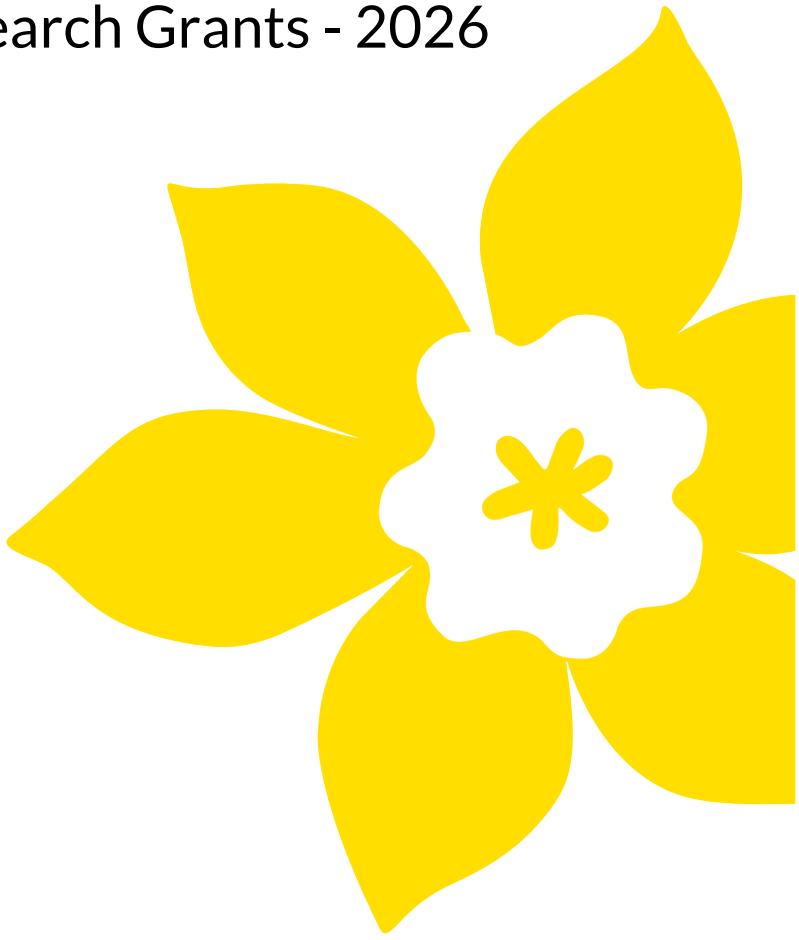
Canadian Cancer Society

Emerging Scholars Research Grants - 2026

Abstract Registration Guide

Canadian Cancer Society

May 2025



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Important dates:

Abstract due date:
July 2, 2025

LOI due date:
August 27, 2025

Full application due date:
January 28, 2026

Results announcement:
Mid-May 2026

Anticipated funding start date:
May 15, 2026

To apply:

The abstract application will be available in EGrAMS on May 30, 2025.

Applications must be submitted online by 5:00 pm EDT/EST.

Questions?

Contact CCS research staff at research@cancer.ca

Emerging Scholar Research Grants Program Synopsis

This opportunity aims at establishing and advancing promising early career investigators from across Canada with a focused commitment to undertaking cancer research. Through the CCS Emerging Scholar Research Grants, early career investigators will develop their cancer research programs in Canada and pursue important scientific advances of the highest quality and potential for impact in the four pillars of health research (biomedical; clinical; health services; and social, cultural, environmental & population health).

CCS is committed to supporting all areas and disciplines of cancer research and building diverse capacity across Canada. Applications from the four pillars of health research (ie. biomedical; clinical; health services; and social, cultural, environmental and population health) are encouraged.

Within the available funding envelope, we are aiming to fund competitive applications from across Canada in the following areas*:

- Emerging Scholar Research Grant - Alberta
- Emerging Scholar Research Grant - British Columbia
- Emerging Scholar Research Grant - Manitoba
- Emerging Scholar Research Grant - New Brunswick
- Emerging Scholar Research Grant - Newfoundland and Labrador
- Emerging Scholar Research Grant - Nova Scotia
- Emerging Scholar Research Grant - Ontario
- Emerging Scholar Research Grant - PEI
- Emerging Scholar Research Grant - Quebec
- Emerging Scholar Research Grant - Saskatchewan

***Note*:** Successful applications must fall within the fundable score range for CCS grants (>3.5).

There will be a three-stage application and review process:

- Applicants will first be required to submit an abstract. The abstract registration step is mandatory, but not competitive.
- Applicants will then submit a letter of intent (LOI) for review.
- Only selected applicants will be invited to submit a full application.

For more details, please refer to the full program description here.

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Before you Begin: Eligibility Guidelines

At the time of the grant start date (May 15, 2026), applicants (and/or co-PIs):

- must be early career scientists (including clinician scientists), who hold a full-time appointment at an eligible Canadian research institution.
- must have (a) firm faculty appointment(s).
- must be within 5 years from the start of their first independent academic appointment* at the funding start date (minimum assistant professor level, or equivalent).
- must not be current recipients of operating grants aimed at advancing the career development of early career investigators at the time of the ESRG funding start date (please refer to the "multiple applications/multiple sources of funding" section of the RFA).
- Applications must include a letter of commitment from the host institution guaranteeing the applicants protected time* allocated to cancer research, and a description of available mentoring support and resources provided prior and during the proposal development, as well as in the future in case of success.

***Note:**

- Career interruptions including, but not limited to, parental leaves, extended sick leaves, medical leaves and family care will be considered, but must be described in the application. Justified career interruptions will be included in the calculation of the five-year eligibility window.
- It is expected that at least 75% of the applicant's time will be allocated to cancer research, however CCS recognizes that this may not be feasible for all institutions. In cases where protected time falls below 75%, CCS, with input from the review panel, will carefully evaluate the host institution's commitment, key milestones & expected timelines, terms of reference, and career development plan sections of the full application to ensure alignment with the goals of this funding program.
- Eligible research projects must include, as an integral part of the team, people affected by cancer (patient partners/people with lived experience), whose experience and expertise will lend valuable insights to the development and implementation of the project.

Abstract registration is mandatory. Substantive changes to the Letter of Intent that significantly alter the overall goals and aims of the proposal relative to the abstract registration are not permitted.

Please contact CCS (research@cancer.ca) for more information.

