



**Junior Research Career Award**  
**Guidelines for Applicants:**

**2009/2010 Research Scholarship**

**(Fall 2008 Competition)**

**RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP**  
**JUNIOR RESEARCH CAREER AWARD**

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## **A. GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **1) HSF Mission Statement**

The Heart and Stroke Foundation, a volunteer-based health charity, leads in eliminating heart disease and stroke and reducing their impact through the advancement of research and its application, the promotion of healthy living, and advocacy.

### **2) Application Submission Deadline**

Applications for the Research Scholarship award must be received by the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada (HSFC) no later than 16:00 (EDT) on September 1 of each year.

If the deadline falls on a weekend or statutory holiday, HSFC must receive the application no later than 16:00 (EDT) on the previous Friday.

Applications received after the deadline will be considered late even if they are courier-stamped on the deadline date.

HSFC reserves the right to decline late or incomplete applications.

### **3) Incomplete/Unacceptable Applications**

Applicants are strongly cautioned to carefully read and follow the instructions and requirements outlined in this guideline document as well as the Checklist page of the application form.

In order to maintain the principle of fairness to all applicants, regulations must be adhered to in the preparation of the Research Scholarship application. Any infraction of the rules will lead to the truncation or immediate rejection (without appeal) of the application. These regulations have the advantage of being unambiguous for applicants, easily enforceable by staff and/or review panels, and fair and equitable for all applicants.

### **4) Re-Applying to the Research Scholarship Competition**

If two (2) unsuccessful Research Scholarship applications have been made, a subsequent application will be considered only if there has been a change in mentor and/or institution.

### **5) Competition Results**

Results are posted on the HSFC Research website (<http://www.hsf.ca/research>) in mid-April. Official letters are sent in May.

### **6) Closing of Award**

When work under an award is complete, or if for any reason the work cannot be continued, the award will be closed. Any remaining funds are frozen and cannot be reallocated to other uses. The institution will prepare the final accounting and return outstanding funds to HSFC.

### **7) Prolonged Absence from Work**

The applicant or mentor will notify HSFC of any illness or other cause necessitating absence from work exceeding thirty (30) successive days. Continuation of the award will be at the discretion of HSFC.

### **8) Non-Employee Status**

The granting of an award is deemed to establish neither an employer-employee relationship nor a partnership between the grantor and the grantee.

## 9) Privacy Information

Providing your date of birth on the application form is optional. However, this information will ensure accurate identification of applicants and will assist HSFC with statistical analysis. This information will NOT be transmitted to any entity external to the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

## 10) Public Information

Successful applicants need to be aware that the title of their research project and the lay summary may be used without notification and put into the public domain. Applicants are cautioned not to disclose information that could endanger a proprietary position in these sections.

## 11) Ethical Requirements

By signing and submitting applications to HSFC, applicants undertake the responsibility to ensure any experimentation will be acceptable to the institution on ethical grounds and comply with the Tri-Council Policy Statements: *Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans*<sup>1</sup>.

In the case of laboratory animal experimentation, the guiding principles enunciated by the Canadian Council on Animal Care will be followed. The proposed research will not be undertaken until it has been accepted as meeting the requirements regarding biological and chemical hazards as outlined in the Public Health Agency of Canada *Laboratory Biosafety Guidelines*<sup>2</sup>.

In addition, any research involving human pluripotent stem cells must adhere to the *Guidelines for Human Pluripotent Stem Cell Research*<sup>3</sup>. The institution must notify HSFC as to the results of the review by the CIHR's Stem Cell Oversight Committee<sup>4</sup>.

## 12) Patent Rights

In the event of any inventions, discoveries or improvements arising as a result of work conducted under a Heart and Stroke Foundation award, which may be, or have been covered by patent applications or patents, the granting Heart and Stroke Foundation shall be deemed to have an interest in any patent rights covered by such patent applications or patents. For the purpose of continuing titular control and administration of any patent rights covering inventions, discoveries or improvements arising as mentioned previously (such patent rights shall be assigned to the granting Heart and Stroke Foundation), the parties comprising the granting Heart and Stroke Foundation, the inventors, and the institution, shall together determine the respective interest of the parties in said patent rights or in the net proceeds, if any, of exploitation of said patent rights.

## 13) Indirect Costs

HSFC supports only the direct costs of research. No funding is to be used for indirect costs of research (e.g. library, heat and lighting, office furniture, overhead, administrative charges or fees).

