



Michael Smith
**Health
Research BC**

2025 Scholar & 2025 Health Professional-Investigator

Competition Information Session

Carolyn De Melo | Research Competitions Coordinator

October 31, 2024





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 x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səłilwətaʔt (Tseil-Waututh) Nations.

Webinar agenda

- Scholar and HP-I program overview
- Insights from award recipients
- Organizations with Scholar & HP-I awardees
- Award amount and duration
- Eligibility requirements and updates for 2025
- Changes for 2025
- Pathway to Impact (KT)
- Partnership opportunities
- Review process & evaluation criteria
- Tips for developing your application
- Application process overview
 - Application process flow
 - Health Research BC ApplyNet
- Contact information & key dates
- Q & A

Overview of the Scholar and Health Professional-Investigator programs

SCHOLAR PROGRAM



An early career researcher within 6 years of their first appointment

A Scholar award provides:



\$90,000 per year for up to 5 years



75% of time protected for research

Scholar awards enable researchers to:



Start + develop new programs of research in BC



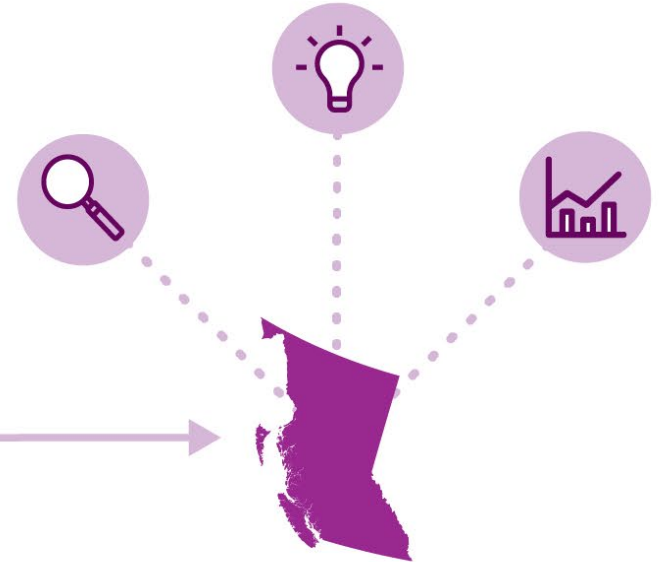
Attract additional funding



Train new researchers + hire full-time staff



Create knowledge to inform practice, policy + further research



Benefits to BC:

- Develops BC talent
- Generates new discoveries + evidence to improve health care
- Builds health research capacity

HEALTH PROFESSIONAL-INVESTIGATOR (HP-I) PROGRAM



A health professional looking to conduct and apply relevant research

An HP-I award provides:



Up to \$90,000 per year for five years



50% of time protected for research

HP-I awards enable researchers to:



Dedicate time to research while continuing clinical practice



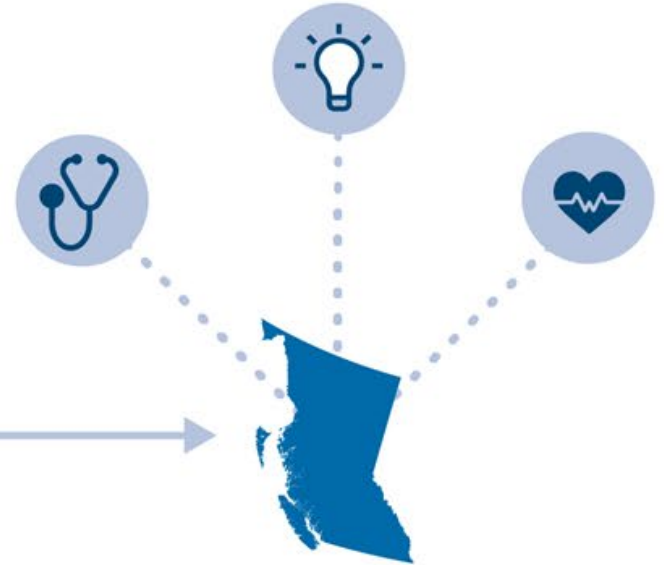
Link their practical knowledge with important research questions