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Application Guide

Three easy steps:

1. Create your Abstract
2. Complete your Abstract
3. Submit your Abstract

Additional resources:

- Appendix A: Troubleshooting
  - Host Institution field is empty or incorrect, and lookup button does not work
  - Delete an application
- Appendix B: Understanding the application interface
- Appendix C: Update your profile

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STEP 1: Create your abstract registration

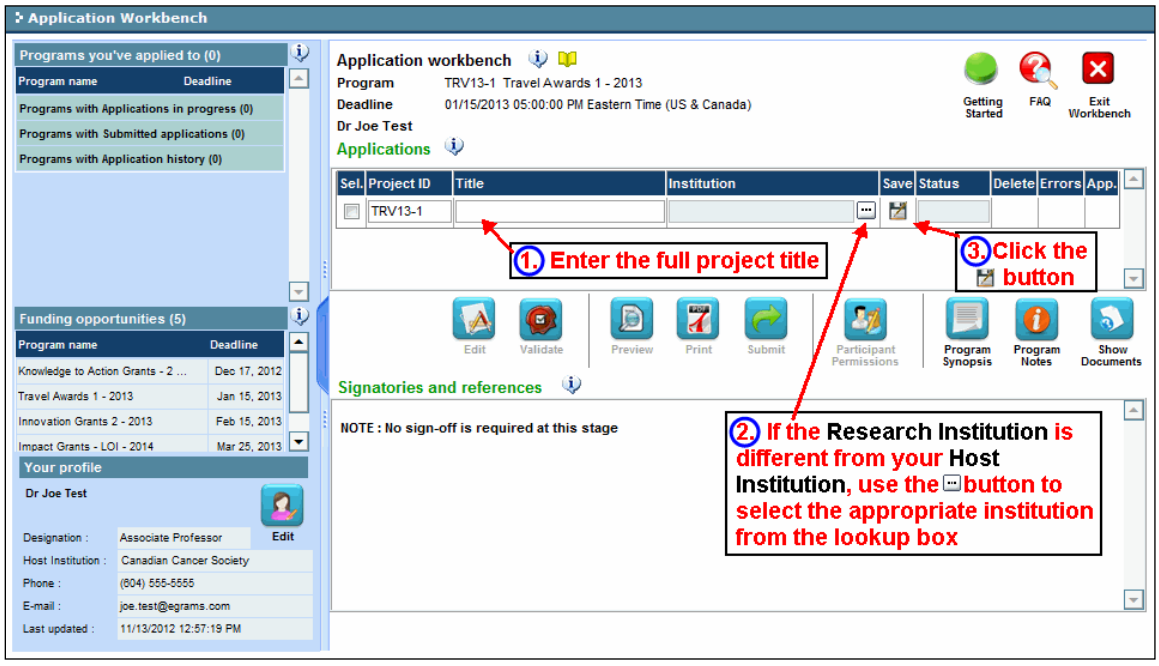
1. Log in to EGrAMS to access the home screen/**Application workbench**.

2. Click the **Emerging Scholar Research Grants – 2026** program under the Funding opportunities section on the left.

3. The project ID will default to **ESRGLOI-26** (the **Grant Program** code).

4. Enter the full project title into the **Title** field. Please avoid typing in ALL CAPS.
   - The **Research Institute** field will be auto-populated with your Host Institution once you click in the field. Use the ··· button to select a different institution if necessary.

> **Empty Host Institution field**
>
> The **Host Institution** field is auto-populated from information provided in your user profile. If this field is blank, you will need to go back to your profile and add you Host Institution there.



5. Click the **Save** icon.

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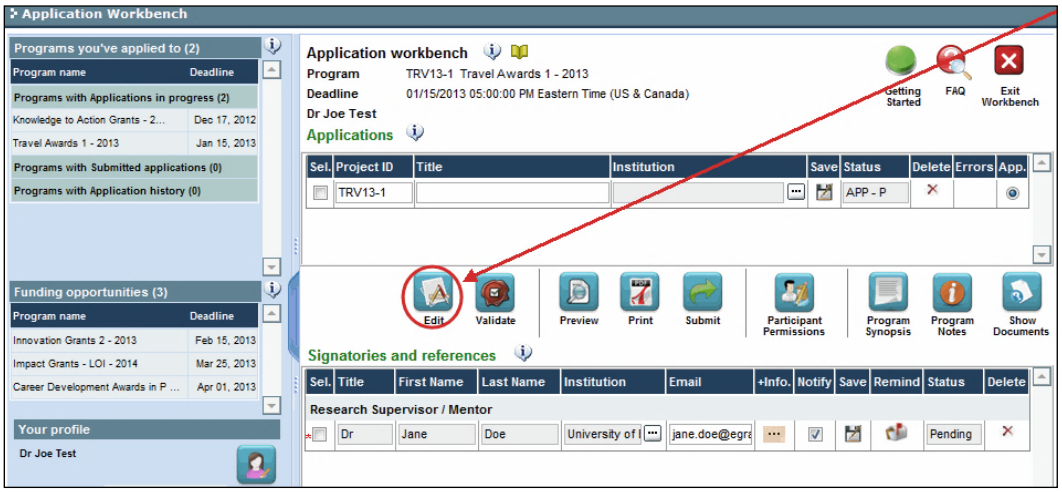
STEP 2: Complete your abstract registration

I. Access the application

1. Ensure that **Emerging Scholar Research Grants – 2026** is selected in the workbench.
   - if not, click the program name on the left under Programs with Applications in progress
2. Click the

button to access the application:



3. Click on the background tab to begin.

II. Enter details of your application

Understanding the application interface:

For assistance with the application interface (how to navigate through the application, interpret help files and instructions, save/validate your content, upload and attach supporting documentation, etc.) consult Appendix B: Understanding the application interface.

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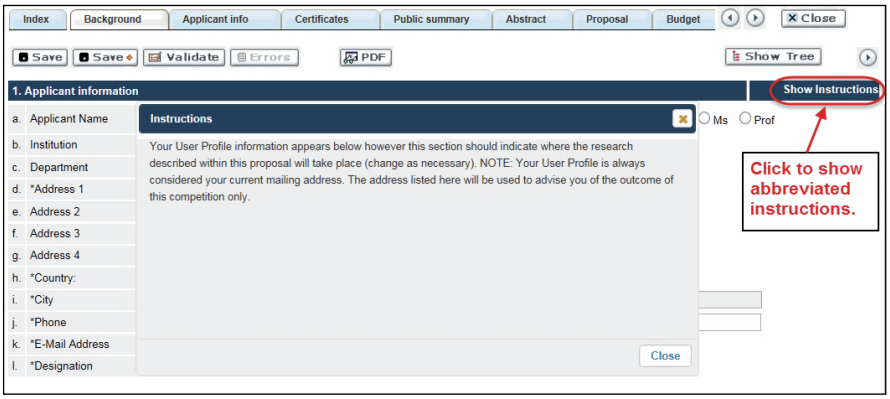
Access instructions within the application:

Abbreviated instructions for completion of each page of the application are provided within the application itself. Click 'Show Instructions' to access them.

These are not meant to be comprehensive – please consult this Application Guide, along with the funding program description, to complete your application:



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III. Quick links to page-by-page instructions

Background

1. Applicant information
2. Project information
3. Participants

Abstract

4. Scientific abstract
5. Keywords/technical terms

Review Panel

6. Panel recommendation
7. Reviewer recommendations
8. Reviewer exclusions

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BACKGROUND

1. **Applicant information**

   The contents of this page will be pre-populated from your user profile.

2. **Project information**

   Project title: The title entered when the application was created is indicated.

   Financial institution: If the institution responsible for administering grant funds is different from the institution hosting your research, use the ... button to locate the financial institution.

   Project start date: The start and end dates must match the program funding period of May 15, 2026 to May 14, 2031.

