

Final submission extended until May 31st, 2024

CLINICAL TRIALS TRAINING PROGRAM / PLATFORM



Application Guidelines

2024-2025 • Postdoctoral Fellowship • Funding Opportunity

For StrokeCog: Up to 5 Postdoctoral Fellowships anywhere in Canada.
Visit: <https://www.canadianstroke.ca/strokecog/public/>

Competition timeline: Submissions accepted from Tuesday, April 2nd, 2024 @ 12:00 (EDT) to **Friday, May 31st, 2024** @ 17:00 (EDT). Submissions will be reviewed by an independent national review committee. Results will be announced on Tuesday, July 2nd, 2024.

Duration: One (1) year.

Starting Date: September 3, 2024

Funding value: The maximum potential total for this award is up to \$62,500. A total annual stipend of CDN\$52,500, will be funded from CIHR via StrokeCog in whole, or if available, co-funded from a provincial co-funder or private partners. The award will be to the academic institution of the applicant and/or supervisor. In addition, submissions that satisfactorily describe how people with lived experience (PWLE) with stroke and/or their family/caregiver communities are being meaningfully engaged in the clinical trial project will be eligible to receive up to an additional \$10,000 as operational funds to be used for PWLE and/or family/caregiver community engagement.

It is expected that the supervisor contributes to the student's funding in the amount required to meet at least any minimum stipend rules at their institution. This fellowship may be combined with other awards, up to a combined maximum stipend allowed by the institution, provincial or private co-funder, and the funding conditions of currently active awards obtained by the applicant. It is to be noted that this award CANNOT be combined with an existing CIHR studentship. Any CIHR studentship, including those offered by CIHR through other organization/initiatives (e.g. Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research-SPOR etc.) will be considered a 'current CIHR award' if the coverage is active at the proposed start date for StrokeCog award. Also, provincial co-funder rules regarding co-funding or concurrent funding support will apply.

Co-Funders:



Eligibility: Open to full-time Postdoctoral Fellows (PhD/MD) who are conducting research related to clinical stroke and/or Vascular Cognitive Impairment trials, also including the analysis of clinical or behavioural trial samples and/or data, and which are aligned with the vision and mission of the CTTTP funding the award. At the time of funding, students must be enrolled or accepted in a full-time Canadian Postdoctoral program and must be a Canadian resident or permanent resident or hold a valid Canadian work permit or student visa.

Fellowship Focus: StrokeCog Fellowships will support training in all aspects of stroke and Vascular Cognitive Impairment clinical trials.

PLEASE NOTE: **Only one** application per fellow enrolled in a Postdoctoral program. The applicant must select **only one** CTTTP. **Only one** award per academic supervisor. Previously funded supervisors or applicants are eligible to apply, although preference may be given to new supervisors/applicants.

The program considers scientific excellence and aims to support the full and fair participation of all members of the health research community through consideration of barriers experienced by underrepresented groups, with respect to [equity, diversity and inclusion](#) (EDI) principles.

At least two of the StrokeCog fellowship awards (~50%) will be given to individuals from a diverse background or under-represented or marginalized population, provided they meet the minimum acceptable score of 80%.

Mandatory requirements

Completing the CANTRAIN CURRICULUM levels 1-2-3 of the [Common Core Foundation courses and Mentor-led Engagement sessions](#) will be mandatory for all successful applicants of the StrokeCog awards program. All successful applicants will also be required to complete any additional training required by StrokeCog, which includes the completion of EDIA training modules.

Academic supervisors of successful applicants are invited to participate in the National College of Reviewers for future funding competitions and also invited to participate in CANTRAIN CONNECT, the [Canadian National College of Mentors](#).

At the end of the one-year period of support, the successful applicant will need to submit an end of funding report (maximum two (2) pages) to receive any outstanding funding transfer payments. The awardee will be required to participate in all training activities and attend the annual meeting of StrokeCog, as will be detailed in their letter of award.