Advance their research careers



Create knowledge to inform practice, policy + further research



Benefits to BC:

- Builds health research capacity
- Connects evidence + patient care
- Improves patient outcomes

Insights from a Scholar award recipient



Dr. Sandy Shultz

2021 Scholar Award Recipient

Professor

Faculty of Health Sciences and Human
Services

Vancouver Island University

Project Title: Biomarkers and interventions for mild traumatic brain injury and intimate partner violence

Insights from an HP-I award recipient



Florian Kuchenbauer MD, PhD

2021 HP-I Award Recipient

- Member Leukemia/Bone Marrow Transplant Program of BC
- Associate Director, Hematology Research Program
- Associate Professor, Department of Medicine, UBC
Senior Scientist, Terry Fox Laboratory, BC Cancer

Project Title: Exploring oxidative phosphorylation as therapeutic vulnerability in high-risk acute myeloid leukemia

Exploring oxidative phosphorylation as therapeutic vulnerability in high risk acute myeloid leukemia

MSFHR Health Professional Investigator Program



Florian Kuchenbauer MD, PhD



Provincial Health Services Authority



Michael Smith
**Health
Research BC**

About me

- MD (Germany), PhD (UBC)
 - Moved to Canada in late 2018
 - Hematologist, LBMT program since 2019
 - Senior scientist Terry Fox Laboratory since 2018
 - Academic license: 60% research / 40% clinic
- Interests (way too many....)
 - Adverse risk acute myeloid leukemia
 - High risk Multiple Myeloma
 - Clinical trials

The good

- Secured funding for a longer period
- One of the very few grants geared towards Clinician/Scientist
- Funding for personnel that is highly competent but without funding opportunities: Research Associates (indirect EDI support)
- Local support
- Local care for success, e.g. support during/after the pandemic
- Feedback on proposal (important!)



The bad (challenges during funding period)

- Pandemic
- Cost of living crisis in Vancouver (researchers in the group left to industry or the country)
- Project more challenging (Everything takes always longer...)
- Time is always tight due to clinic/research split
- Salaries (good thing) /costs of research(not so good) increased significantly



