, with the goal of advancing prevention strategies and improving health outcomes.

The Chair directly supports the University of Saskatchewan's signature area of Health and Wellness by leading a comprehensive research program focused on understanding and addressing the root causes of chronic disease. It also aligns with the College of Medicine's strategic priorities to advance transdisciplinary research, promote health equity, and improve health outcomes across Saskatchewan— particularly in rural, remote, and Indigenous communities. This Chair complements existing initiatives, including the Canada Research Chair on the Developmental Origins of Health and Disease in Indigenous People.

Source and Amount of Funding is \$4,000,000 from Hospitals of Regina Foundation over 10 years to support academic and research activities of the newly established Chair.

Other funding available to support the Chair:

- Approximately \$6,000,000 (\$600,000 annually) for the clinical and research portion of the Chair's compensation. This would be a clinician Scientist position (medical faculty) within the Academic Clinical Funding Program (ACFP). The ACFP is managed by SHA, College of Medicine, USask and the Ministry of Health.
- \$250,000 in research funding from the College of Medicine Dean's Office over the first two years.
- \$600,000 in kind support from the Office of the Vice-Dean Research (administrative and research facilitation over 10 years)
- Eligible for up to \$280,000 for CoMGrad graduate student scholarships
- Eligible for up to \$600,000 for CoMRad research project awards
- \$50,000 (over 10 years) from the Office of the Vice- President Research in support of the Health and Wellness Signature Area

CONSULTATION

The creation of the Hospitals of Regina Foundation Pediatrics Chair in the Origins of Health and Disease has been discussed with, and endorsed by, the donor, the Office of the Vice President Research, the Office of the Vice President University Relations, the Office of the Vice- Provost, Faculty Relations, and the Joint Committee of Chairs and Professorships.

ATTACHMENTS

Hospitals of Regina Foundation Pediatrics Chair in the Origins of Health and Disease Terms of Reference



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Hospitals of Regina Foundation Pediatrics Chair in the Origins of Health and Disease Terms of Reference

Purpose:

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The Chair will hold an appointment within the Department of Pediatrics within the College of Medicine and Saskatchewan Health Authority, and will report to the Provincial Head of the Department of Pediatrics.

The Chair position will be that of a full-time clinician-scientist (medical faculty) devoting a minimum of 20% of time to clinical service and patient care and a maximum of 80% of time to academic (research) pursuits.

Accountability:

All terms of reference must align with the *Guidelines for Chairs and Professorships*.

Chair Type:

Defined/Limited Term Chair – 10 year term

Background:

Hospitals of Regina Foundation (HRF) is making a philanthropic investment to support the creation and establishment of a Clinical Research Chair in Pediatrics at the University of Saskatchewan's College of Medicine. This Chair will be known as the Hospitals of Regina Foundation Pediatrics Chair in the Origins of Health and Disease (hereafter referred to as "the Chair"), pending approval from the University of Saskatchewan's Board of Governors.

The Chair will receive the following support:

The College of Medicine will provide a full-time, PhD-trained research facilitator to consult, assist, and review research collaborations, funding strategies, and grant applications. Their support is readily available to the Hospitals of Regina Foundation Pediatrics Chair of Origins of Health and Disease for the development of grant applications, identification of research funding opportunities, and planning interdisciplinary and inter-institutional initiatives.

Administrative support through the College of Medicine
Financial management and budget support through the Dean of Medicine and/or Vice-Dean research office in the College of Medicine.

Participation in the College's CoMGrad and CoMRad award programs to support trainee development.

Integration into interdisciplinary research teams including VIDO, the Canadian Light Source, the Colleges of Kinesiology and Veterinary Medicine, and external institutions such as the University of Regina and First Nations University of Canada

Infrastructure and research space will be made available by the College of Medicine.

Source and Amount of Funding:

\$4,000,000 from Hospitals of Regina Foundation over 10 years to support academic and research activities of the newly established Chair.

Other funding available to support the Chair:

Approximately \$6,000,000 (\$600,000 annually) for the clinical and research portion of the Chair's compensation. This would be a clinician Scientist position (medical faculty) within the Academic Clinical Funding Program (ACFP). The ACFP is managed by SHA, College of Medicine, USask and the Ministry of Health.

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Eligible for up to \$600,000 for CoMRad research project awards

\$50,000 (over 10 years) from the Office of the Vice-President Research in support of the Health and Wellness Signature Area

Tenability:

The *Hospitals of Regina Foundation Pediatrics Chair* will be held for a 10-year term and will be funded by an annual gift from HRF of \$400,000 for 10 years.

A first payment of \$100,000 will be made within fifteen (15) days of the completion and signing of this gift agreement and the terms of reference for the proposed Research Chair, representing a downpayment on the first annual pledge payment of \$400,000.

\$300,000, representing the balance of the first annual pledge payment will be made on or before December 31, in the year the selected chair holder assumes his duties.

