

Research Update

Stay informed with news from Heart & Stroke

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MCA councils and strategy renewal update

As you heard in our last update, research and community co-chairs are in place for all six councils. Over the last number of weeks council co-chairs have had introductory calls and the process of confirming members for each of the councils is underway. Stroke, heart failure and vascular cognitive impairment councils are farthest along, having had introductory and onboarding meetings that included discussions about potential issues and opportunities in their areas of focus.

The Council of Co-Chairs (co-chairs from all six councils plus the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Scientific Review Committee and the Advancing Women's Heart and Brain Health Research Steering Committee) occurred on January 16 in Toronto, where co-chairs gathered for the first time to share their perspectives and meet with Yves Savoie, Heart & Stroke CEO. They also participated in the annual CoMPASS (Council on Mission: Priorities, Advice, Strategy and Science) day-long meeting on January 17, where they participated in a workshop on the foundation's strategy renewal. This work began in September and has included robust stakeholder engagement across the country. We are now refining ideas into recommendations that will be taken to the Heart & Stroke board in March.

Our strategy renewal will give us guideposts for moving forward and will feed into Heart & Stroke's operational business planning for Fiscal 2019 and beyond. The strategic direction will also guide the MCA council work over the next 18 months or so. We will continue to update you as we reach new milestones in this important work.

Early award notifications 2018/19

Early notifications have been released for the 2018/19 Grant-in-Aid and Senior Personnel (Provincial and Collective) competitions. Notifications were sent via CIRCULink for GIAs and via email for Senior Personnel awards. These notifications inform applicants of their likelihood of being funded. Early notifications do not, however, guarantee research funding. Official funding notifications will be sent to all applicants by late March 2018.

New Funding Opportunity: *Women's Heart and Brain Health Chair*

Through this initiative, Heart & Stroke, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Institute of Aboriginal Peoples Health, Institute of Circulatory and Respiratory Health and Institute of Gender and Health, and the New Brunswick Health Research Foundation (NBHRF) will support up to four (4) investigators who demonstrate long-term commitment to women's

heart and brain health. Policies, programs and interventions that take into consideration the study of vulnerable and special populations are strongly encouraged. The Chairs are focused on Research Themes 3 (Health Services Research) and 4 (Social, Cultural, Environmental and Population Health Research).

Up to four grants are available, one each to support a single:

- i. Chair in Indigenous Women's Heart and Brain Health – (early career)
- ii. Chair in Indigenous Women's Heart and Brain Health – (mid-career)
- iii. Chair in Women's Heart and Brain Health – (early career)
- iv. Chair in Women's Heart and Brain Health – (mid-career)

For more information or to register for this opportunity, please visit our research [website!](#)

Heart & Stroke 2018 Heart Report

Ms. Understood: Women's hearts are victims of a system that is ill-equipped to diagnose, treat and support them

Women's hearts are still vastly misunderstood. Despite recent progress, heart disease remains the leading cause of premature death for women in Canada. That's unacceptable. Women are under-aware and under-researched when it comes to heart disease. Within the healthcare system they are under-diagnosed and under-treated, and under-supported in their recovery.

But research is beginning to crack the code on women's hearts. We have to find ways to accelerate research on and for women, and then to move new information, new tools and new therapies more quickly to our healthcare systems and providers. The Heart & Stroke 2018 Heart Report takes a hard look at these "unders" — how we got here, and how we can work together to close the gaps that put too many women at risk. [Read the full report.](#)

February is Heart Month

Heart Month is our largest national grassroots campaign. About 90,000 dedicated volunteers across Canada connect with as many as 2 million Canadians, raising approximately \$10 million in donations each year. The generosity of Heart & Stroke donors and volunteers provide the critical dollars that fund Heart & Stroke research – and the next medical breakthroughs.

Thank you to all of you in our Heart & Stroke research community who support Heart & Stroke in so many ways, including as volunteers knocking on the doors of your neighbours!

2018 Women's Heart Health Summit: April 5-6, 2018

Hosted by the [University of Ottawa Heart Institute](#) and [Heart & Stroke](#), the 2018 Canadian Women's Heart Health Summit will take place April 5-6, 2018 at the Westin Ottawa Hotel in downtown Ottawa, Ontario.

Building on the success of the [April 2016 Summit](#), this event will bring together approximately 250 national and international experts and stakeholders to further advance women's heart health. Together, we will transform and enhance women's lives through research, awareness, policy development and care.

This is an accredited opportunity for learning and networking for primary care providers, cardiologists, gynecologists, pharmacists, nurses, cardiac rehabilitation providers, allied healthcare providers, researchers, policy-makers, Indigenous organizations, community partners and women with lived experience.

Take advantage of [early bird registration](#) until March 2, 2018!

TRAVEL AWARDS are now available with funding provided for eligible expenses **up to \$1,500 for provinces** and **up to \$2,000 for territories.**