2024 Research Trainee Competition

Information Session Webinar

Asta Jureliaviciute
Kate Wilczak
November 22, 2023
As a provincial organization, our work extends across many Indigenous lands and territories throughout British Columbia. We acknowledge with respect and humility that our Vancouver offices are located on the traditional and unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səl̓ilwətaɁɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.
Webinar Agenda

• About Health Research BC
• Overview of Award
• Insights from a 2021 award recipient Dr. Ana Hernandez Cordero
• Organizations with Research Trainee award recipients
• Award Amount and Duration
• Eligibility Requirements
• Supervisor(s)
• Changes for 2024
• Knowledge Translation
• Partnership Opportunities
• Application and Review Process
• Evaluation
• Application Tips
• Contact Information & Q and A session
Overview of the Research Trainee
A post-doctoral health researcher or health professional eligible for a fellowship

A Trainee award provides:
- $60,000 per year for up to 3 years
- Up to 75% of time protected for research

Research Trainee awards enable researchers to:
- Increase research productivity
- Launch successful careers in research, biotech, health policy, and more
- Attract additional funding
- Create knowledge to inform practice, policy + further research

Benefits to BC:
- Develops BC talent
- Supports the knowledge economy
- Builds health research capacity
Insights from a 2021 award recipient
Dr. Ana Hernandez Cordero

Project: Understanding the link between lung genomics, transcriptomics, and sex differences in COPD
BSc. Biotechnology

MSc. Animal Sciences (Animal breeding and genetics)

PhD. Medical Sciences (Human and mouse genetics)

Postdoctoral training (Omics of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease)
Dr. Janice Leung

Dr. Don Sin

St. Paul's Hospital, Vancouver, BC
Use of genetic information to (COPD) risk stratify female and male individuals
Impact

- Change of situations
- COVID 19
- New skills

New challenges = New opportunities
Impact:

Epigenetic blood biomarkers of aging and mortality in COPD

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) is an age-related condition that is linked to cellular deterioration.

Environmental factors can alter the effect of genes through epigenetic modifications. The epigenetic state of the organism, known as a "somatic" age, can impact cellular senescence, an age-related process.

Epigenetic blood biomarkers of cellular and replicative senescence may improve the clinical assessment of COPD patients, particularly those at a higher risk of death. Furthermore, epigenetic clock (i.e., biological age) predicts mortality in COPD better than chronological age.

Read the complete publication here: https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/ije.27281

Cited by

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[Graph showing citations and h-index for the year 2018 to 2023]
The Edwin S.H. Leong Centre for Healthy Aging at UBC brings together researchers across disciplines to investigate aging in a comprehensive and holistic way in order to help people in British Columbia, across Canada, and around the world stay healthy, happy, and active as they age.
More opportunities

BC Lung grants
- 50k

CIHR
- Project grants
  - 300k
- Career Transition Awards
  - 270k
More than a grant...

Responsive
Understanding
Supportive
Advice

• Write your application, and then revise, revise and revise!
• Read, read and read!
Advice

- Don’t wait until the last minute to submit!
- Check in with your references
Advice

• Ask for applications from previous years (within your institution)
• Find a **supportive** team, and be *mindful of individuals' time*
Thank you
Organizations with Research Trainee Award Holders

The following organizations have had Research Trainee award holders in the past three years:

- BC Cancer
- BC Centre for Disease Control
- BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS
- BC Centre on Substance Use
- BC Children’s Hospital Research Institute
- BC Women’s Hospital + Health Centre
- Centre for Clinical Epidemiology and Evaluation
- Centre for Heart Lung Innovation
- Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health
- Fraser Health Authority
- GF Strong Rehabilitation Centre
- International Collaboration on Repair Discoveries (iCORD)
- Michael Smith Laboratories
- Provincial Health Services Authority
- University of Northern British Columbia
- University of the Fraser Valley
- Simon Fraser University
- University of BC – Point Grey and Okanagan
- University of Victoria
- Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute
- Vancouver Prostate Centre
- Women’s Health Research Institute
Award Amount and Duration