   Amount of funds requested at full application stage: The amount of funds you plan on requesting from CCS for this project. Please note that you may change this request when you submit your full application. The maximum amount of funding requested is **$600k** ($120k per year)

   Number of years supported: up to 5 years can be requested

   Funding overlap: There must not be substantive overlap (more than 50%) with any pending application (including those at the abstract or Letter of Intent submission stage) to any other Canadian Cancer Society Research program as of this competition due date. Duplicate applications will not be accepted. The onus is on the applicant to indicate the extent (or absence) of overlap.

   Type of application: select Initial application

   Language: Complete the entire application in one language only.

   For applications submitted in French, please note that all review panels are conducted in English, and French language reviewers will be secured as required. Applicants submitting in French are required to provide the names of at least 5 impartial/unconflicted reviewers who are able to review in French and have the necessary expertise to critically evaluate the application.

   Special funding call: Select the province where the principal investigator is based. If there is a co-principal investigator working in a different province, you may select a second province.

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3. Participants

Enter any Additional Author, Co-Principal Investigator (ECR only), Collaborator, Knowledge/End User, Financial Officer information or People affected by cancer who will be a part of the research team.

Note: No CVs are required at the abstract stage.

The Emerging Scholar Research Grant is aimed at establishing and advancing the independent research programs of early career researchers. Co-Principal Investigators, Additional Authors, Knowledge/End Users and Collaborators can be part of the research team, but it is expected that the proposed project will be led by the early career researcher applicant(s). Inclusion of co-applicants is not permitted for this grant. Additional authors who will be supported through the ESRG grant must be part of the PI and co-PI's immediate research team.

Provide full addresses, including department name/affiliation for each participant. Use the lookup feature and enter their e-mail address in the field provided as the search criteria. The form will be auto populated with their contact information as it appears in their user profile. If they do not have a profile, enter the details as required.

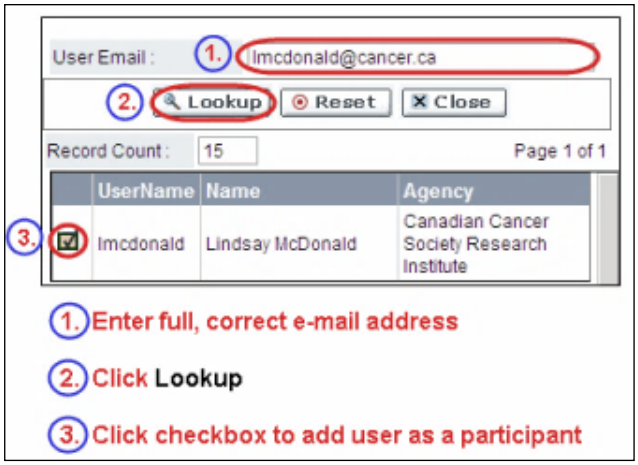
Changes to the applicant list after the LOI deadline are permitted but must be provided to the CCS as they are determined.

Note:

- The inclusion of people affected by cancer on the research team is mandatory for this competition.
- Consider equity, diversity and inclusion principles in the composition of research team members.

EGrAMS Login: Add participants by first searching for their user profile using the … button. The form will be auto-populated from the data in their user profile. If they are not in the system, enter the required information into the form.

Searching for users in the system: In the lookup box, enter the full, correct email address associated with the participant's system profile:



Provide full addresses, including department name/affiliation, for each participant to ensure proper identification of conflicts of interest during the peer review process.

Financial Officer

Provide the name and email address of your institution's financial officer who would be responsible for the administration of this research grant, and to whom all correspondence about the accounting should be sent. Once the name is entered, the mailing address will auto-populate.

Co-Principal Investigators (ECR only)

Co-Principal Investigators are recognized as researchers who may or may not have a formal affiliation with the Host Institution but will take responsibility for particular administrative and scientific aspects of the research project. These categories can include Adjunct Professors or Status only appointments. These categories may not include graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, research associates, technical support staff, or investigators based outside of Canada. Individuals are not eligible to receive salary support from a grant.

Knowledge/End Users

Knowledge or End Users are members of a research team who will use the knowledge and/or implement the approaches or interventions generated through the research in order to move the research forward, and/or to make informed decisions about health policies, programs and/or practices. Healthcare practitioners, policy makers, educators, decision makers, health care administrators, members of First Nations, Inuit, Métis and Urban Indigenous communities and organizations or racialized communities may be included in this category. CCS staff members participating on grants are to be included in this category. Knowledge Users are not eligible to receive salary support from a grant. In some instances, exceptions may be made but will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Please contact CCS if you have questions about this. Individuals with lived or living experience of cancer are to be included as People affected by cancer participants.

People affected by cancer
People affected by cancer participants are defined as individuals who have been affected by cancer. This category may include anyone at elevated risk of cancer, who has been diagnosed with cancer, or someone who provides physical and emotional care to someone with cancer, but not in a professional or vocational role. For the purposes of this funding opportunity, this role may also apply to specific members of a community where the intervention under study is to be implemented. People affected by cancer are eligible to receive financial remuneration from the grant for their participation. Consult CCS's policy on remuneration here for guidance. Please select "Other" in the designation field, or as appropriate. The inclusion of people affected by cancer on the research team is mandatory for this competition.

Additional Authors
Additional Authors are recognized as other individuals who will make substantial intellectual contributions to the research project(s) or have contributed to the drafting of the application itself, but who do not hold an academic appointment. Students, postdoctoral fellows, research associates, and lay contributors may be included in this category. Students, postdoctoral fellows and research assistants are eligible to receive salary support from a grant. Investigators based in or outside of Canada or others that you do not wish to name on the grant can be included as collaborators.

Additional authors who will be supported through the ESRG grant must be part of the PI's immediate research team.

Collaborators
Collaborators include any additional individuals who will be involved in the grant but are not eligible to be named in any of the above roles.

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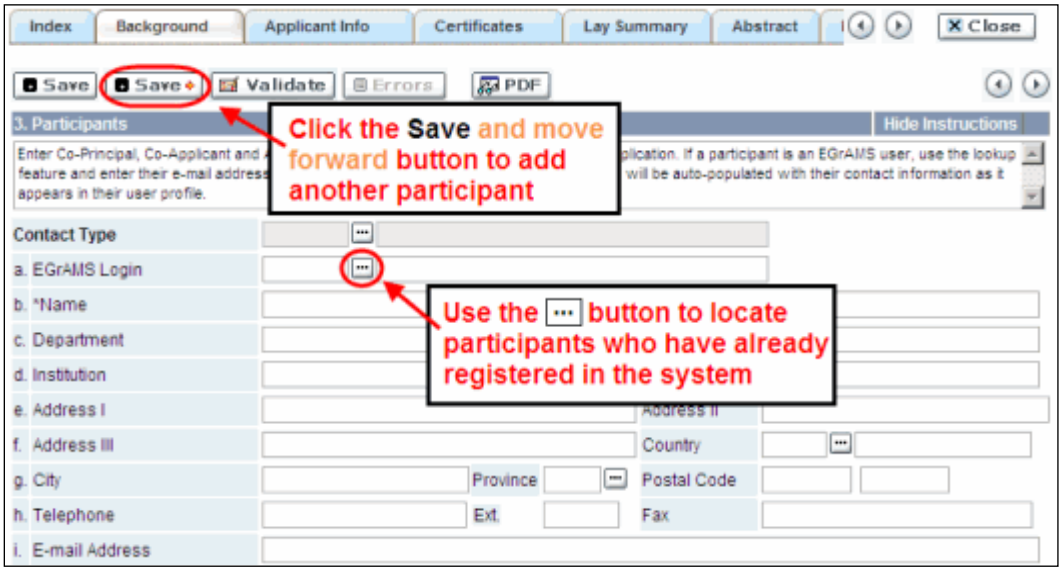
How to add multiple participants

After you've completed the form for the first participant on your team, click the save and continue arrow to create a blank form for the next participant. Select 'OK' to save and add a new contact or 'Cancel' to save and move to the next page of the application. Add as many participants as necessary.



