



May 7, 2020

Canadian Institutes of Health Research  
160 Elgin Street, 9th Floor  
Address Locator 4809A  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0W9  
CANADA

**Re:** CIHR Operating Grant: Covid-19 May 2020 Rapid Research Funding Opportunity: Letter of support for the project ***Anticoagulation and Convalescent Plasma ICU Trial***

Dear Committee Members:

I am writing this letter in my capacity as President of the Canadian Critical Care Society (CCCS) in very strong support of Drs. Turgeon, Zarychanski and colleagues' application for a Covid-19 Rapid Research Funding Opportunity CIHR Operating Grant.

Both Drs. Turgeon and Zarychanski are valuable members of the Canadian Critical Care Society. Independently yet collaboratively, they have lead innovative and ambitious research programs in critical care, that demonstrate their endeavour to the generation of new knowledge to change practice at the bedside. Both are career clinician scientists and together have assembled a team with extensive experience in critical care clinical research. They have strong track records of successful multicentre research funded through the CIHR that is widely disseminated.

Their proposal intends to leverage the infrastructure of the ongoing REMAP-CAP trial – a Randomized, Embedded, Multifactorial Adaptive Platform trial for Community-Acquired Pneumonia (ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT02735707). REMAP-CAP is an international, multicenter platform trial currently recruiting COVID-19 patients in Canada, Europe, Australia and New Zealand. The objective of Drs. Turgeon and Zarychanski is to implement two domains within REMAP-CAP, namely a COVID-19 Immunoglobulin Therapy Domain and a COVID-19 Therapeutic Anticoagulation Domain, to evaluate the efficacy of convalescent plasma and therapeutic anticoagulation with heparin. These two domains address the urgent need to optimize the management of critically ill COVID-19 patients.

The role of the CCCS in this proposal is to strongly attest the primordial nature of your work, and to rapidly and efficiently disseminate the results of your work in order to maximize their impact on the health of Canadians struggling with COVID-19. More specifically, we are committed to identify and liaise with relevant experts and knowledge users in the Canadian critical care community, to develop dissemination materials through our Knowledge Translation Committee and Clinical Committee, and to work to embed this new knowledge into the education of our next generation of Intensivists through the Education Committee.

The CCCS is dedicated to promote research, education and patient care in Critical Care Medicine across Canada. We believe that advocacy is an important role for the Society, and we speak vigorously for Critical Care in Canada. The CCCS actively promotes adoption of evidence into practice. We are affiliated

with the largest national meeting (Critical Care Canada Forum), and we have an active web and social media presence. Ultimately, we will also incorporate key principles into various national education initiatives, including training objectives for the Royal College, continuing medical education activities and review courses for our trainees. We will use these resources with the research team to provide input, feedback and support as the research evolves. Therefore, the CCCS will provide in-kind funding for this application representing a total of \$5,000. This in-kind contribution represents human resources, website and knowledge dissemination initiatives over the next year.

In these difficult times when concerted collaborative efforts are needed to stem the spread and damage of COVID-19, and when Canada must once again show leadership that is worthy of the value of its researchers and clinicians, we believe that funding this proposal by Drs. Turgeon and Zarychanski is essential.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bojan Paunovic". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Bojan Paunovic, MD, FRCPC**

President, Canadian Critical Care Society

Assistant Professor, Co-Head, Section Critical Care Medicine, University of Manitoba

Provincial Specialty Lead, Adult Critical Care, Manitoba Shared Health

Medical Director, Critical Care Program, Winnipeg Regional Health Authority