Research Themes

- Biomedical
- Clinical
- Health Services
- Population Health

Each Trainee Award:

- 1 to 3 years
- Stipend: $60,000 + Research and Travel Allowance
- $4,500

Applicant
Eligibility Requirements

• Canadian citizens, permanent residents, and foreign nationals are eligible.
• Hold a PhD OR be a health professional (HP) in active clinical service.
• Hold a Postdoctoral fellowship or equivalent at a BC university or research institution by the award start date, and for the duration of the award.
• Project in 1 of 4 research themes (Biomedical, Clinical, Health Services Research, Population Health), with clear link to human health.
• < 6 years from completion of PhD degree as of September 1, 2024 (<11 years for HP).
• 75% protected research time committed by supervisor (50% for HP).
An applicant can have up to two supervisors. The primary supervisor must have an academic appointment (assistant, associate, or full professor) with a BC institution that holds a memorandum of understanding with Health Research BC. Applicants may also have a co-supervisor who is an independent researcher with expertise related to the proposed research area. The co-supervisor may be located outside of BC.

The primary supervisor agrees to:

• Supervise the applicant’s research and provide the resources that are necessary for the successful completion of the research project including any KT activities.

• Administer the research and travel allowance of the award recipient.

• Respect the obligations described in the Health Research BC Research Trainee competition guidelines and conditions of award.
Changes for 2023

• Covid-19 impacts are now incorporated into the Career Timeline section

• Space to detail your Pathway to Impact (Knowledge Translation) and engagement of research users, including people with lived/living experience
Knowledge Translation (Pathway to Impact)
Knowledge Translation (KT) at Health Research BC

The broad range of activities and initiatives used to improve the use of health research evidence in health planning, practice, policy, and further health research.

- It’s more than dissemination
- A “Pathway to Impact” for health research evidence
- Includes KT Practice and KT Research
Why is Knowledge Translation Important?

• In 2009, Chalmers and Glasziou estimated that globally ~85% of biomedical research investment is wasted\textsuperscript{1}

• MacLeod \textit{et al.} estimated that across \textit{all} health research this amounted to \textasciicircum\textit{US$200B} of wasted funding in 2010\textsuperscript{2}

\textsuperscript{1}Chalmers & Glasziou. Avoidable waste in the production and reporting of research evidence. The Lancet (2009) 374;9683:86-89

The Impact of Research Waste

• 30% of patients do not get treatments of proven effectiveness
• 25% of patients get care that is not needed or potentially harmful
• Up to 75% of patients do not get enough information to make decisions
• Most programs to address gaps in patient care are not:
  ▪ evidence-based
  ▪ being implemented as intended
  ▪ being evaluated rigorously
  ▪ being sustained.


Pathway to Impact

**KT Practice**: the use of KT models, frameworks, and/or theories

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Synthesis</th>
<th>Dissemination</th>
<th>Exchange</th>
<th>Implementation</th>
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<td>The contextualization and integration of research findings of individual research studies within the larger body of knowledge on the topic.</td>
<td>The active, purposive distribution of research findings tailored to the unique needs of appropriate audiences with the intent to spread information.</td>
<td>The giving and receiving of knowledge between researchers and research users throughout the research cycle resulting in mutual learning.</td>
<td>The use of strategies to adopt and integrate evidence-based interventions and to change practice within specific settings.</td>
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KT activities are dynamic and interrelated; they can occur at multiple points in the research cycle