Subsequent pledge payments of \$400,000 will be made annually on or before December 31, for the duration of the pledge period, provided the chair remains in good standing.

Search Committee:

The Provost and Vice-President Academic (or designate), the Vice President Research (or designate) and the Dean of the College of Medicine, in consultation with the Department of Pediatrics shall establish a search committee to identify an appropriate candidate. The search committee will be comprised of:

The Dean, College of Medicine (Chair)

The Provincial Head of Pediatrics

The Vice-Dean Research, College of Medicine

A representative from Hospitals Regina Foundation

An academic advisor to Hospitals of Regina Foundation, to be named by the Foundation at its discretion.

A 36-month phased recruitment plan has been developed, including targeted outreach and international advertising. Recruitment will be both targeted and globally advertised. The anticipated recruitment timeline is outlined in Appendix I.

Qualifications of the Chair:

A doctoral degree (MD) and a PhD or equivalent formal research training, with demonstrated excellence and a strong track record in research

Proven track record of conducting high-quality research in pediatrics, ideally related to the "Origins of Health and Disease."

Demonstrated leadership and management skills.

Strong record of obtaining research funding.

A commitment to education and mentorship.

Clinical experience in pediatrics.

Chairholder responsibilities:

Research Leadership:

Provide visionary leadership for an Origins of Health and Disease multidisciplinary research consortium

Be dedicated to advancing knowledge in the origins of health and disease.

Research Initiatives:

Identify key research priorities within the "Origins of Health and Disease" theme and develop a strategic research plan to address these priorities.

Seek external funding opportunities and grants to support research initiatives and projects.

Collaboration and Networking:

Foster collaborations and partnerships with other departments, institutions, and external stakeholders to facilitate interdisciplinary research.

Promote knowledge exchange and collaboration with national and international experts in origins of health and disease research and knowledge mobilization.

Education and Training:

Contribute to the education and training of undergraduate and graduate students, as well as postdoctoral fellows, by supervising research projects and providing mentorship.

The Chair will convene one major conference annually, complemented by regular grand rounds and academic seminars throughout the year related to origins of health and disease research.

Clinical Practice:

Maintain an active medical practice in the Chair's pediatric clinical discipline,

Incorporate research findings into clinical practice to improve patient outcomes.

The Chair will maintain a regular and meaningful presence in Regina and southern Saskatchewan as part of the Chair's provincial mandate. At a minimum, this will include two (2) days per month in Regina, delivered through the Chair's protected clinical time, as appropriate to the Chair's subspecialty.

The specific nature, frequency, and location of this activity will be defined through the Chair's Academic Clinical Funding Plan and annual Individual Service Agreement, and may exceed the minimum expectation depending on clinical service needs, research focus, and program development. The development of programs or initiatives delivered in Regina and southern Saskatchewan is expected and strongly encouraged in support of the Chair's provincial mandate.

Dissemination of Research:

Publish research findings in high-impact peer-reviewed journals and present research at national and international conferences.

Engage with the media and the community to communicate research findings and promote public awareness of the origins of health and disease discoveries.

Ethical and Regulatory Compliance:

Ensure that all research activities adhere to the ethical guidelines and regulatory requirements as per the Office of Vice President of Research at USask.

Promote a culture of research integrity and responsible conduct among team members.

Annual performance of the chairholder will be evaluated by the Management Committee based on research productivity, leadership, funding acquisition, and contributions to the Origins of Health and Disease research theme.

The holder of the Chair will submit reports and/or a lay summary of scholarly and financial activities in accordance with university practices to the chair of the management committee on an annual basis. The reports will outline accomplishments of the Chairholder in keeping with the Chair's purpose and objectives.

Term of Chair:

The successful Chair will hold an ongoing Medical Faculty appointment in the Department of Pediatrics. The Chair title will be initially conferred for a 10-year term and may be renewed based on performance, demonstrated accomplishments and availability of funding.

Renewal:

Any renewal of the Chair must be initiated prior to the end of the term and will follow the procedures outlined in Section 5.0 of the University of Saskatchewan Guidelines for Chairs and Professorships. Prior to the conclusion of the initial term, the University of Saskatchewan shall review the Chair's impact and outcomes in consultation with the College of Medicine and the Saskatchewan Health Authority. In accordance with the donor agreement, the Hospitals of Regina Foundation shall be granted the first right of refusal to renew funding for a subsequent term, if a renewal of financial support is required. Should the Foundation decline renewal of financial support, if required, the University may seek alternative funding sources to continue the Chair, subject to institutional priorities and available resources. The name of the Chair shall survive the conclusion of the initial term until such time as Hospitals of Regina Foundation declines to renew its financial support, if such support is required. Only with the Foundation's express refusal to renew shall other funders be approached.

Review:

The objective of the Chair is to develop and enhance a specific area of teaching, research, or service for a defined or limited period. The appointment would be for a fixed term, with possible renewal under exceptional circumstances. It is expected that funds provided will support the annual costs of the Chair, including compensation, applicable benefits and research activities of the Chairholder, for a specified term. Chairholder scholarly progression must be reviewed at least biennially. A financial review must occur annually. Chairholders must submit a final report at the end of their term.

