2026 Research Trainee Competition

Information Session Webinar

Asta Jureliaviciute

Kaitlin Winter

Kate Wilczak

Gayle Scarrow

November 5, 2025

We acknowledge with respect and humility that our offices are located on the unceded, ancestral, and traditional lands of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

We also acknowledge the diverse First Nations across British Columbia, who have inherent rights rooted in the connection to their lands and waters, which have never been surrendered. In the spirit of reconciliation, we aim to practice cultural safety, value Indigenous ways of knowing, and respect the rights of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.

Michael Smith
Health
Research BC

Webinar Agenda

- Overview of Research Trainee Award
- Insights from a 2024 award recipient Dr. Kaitlin Winter
- Application Process and Evaluation
- Changes for 2026
- Knowledge Translation
- Partnership Opportunities
- Contact Information and Q&A session

Overview of the Research Trainee program

Research Trainee: enabling career development

A post-doctoral health researcher or health professional eligible for a fellowship

A Research Trainee award provides:

$60,000 per year for up to 3 years

Research and travel allowance of **$4,500** per year for up to 3 years

Up to **75%** of time protected for research

Benefits to BC:

- Develops talent whose work generates evidence for new treatments and diagnostic tools that improve health outcomes.

- Supports the knowledge economy to inform policy and practice.

- Strengthens the health system's capacity to conduct world-class research.

Insights from 2024 award recipient Dr. Kaitlin Winter

Project: Addressing antimicrobial resistance through the design and preclinical evaluation of a Klebsiella pneumoniae vaccine

I live on the traditional and unceded territory of the Coast Salish Peoples, including the territories of the xwməθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), Stó:lō and Səl̓ílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil- Waututh) Nations.
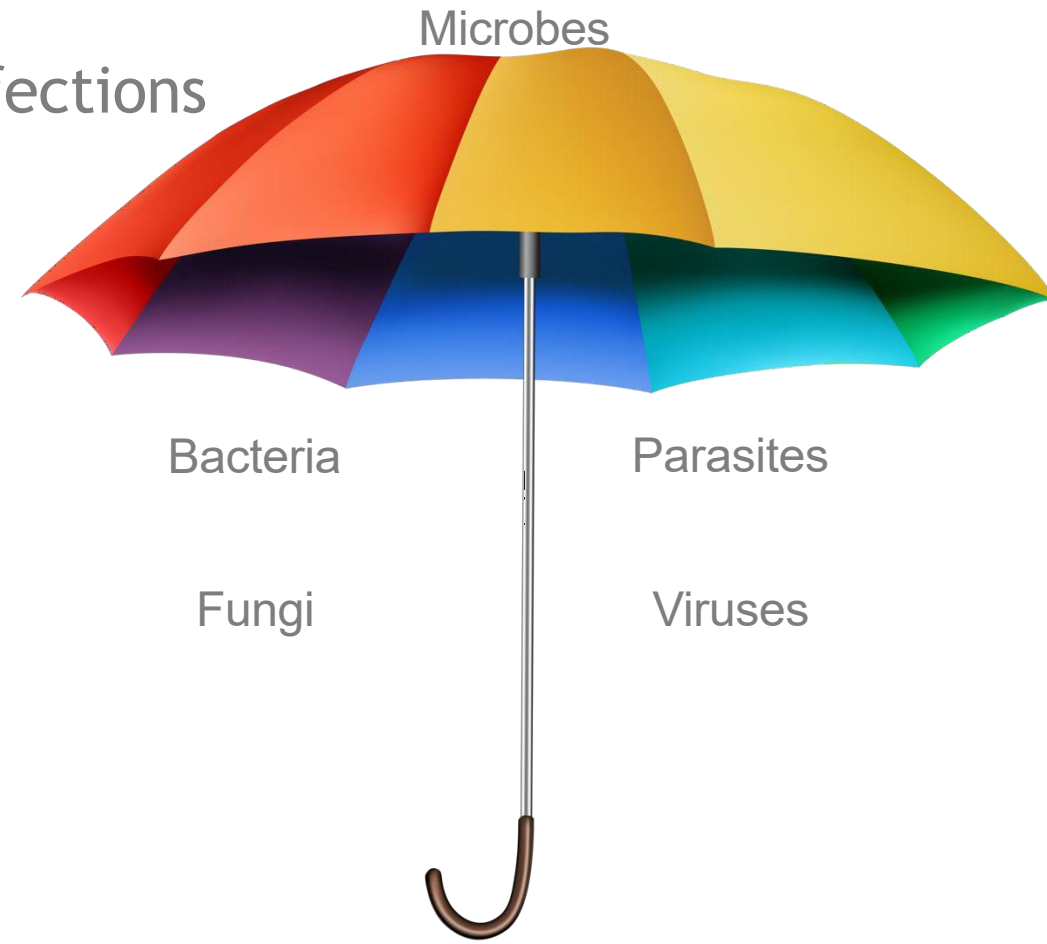