**KT Science/Research**: the study of KT practices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Science of Knowledge Synthesis</th>
<th>Science of Knowledge Dissemination</th>
<th>Science of Exchanging Knowledge</th>
<th>Implementation Science</th>
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<td>The scientific study of the methods used to synthesize individual research findings within the larger body of knowledge on the topic.</td>
<td>The scientific study of processes and variables that determine and/or influence the spread of knowledge to various stakeholders.</td>
<td>The scientific study of the methods used to exchange knowledge between researchers and research users that results in mutual learning.</td>
<td>The scientific study of methods that promote the systematic uptake of research findings and other evidence-based practices in clinical, organizational or policy contexts.</td>
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KT practice and research are interrelated; they can inform the work of the other and take place within the same research study
KT Practice and KT Research

• KT Practice activities are the steps in your “pathway to impact”
  ▪ What steps do you need to take?
  ▪ Talk with other researchers to see what KT activities they’ve used

• KT Practice activities are evidence-based
  ▪ Look at KT models, frameworks, and theories to inform your KT plan development

• KT Practice is not the same as KT Research
  ▪ But KT Research proposals should include KT Practice activities

• KT Practice activities should be included in all pillars (i.e., biomedical, clinical, population health, health system), as appropriate to the type of research, expected findings, and research users
  ▪ e.g., KT in bench research will look different than for population health research, and that’s okay!
End-of-Grant (Project) KT

The research team develops and implements a plan for making potential research users aware of the knowledge that is gained from a project.

- Dissemination, +/- implementation
- Researcher-driven
- Typically, not planned early
Participant Involvement in Research

Researchers provide information and services to Knowledge Users

Consult

Researchers invite Knowledge Users to participate on specific issues

Inform

Knowledge Users provide information and feedback to Researchers

Involve

Researchers and Knowledge Users collaborate on each aspect of the project from development to completion

Collaborate

Researchers and Knowledge Users form strong partnerships, share decision-making, and co-create knowledge through a project

Shared Leadership

Balaz & Morello-Frosch. *The three R’s: How community based participatory research strengthens the rigor, relevance and reach of science*. Environmental Justice, (2013) 6:1

Types of Research Users

- Patients
- The "public" / specific community representatives
- Clinicians / health care practitioners
- Health care administrators
- Government employees / public policy makers or analysts / educators
- Representatives from non-government organizations / advocacy groups
- Research funders
- Industry
- Other researchers
About KT Pathways

KT Pathways is an assessment tool for anyone who creates, uses or communicates research evidence. It is designed to help you assess your current knowledge translation (KT) skill level and to provide a framework for learning to support the use of research in practice, policy and further research.

ktpathways.ca
Resource Library

Search through staff-developed and recommended external resources in our collection.

healthresearchbc.ca/resource-library/
Pathway to Impact Resources

In addition to the resources below, Health Research BC’s Knowledge Translation, Patient-Oriented Research & Implementation Science Resources guide provides examples by research theme of KT and Patient-Oriented Research as well as implementation science activities and resources to support development and implementation of your pathway to impact activities.

Knowledge Translation
- Health Research BC Knowledge Translation
- REACH BC
- Moving into action: We know what practices we want to change, now what? An implementation guide for health care practitioners

Engaging with People with lived/living experience Partners and Patient Oriented Research
- BC SUPPORT Unit Information for Researchers
- CIHR Patient Engagement Training course
- A Journey Through Public & Patient Engagement in Health Research: A Road Map
- BC SUPPORT Unit: How patient oriented is your research?
- Workbook to guide the development of a patient engagement in research (PEIR) plan
Partnerships Opportunities
Health Research BC partners with leading organizations to grow BC’s health research talent.

Process:
- Applicants interested in being funded through a partnered award are encouraged to Complete the Potential Co-Funding Partners tab in their Full Application in ApplyNet.
- Additional partners will sometimes come on board during or after the full application phase and therefore listed only on our website. If you’d like to be considered for an award co-funded by any of these additional partners, please let us know by emailing partnerships@healthresearchbc.ca.
- Health Research BC uses the details captured in your full application and keywords provided by partners to identify applications that may be relevant to and align with partners’ area of interest.
- The full list of our partners and their co-funding interests can be found on our website.
2022-2023 Co-Funding Partners
Application and Review Process
Evaluation

Evaluation Criteria

Applications to the respective themes will be assessed against the indicated criteria and weightings below. Evaluation criteria are the same for all four themes.