## 14) Publications

Recipients of Personnel Awards must acknowledge the support of the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada in all scientific communications and press releases related to their award. To facilitate the implementation of HSFC's program for knowledge transfer and exchange, we request that HSFC be notified in advance of the publication date of any major publications arising from research funded by HSFC.

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<sup>1</sup> Available from [http://www.nserc.gc.ca/sf\\_e.asp?nav=sfnv&lbi=p9](http://www.nserc.gc.ca/sf_e.asp?nav=sfnv&lbi=p9). The Tri-council Policy Statement: *Integrity in Research and Scholarship* was produced by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

<sup>2</sup> See <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/lbg-ldmbl-04/index.html> for details.

<sup>3</sup> See <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/34460.html> for details.

<sup>4</sup> See <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/15298.html>

## **15) Four Themes of Health Research**

The four (4) themes of health research as defined by the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research are:

### Basic Biomedical (I)

Research with the goal of understanding normal and abnormal human function, at the molecular, cellular, organ system and whole body levels, including the development of tools and techniques to be applied for this purpose; developing new therapies or devices which improve health or the quality of life of individuals, up to the point where they are tested on human subjects. Studies on human subjects that do not have a diagnostic or therapeutic orientation.

### Clinical (II)

Research with the goal of improving the diagnosis and treatment (including rehabilitation and palliation) of disease and injury; improving the health and quality of life of individuals as they pass through normal life stages. Research on, or for the treatment of, patients.

### Health Services/Systems (III)

Research with the goal of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of health professionals and the health care system, through changes to practice and policy. Health services research is a multidisciplinary field of scientific investigation that studies how social factors, financing systems, organizational structures and processes, health technologies, and personal behaviours affect access to health care, the quality and cost of health care, and ultimately our health and well-being.

### Population Health (IV)

Research with the goal of improving the health of the Canadian population, or of defined sub-populations, through a better understanding of the ways in which social, cultural, environmental, occupational, and economic factors determine status.

## **16) Lay Summary**

HSFC places a high priority on ensuring appropriate lay summaries are submitted as part of each application to ensure the research is aligned with HSF's mission.

## **17) Multiple Submissions**

Multiple submissions for Personnel Award applicants are not permitted. Where partnership programs are in place, the applicant must contact HSFC for more information.

## **18) Transfer of Award**

Personnel Awards are not transferable under any circumstances.

Recipients of Personnel Awards are not permitted to change mentors, projects, or institutions without the documented permission of HSFC. The institution to which the awardee is moving will be required to supply the same supporting documentation as was required in the original application.

The Personnel Award recipient must immediately notify HSFC should he/she be unable to continue his/her current research program.

Relocating outside of Canada will result in the termination of the Research Scholarship award.

**19) Status of Publications**

Any manuscript, paper, etc. included with an application, but not yet published, must be accompanied by documentation from the journal verifying whether it has been submitted, accepted for publication or is in press. Letters indicating confirmation of acceptance for publication of a paper must be received by the Foundation no later than January 2 of each year.

**20) Partial Awards**

Partial awards of less than one (1) year are not available to Personnel Award applicants.

**21) Financial Report**

HSFC requires, from the institution, a financial accounting report of all HSF awards, to be received annually no later than August 1.

**22) Financial Claims**

Invoices or expense claims must be submitted to HSFC no later than thirty (30) days after the termination of the award.

## B. RESEARCH INTEGRITY POLICY

The primary objective of HSFC's Research Integrity Policy is to protect and defend the integrity of the research process and to deal with allegations of scientific misconduct in a timely and transparent fashion. HSFC agrees with and has adopted the basic policies and recommendations outlined in the Tri-council Policy Statement: *Integrity in Research and Scholarship*<sup>5</sup>. As a condition of funding, all HSFC grant and award recipients agree to comply with the Principles and Responsibilities set out in that policy, and the research misconduct provisions below.

