



2019/2020

Heart & Stroke, Ontario

**Clinician-Scientist Award
Submission Guidelines**

(Fall 2018 Competition)

29 June 2018

Summary

Purpose:

To strengthen health research capacity in Ontario, in order to advance knowledge and innovation aimed at preventing cardiovascular/cerebrovascular disease (CCVD), reducing recurrence and complications, improving health outcomes (including quality of life), and decreasing the burden of CCVD-related illness and disability on individuals and society.

Funding Mechanism:

Salary support to highly qualified clinician-scientists who, at the time of submission are within 8 years of their first full-time academic appointment, to protect professional time to build influential programs of CCVD research with the goal of productively impacting the health of individuals and society.

Key Criteria – Clinician-Scientist Award:

- i. Applicants must be currently licensed to practice in Ontario in a regulated health profession relevant to the Heart & Stroke's mission and conduct their professional clinical and research activities in Ontario while holding the award.
- ii. Applicants must have completed a PhD and/or MD degree in a relevant discipline and demonstrate appropriate research training and expertise.
- iii. Applicants must demonstrate that their proposed research program has the potential to impact one or more of the following aims:
 - prevention of cardiovascular/cerebrovascular disease
 - reduction of cardiovascular/cerebrovascular disease recurrence and complications
 - improvement in cardiovascular/cerebrovascular health outcomes (including quality of life) through better diagnosis, treatment or rehabilitation
 - reduction in the cardiovascular/cerebrovascular-related burden of illness and disability on individuals and society
- iv. Host institution and scientific mentor(s) (as applicable) must commit specific support to facilitate the candidate's success
- v. Phase I funding: At the time of submission, no more than 5 years may have elapsed since the date of the applicant's first academic appointment. Phase II funding: At the time of submission, no fewer than 5 and no more than 8 years have elapsed since the date of the applicant's first academic appointment

Application Process:

Applications for the Clinician-Scientist Award must be **received by the Heart & Stroke no later than 16:00 (EDT) on 7 September 2018.**

Applications received after the deadline will be considered late even if they are courier-stamped on the deadline date. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that application packages and items arriving separately are delivered to Heart & Stroke before the deadline.

Heart & Stroke reserves the right to decline late or incomplete applications.

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The Heart & Stroke is committed to funding research excellence.

The Heart & Stroke invests in research through both national and provincial funding programs. The Ontario provincial office is strategically targeting its investments to build and sustain essential research capacity in Ontario by investing in the best early-career Clinician-Scientists, and Mid-Career Investigators – enhancing their ability to build influential and impactful programs of CCVD research, with the goal of productively impacting the health of individuals and society.

Detailed Guidelines and Criteria

A. Program Objective

To strengthen health research capacity in Ontario, in order to advance knowledge and innovation aimed at preventing cardiovascular/cerebrovascular disease (CCVD), reducing recurrence and complications, improving health outcomes (including quality of life), and decreasing the burden of CCVD-related illness and disability on individuals and society.

To attain this objective the Heart & Stroke, Ontario offers the **Clinician-Scientist Award**.

Clinician-Scientists are licensed healthcare practitioners who devote a majority of their professional effort to seeking new understanding about health and disease using established scientific research principles. Clinician-Scientists bring a unique perspective to health research that is inspired by their personal experience working with patients along the continuum of care. As such, Clinician-Scientists are uniquely positioned to discover, collaborate on, and translate research results to address issues related to the causes, prevention, diagnosis, management and care of cardiovascular/cerebrovascular diseases.

The goal of the Clinician-Scientist Award is to provide salary support to individuals who:

- i) are currently licensed to practice in Ontario in a regulated health profession relevant to the Heart & Stroke's Mission;
- ii) have completed a PhD and/or MD degree in a relevant discipline;
- iii) will conduct their professional clinical and research activities in Ontario while holding the award;
- iv) demonstrate the capacity to build an influential program of CCVD health research.

Award Phases

The award has two phases. **Phase I** provides salary support for up to **four (4) years** for Clinician-Scientists where, at the time of submission, no more than five (5) years have elapsed since the date of the Phase I applicant's first full-time academic appointment at an Assistant Professor level (or equivalent). **Phase II** provides salary support for up to **three (3) years** for Clinician-Scientists where, at the time of submission, no fewer than five, and no more than eight years have elapsed since their first academic appointment (at the Assistant Professor level or equivalent) . Applications for **Phase II** are not restricted to holders of Phase I awards.

B. Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must:

1. Hold a license to practice in Ontario in a regulated health profession relevant to the Heart & Stroke's mission including, but not limited to, clinical psychology, kinesiology, medicine, nursing, nutrition sciences, occupational therapy, pharmacy, physiotherapy, rehabilitation, respiratory therapy, speech-language pathology;
2. Hold a PhD and/or MD degree in a relevant discipline or specialty;
3. At the time of submission, have a full-time appointment at the Assistant Professor level or above;
4. Have the guarantee of the Dean and Department Head (or institutional equivalents) that at least 75% of the applicant's time will be allocated to the proposed research program.

5. Demonstrate that their proposed program of research has the potential to impact one or more of the following funding program aims:
 - prevention of cardiovascular/cerebrovascular disease
 - reduction of cardiovascular/cerebrovascular disease recurrence and complications
 - improvement in cardiovascular/cerebrovascular health outcomes (including quality of life) through better diagnosis, treatment or rehabilitation
 - reduction in the cardiovascular/cerebrovascular disease-related burden of illness and disability on individuals and society
6. Award recipients must not have received financial support from the tobacco industry (in the form of research grants, personnel award stipends or honoraria from a tobacco manufacturer or producer) in the previous five (5) years, and must not do so for the duration of this award.

Individuals who are uncertain about their eligibility for this award should contact the Heart & Stroke Ottawa Office prior to submitting an application at: research@heartandstroke.ca

Applications for funding must be complete with all requested information and attachments, and meet formatting criteria in all respects. **In fairness to all applicants, applications that are received after the deadline, are incomplete, do not meet formatting guidelines, or otherwise do not meet eligibility criteria, will not be considered for funding.**

Additional Eligibility Criteria Specific to Award Phase

Phase I

At the time of submission, no more than five years may have elapsed since the date of the Phase I applicant's first full-time academic appointment at an Assistant Professor level (or equivalent). Interruption in a candidate's research career will be taken into account in determining eligibility.

A Principal Mentor in Phase I is **mandatory**. Additional mentors may also be identified.

Applicants must have adequate **operating funding** as **Principal/Co-Principal investigator** to carry out the proposed research by the award start date.

- i) For each year of the four (4) years of the award, the recipient must be a Principal or Co-Principal Investigator on a peer-reviewed grant originating from a national or provincial funding agency, irrespective of the amount of the grant.
- ii) The recipient must have at least \$30,000 per year of research funding for which he/she is Principal or Co-Principal Investigator.
- iii) Peer reviewed/Non-Peer reviewed funding
 - For years one (1) and two (2) of the award, research funding may originate from peer-reviewed and non-peer-reviewed sources. Confirmation of year 2 operating funding must be sent to Heart & Stroke via email to research@heartandstroke.ca by May 15th in the first funding year of the Clinician-Scientist award.
 - For years three (3) and four (4) of the award, research funding must originate from peer-reviewed sources.

Phase II

At the time of submission, no fewer than five (5), and no more than eight (8) years may have elapsed since the date of the applicant's first full-time academic appointment at an Assistant Professor level (or equivalent). In addition, Phase II applicants must demonstrate evidence of productivity. Interruption in a candidate's research career will be taken into account in determining eligibility.

Although not required, it is **recommended** that Phase II applicants identify a Principal/Scientific Mentor.

By the start date of the award, Phase II applicants must hold sufficient active **peer reviewed** research operating funding as a **Principal/Co-principal investigator** in support of the proposed research that extends through at least the first half (first 18 months) of the Heart & Stroke award. Phase II awardees must maintain a sufficient level of operating funding for the duration of the Heart & Stroke award. Proof of funding must be sent to Heart & Stroke via email to research@heartandstroke.ca by May 15th in each year of the award prior to funds being released. Such operating grant(s) must be from sources outside the host institution unless obtained through a rigorous, competitive and independent peer-review process.

C. Assessment Criteria

All applications will be assessed through a rigorous peer-review process by the Heart & Stroke. Phase I and II applications will be peer-reviewed as separate cohorts.

Reviewers will be asked to comment on and rate applications in the following areas:

Applicant

- Academic record and accomplishments
- Demonstration of high quality research training and capability to conduct the research program being proposed
- Demonstrated commitment to CCVD research and potential to contribute to the field
- Demonstrated commitment to the pursuit of a career as a CCVD Clinician-Scientist
- Quantity, quality and impact of peer-reviewed publications (appropriate to career level and standards within the particular discipline/area of research)

Research Program/Focus

- Background evidence supporting the focus of the proposed program of research
- Quality and feasibility of the proposed program of research
- Inclusion of inter-disciplinary elements, collaborations and plans for KTE (KTE includes synthesis, dissemination, exchange, and/or ethically sound application of knowledge)
- Relevance and potential impact in relation to the Heart & Stroke funding program objectives (see page 4)