Outlook

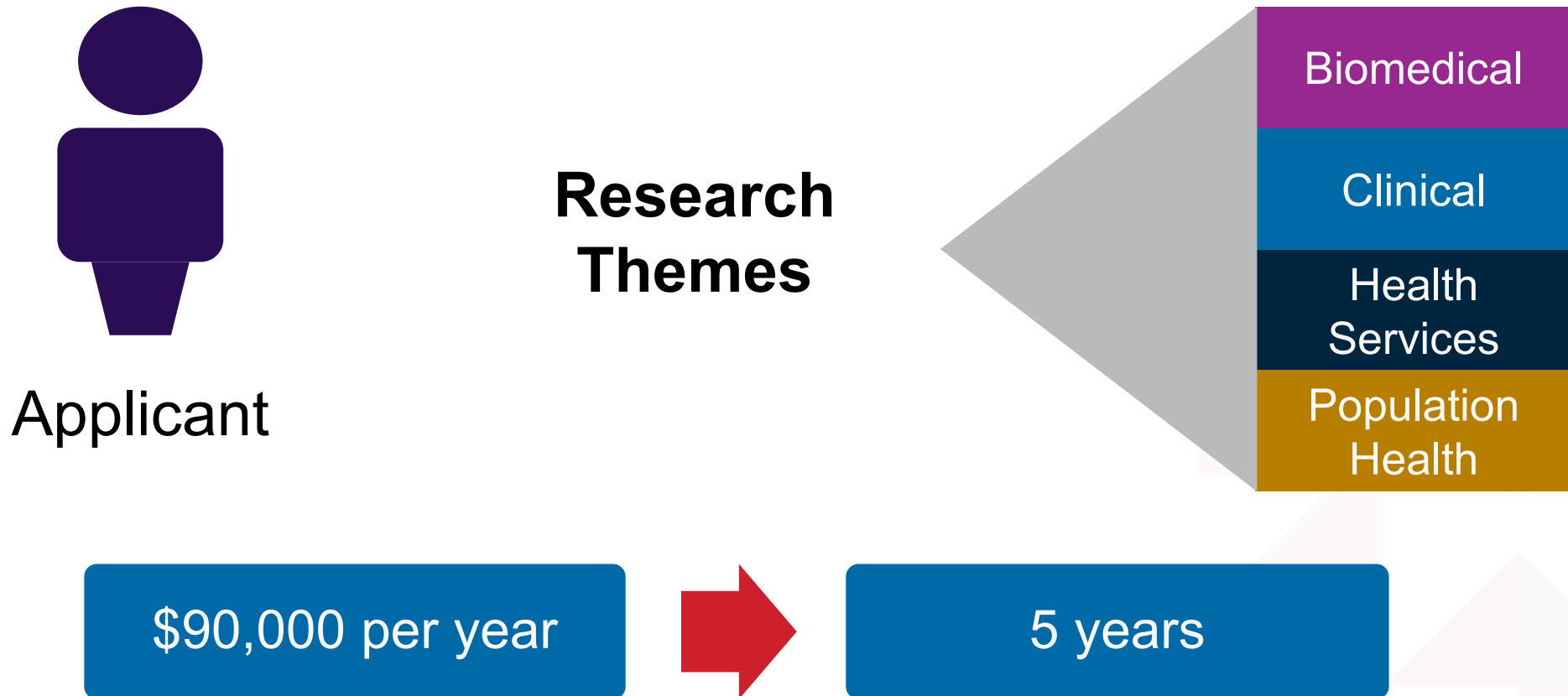
- First publication in revision, more to come
- Knowledge gains initiated multiple projects
- Peace of Mind (for a little while...)
- Prestigious scholarship in CV, helps to secure more funding



Organizations with Scholar and HP-I award holders

- BC Cancer (Vancouver, Victoria, BCCRI)
- BC Centre for Disease Control
- BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS
- BC Centre for Improved Cardiovascular Health (ICVHealth)
- BC Centre on Substance Use
- BC Children's Hospital and Sunny Hill Health Centre for Children
- BC Children's Hospital Research Institute
- BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre
- Canada's Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre
- Centre for Chronic Disease Prevention and Management
- Centre for Gender & Sexual Health Equity
- Centre for Health Evaluation & Outcome Sciences (CHEOS)
- Centre for Heart Lung Innovation
- Centre for Hip Health and Mobility (CHHM)
- Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health
- Foundry
- Fraser Health Authority
- GF Strong Rehabilitation Centre
- International Collaboration on Repair Discoveries (ICORD)
- Island Health
- Life Sciences Institute
- Providence Health Care
- Providence Research
- Provincial Health Services Authority
- Royal Roads University
- Simon Fraser University (Burnaby and Vancouver)
- St. Paul's Hospital
- Trinity Western University
- University of British Columbia (Okanagan, Vancouver, UBC Biomedical Research Centre, UBC Centre for Disease Control)
- University of Northern British Columbia
- University of the Fraser Valley
- University of Victoria
- Vancouver Coastal Health (VCHRI)
- Vancouver General Hospital
- Vancouver Island University
- Vancouver Prostate Centre
- Women's Health Research Institute

Award amount & duration



Scholar & HP-I program eligibility & updates

Eligibility requirements - Scholar

Eligibility Requirements

Must have a **PhD** or equivalent.

Commit to a minimum of **75 percent time** conducting research.

Currently hold an **appointment** or have a commitment of an appointment to begin by the award start date of **July 1, 2025** at a BC institution that holds a memorandum of understanding with Health Research BC as a host institution.

Be **within six years from the start of their first university appointment** (at an assistant professor level, or equivalent) **OR be within six years of obtaining a PhD** as of the award start date, **July 1, 2025**, whichever comes last

Research must display clear link to human health research

Eligibility requirements – HP-I

Eligibility Requirements

Hold a **valid license to practice in BC** and be a member in good standing of the **appropriate regulatory college** **OR** be a **board-certified/board-eligible health professional** and a member in good standing of the appropriate provincial/national certification body ([BC Health Regulators](#)).

