

Score	Arthritis Society Canada Scientific Merit Rating Scale	Priority for funding
4.8 – 5.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exceptional research with extremely significant and novel aims • Leading edge nationally and internationally • Addresses extremely important questions, challenges existing paradigms and will substantially improve our understanding of arthritis • Extremely likely that all objectives will be met • No identified weaknesses 	Highest
4.5 – 4.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outstanding research with very significant and novel aims • Nationally and internationally competitive • Addresses essential questions and will have a major impact on our understanding of arthritis • Very likely that all objectives will be met • Virtually no weaknesses 	Very High
4.2 – 4.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent research with significant and novel aims • Nationally competitive and potentially internationally relevant • Will have a significant impact on our current knowledge of arthritis • Likely that all objectives will be met • At least one minor weakness 	High
3.9 – 4.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very good research with important and novel aims • Potentially nationally competitive • Potential to contribute considerably to our knowledge of arthritis • Very good likelihood that most objectives will be met • Some minor weaknesses that can be addressed during the term of the grant 	Medium - High
3.6 – 3.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good research with important aims • Potentially nationally relevant • Potential to improve our knowledge of arthritis • Good likelihood that most objectives will be met • At least one moderate weakness 	Medium - Low
3.3 – 3.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research with low potential to yield important results • Numerous moderate weaknesses 	Low
3.0 – 3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research with very low potential to yield important results • At least one major weakness 	Lowest
Below 3.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research in need of further development before being competitive • Numerous major weaknesses 	None
Unscored (mark as 0.01)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The application was triaged by the panel and not discussed. The weaknesses of the proposed research far outweigh the strengths and therefore there is a low expectation of success. 	None