TANYA TAGAQ

SPLIT TOOTH

"[A] forceful coming-of-age tale." TORONTO LIFE

Antimicrobial Resistance

› Antibiotics/Antimicrobials

Antimicrobial Resistance

› Antibiotics/Antimicrobials

  › Drugs used to treat bacterial/microbial infections

Microbes

Bacteria

Parasites

Fungi

Viruses

Antimicrobial Resistance

› Antibiotics/Antimicrobials

   › Drugs used to treat bacterial/microbial infections

› Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

Microbes

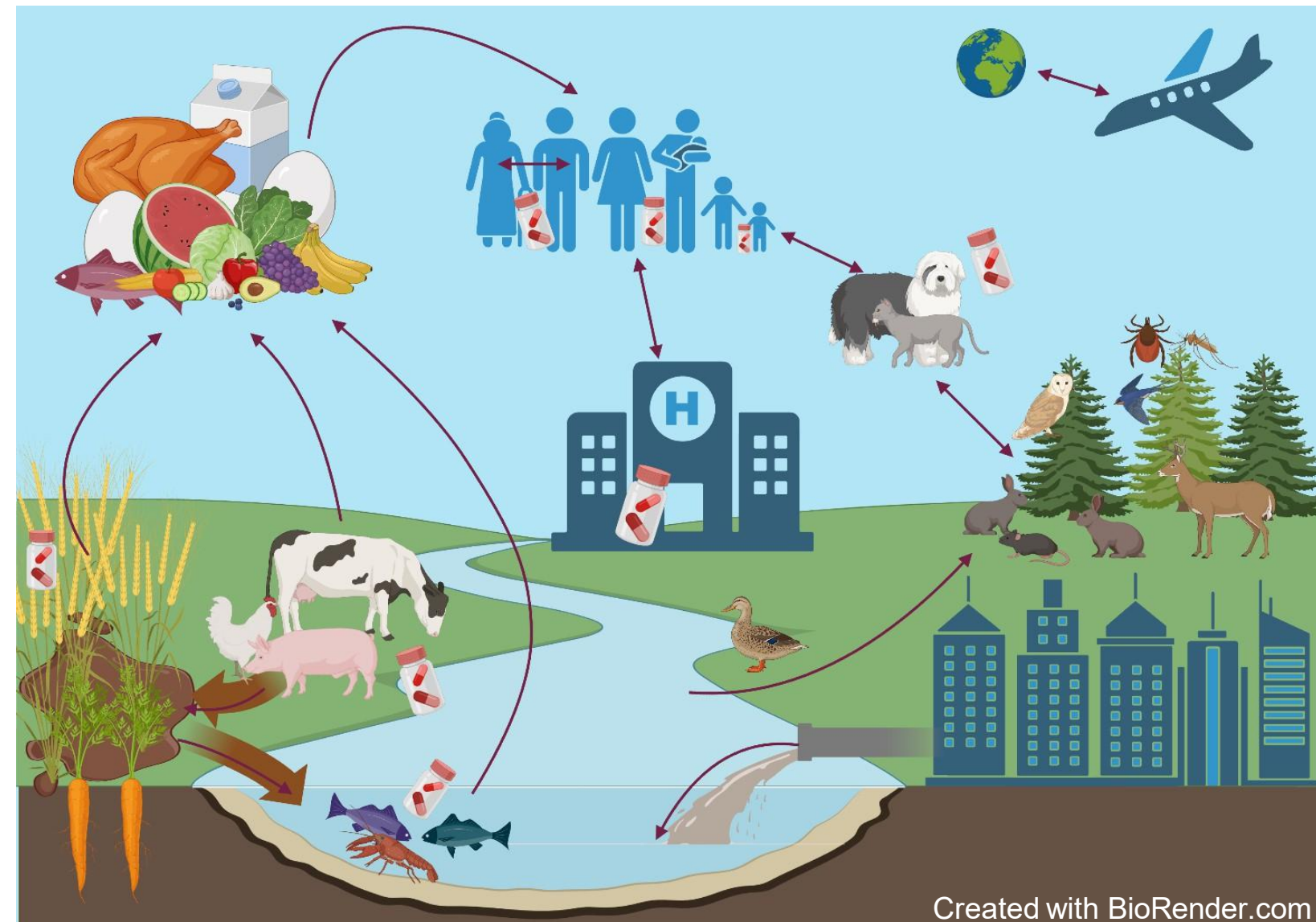Bacteria   Parasites

Fungi   Viruses
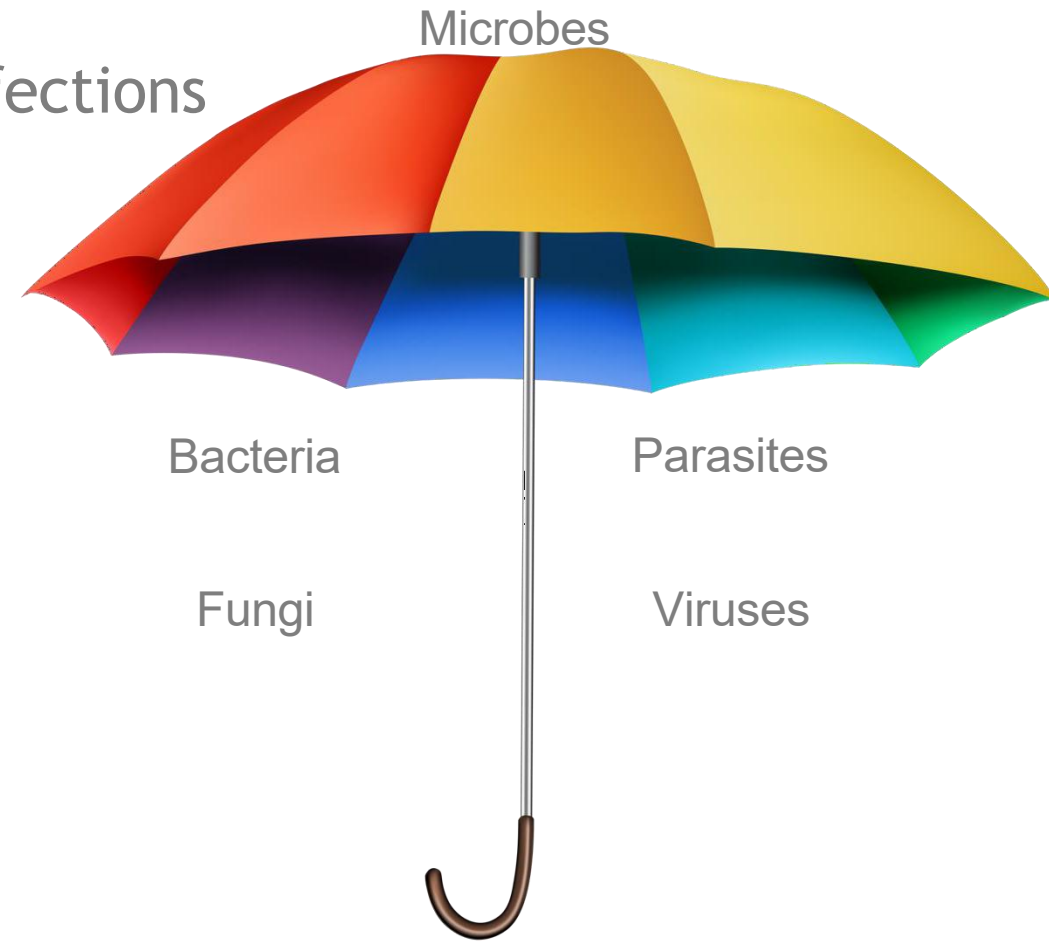
Antimicrobial Resistance

› Antibiotics/Antimicrobials

  › Drugs used to treat bacterial/microbial infections

› Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

  › When microbes are exposed to low doses of antimicrobials, they can evolve resistance mechanisms