For allied health professionals, must have a **bachelor's degree** or higher; for physicians, must have a **medical doctorate** or equivalent.

Be a clinician, health practitioner, and/or health care provider whose role requires **clinical decision-making**.

Commit to a minimum of **50 percent time** conducting research (min. 20 hours/week).

Currently hold an **appointment** or have a commitment of an appointment to begin by the award start date of **July 1, 2025** at a BC institution that holds a memorandum of understanding with Health Research BC as a host institution.

Is Scholar or HP-I right for you?

PhD (or equivalent)

Career is research focused

Commit to min. 75% research time

Within first 6 years of first academic appointment (assistant professor or equivalent)

Scholar

Health professional licensed to practice in BC

Works in BC health system in a role involving clinical decision-making

Commit to min. 50% research time

Must have research appointment at BC host institution

Health Professional-Investigator

New for 2025 Scholar and HP-I competitions

1. No Canadian Common CV in the application
2. New policy on leave credits for early career researchers
3. Distinct peer review panel for Indigenous-led health research applications
4. Top-up funding of up to \$10K for recipients whose research involves meaningfully engaging Indigenous communities

Indigenous Health Research review panel

- Applicants may choose to be reviewed by the Indigenous Health Research review panel at time of application
- The Indigenous Health Research (IHR) panel will review applications with a focus on ***Indigenous-led research***
- Composed of reviewers with living-experience, knowledge, and/or expertise in Indigenous health research
- Specific evaluation criteria for Indigenous health research

BC SUPPORT Unit top-up fund

- **\$10,000 top-up funds** offered to applicants whose research involves meaningfully engaging Indigenous communities. Supports researchers in their ability to:
 - Support active and meaningful partnerships with Indigenous communities, organizations, or leaders.
 - Support a strong relationship in alignment with Indigenous methodologies.
 - Promote cultural safety and OCAP® practices.
 - Support capacity bridging within the Indigenous community to participate in research.
- **Applicants may be from any panel**, as long as their research involves meaningfully engaging Indigenous communities
- Interested Scholar and HP-I applicants submit a budget for up to \$10,000 in eligible expenses while completing their full application.



Michael Smith
**Health
Research BC**
BC SUPPORT UNIT

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.

- 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 wasted¹
- MacLeod *et al.* estimated that across *all* health research this amounted to **~US\$200B** of wasted funding in 2010²

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

²MacLeod et al. *Biomedical research: Increasing value, reducing waste*. The Lancet. (2014) 383;9912:101-4

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.

Kiesler DJ, Auerback SM. Optimal matches of patient preferences for information, decision-making and interpersonal behavior: evidence, models and interventions. *Patient Educ Couns* 2006;61:319-41.

Dawes, M., Sampson, U.: Knowledge management in clinical practice: A systematic review of information seeking behavior in physicians. *Int J Med Inform* 2003;71:9-15 .

McGlynn Elizabeth A, Asch Steven M, Adams John, Keeseey Joan, Hicks Jennifer, DeCristofaro Alison, Kerr Eve A. The quality of health care delivered to adults in the United States. *N Engl J Med*. 2003 Jun 26;348(26):2635–2645.

Pathway to Impact

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

Synthesis

The contextualization and integration of research findings of individual research studies within the larger body of knowledge on the topic.

Dissemination

The active, purposive distribution of research findings tailored to the unique needs of appropriate audiences with the intent to spread information.

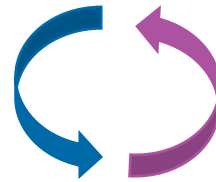
Exchange

The giving and receiving of knowledge between researchers and research users throughout the research cycle resulting in mutual learning.

Implementation

The use of strategies to adopt and integrate evidence-based interventions and to change practice within specific settings.