Intended tangible outcomes and expectations

At the end of the one-year funding period, the successful applicant will have:

- certified training in Good Clinical Practice (ICH-GCP) and Health Canada Division 5, and TCPS2, as required for regulatory compliance;
- acquired further knowledge of the regulations and practices around clinical trials, based on the modular curriculum provided through CANTRAIN and StrokeCog, and
- participated in either individual or group mentoring experiences as required by StrokeCog.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST & OVERALL SCORING:

The application must include the items below (incomplete applications will not be considered):

1. Section dedicated to the applicant’s personal statement; must be completed on the online form.	15 points
2A. The applicant’s full academic CCV from https://ccv-cvc.ca/ must be uploaded. <i>Navigation instruction for CCV from https://ccv-cvc.ca/:</i> <i>Funding Source (select): Common CV</i> <i>CV Type (select): Full CV</i>	30 points
2B. Applicant alternative achievements: Up to two additional pages of alternate achievements can be included to support the CCV score.	
3. The applicant’s primary supervisor’s full academic CCV must be uploaded.	5 points
4. Proposed project (clinical trial) description must be uploaded.	40 points
5. Clinical trial project meaningful engagement with people with lived experience with stroke and/or their family/caregiver community; must be completed on the online form.	Satisfactory/ Unsatisfactory
A letter of support from the primary supervisor needs to be submitted following steps detailed in the online application form.	5 points
A second letter of support from a responder (other than the co-supervisor) needs to be submitted following steps detailed in the online application form.	5 points
TOTAL	100 points

Document Format:

- PDF format (the only authorized format);
- 8 1/2 in x 11 in (216 mm x 279 mm), i.e. “Letter” size;
- All margins: Minimum 2 cm;
- Font: Times New Roman (12 points);
- Single line spacing;
- Inscribed in the header:
Last name, first name of the applicant, and status at the time of application
(e.g. DOE_John_Postdoctoral_Fellow_1st_Year)

APPLICATION DETAILS:

1. Personal statement. Include the following elements:

- A. Describe how your project is related to clinical trials (200 words)
- B. Describe why the StrokeCog Clinical Trial Training Program is of interest to you and how you expect to benefit from this training experience (200 words);
- C. Discuss your current training environment and supervisory support (200 words)
- D. Describe your professional, academic, and extracurricular experiences/achievements and how they will have prepared you to successfully complete your graduate/post-graduate training and the StrokeCog program (200 words)
- E. Describe your career goals and how the award would help to support your pursuit of these goals (200 words)
- F. If applicable, describe barriers that you have experienced as a member of an underrepresented group in science or research and how you have sought to overcome these barriers. How would this award support you to overcome barriers relative to equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility. (200 words)

2. Applicant full academic CCV [to be uploaded as PDF]:

- A. Make sure your CCV includes all relevant academic and research activities, including:

- i. full publication record (include submitted, accepted/in press and e- published papers (provide letter from the editor(s)))
- ii. list of presentation abstracts (poster versus oral presentations at local, provincial, national, international venues)
- iii. the establishment of dataset(s)
- iv. intellectual property
- v. commercialization activities/participation in start-ups.

Do not include manuscripts that are in preparation.

B. Applicant Alternative Achievements. If you have alternative achievements not typically included in the CCV (in addition to traditional academic achievements such as publications, grants, presentations that are captured in the CCV), please list and describe them here (up to 2 additional pages). Up to 10 additional points towards your CCV score (up to the max total score of 30) may be added by reviewers to reflect alternate achievements not included in the traditional academic records. By doing this, it may provide a more holistic reflection of a candidate's personal achievements, in compliance with the Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA; <https://sfedora.org/>) (1000 words).

3. Primary supervisor's full academic CCV [to be uploaded as PDF].

4. Proposed project (clinical trial) description.

The project description must include the elements listed below. The review scoring scheme (making up the 40 points total) is provided in brackets beside each category.

- A. Title of proposed study (100 words)
- B. Lay summary (200 words)
Description of the project and expected outcomes written in lay language (which could be used in future public communications of award winners, e.g., website).
- C. Scientific abstract (200 words)
Description of the project and expected outcomes written in scientific language (sufficient to be included in a journal publication).
- D. Complete proposed project (No more than five (5) pages, plus appendices (tables, graphics, images, and references) as a single PDF document to be uploaded).
 - i. Research Question.
 - ii. Overall goal/objectives of the project.
 - iii. Background and Rationale (5 points)
Description of the relevant background and rationale for the proposed study, including if available any preliminary results.
 - iv. Methods (10 points)
 - a. Description of the study population
 - b. Study design/implementation. Describe how the project aligns with the mandate of clinical trials research.
 - c. Intervention. If applicable, describe the intervention.
 - d. Outcome measures (including measurable outcomes and definitions of success). Community impact and real-world experience should be highlighted.
 - e. Analytic plan (including sample size justification, where appropriate).
 - v. Impact and Expected Outcomes (10 points)
Description of expected results, project deliverables and knowledge translation and dissemination plan. This description should include how this project will impact the training of the applicant.
 - vi. Feasibility and timelines (10 points)

Demonstrate scientific and technical feasibility (e.g., recruitment of patients, acquisition of data, biostatistics, access to necessary equipment, etc.). Identify potential limitations and describe mitigation strategies. Describe timelines and milestones. Where the proposed project relies on existing resources (e.g., databases, established research infrastructure, equipment), describe the availability of these resources.