Antimicrobial Resistance

Created with BioRender.com

› ~10 million annual deaths by 2050

> › COVID-19 pandemic caused ~6.9 million deaths in 3 years

Address antimicrobial resistance

› Novel antibiotics/novel antibiotic discovery pipelines

› Antibiotic stewardship

Address antimicrobial resistance

> Novel antibiotics/novel antibiotic discovery pipelines

> Antibiotic stewardship

> Antibiotic adjuvants

> Monoclonal antibodies

> Phage Therapy

Address antimicrobial resistance

› Novel antibiotics/novel antibiotic discovery pipelines

› Antibiotic stewardship

› Antibiotic adjuvants

› Monoclonal antibodies

› Phage Therapy

› Vaccines

Klebsiella pneumoniae

› WHO and PHAC top priority AMR pathogen

› Gram-negative, encapsulated bacteria

› Causes a wide variety of diseases

› Most common cause of infectious death in children <5 years old in Africa and Asia
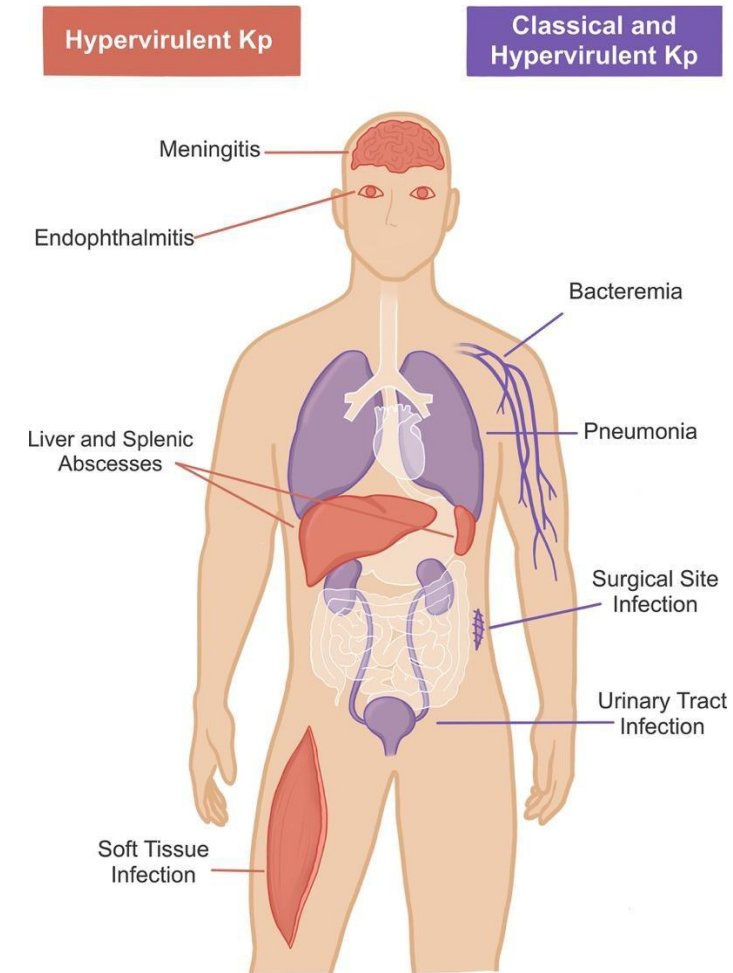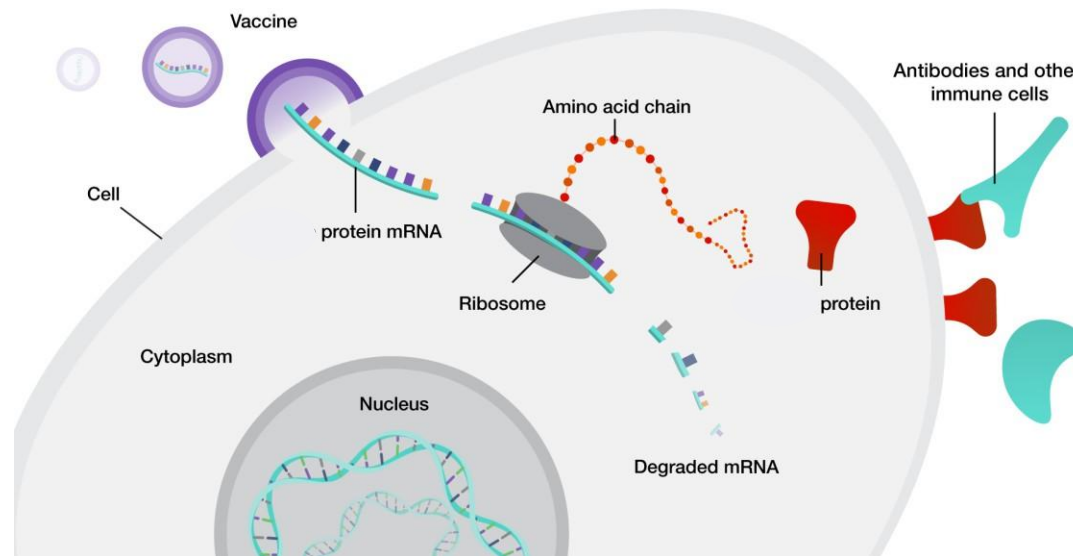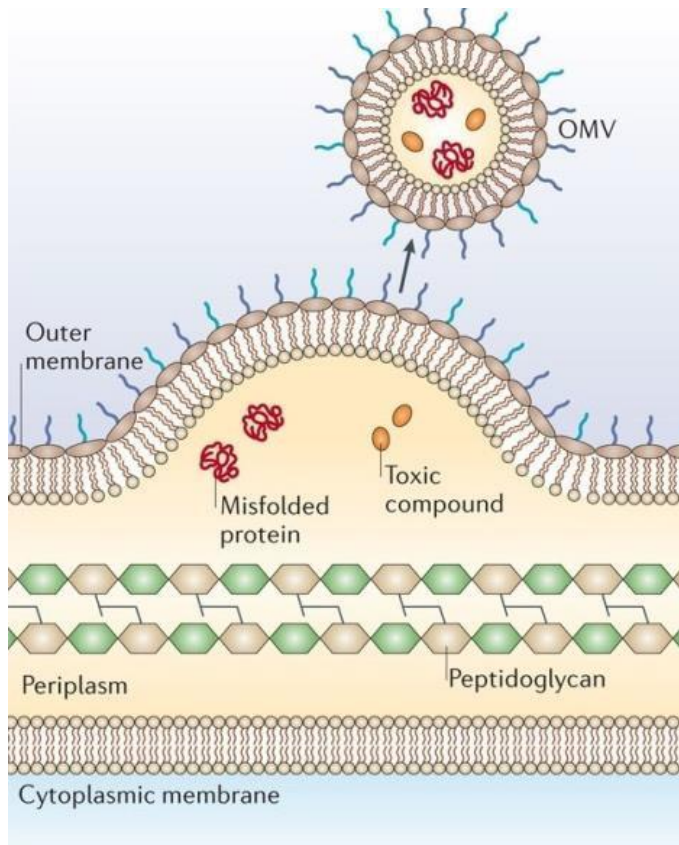