KT activities are dynamic and interrelated; they can occur at multiple points in the research cycle



KT Science/Research: the study of KT practices

Science of Knowledge Synthesis

The scientific study of the methods used to synthesize individual research findings within the larger body of knowledge on the topic.

Science of Knowledge Dissemination

The scientific study of processes and variables that determine and/or influence the spread of knowledge to various stakeholders.

Science of Exchanging Knowledge

The scientific study of the methods used to exchange knowledge between researchers and research users that results in mutual learning.

Implementation Science

The scientific study of methods that promote the systematic uptake of research findings and other evidence-based practices in clinical, organizational or policy contexts.

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 KT vs. Integrated KT

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

End-of-Grant KT vs. Integrated KT

Integrated KT (iKT)

Research users are engaged as equal partners alongside research team.

- Involved with most, if not the entire, research process
- Team-driven
- Pre-planned prior to undertaking research

KT Pathways[©]



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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.



[Create Account](#)

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<https://ktpathways.ca>

Partnership opportunities

Partnership 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 are 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.*

Previous Scholar & HP-I co-funding partners



More information about partners interested in co-funding the 2025 competition will be available in the full application form and at <https://healthresearchbc.ca/funding/partnered-awards/>.

Mitacs Accelerate partnership

- Optional expedited application process for Mitacs Accelerate funding for Scholar and HP-I applicants.
- Mitacs Accelerate funding supports experiential training internships for Master's, PhD students, and post-doctoral fellows who are supporting your research. Mitacs Accelerate program provides \$15,000 of funding for each four-month internship block.
- Applicants indicate interest at letter of intent.
- Separate application form outside of ApplyNet system. Form to be uploaded to Full Application.
- Contact a Mitacs business development representative for more information and to obtain an Accelerate Proposal application.

Review process & evaluation criteria

Evaluation criteria

Criterion	Description	Weighting
Applicant expertise and experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Career timeline• Most significant contributions• Publication list	30%
Research program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research program upload• Response to previous reviews (if applicable)• Pathway to impact/KT• EDI considerations• Ethical Considerations	50%
Environment and support	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research support statement• Budget statement• Department Head and/or Dean Forms• Letter(s) of collaboration (optional)	20%

Peer review

Scholar	Health Professional-Investigator
Separate peer review pools for junior faculty: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Within three years of first appointment• Between 4-6 years from first appointment	Separate peer review pools for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Physician applicants• Allied Health applicants
<p style="text-align: center;">Both programs:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Peer review panels by theme</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Biomedical Clinical Health Services Population Health Indigenous Health Research</p>	