Oversight:

As the Chair will be appointed under an Academic Clinical Funding Plan (ACFP), their responsibilities and performance will be governed through a formal physician contract with the Saskatchewan Health Authority and the University of Saskatchewan. This structure will ensure that the Chair's clinical, research, and academic activities align with the agreed-upon mandate and deliverables.

An institutional-level oversight and management committee will be established to provide ongoing guidance and accountability, and to ensure the Chair's program remains aligned with the objectives, commitments, and expectations outlined in the approved proposal and Terms of Reference, including those agreed to by the donor.

The Management Committee will include but not be limited to:

Dean, College of Medicine

Vice-Dean Research, College of Medicine

Provincial Head, Department of Pediatrics

President & CEO or Senior Designate, Hospitals of Regina Foundation

Appropriate finance manager from the college and Department of Pediatrics

The Dean, College of Medicine or Vice Dean of Research, College of Medicine, will act as chair of the Management Committee.

Oversight responsibilities shall include the following:

1. Oversee the activities of the Chair;
2. Oversee management of the fund to ensure compliance with the terms of the trust deed and the on-going financial integrity of the initiative;
3. Approve annual budgets;
4. Receive annual financial statements of the trust fund;
5. Receive and review the biennial scholarly report, the annual financial report and the final report on the activities of the Chairholder; and
6. Provide a copy of the required scholarly, financial and final reports to the co-chairs of the Joint Committee on Chairs and Professorships

Removal of Chairholder:

Any allegations related to a breach of one or more of the University policies made against a Chairholder should follow appropriate university policies and procedures related to the nature of the breach. This includes, but is not limited to, policies related to research, financial stewardship, and/or health and safety and/or employment. Should the appropriate process conclude and determine that the Chairholder has breached a University Policy or failed to meet an expectation as a faculty member, the provost and vice president academic and vice president research will review the recommendation from the Dean and determine appropriate measures regarding the continuation of the Chairholder which may include termination from the Chair. The final determination will be communicated to the Chairholder, the dean/executive director and the chair of the Management Committee (if applicable). The University of Saskatchewan will advise Hospitals of Regina Foundation of decisions to remove the Chairholder and will provide plans to either identify and recruit a new candidate or cease support for the Hospitals of Regina Foundation Pediatrics Chair in the Origins of Health and Disease.

Eligible Expenditures:

Expenditures will be aligned with Section 2.0 of the *Guidelines for the Establishment of Chairs and Professorships*.

Unspent Funds:

At such time that the Chair ceases to be in existence, any unspent funds will be used exclusively for research in the Department of Pediatrics in the College of Medicine related to the origins of health and disease.

Insufficient Funds:

Should there be insufficient funds to cover the costs of the chair, the excess cost will be covered by the College of Medicine.

In the event that circumstances make the Hospitals of Regina Foundation Pediatrics Research Chair in the Origins of Health and Disease no longer practical or desirable, the Management Committee, in consultation with Hospitals of Regina Foundation will recommend to University Council and the Board of Governors of the University of Saskatchewan, changes to the Chair. These recommendations will maintain, as much as is reasonably possible, the Chair's spirit and general intent as identified in its statement of Purpose.

The creation of this Chair is subject to approval of both University of Saskatchewan Council and University of Saskatchewan Board of Governors.

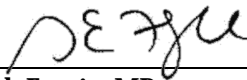
The **College of Medicine** recommends acceptance based on the above terms.



April 2, 2026

Dr. Linda Chelico, PhD, BSA
Vice-Dean, Research (Biomedical Sciences)

Date



Dr. Sarah Forgie, MD
Dean College of Medicine

April 2, 2026
Date

The **Office of the Vice-Provost, Faculty Relations** recommends acceptance based on the above terms.



April 6, 2026

Dr. Scott Wallsworth
Vice-Provost, Faculty Relations

Date

The **Office of the Vice President, Research** recommends acceptance based on the above terms.



April 6, 2026

Dr. Dawn Wallin
Associate Vice President, Research

Date

Approved and accepted on behalf of the **Board of Governors of the University of Saskatchewan.**

Cheryl Hamelin
Vice-President, University Relations

Date

Appendix I Recruitment Plan Timeline

A 36-month phased recruitment plan has been developed, including targeted outreach and international advertising. Recruitment will be both targeted and globally advertised.

Search and Selection Committee establishment: 2 months

Advertising and candidate identification phase: 6 months

Long-list applicant screening: 1 month

Short-list applicant vetting and first interviews: 6 months

Short-listed applicants' site visits: 6 months

Preferred candidate second visit and negotiations to final agreement: 4 months

Lead time for chosen candidate to relocate: 8 months

Flex time (to accommodate unanticipated delays): 3 months

Chair Term: 10 years from start date with option to renew