ABSTRACT

4. **Scientific abstract**
   The detailed scientific abstract will be examined by the panel as an integral part of the application. It will be used as an aid in assigning the application to the most appropriate expert reviewers.

   Provide a detailed summary of your research project including the following mandatory sections:

   - The problem to be investigated
   - The objectives of the proposed investigation
   - A brief indication of the methodology to be used
   - The significance of the research to cancer

   Your abstract **should not exceed 4,200 characters** (including spaces), single spaced. Note that the character count may be different when copying text from Word due to formatting – see tips for formatting text in the rich text editor.

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5. Keywords/Technical terms

Provide up to a maximum of 10 specific keywords or descriptive technical terms/ methodologies that best describe the scientific and technical aspects of your project. Enter one keyword or technical term per line.

REVIEW PANEL

6. Panel recommendations

Please indicate your first and second choices for panels.

Although CCS ultimately bears the responsibility for and reserves the right to determine the most suitable panel to review the application, all applicants may offer suggestions as to which panel might be the most appropriate to review the application.

Name	Description	CSO Codes
C1: Mechanisms of risk, initiation, and progression	Research focused on understanding mechanisms of cancer risk, initiation and spread	1.1-1.5, 2.1-2.4, 3.6
C2: Molecular biomarkers	Research focused on identifying and testing cancer-related biomarkers (diagnostic, prognostic, predictive), including clinical testing/application	4.1-4.4
C3: Imaging & Technology	Research aimed at developing new or improving imaging modalities and/or other technologies (e.g. artificial intelligence, machine learning, nanotechnologies, robotics, wearable technologies, etc.), including clinical testing/application, for improved detection, prognosis, or monitoring of cancer	4.1-4.4
C4a: Therapeutics	Research aimed at identifying and developing new therapeutic approaches (including re-purposing and combination therapies) for preventing and/or treating cancer (e.g. therapeutics, radiotherapy, and surgery) - from discovery to clinical testing. ***Not including immunologically directed therapies** (see 4b).	3.3, 5.1-5.7
C4b: Immunotherapy	Research aimed at identifying and developing new immunologically directed therapeutic approaches (including re-purposing and combination therapies) for prevention and/or treating cancer (e.g. vaccines, antibodies, antibiotics, adaptive cell products, microbiome,	3.4, 5.1-5.7

	abscopal effect, theranostics or other biologics) - from discovery to clinical testing.	
C6: Prevention & Supportive Care	Research focused on (primary) prevention (behavioural and other interventions), patient centred outcomes related to cancer, the psychosocial and physical needs of people affected by cancer, as well as end-of-life and palliative care research	3.1, 3.2, 3.5, 6.1, 6.6, 6.9
C7: Health Services & Policy	Research that aims to improve health service delivery related to cancer (including prevention of cancer), such as quality, efficiency, cost effectiveness, equitable access, improving data collection and analysis, screening, epidemiology, surveillance and policy research	6.2-6.5, 6.7

7. Reviewer recommendations

Some applications are sent to other experts for additional review (external reviewers). Applicants must suggest the names of at least 3 (5 if submitting application in French) impartial/unconflicted reviewers who have the necessary expertise to critically evaluate the application and with whom you do not collaborate.

8. Reviewer exclusions

Applicants may also suggest individuals they would prefer NOT be contacted as potential reviewers (panel members and/or external reviewers); specific details should be given as to the reason for exclusion. **Any exclusions you list will <u>not</u> be viewable to panel members.**

STEP 3: Validate and submit your abstract registration

I. Validation

Before you can submit your application, you must complete a validation process to identify any items left incomplete or filled out incorrectly. You can choose to either a) validate the full application, or b) validate one section at a time.

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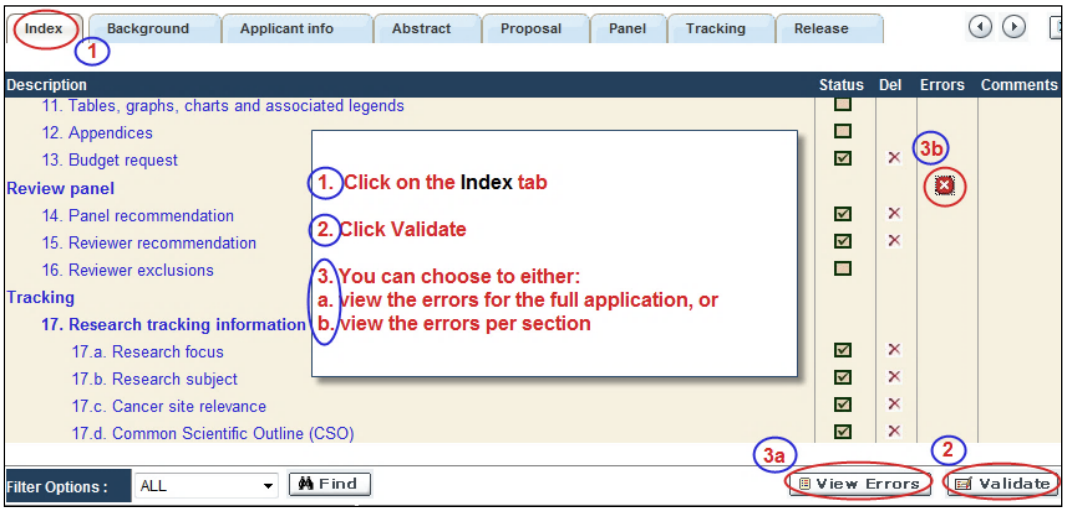
a) Validate the full application



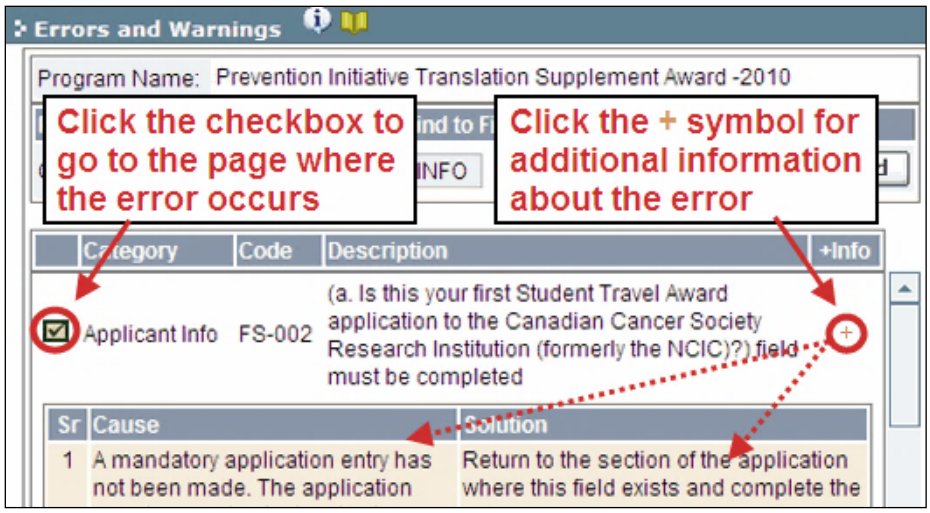
b) Validate one section at a time

Must be conducted once for every section (e.g. Background, Applicant Info, Abstract, etc.) of the application. Sections are identified as tabs in the banner across the top of the application.