HSFC defines research misconduct to include actions that are inconsistent with "integrity" as defined by the Tri-Council Policy Statement, and to include such actions as fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism in proposing, performing, or reporting research, or in reporting research results.<sup>6</sup>

HSFC will deal with allegations of scientific misconduct in the following manner:

- Any allegation of scientific misconduct will be initially reviewed by HSFC to determine whether an investigation is warranted. If it is felt that an investigation is required, HSFC may request that this be conducted by the host institution of the individual considered to have performed the alleged misconduct. In allegations specifically related to the peer review process, the investigation may be conducted jointly by the institution and HSFC.
- HSFC will not act on verbal allegations of misconduct. All allegations must be submitted in writing. Although the confidentiality of persons who submit an allegation of scientific misconduct will be protected as much as possible, it must be recognized that due process will often result in the identity of this person being released to the investigating institution.
- The institution will be required to submit a written report upon conclusion of the investigation. This report will summarize the findings of the investigation and any future actions that will be undertaken by the institute as a result of the findings.
- In cases where misconduct is concluded to have occurred, HSFC may apply sanctions against the individual(s) implicated. These sanctions will range from a reprimand letter to a ban from applying for or holding Foundation funds for a set period of time.

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<sup>5</sup> Available from [http://www.nserc.gc.ca/sf\\_e.asp?nav=sfnv&lbi=p9](http://www.nserc.gc.ca/sf_e.asp?nav=sfnv&lbi=p9). The Tri-council Policy Statement: *Integrity in Research and Scholarship* was produced by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

<sup>6</sup> Wording adopted from the US Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service Policies on Research Misconduct, Final Rule. May 17, 2005. Available from [http://ori.dhhs.gov/documents/FR\\_Doc\\_05-9643.shtml](http://ori.dhhs.gov/documents/FR_Doc_05-9643.shtml).

## **C. SPECIFIC PROGRAM INFORMATION**

### **1) Description**

The Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada Research Scholarship is a salary award intended for applicants with a Masters and/or PhD and with credential(s) in a regulated accredited health discipline. The objective is to attract and foster cardiovascular or cerebrovascular investigators from a variety of health disciplines. Each application is considered to be a joint submission by the applicant and the identified mentor.

A Research Scholar may not be in receipt of another major Personnel award (i.e. from another national funding agency) at the same time as holding a Personnel Award from HSFC. Likewise, an awardee may not concurrently hold a Canada Research Chair and a HSFC Research Scholarship award.

However, an awardee may accept supplemental funding (no greater than 50% of the value of the Heart and Stroke Foundation award), if it is from a local or provincial funding source.

**This Award becomes tenable July 1 and must begin by January 1 of the year following the announcement of the competition results.**

### **2) Eligibility Criteria**

- a. Applicants must have a Master and/or PhD with credentials in a regulated accredited health discipline such as but not limited to nursing, social work, pharmacy, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, respiratory therapy, speech-language pathology, nutrition, dentistry and medicine.
- b. A high percentage (at least 60%) of applicants' research must focus on applied research areas, in any one of the following three themes of health research: clinical, health services/systems, and population health.
- c. Applicants must hold, or have a commitment to hold no later than July 1 of the award year, a faculty position from an accredited university in Canada. For applicants with a faculty appointment pending, the Research Scholarship award is contingent upon HSFC receiving written confirmation of the faculty appointment from the Canadian university.
- d. As of July 1 of the award year, applicants must not have completed more than five (5) years of post-PhD research experience. Undergraduate health sciences training and residency training are not considered as research experience.
- e. Applicants must have an identified research mentor, who is located in a Canadian university where the research will be undertaken.
- f. The Dean and Department Head (or institutional equivalents) must guarantee at least 75% of the applicant's time allocated to the proposed research and teaches a maximum equivalent of one (1) three (3) credit course per term. Supervision of graduate students relevant to the applicant's program of research is encouraged
- g. Applicants must have access to adequate research funding (internal or external) or infrastructure to ensure that they get funding in order to carry out research. It is expected that, as a minimum awardees join a project team as a co-investigator by the end of year one (1) of the award.

### **3) Evaluation Criteria**

- a. All applications undergo peer review by HSFC.
- b. The major criteria in evaluating the applications will be:

- i) The quality of the applicant (highest graduate level academic record, research experience and potential, documented publications(s));
- ii) The research environment, including the mentor with whom the applicant intends to work; and,
- iii) The quality of the research program and related research activities, including a timeline.

