Test Your Concept

Test Your Concept pitches are hosted by the Libin Cardiovascular Institute of Alberta to assist researchers in the early development of a research proposal. There are two streams where researchers can make pitches:

Stream 1 Process (Grantmanship)

The purpose of these sessions is to provide early feedback in grant development (preferably before the written proposal is near completion) to improve concept development, research design and other aspects of the proposal that will enhance the likelihood of grant funding.

- Host two intakes per year (1) April to July and (2) November to early January, where investigators can share their concept
- There should be panels of people with relevant experience that are conveyed to provide guidance at these events:
  - Vascular biology
  - Electrophysiology
  - Person to Population
  - Women’s CV health
  - Imaging

Stream 2 Process (Catalysts for Collaboration)

- Any Libin member can request a Test Your Concept to pitch an innovation/idea at any time in the year
- Based on the request, a panel will be convened and the Test Your Concept format utilized to determine whether or not Libin will invest in the project
  - There is no guarantee that pitching will result in funding
  - This process will be instrumental to implementing the research strategic plan
  - The funds should not be in lieu of other grant dollars

Who

- Any Libin Investigator who is considering writing a competitive grant application
- Goal is to provide feedback and creative design or a "creative destruction process" to build the most competitive ideas and approaches
- Applicants would present individually or with their mentors
- Applicants would provide a list of people who would be good reviewers

What

- Applicant will present one project per session
- If applicant has more than one project to present, a separate session will be booked either back-to-back or at a different time depending on availability
- Applicant to provide a 15 minute chalkboard talk consisting of a hypothesis, specific aims, approaches, methods, endpoints
- 45 minutes of discussion
- Interruptions and queries are welcome
- Any and all science is considered and is not segregated unless requested
- Bold new directions and ideas are encouraged
Why
- Help individuals get over the hurdles of writing grants
- Optimize likelihood of success
- Enhance synergistic interactions
- Enhance co-operative culture

When
- Stream 1 (Grantsmanship)
  - Two intakes per year (April- July and November – Jan)
- Stream 2 (Catalysts for Collaboration)
  - Requests for review accepted throughout the year

How
- One reviewer will be designated the scribe, and will submit written review of discussion to the applicant
- Individuals volunteer to be reviewers
- A peer group document will provide additional feedback

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- All applicants are encouraged to pitch their grant or innovation/idea early in the proposal process for best results
- Applicants may arrange for a second review prior to completion of grant application
- Lunch will be provided at each session