Upon completion of all pages within a tab/section of the application, click the **Save** button. Next click the **Validate** button:

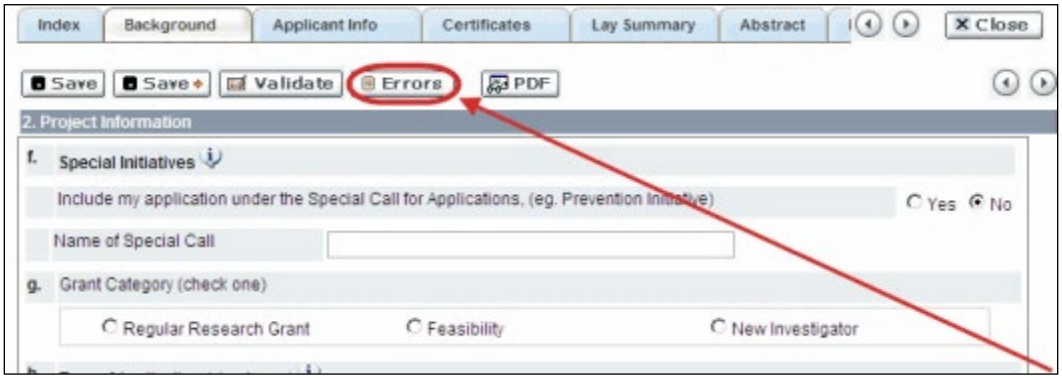
For both type a) and b) validation, follow the below instructions:

1. If errors are found, a dialogue box will open with details.
    - Click the **+** symbol under the **+Info** heading for information about the cause and solution of the error.
    - Click the checkbox to the left of the error listing to be taken to the page where the error has occurred.

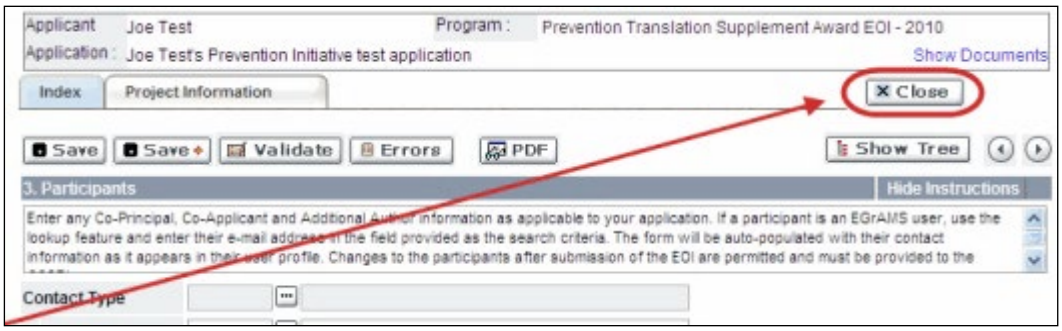


2. To view the dialogue box with the list of errors again, click the **Errors** button.

   Note: The list of errors will not be updated to reflect any corrections you've made until you click **Save** and then **Validate** again.



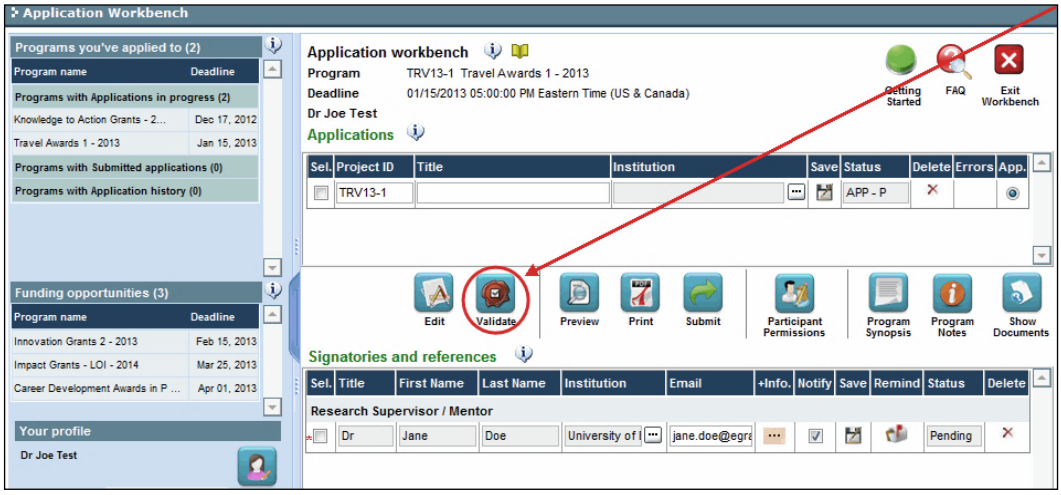
3. When all errors are resolved for every section, click the **Close** button to exit the application.



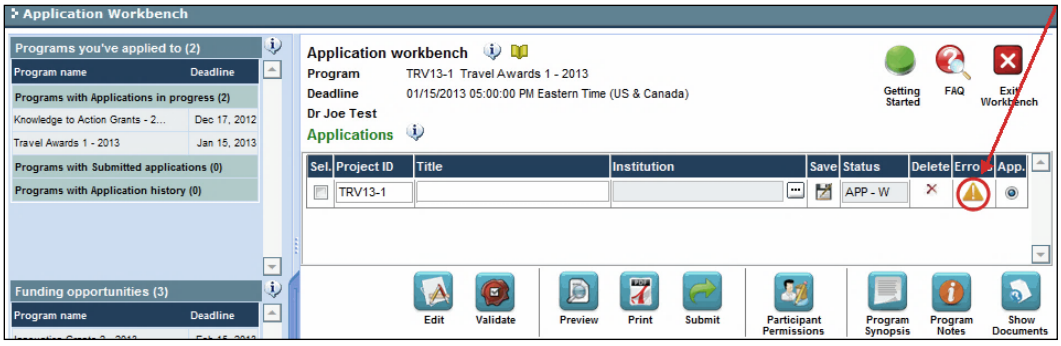
II. Preview and submission

1. From the **Application workbench**, click the

button to do a final validation of your application.



2. If Errors are found, click the button for information about the errors.



3. Errors can be corrected through the

menu.

4. To generate a PDF of your application, click the

button:

5. To preview your application in EGrAMS, click the

button:
    - Use the left side menu links to navigate to specific pages or use the forward/backward arrows to view page by page.
    - Click the **Close** button to exit the preview screen.

6. Once you've validated all errors, click the

button.