#### 4) Tenure

- a. The award will be for a period of two (2) years. The award cannot be renewed for a second term.
- b. The award may be terminated at any time for good cause by the recipient, the sponsoring institution, or HSFC.
- c. The recipient will be entitled to a maternity or paternity leave according to his/her university's standard leave policy; however, HSFC does not provide financial aid to awardees for maternity or parental leave. In such cases, tenure of the award will be extended by the length of the leave granted by the university.
- d. During tenure of this award, the recipient may not sit for a specialty qualifying examination without permission from HSFC.
- e. The recipient must immediately notify HSFC should significant changes in research activities occur during the tenure of this award.

#### 5) Stipend and Allowances

- a. The stipend is \$45,000 per annum for a maximum of two (2) years and the research allowance is \$5,000 per annum for a maximum of two (2) years.
- b. HSFC imposes no restriction on the additional income the Research Scholarship awardee may earn, provided it is within the guidelines of the sponsoring university or institution and that such activity does not impinge upon the time dedicated to the proposed research.

#### 6) Application

Applicants must submit to the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada:

- One (1) original collated Research Scholarship application copy (HSFC Form R6)
- Fifteen (15) collated Research Scholarship application copies (HSFC Form R6)

Each copy of the complete application must include:

- a. A completed Mentor Statement form which describes:
  - An overview of the research and academic training environment;
  - Details on how the mentorship will take place;
  - Details on resources, programs, technologies, etc. which will be made available to the applicant are expected;
  - Specific knowledge and skills that will be acquired by the applicant; and,
  - Contribution of the applicant to the proposed research including the role of the applicant in relation to others carrying out the proposed research.

If applicable: the role of all co-mentors and the estimated percentage of time spent mentoring the applicant must be clearly stated in the Mentor Statement form. Failure to complete all mentor information renders the application incomplete. HSFC reserves the right to decline incomplete applications.

- b. A letter co-signed by the Dean and Department Head (or institutional equivalents) confirming that the applicant will have 75% of his/her time allocated to the proposed research. The letter must clearly describe details on:
  - How this 75% allocation of research time will be spent; and
  - Commitments for the remaining 25%.
- c. Three (3) additional letters of recommendation in sealed envelopes with the signature of the referee across the seal. The letters, for which the forms are provided, must describe an evaluation of the applicant's professional and academic capabilities for this award. One (1) letter may be from either the mentor or one co-mentor. The other two (2) letters must be from individuals under whom the applicant has studied, but who will not be involved in the mentorship or evaluation of the applicant's research program. These forms must be attached and included in the application package.
- d. An explanation listing the period and reason for any interruption in the applicant's career (if applicable). See Section 14 of the application form.
- e. A one (1) page report summarizing previous research experience of the applicant. See Section 16 of the application form.
- f. An abstract of the proposed research.
- g. A detailed description of the proposed research, including how the proposed research fits with the overall research plan. Applicants are to include related research activities and timelines.
- h. A complete structured lay summary with a clear explanation of how the research proposal is relevant to the mission of HSFC. The lay summary must be written in everyday language (for a general audience) at a level no greater than Grade 10. The structured lay summary is a required section of the application form. Three (3) structured lay summary samples can be viewed on the HSFC Research website at: [http://www.hsf.ca/research/images/PDF/LaySummary\\_sample1.pdf](http://www.hsf.ca/research/images/PDF/LaySummary_sample1.pdf); [http://www.hsf.ca/research/images/PDF/LaySummary\\_sample2.pdf](http://www.hsf.ca/research/images/PDF/LaySummary_sample2.pdf); [http://www.hsf.ca/research/images/PDF/LaySummary\\_sample3.pdf](http://www.hsf.ca/research/images/PDF/LaySummary_sample3.pdf).
- i. A printed copy of the mentor's and applicant's Common CV form (**HSFC version only**). This is a web-based form, which allows CV information to be entered online (refer to [www.commoncv.net](http://www.commoncv.net) for further instructions).

## 7) Monitoring Progress

Two (2) progress reports (lay language and standard scientific language) must be submitted annually to HSFC no later than one (1) month following the end of each funding year (e.g. award start date is July 1, 2009, the first progress reports are due August 1, 2010). Both report templates are available at <http://www.hsf.ca/research>.

Continuation of the award is contingent upon receipt of the two (2) progress reports.

## 8) Final Report

Two (2) final reports (lay language and standard scientific language) must be submitted to HSFC no later than one (1) month after completion/termination of the award (e.g. award ends June 30, 2010, the final report is due August 1, 2010). Both report templates are available at <http://www.hsf.ca/research>.

### Contact the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada at:

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Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada  
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