Writing and submitting your application

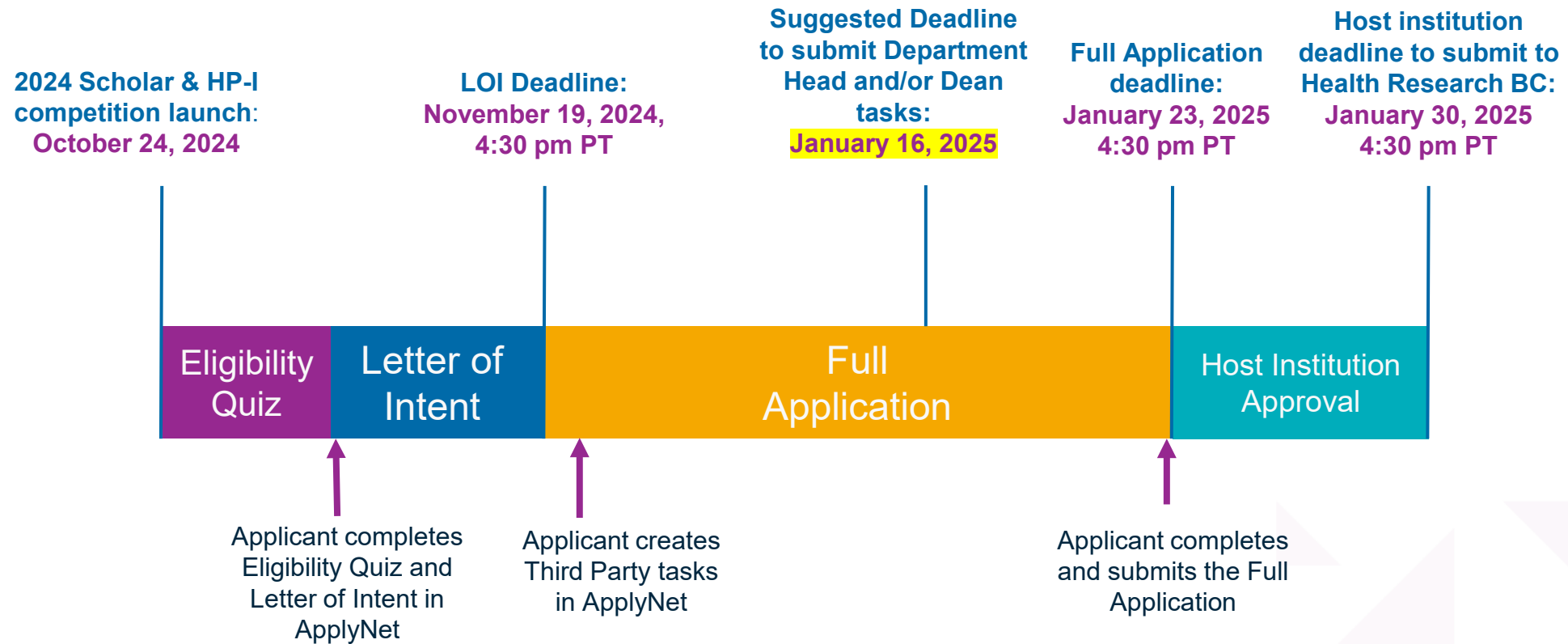
Tips for developing your application

- 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.
- If an optional question doesn't apply to you, you **do not need** to fill it out.
- Format the research proposal 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.
- Pay attention to **grantsmanship** — cohesive flow of information allows reviewers to read the application without having to flip back and forth between pages.

Tips for developing your application

- You will have 8 additional pages for your appendices, which may include references, tables, charts, figures, and photographs. However, if the data is important to your research proposal, please include it within the **Research Proposal document**.
- If you have **pilot data**, mention it. Additionally, anything you can provide to support your research program decisions, such as power calculations, sample size justifications, etc., should be provided where possible to demonstrate feasibility.
- Capture important information about your activities and contributions by utilizing the **Most Significant Contributions** section.
- **Reach out to your Department Head** very early in the process to discuss your appointment and the resources and support available to you.