(Gonzalez-Ferrer *et al.*, 2021; Infection & Immunity)

› *Klebsiella pneumoniae* vaccines we are working to develop:

› Outer membrane vesicles

› mRNA

(Fact Sheet, National Human Genome Research Institute, NIH)

(Schwechheimer & Kuehn, 2015; Nature Reviews Microbiology)

AVENGER

Next-generation vaccines for Canadians

› Opens the door for better science

› Opens the door for better science

  › Impacts other funding applications

› Opens the door for better science

› Impacts other funding applications

› Can pay a graduate student (or two)

› Opens the door for better science

› Impacts other funding applications

› Can pay a graduate student (or two)

› More grant money can go to the science

› Opens the door for better science

› Impacts other funding applications

› Can pay a graduate student (or two)

› More grant money can go to the science

› More time

› Plan it out

  › Parts of the application

  › References

  › Supports

Tips for a successful application

› Plan it out

  › Parts of the application

  › References

  › Supports

› Be resourceful

  › Institutional resources

  › Have someone outside of your lab read it

    › What are their takeaways? What are their questions?

› Keep applying

> › Try again

> › Apply to other sources

Acknowledgements

› Dr. Manish Sadarangani

› Sadarangani lab members

Application process and evaluation

Are you eligible to apply?

- Must have a research fellowship begins by September 1, 2026

- Must be conducting research relating to human health, and aligned with one of the following themes:
  - Biological
  - Clinical
  - Health Services Research
  - Population Health

PhD stream

- Completed PhD (or equivalent)

- Commit to minimum 75% research time

- Eligible to hold a postdoctoral position for the requested award duration according to host institution policies

Health Professional stream

- Health professional licensed to practice in BC

- Commit to min. 50% research time and maintain active clinical practice for duration of award

- Eligible to hold a research fellowship for the requested award duration according to host institution policies
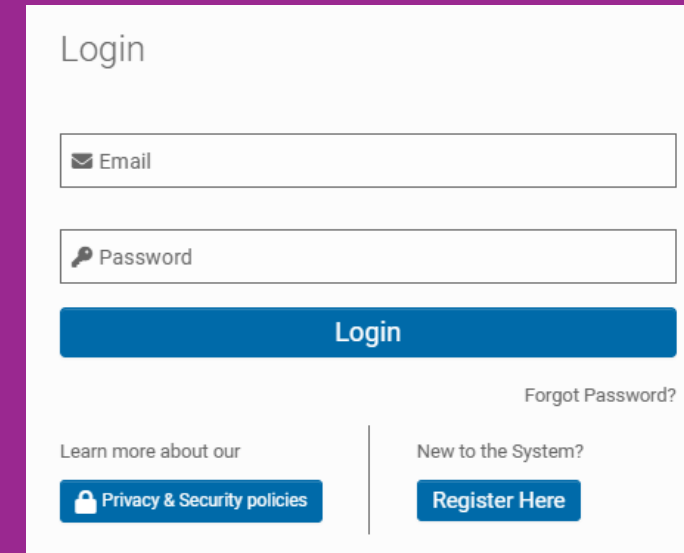
How to apply