- vii. Incorporation of EDIA Principles **(5 points)**
Describe how the clinical trial project and project research team incorporates the principles of equity, diversity, inclusivity, and accessibility (EDIA) into all level of the clinical trial project (i.e., research question development, trial design, team creation, recruitment strategies, trial conduct, and analysis, reporting and dissemination of trial results.)
- viii. Role of the applicant. The role of the applicant in the project must be clearly stated.

PLEASE NOTE: Applications and supporting documentations written in French are allowed 25% more space.

5. Unique for StrokeCog: Clinical Trial Project Meaningful Engagement with People With Lived Experience with Stroke and/or Their Family/Caregiver Community.

- A. Describe how the clinical trial project and project research team will be meaningfully engaging **people with lived experience (PWLE)** with stroke and/or their family/caregiver community. Please provide sufficient details to be able to assess how PWLE and/or their family/caregiver community will be meaningfully engaged in the project from project design, trial/project execution and/or results dissemination, as appropriate. (500 words)
- i. **Examples of meaningful engagement:** Participation in study design planning meetings; Incorporating suggested input into study design or protocol; Having patient/family participating as active participants in knowledge dissemination (e.g., at a conference, in a webinar or focus group).
- B. A budget justification describing how funds (max \$10,000) would be used to support PWLE and/or family/caregiver community engagement must be included. (300 words)

SCORING:

- Projects that clearly show how PWLE and/or their family/caregiver community are being meaningfully engaged in the clinical trial project will be eligible for up to \$10,000 to be used as operational funds to support engagement.
- Projects that do not provide sufficient details to properly assess how PWLEs and/or their family/caregiver community will be meaningful engaged will not receive the additional operational funding.
- Projects that are assessed as not meaningfully engaging PWLEs and/or their family/caregiver community in the project will not be awarded the additional operational funding.

BELOW: TWO (2) LETTERS OF SUPPORT / OF REFERENCE TO BE SUBMITTED AS .PDF FOLLOWING STEPS DETAILED IN THE ONLINE APPLICATION FORM.

Letter of support / letter of reference from the primary supervisor

This letter can be no more than two (2) pages. This letter should address the following elements:

- i. In what capacity do you know the applicant;
- ii. How long have you known the applicant;

- iii. Rate and explain your reasoning regarding the applicant's performance and experience, strengths/weaknesses;
- iv. How would you rate the professional promise of the applicant;
- v. Why would the applicant benefit from participation in this program;
- vi. Describe the applicant's training environment and how it supports the proposed project and applicant's personal goals;
- vii. Describe how the primary supervisor's program of research is related to clinical trials, e.g., how the proposed clinical research study by the applicant is related, in part, to clinical research in your lab;
- viii. Describe how the training environment, and/or the project will address the principles of equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI).

Second (2nd) letter of support / letter of reference from the secondary responder.

This letter can be no more than two (2) pages. The person providing the letter should have worked closely with the applicant. The letter should address the following elements:

- i. In what capacity do you know the applicant;
- ii. How long have you known the applicant;
- iii. Rate and explain your reasoning regarding the applicant's performance and experience, strengths/weaknesses;
- iv. Why would the applicant benefit from participation in this program;
- v. How would you rate the professional promise of the applicant.

CONFIRMATION OF RECEIPT

An email will be sent to the applicant within 24 hours of the submission of a fully completed application. Please note that applicants CANNOT submit/upload letters of support (from primary supervisor or referee). These need to be submitted following the steps provided in the online application form only. If a CONFIRMATION OF RECEIPT email is NOT received within 7 calendar days from the application submission, the onus is on the applicant to follow-up ONLY through the dedicated 'contact us' page linked [here](#) to ensure that the application was received. We want to ensure that all applications submitted are received and we appreciate your collaboration with this process. If you have any questions about the submission process, the application portal, or the required documents, **please write to us ONLY via the dedicated 'contact us' page linked [here](#).**

ONLINE registration portal can be accessed [here](#)

[StrokeCog](#) accepts applications covering all aspects of clinical trials in stroke and Vascular Cognitive Impairment.