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<tr>
<th>Criterion</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
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<tr>
<td>Applicant expertise and experience</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research project</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environment and support</td>
<td>20%</td>
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Application Development Tips

- Seek support from your organization’s grant facilitation office for development, editing, and revision of your application.

- Have your application critically reviewed by colleagues.

- Review the competition’s evaluation criteria and make sure they are addressed in your application.

- Pay attention to grantsmanship — cohesive flow of information allows reviewers to read the application without having to flip back and forth between pages.

- Format the program of research to be easy to read. Use headings to show a logical progression and break up the text into paragraphs. Don't be afraid of white space.
Application Development Tips

- Reviewers do not have the time to look up information on your behalf - if it is important, **make it explicit** in the application.

- If you have **pilot data**, mention it.

- You will have 4 additional pages for your appendices, which may include references, tables, charts, figures, and photographs, however if the data is important to your program of research, please include it within the main Program of Research document.

- If you were not able to capture important information about your activities and contributions in the CCV, you can add it to the **Most Significant Contributions** section.

- The sample application on our website provides some tips for the application.
Applications are submitted through our online grants management system
https://healthresearchbc.smartsimple.ca/

Login

Welcome to Health Research BC ApplyNet

Michael Smith Health Research BC is British Columbia’s health research funding agency. All our funding competitions and peer review are run through ApplyNet.

After logging in, select the appropriate portal (researcher/reviewer/partner) from the top right dropdown menu.

Our Help Desk staff are standing by to answer your questions about ApplyNet. Hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Pacific Time, Monday to Friday (excluding holidays).

helpdesk@healthresearchbc.ca | 604.714.6609 | 1.866.673.4722 (toll-free)

Resources and tutorials are available on our website.

Reminders:
- Historical grant information will remain accessible in the old ApplyNet system powered by EasyGrants.

Note: ApplyNet is optimized for the most recent versions of Chrome, Firefox, Edge, and Safari. If you are experiencing problems while using Internet Explorer, we recommend trying another browser.
From the home page, click **Apply**.

The next page will display a list of competitions available for application.

Click **View Details** to see competition information and to launch an eligibility quiz. A successful completion of the quiz will open the Letter of Intent.
Application Process Flow

2024 Trainee competition opened: November 16, 2023

Eligibility Quiz
Applicant completes Eligibility Quiz and Letter of Intent in ApplyNet

Letter of Intent
Applicant creates Third Party tasks in ApplyNet

Full Application
* Referees complete their tasks in ApplyNet

Host Institution Approval
Applicant completes and submits the Full Application

LOI Deadline: December 12, 2023

Deadline to submit Supervisor/Co-Supervisor forms: February 16, 2024

Full Application deadline: February 23, 2024

Host institution’s deadline to submit to Health Research BC: March 1, 2024

* Third Parties: Supervisor (and optional Co-Supervisor), at least 2 (max 3) referees
Contact Info and key application dates

- For questions regarding the application and submission process, please contact:
  - Asta Jureliaviciute
    - Coordinator, Research Competitions
    - 604.714.2778
    - trainee@healthresearchbc.ca

- For technical support with ApplyNet, please contact:
  - Health Research BC Help Desk
    - 604.714.6609
    - helpdesk@healthresearchbc.ca

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<tr>
<td>Letter of Intent Deadline</td>
<td>December 12, 2023 4:30 p.m. PT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Full Application Deadline</td>
<td>February 23, 2024 4:30 p.m. PT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peer Review</td>
<td>May – June 2024</td>
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<tr>
<td>Funding Announcement</td>
<td>August - September 2024</td>
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<tr>
<td>Award Start Date</td>
<td>September 1, 2024</td>
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Thank you!