Log into Applynet:
https://healthresearchbc.smartsimple.ca/
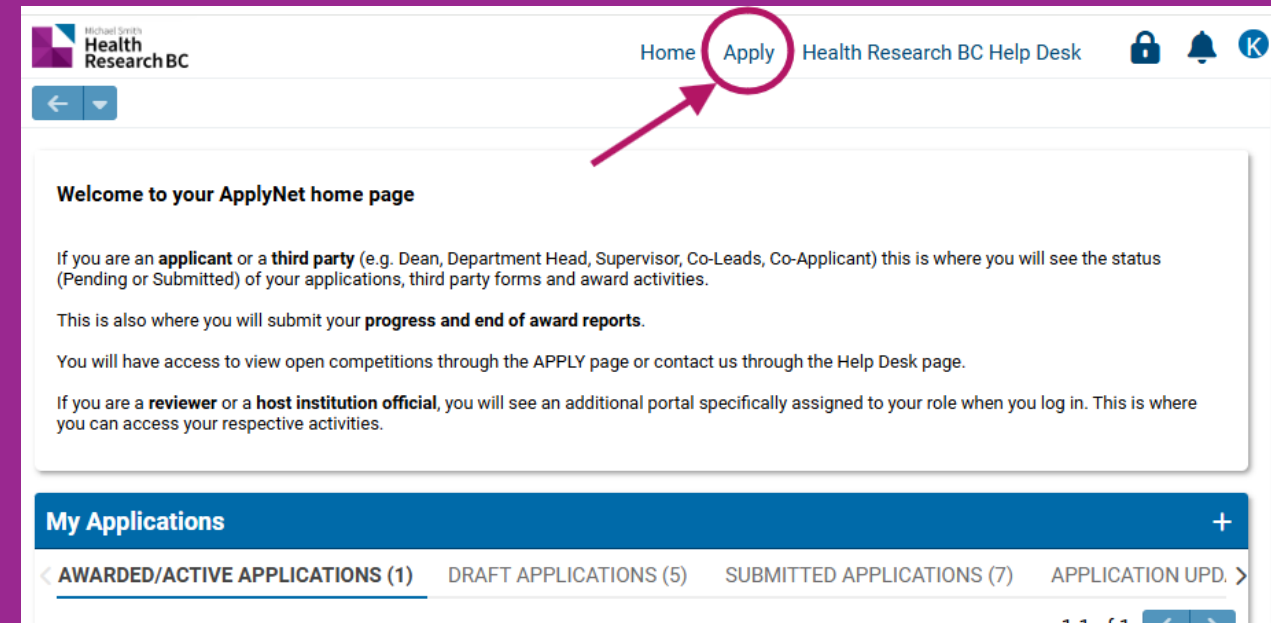
Click on **APPLY** in the top menu.

Click to view details on the
2026 Research Trainee Competition

Complete an Eligibility Quiz to ensure
you meet al eligibility criteria

Begin your Letter of Intent

Login

✉ Email

🔑 Password

Login

Forgot Password?

Learn more about our

🔒 Privacy & Security policies

New to the System?

Register Here

Michael Smith
Health Research BC

Home   Apply   Health Research BC Help Desk   🔒 🔔 Ⓚ

Welcome to your ApplyNet home page

If you are an **applicant** or a **third party** (e.g. Dean, Department Head, Supervisor, Co-Leads, Co-Applicant) this is where you will see the status (Pending or Submitted) of your applications, third party forms and award activities.

This is also where you will submit your **progress and end of award reports**.

You will have access to view open competitions through the APPLY page or contact us through the Help Desk page.

If you are a **reviewer** or a **host institution official**, you will see an additional portal specifically assigned to your role when you log in. This is where you can access your respective activities.

My Applications   +

AWARDED/ACTIVE APPLICATIONS (1)   DRAFT APPLICATIONS (5)   SUBMITTED APPLICATIONS (7)   APPLICATION UPD. ›

1-1 of 1   ‹ ›

Letter of Intent

- Complete contact profile
- Theme – used to determine review panel
- Keywords – used to identify reviewers for your application and align with partner interest
- Title
- Lay Summary - used to identify reviewers for your application and align with partner interest
- Scientific Summary
- Indigenous-led research and research involving Indigenous Peoples, communities, knowledge or data

Full Application

- As soon as your Full Application is open, **add your supervisor(s) and reference**, and **ensure they have received an email inviting them to participate in your application.**

- They will have forms to fill out or a letter to upload. This takes time for them to complete.

- We ask all third parties to complete their tasks **one week before your application deadline**.

Full Application

- **Applicant Expertise and Experience**
  - Career trajectory
  - Research leadership and outputs
  - Most significant contributions to research and its impact
  - Add your reference
  - **Uploads required:** Publication list; Most Significant Publications

- **Research Project**
  - Project Information
  - Responses to previous reviews
  - Pathway to impact (Knowledge Translation) activities
  - EDI
  - Budget for $10K fund for engagement with Indigenous communities
  - **Uploads required:** Research Project, Appendices

- **Environment and Support**
  - Training environment
  - Add your Supervisor and co-supervisor, if applicable

Supervisor(s)

An applicant can have **up to two** supervisors.

The primary supervisor must have an <u>academic appointment</u> (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.

Reminder: *Invite your supervisor(s) as soon as you open your Full Application. Ensure they receive their invitation emails, ensure they submit their forms well before the Full Application deadline.*

New for 2026

- Top-up funding of up to $10,000 is available for 2026 Research Trainee recipients whose research involves **meaningfully engaging Indigenous communities**. Applicants will need to complete an activity plan and a brief budget in their Full Application form.