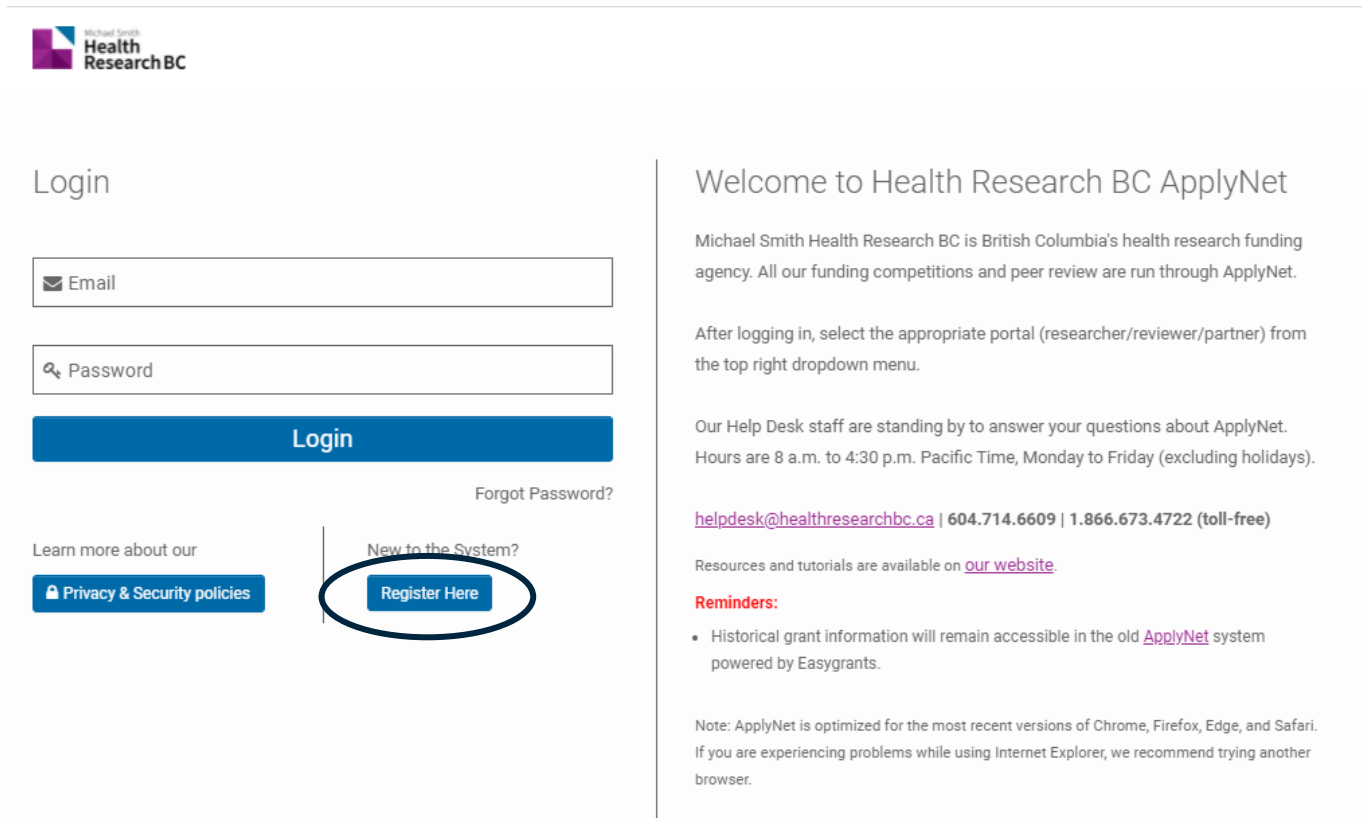
Scholar and HP-I application process flow



* **Third Parties:** Department Head and/or Dean

Health Research BC ApplyNet

Applications are submitted through our online grants management system, ApplyNet, <https://healthresearchbc.smartsimple.ca/>



Michael Smith Health Research BC

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New to the System?
Register Here

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.

Health Research BC ApplyNet

From your ApplyNet home page, **click “Apply.”**
This will take you to a page displaying currently open competitions.



Welcome to your ApplyNet home page

Then **click “View Details”** next to the Scholar or HPI competition to begin a Letter of Intent.

Open Competitions		
2025 Health Professional-Investigator Competition	LOI Deadline: 11/19/2024 4:30 PM Full Application Deadline: 01/23/2025 4:30 PM	View Details
2025 Scholar Competition	LOI Deadline: 11/19/2024 4:30 PM Full Application Deadline: 01/23/2025 4:30 PM	View Details

Contact Info

For questions regarding the application and submission process, please contact:

**Carolyn De Melo (November – December, 2024)
or Andrew Biagtan (on leave until January 2025)**

Coordinator, Research Competitions

604.714.6602

scholar@healthresearchbc.ca, hpi@healthresearchbc.ca

For technical support with ApplyNet, please contact:

Health Research BC Help Desk

604.714.6609 | 1.866.673.4722

helpdesk@healthresearchbc.ca

Visit www.healthresearchbc.ca/funding to view competition guidelines, sample application PDFs, and evaluation criteria.

Key competition dates

Stages in Competition Cycle	Date
Letter of Intent Deadline	November 19, 2024 4:30 p.m. PT
Full Application Deadline	January 23, 2025 4:30 p.m. PT
Host Institution Deadline	January 30, 2025 4:30 p.m. PT
Peer Review Panel Meetings	April-May 2025
Anticipated Start of Funding	July 1, 2025