



2019/2020

Heart & Stroke, Ontario

Mid-Career

Investigator 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 mid-career scientists who, at the time of submission are within 8 – 18 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: Mid-Career Investigator Award

- i. Applicants must demonstrate a track record of research excellence and productivity as a Principal Investigator in a research discipline relevant to Heart & Stroke's mission
- ii. Applicants must have completed a PhD and/or MD degree in a relevant discipline
- iii. Applicants must conduct their professional research activities in Ontario while holding the award
- iv. Applicants must demonstrate a commitment to CCVD research and that their body of research is well recognized, frequently cited and considered by peers to be influential and of excellent quality
- v. 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 disease-related burden of illness and disability on individuals and society
- vi. Applicants must demonstrate capacity and expertise to conduct the program of research being proposed for the term of the award
- vii. Host institution must demonstrate specific support to facilitate the candidate's success
- viii. No fewer than eight, and no more than eighteen years may have elapsed since the date of the applicant's first academic appointment and the time of submission.

Application Submission Deadline:

Applications for the Mid-Career Investigator 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 Objectives

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 **Mid-Career Investigator Award**.

The goal of the Mid-Career Investigator Award is to provide salary support to promising mid-career scientists to facilitate and build upon their track record of research excellence, productivity and influence. Individuals are considered to be at the mid-career stage if they have been awarded independent peer reviewed research funding support in the field of cardiovascular/cerebrovascular diseases, and are within eight to eighteen years of their first full-time academic appointment at the time of submission.

B. Eligibility Criteria

Applicant must:

1. Hold a PhD and/or MD degree in a relevant discipline or specialty;
2. At the time of submission, have a full-time appointment at the Associate Professor level or above;
3. Demonstrate that no fewer than eight (8) years, and no more than eighteen years have elapsed since the applicant's first full-time academic appointment at an Assistant Professor level (or equivalent) at the time of submission. Interruption in a candidate's research career will be taken into account in determining eligibility;
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. Hold active, independently peer reviewed operating funding as PI or co-PI that extends through at least the first two (2) years of the Mid-Career Investigator Award by the start of the award; supporting the proposed program of research, and maintaining funding throughout;
6. 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 in cardiovascular/cerebrovascular disease recurrence or 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
7. 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.**

C. Assessment Criteria

All applications will be assessed through a rigorous peer-review process by the Heart & Stroke.

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

Applicant

- Academic record and accomplishments
- Demonstrated commitment to CCVD research
- Evidence of national and/or international stature and expertise in the area of specialty
- Research productivity; citations and quantity, quality and impact of peer reviewed publications appropriate to career level and standards within the discipline or area of research
- Demonstration that the candidate's body of research is well recognized and considered by his/her peers to be influential and of excellent quality
- Demonstrated capacity and expertise to conduct the research program being proposed
- Demonstrated accomplishments as a principal investigator, including number and value of grants held

Research Program/Focus

- Quality, feasibility and focus of the applicant's 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)

Institution/Environment

- Demonstrated commitment by the host institution of specific supports to facilitate the applicant's success for the duration 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

Trainees

- Past, present and planned leadership (as evidenced by the description of the program of research) in the supervision and mentorship of trainees in CCVD research
- Demonstrated skills and expertise and a commitment to supervising and mentoring research trainees

D. General Information

1. Heart & Stroke Mid-Career Investigator 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 funding, recipients **must not concurrently hold** a Heart & Stroke Mid-Career Investigator award and any other Heart & Stroke salary award, or another peer reviewed salary award of equal or greater value from another independent funding agency (including Canada Research Chairs). Compliance is subject to auditing.

3. 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 Heart & Stroke.
4. 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 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.
5. 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

The Mid-Career Investigator award can be held for a maximum of four (4) years. It is non-renewable.

The award will commence July 1.

F. Stipend and Allowances

The stipend for the Mid-Career Investigator award 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 Mid-Career investigator 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 investigator 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 Mid-Career Investigator award competitions are allowed only one additional application in a subsequent year, for a total of three unsuccessful applications.

Applicants who are re-submitting an application to the Mid-Career Investigator 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. A description of the applicant's research history and future plans for their research career.
2. A publications summary.
3. An 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 program of research;
- b) details on how the 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 single statement from by the Dean and Department Head (or institutional equivalents) will suffice.

4. A one-page executive summary of the applicant's proposed overall program of research.
5. A detailed description of the applicant's proposed research program and related research activities, not to exceed eight (8) pages.
6. 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> .
7. 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. The lay summary must be written in everyday language (for a general audience).
8. Three (3) letters of reference attesting to the influence, quality and scholarly recognition of the applicant's body of research. Referees may not be associated with the applicant, nor work in the same department.

Letters must be in sealed envelopes with the signature of the referee across the seal and submitted with the application, or submitted directly by the referee to the Heart & Stroke Ottawa Office via mail or courier. **In either case, letters 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.*

9. The applicant's Common CV form (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.
10. 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 one (1) PDF copy of the full application on a memory stick. The PDF file name should be in the following format: MC Last name First name (e.g. MC SmithJane). The memory stick label should contain the following information.

- Name:
- Program Type: MC 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
- 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")
- CV Publications – Label using last name (e.g. "CV Publications Smith")
- Appendices

Heart & Stroke will attach copies of the reference letters 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: Mid-Career Scientist Award**

K. 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