III. Confirmation

Once your application is submitted, a confirmation email will be sent to you by EGrAMS.

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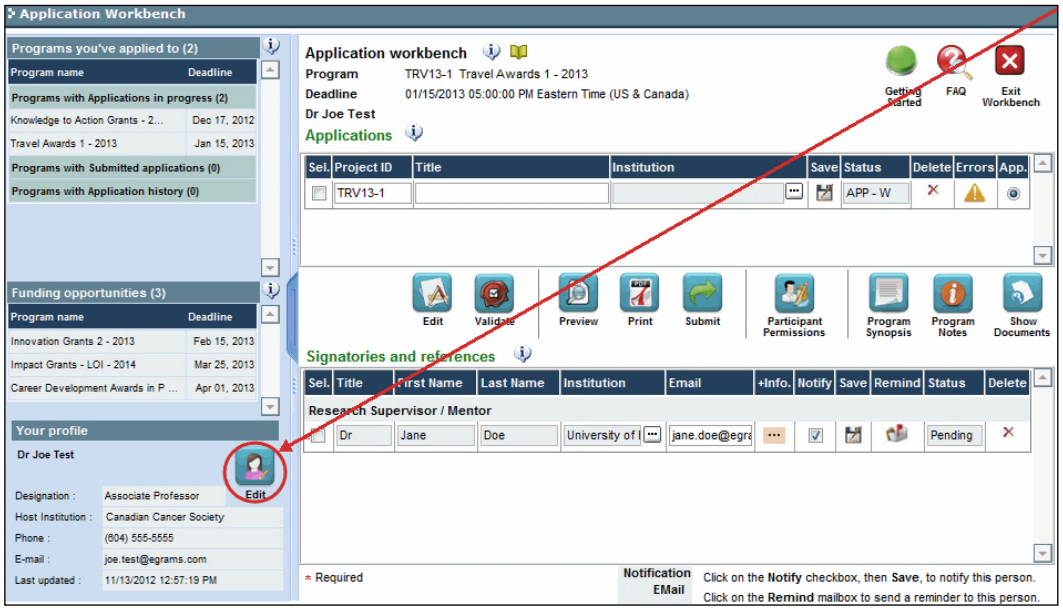
APPENDIX A: Troubleshooting

- ***Host Institution field is empty or incorrect, and lookup button does not work.***

  Problem: I am creating my application. The ··· button in the Host Institution field does not open a lookup box.

  Solution: The Host Institution field is auto-populated from information provided in your profile. You will need to update this information in your profile first, then log out of EGrAMS and log back in and create your application.

  To update your profile: From the Application workbench, click the Edit button.



- ***Delete an application***

  Problem: I need to delete my application.

  Solution: Go to the Application workbench, click the ✕ button, click OK in the pop-up.

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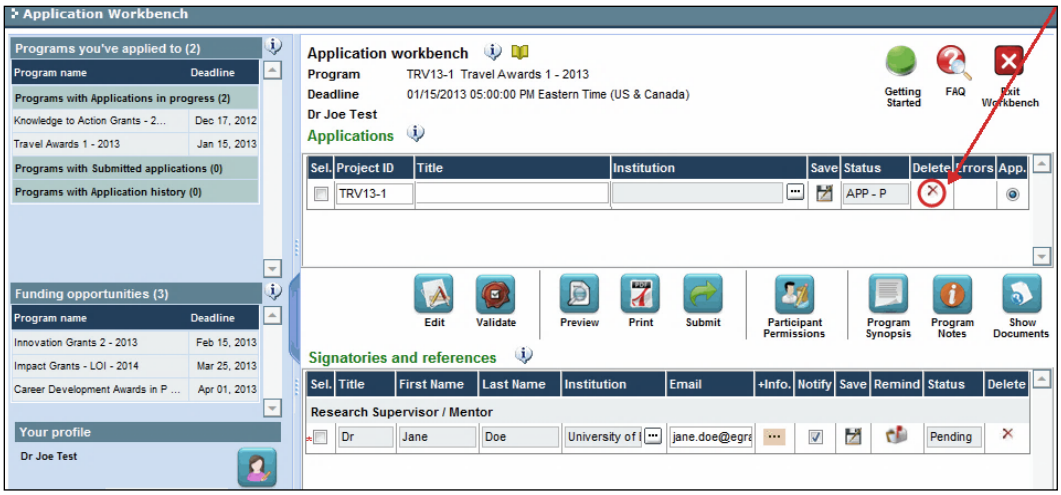

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APPENDIX B: The Application Interface

I. Navigation

Use the tab banner and arrow buttons to navigate through your application:

1. **Tab banner** – You can access the different sections of the application by clicking on the tab at the top of each page.

2. **Current tab** – The current tab you are viewing is always highlighted in white.

3. **Show more tabs** – You can manipulate the tab banner to show hidden tabs by clicking the left and right arrows that sit to the right of the banner.

4. **Advance page by page through application** – Some sections (tabs) consist of several pages of content. Click on the arrow buttons that sit below the Close button. When you reach the last page of a section, clicking the advance arrow will take you to the first page of the subsequent section.

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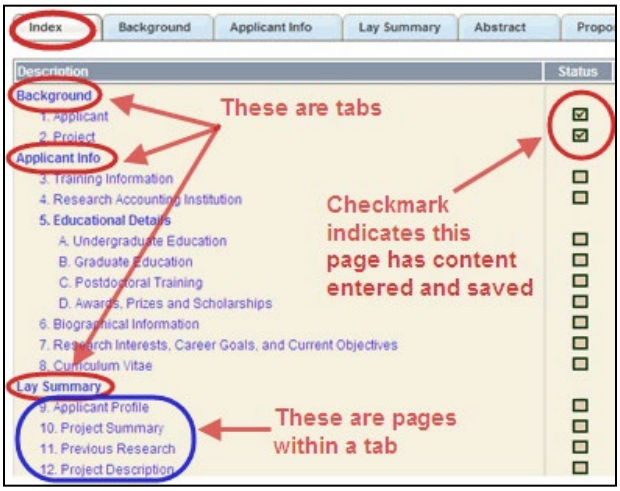
5. **Index** – Clicking the Index tab will produce a map of the entire application, including check boxes to indicate where content has been entered and saved on a page.



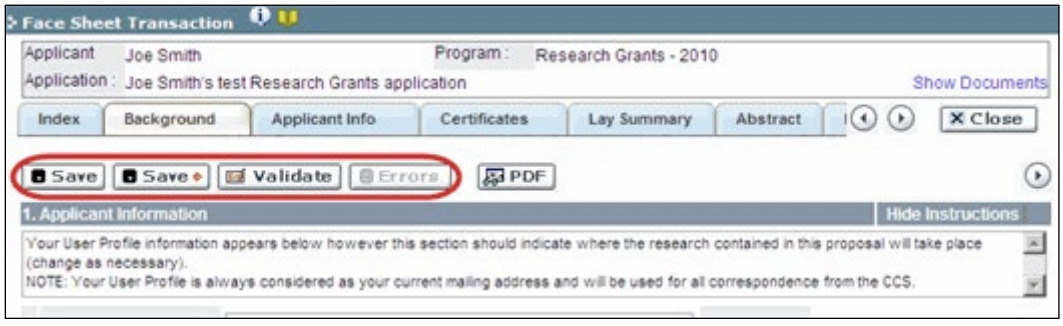
   - Sections with an uploaded document will have a paperclip icon beside the checkbox. You can view the document by clicking the paperclip.