Mentor(s)

- Research and mentorship experience
- Research productivity; quantity, quality and impact of peer-reviewed publications
- Evidence of national/international stature
- Demonstrated commitment by the Principal Mentor (as applicable) to support the applicant throughout the term of the award
- Demonstrated success as a Clinician-Scientist

Environment

- Demonstrated in-kind and/or financial supports for applicant from the institution
- Demonstrated institutional commitment to supporting the career development of the applicant following the term of the award
- Assurances from the host institution that the applicant will have 75% of his/her time allocated to research. Details on how this 75% allocation of research time will be spent must be provided, as well as commitments for the remaining 25%. The latter may be devoted to teaching, clinical duties or other activities, but it must be clearly demonstrated that these activities will not impinge upon time allocated for research

D. General Information

1. Heart & Stroke Clinician-Scientist awards are tenable in Ontario universities, hospitals, and research institutes.
2. In order to allow as many researchers as possible to benefit from Heart & Stroke Ontario peer-reviewed funding, recipients **must not concurrently hold** a Heart & Stroke Clinician-Scientist award and any other Heart & Stroke salary award, or another peer reviewed salary award(s) of equal or greater value from

another independent funding agency (including Canada Research Chairs). Compliance is subject to auditing.

3. The application is considered to be a joint submission by the applicant, the host institution and the Principal Mentor (if applicable). The research plan should be written in full consultation and agreement between all parties.
4. When a mentor is required (Phase I) or chosen (Phase II), applicants are strongly encouraged to identify different mentors and/or institutions/departments than where they did their doctoral/post-doctoral research training. If this is not possible, applicants should describe in the application form how the selected mentor will help them achieve independence in their research career.
5. Inter-disciplinary research, collaborations and knowledge translation and exchange (KTE) activities (synthesis, dissemination, exchange, and/or ethically sound application of knowledge) are strongly encouraged by the Heart & Stroke.
6. The awardee will be considered an employee of his/her university or institution and monies granted will be paid to the institution for payment to the awardee. He/she will enjoy all the benefits of a full-time member of the staff for pension, insurance and other plans. The awardee will be permitted to augment the salary from other professional sources. The Heart & Stroke imposes no restriction on the additional income that the Clinician-Scientist 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.
7. Applicants must indicate operating funding (source, term, amount), currently held and/or to be applied for, which supports the research program proposed in the Heart & Stroke award application.

E. Term

Phase I awards provide salary support for up to four years.

Phase II awards provide salary support for up to three years. Awardees who have completed Phase I may apply to Phase II for a total of seven years of salary support. Phase II awards are not renewable. Applications are based on merit at each submission.

The award will commence July 1.

F. Stipend and Allowances

1. For Phase I, the stipend level is \$70,000 per annum, including applicable benefits.
2. For Phase II, the stipend level is \$80,000 per annum, including applicable benefits.

G. Institutional Commitment

Applications for this award must be supported by the host institution at which the Clinician-Scientist will conduct the proposed program of research. The host institution must guarantee adequate space and facilities for the investigator's research, commensurate with the requirements of the proposed program of research. In addition, other details outlining specifically how the institution will support the Clinician-Scientist to be successful must be provided and will be part of the peer review. This may include, but is not limited to, additional stipend support, research operational support, travel allowances and/or in-kind support.

H. Award Notifications

Official letters will be sent to the applicants by April 2019.

I. Application

Applicants who are unsuccessful in two (2) Clinician-Scientist award competitions, are allowed only one additional application in a subsequent year, for a total of three unsuccessful applications across both award phases.

Applicants who are re-submitting an application to the Clinician-Scientist competition must respond to peer review feedback, as applicable, received on the prior application submission(s) in the appropriate section of the Application Form.

Submitted applications must be complete in every respect and adhere fully to application package specifications.

The complete application must include:

1. Proof of a current license to practice in Ontario from a recognized regulatory body.
2. A description of the applicant's research history and career goals that addresses their research training, capacity to conduct the proposed program of research and commitment to a career as a CCVD Clinician-Scientist.
3. A publications summary.
4. A completed Principal Mentor's Statement (all Phase I applicants, and Phase II applicants who have identified a Principal Mentor/scientific advisor) that provides an overview of what the mentored research experience will provide to the candidate. It must include details on resources, programs, technologies, etc. that will be made available to the candidate, and on specific knowledge, skills and experience that will be acquired. The statement must indicate what the contribution of the candidate will be to the proposed research. It should also describe the Principal Mentor's (and other members of the mentoring team, if applicable) track record as a Clinician-Scientist and his/her specific involvement in the applicant's research program being carried out under this award.
5. A completed Institutional Statement from the Dean and Department Head (or institutional equivalents) of the sponsoring institution providing:
 - a) a critical appraisal of the applicant and the proposed research;
 - b) details on how this 75% allocation of research time will be spent, as well as the commitments for the remaining 25%. Activities included in the latter cannot impinge on the time protected for research;
 - c) details on the specific commitments – financial and/or in-kind - of the host institution in support of the applicant.

