

Op+lait New Research Initiatives aim to stimulate research collaborations between scientists from different disciplines, fields, and institutions within a single research axis, as well as encourage new collaborations across the group's different research axes.

Eligibility Criteria:

1. The research team must include at least two members of the Op+lait group, including at least one regular member, from at least two different institutions.
2. The project must align with the research themes of at least one of Op+lait's four research axes. Projects addressing issues relevant to more than one axis will be given priority (see <http://www.oplait.org/>).
3. A researcher may submit only one application as the principal investigator per year.

Grant Value and Duration:

The grant offers a maximum of \$15,000, along with a \$7,500 scholarship for an undergraduate student. Eligible expenses for the \$15,000 grant include: Laboratory supplies, technological platform usage fees, research personnel and technician salaries (excluding researcher salaries), and travel between laboratories (up to \$500).

The duration of the grant is one year maximum.

Selection Criteria:

Innovative aspect of the new initiative (**25 %**), relevance to the themes and research axes of the group (**25 %**), team complementarity, new collaboration, and use of a technological platform (**25 %**), feasibility (**15 %**), anticipated impact (**10 %**).

The Op+lait Scientific Committee is responsible for evaluating the applications and awarding the grants. In case of a conflict of interest, the concerned committee member will not participate in the evaluation.

Documents to Submit:

1. The application form
2. A report must be submitted three months after the end of the grant (a report template will be provided), and the new initiative project must be presented at the annual Op+lait Scientific Meeting.

Complete applications must be submitted to Josée Labrie by email (josee.labrie@umontreal.ca) **no later than November 6, 2025.**