- Applicants are only required to submit **one** mandatory reference letter with their application.
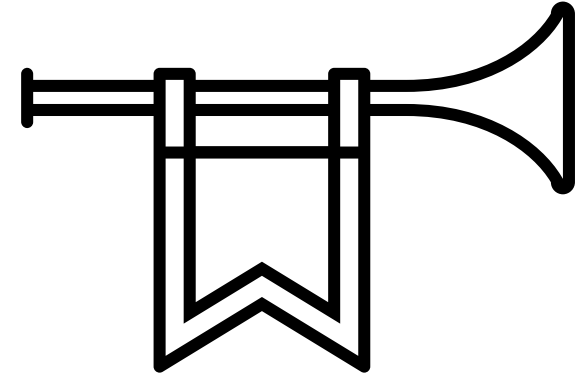
Evaluation

Evaluation

Evaluation Criteria

Criterion	Weighting
Applicant expertise & experience	30%
Research project	50%
Environment & support	20%

Rating Scale

Descriptor	Range	Outcome
Outstanding	4.5 – 4.9	May be funded (min. score of 3.8)
Excellent	4.0 – 4.4	
Very good	3.5 – 3.9	
Fair	3.0 – 3.4	Not fundable
Less than adequate	0 – 2.9	

Indigenous health research evaluation criteria

Applications to the Research Trainee competition that propose a research project with a central focus on meaningful and culturally safe Indigenous-led research or that propose research involving First Nations, Métis, and/or Inuit Peoples, communities, knowledge, or data, will be reviewed by experts in Indigenous health research during the peer review process

Refer to:

[Evaluation Criteria - Indigenous Health Research (Appendix A)](#)

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 <u>and</u> KT Research

Why is Knowledge Translation Important?

- In 2009, Chalmers and Glasziou estimated that globally **~85%** of biomedical research investment is wasted[1]

- MacLeod *et al.* estimated that across *all* health research this amounted to **~US$200B** of wasted funding in 2010[2]

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

[2]Macleod 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

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, Keesey 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	Dissemination	Exchange	Implementation
The contextualization and integration of research findings of individual research studies within the larger body of knowledge on the topic.	The active, purposive distribution of research findings tailored to the unique needs of appropriate audiences with the intent to spread information.	The giving and receiving of knowledge between researchers and research users throughout the research cycle resulting in mutual learning.	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
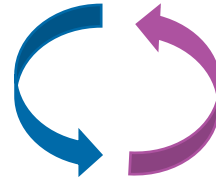
KT Science/Research: **the study of KT practices**

Science of Knowledge Synthesis	Science of Knowledge Dissemination	Science of Exchanging Knowledge	Implementation Science
The scientific study of the methods used to synthesize individual research findings within the larger body of knowledge on the topic.	The scientific study of processes and variables that determine and/or influence the spread of knowledge to various stakeholders.	The scientific study of the methods used to exchange knowledge between researchers and research users that results in mutual learning.	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 <u>not</u> the same as KT Research
  - But KT Research proposals should include KT Practice activities

- KT Practice activities should be included in <u>all</u> 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!

Integrated KT

Integrated KT (iKT)

Research users are engaged as equal partners alongside research team.

- Research co-production, participatory research, collaborative research, etc
- An approach to research incorporating KT principles
- Aim to increase research findings' relevance, usefulness and usability
- **Done at any or all stages of the research process**

End-of-Grant KT

End-of-Grant (Project) KT

Activities for making potential research users aware of the knowledge that is gained from a project.

- Done at the end of the grant

- Diffuse, disseminate, or apply research findings

- Appropriate to the type, stage of research and the potential audiences.

Canadian Institutes of Health Research: KT Resource

"A good approach to ensure an appropriate KT plan is for the research team to revisit the plan throughout and upon completion of the project and adjust, as necessary, as results evolve."[1]

- [Guide to Knowledge Translation Planning at CIHR: Integrated and End-of-Grant Approaches - CIHR](#)

Partnership opportunities
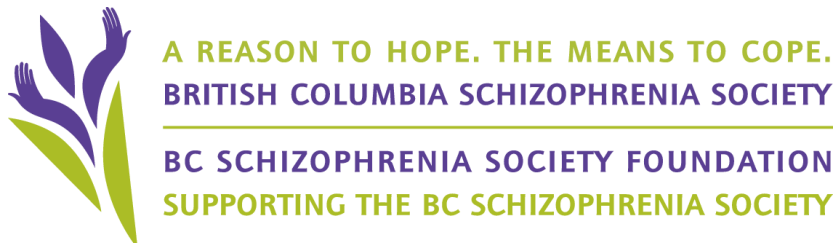
Partnership Opportunities

Health Research BC partners with leading organizations to grow BC's health research talent.

Process:

- All applicants are considered for partnered awards. 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.