A joint statement by the Dean and Department Head (or institutional equivalents) will suffice.

6. A one-page executive summary of the applicant's proposed overall program of research.
7. A detailed description of the applicant's proposed research program, not exceeding six (6) pages.
8. Sex (biological) and Gender (socio-cultural) considerations:

Applicants are required to integrate sex and gender-based analysis (SGBA) in their research design. Any application that does not incorporate SGBA must provide a rationale why it would not be relevant to the project.

All applicants are strongly encouraged to complete CIHR's Institute of Gender and Health training modules: <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/49347.html> .

9. A complete structured lay summary and impact statement with a clear explanation of how the proposed program of research is relevant to the mission of the Heart & Stroke and the objectives of this funding program. This must be written in everyday language (for a general audience).

10. Three (3) letters of reference evaluating the candidate's professional and academic capabilities for this award.
 - a) For Phase I applicants – and Phase II applicants where a principal mentor/scientific advisory has been identified - one form must come from the Principal Mentor. The other two forms must come from persons under whom the candidate has studied but who will not be involved in the mentorship of the applicant's research program.
 - b) For Phase II applicants who have *not* identified a Principal Mentor, all three forms must come from persons under whom the candidate has studied but who will not be involved in the applicant's research program.

These assessment forms must be in sealed envelopes with the signature of the referee across the seal and must either be submitted with the application package, or submitted directly to Heart & Stroke Ottawa Office by the referee by mail or courier. **In either case, forms must arrive to the Heart & Stroke Research Department in Ottawa, Ontario by the application deadline.** *Heart & Stroke reserves the right to exclude letters of recommendations and assessment forms that either arrive late or without the signature of the referee across the seal.*

11. The applicant's and principal mentor's Common CV forms (HSFC version). This is a web-based form, which allows CV information to be entered online. Please refer to [Common CV](#) website for further instructions.
12. Signature (s)
The Heart & Stroke will accept either original signatures, a scanned copy of the original signatures, or electronic signatures. Note: The expectation is that an electronic signature will hold the same weight as an original (wet) signature.

J. Submission of Application

The applicant must submit 1 PDF copy of the full application on a memory stick. The PDF file name should be in the following format: CS Last name First name (e.g. CS SmithJane). The memory stick label should contain the following information.

- Name:
- Program Type: CS 2019/2020
- Short title:
- Date:

The PDF should be organized in the following order, with **bookmarks** placed marking each section:

- Completed application form
- Research history and career goals
- Executive summary of the proposed program of research
- Details of proposed program of research
- Copy of proof of current license to practice from a recognized regulatory body (i.e. copy of licensure certificate)
- For Phase I, proof of health professional training, including proof of degrees completed (i.e. copy of degree certificates)
- First page of each published paper or galley proof, within the last 5 years
- For each manuscript in press, a copy of the letter from the editor and the title/abstract page
- Applicant's Common CV - Label using last name (e.g. "CV Smith")
- Applicant's CV Publications – Label using last name (e.g. "CV Publications Smith")
- Mentor's Common CV (where applicable)
- Appendices

Heart & Stroke will attach copies of the referee forms received by the application deadline to the PDF prior to sending the application to reviewers.

Please forward a complete copy of the application on memory stick to:

**Research Department
Heart & Stroke
110-1525 Carling Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario
K1Z 8R9
Attention: Clinician-Scientist Award**

K. Phase I Applying into Phase II

Awardees who have completed **Phase I**, may apply for an additional three (3) year term in **Phase II**. Requirements are the same as those outlined in Section I (above), with the following additions.

1. An outline from the Dean and Department Head of plans for the continuation of the Clinician-Scientist awardee's program of research after the Heart & Stroke award is completed (this confirmation may be included in the Institutional Statement).
2. Copies of up to five publications - articles, presentations, abstracts, books/book chapters - that have arisen from the individual's program of research supported by the Phase I award.

L. Contact the Heart & Stroke at:

Research Department
Heart & Stroke
Tel: (613) 691-4041
Fax: (613) 727-1895
Email: research@heartandstroke.ca
Website: www.hsf.ca/research