   - Each line of the index is clickable and will take you straight to that page of the application.

   - Note that errors will show up in the index until you re-validate the application.

II. Save, Validate, Errors

The **Save**, **Save** (save, and move forward to next page), **Validate** and **Errors** buttons enable users to save their work and then check to make sure they have completed the questions properly.



- **Save**

  While some sections of the application will be pre-populated with information derived from your user profile and elsewhere, the system will still expect you to save the information that has been pre-populated, the first time you view that page of the application.

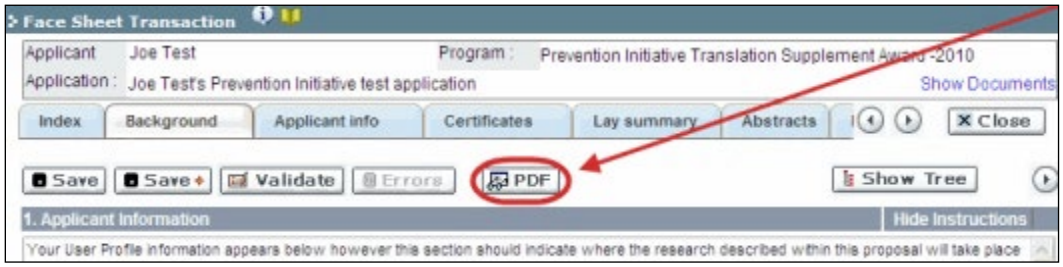
  If you try to advance to the next page without saving your work, the system will prompt you to do so.

- **Validate and check for errors**

The validation process is a crucial step in completing your application successfully. For detailed instructions, consult Step 3: Validate and submit your application.

III. PDFs

Create a PDF of **the page you are currently visiting**, including any data you have entered into the form, by clicking the PDF button.



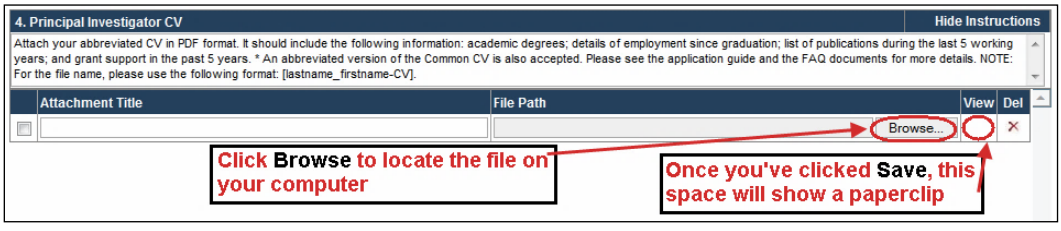
If you wish to create a PDF of your entire application, click the

button on the **Application workbench**.

IV. Uploading document attachments

1. The system will automatically take the name of the document in the **Attachment Title** field.

2. Click **Browse** and locate the document on your computer.



3. Click **Save** to upload the document as an attachment to your application.

- The **File Name** path will be cleared, and the paperclip icon will appear in the **View** column. You can click the paperclip to view the attachment.

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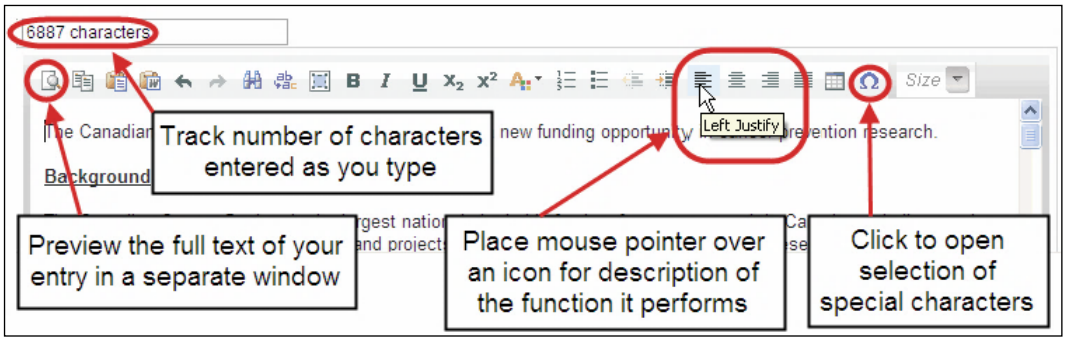
V. The rich text editor

Copying and pasting formatted text:

- You can copy and paste text formatted in a Word processor into the form; formatting will be preserved, including special characters inserted using Alt codes.
- The use of Symbol font in your application text is not supported in EGrAMS.
- Copying text from Word for Greek or French characters using this font will result in these special characters being lost (usually converted to some other letter).

You can format your text with the rich text editor within EGrAMS, in the same way you would format text in Microsoft Word.



Use the rich text editor to:

- bold, italicize or underline your text
- format footnote markers with superscript
- track the number of characters used in an entry
  - character limitations for each entry are stated in the instructions posted on each page of the application, and/or in this guide
- enter special characters such as French or Greek letters
- include bulleted and/or numbered lists
- preview your text in a full screen window

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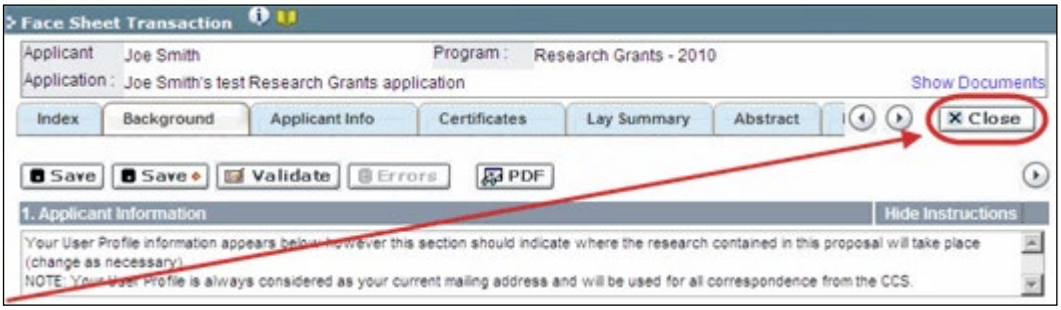
VI. Exit

To exit the application and access the **Application workbench** again, click the **Close** button.



