



New Studies and Ethics	
SOP Number:	140.03
Date:	11-Feb-2025

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### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Centre for Functional and Metabolic Mapping (CFMM) Core at Western's Robarts Research Institute houses Canada's only collection of high-field (3T human) and ultra-high field (7T human; 9.4T and 15.2T animal) MR systems. The Centre is dedicated to establishing the anatomical, metabolic and functional characteristics of normal brain development and healthy aging across the lifespan; as well as establishing the brain basis of developmental, neuropsychiatric and neurodegenerative deficits. CFMM resources are available to grant funded scientific collaborations, as well as industry sponsored contract studies with appropriate Review Ethics Board (REB) or Animal Care Committee (ACC) approval.
- 1.2 Certified MR Technologist / Operator and Veterinary Technician support is provided for performing MRI experiments and are included in hourly rates. The CFMM also employs the services of casual MR technologists and technical staff who are able to accommodate off-hour human scanning.
- 1.3 Rates are periodically discussed and adjusted by the CFMM Imaging Core Committee. These rates are determined through careful consideration of the CFMM Core operating costs and overhead. Formal notification of rate changes will be given at least one year prior to implementation.

### 2. New Studies

- 2.1 Principal Investigators wishing to initiate a new MRI study at the CFMM must complete and submit a "New Study Request Form" of the proposed research. The form can be found on the CFMM website at <https://cfmm.uwo.ca/resources/sops.html> **Appendix 3** and should be submitted via email to [cfmm@uwo.ca](mailto:cfmm@uwo.ca).
- 2.2 Once the New Study Request Form has been reviewed you will be notified by CFMM personnel on how to proceed. It may be advised to organize a meeting with the CFMM Director and/or MRI Technologist(s) to discuss appropriate experimental details.

### 3. Pilot Time

- 3.1 The facilities at the CFMM boast some of the lowest MRI rates in the world – possible only through major grant subsidization and with the efficient management of core funds, equipment and professional staff.
- 3.2 Under the current rate structure, *free* Pilot Time is **not** available for MRI studies.
- 3.3 Pilot time must be *self-funded* by the investigator. Funding opportunities to support pilot time are available to peer-review, grant funded investigators who qualify and whose proposed imaging project align with the research goals, scientific strategic priorities and plans set out by Western University. These opportunities are not available for industry sponsored clinical



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trials and contracts, or studies where uniform rates are negotiated across centres (e.g. ADNI, OBI etc). More information can be found at,

[https://cfmm.uwo.ca/resources/funding\\_opportunities/index.html](https://cfmm.uwo.ca/resources/funding_opportunities/index.html).

#### 4. **MRI Protocol Development and Peripheral Device Testing**

- 4.1 Peer-reviewed, grant funded scientific collaborators may request *non-billable* MRI time for the following reasons:
  - 4.1.1 Establishing, optimizing or modifying non-standard MRI acquisition protocols
  - 4.1.2 Testing of new or modified peripheral devices in the MR environment
  - 4.1.3 Testing the compatibility of the peripheral devices with the investigator's hardware and software setup
  - 4.1.4 Establishing the physical compatibility of study equipment within the MR environment
  - 4.1.5 Up to one hour of data collection with the complete MR and peripheral hardware setup (i.e. a "dry run" for testing of triggers and timing).

#### 5. **Human and Animal Ethics**

- 5.1 All human and animal research being conducted within the CFMM require current Western University HSREB or ACC approved protocols. For more information regarding REB guidelines please refer to <http://www.uwo.ca/research/ethics>.
- 5.2 The CFMM, at any time, may ask the Principal Investigator to present a copy of ethics approval letter for the protocol.



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Revision Chronology		
Version Number	Date	Changes
210.01	01 March 2010	Original Version
140.01	15 April 2020	Combination of 3T, 7T and 9.4T
140.02	07 May 2020	Revised Section 3
140.03	11 Feb 2025	Revised Section 1.1 & 2.1

CFMM Director Signature:

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