- Applicants are encouraged to **Complete the Potential Co-Funding Partners tab in their Full Application** and identify if their research aligns with partner interests

- Additional partners may come on board during or after the full application phase; we'll list them on our website. If you think your research aligns with the interests of any of these additional partners, you can let us know by emailing partnerships@healthresearchbc.ca

- The full list of our partners and their co-funding interests can be found on our website.

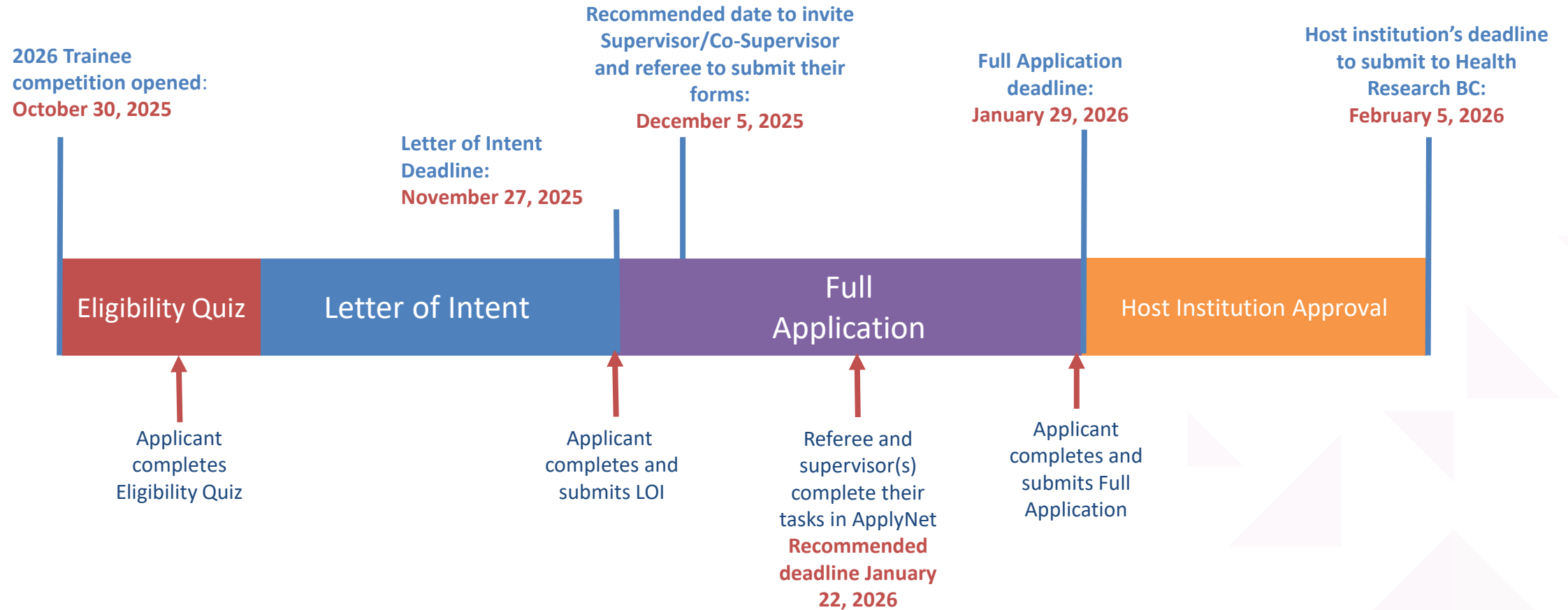# 2023-2025 Co-Funding Partners

Review

Application Process Flow

2026 Trainee
competition opened:
October 30, 2025

Letter of Intent
Deadline:
November 27, 2025

Recommended date to invite
Supervisor/Co-Supervisor
and referee to submit their
forms:
December 5, 2025

Full Application
deadline:
January 29, 2026

Host institution's deadline
to submit to Health
Research BC:
February 5, 2026

Eligibility Quiz	Letter of Intent	Full Application	Host Institution Approval

Applicant
completes
Eligibility Quiz

Applicant
completes and
submits LOI

Referee and
supervisor(s)
complete their
tasks in ApplyNet
**Recommended
deadline January
22, 2026**

Applicant
completes and
submits Full
Application

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 <u>easy to read</u>. 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.

- You can add additional activities and contributions to the **Most Significant Contributions** section.

Contact Info

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

  - **Research Competitions**
  - trainee@healthresearchbc.ca

- For technical support with ApplyNet, please contact:

  - **Health Research BC Help Desk**
  - 604.714.6609 / 1.866.673.4722 (toll-free) | Press 3 to reach the Help Desk line
  - helpdesk@healthresearchbc.ca

Questions?

Stages in Competition Cycle	Date
Letter of Intent Deadline	November 27, 2025 4:30 p.m. PT
Full Application Deadline	January 29, 2026 4:30 p.m. PT
Peer Review Panel Meetings	April – May 2026
Funding Notifications	July 2026
Trainee Award Start Date	September 1, 2026