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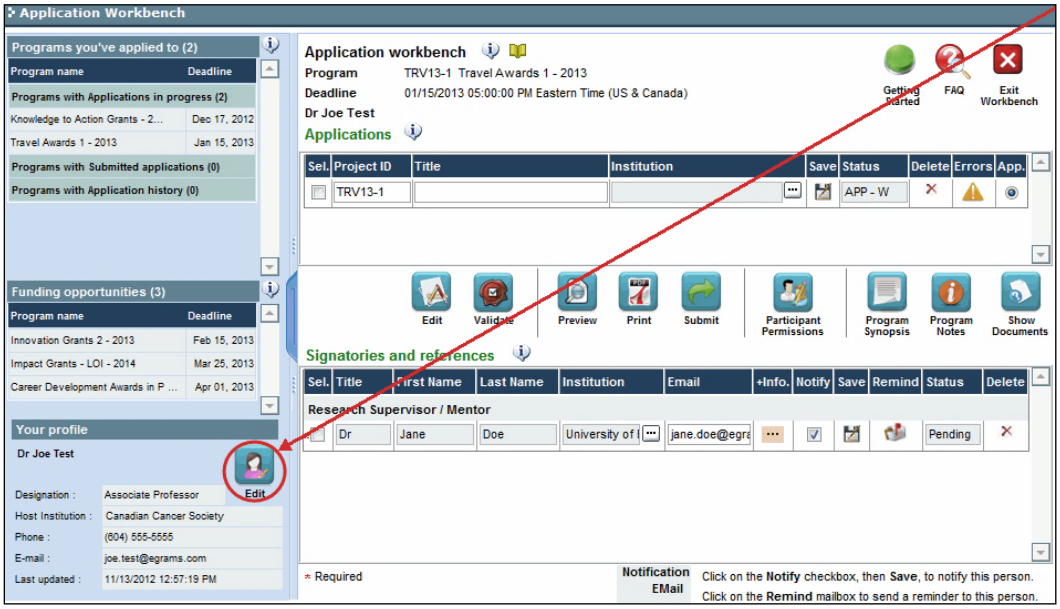
APPENDIX C: Update your profile

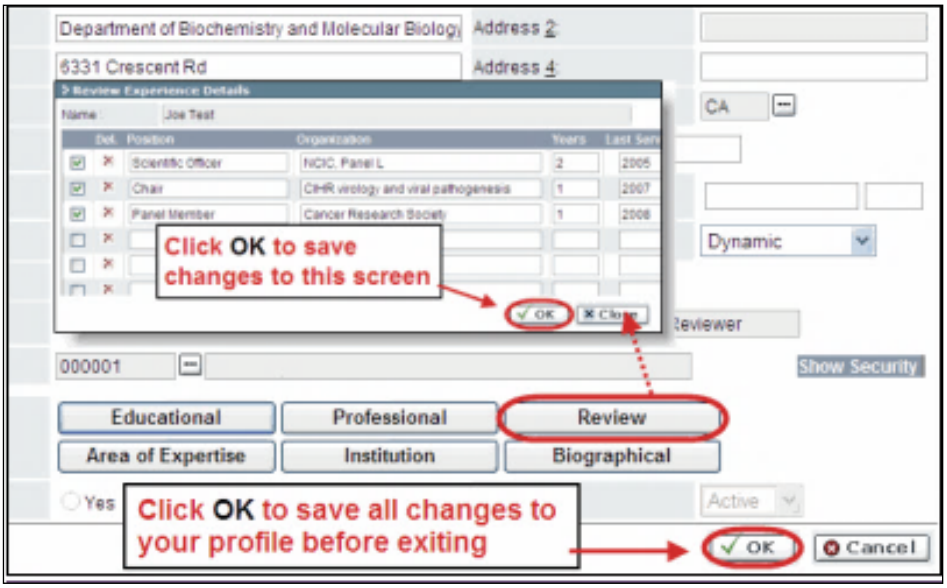
1. To update your profile, click the

button on the **Application workbench**.



2. Make changes as required. Consult Interpreting Data Fields for assistance.

3. Click **OK** at the bottom right corner of the screen to save your changes.



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Saving changes to Additional Details screens:

If you are updating the information contained in the Additional Details screens (e.g. Educational, Professional, Review, etc.), you must save the changes by clicking OK on both the Additional Details screen and then again on the main user profile page.

If you click OK on the former but not the latter, your changes will be lost.

Interpreting the data fields:

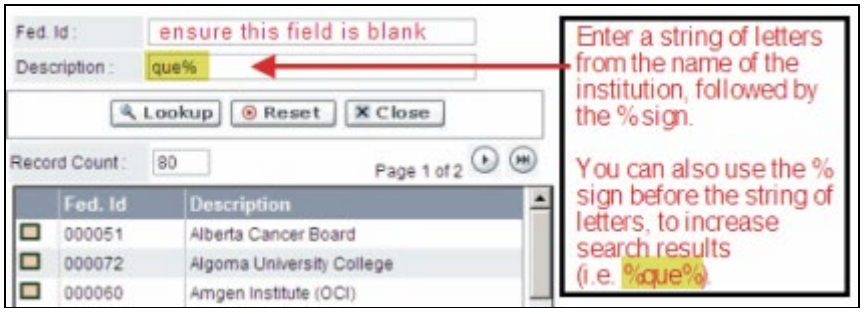
Login Name: Use your first initial and last name. If the system indicates this username already exists, try adding your middle initial or a number, i.e. JASmith or JSmith2

Display Name: This field will be auto-populated using the first initial from the First Name field and whatever you have entered in the Last Name field. However, you can change it if you wish.

Institution: Click on the ··· button and select the name of your current research institution.

** **If you do not see your institution listed in the dialogue box, contact egrams@cancer.ca. Include "EGrAMS institution set-up" in the subject line.**

To search for your institution: use the % sign as a wildcard in the Description field:



Department: Indicate your department or faculty/division (e.g. "Dept. of Immunology" or "Faculty of Nursing" where there is no department).

Address Line 1-4: Use these lines to indicate your street address. Indicate your campus, building, floor/room number, centre or laboratory as appropriate.

Country: Click on the ··· button for a list of country codes.

City: Enter your city.

Province: Click on the ··· button for a list of province codes.

Postal Code: Enter your entire postal code **in the first box.**

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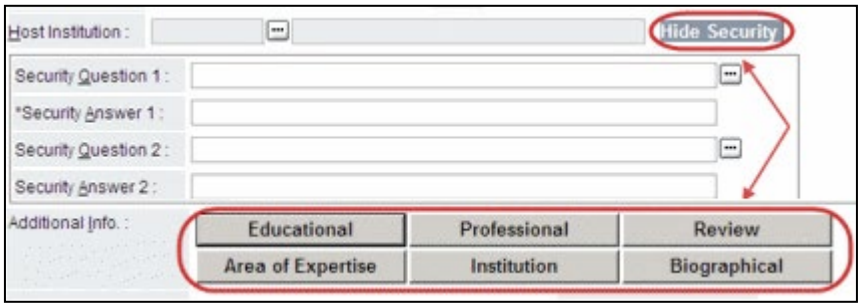
Menu Style: This category defaults to the "Dynamic" style. If you wish to change how EGrAMS displays menus along the top of your screen, you can change this field to "Drop Down List".

Designation: This field is mandatory.

Role: Click on the ··· button, and select your role within the EGrAMS system:

- **Grantee** is a person applying for funding.
- **Reviewer** is a panel member who evaluates applications and awards funding.
- **Grantee/Reviewer** is a person who occupies both descriptions.

Show Security: Click on this button to expand the form and add at least one **security question** in the event you forget your password.

To add a security question, click on the ··· button and choose from a list of questions, then enter your answer in the corresponding **security answer** field below.

Once completed, you can click the **Hide Security** button to display the Additional Info buttons below.