



MICHAEL SMITH FOUNDATION
FOR HEALTH RESEARCH

BC's health research funding agency

2021 RESEARCH TRAINEE COMPETITION



AWARD CONDITIONS

DEADLINES:

LETTER OF INTENT: **FEBRUARY 8, 2021, 4:30 P.M. PT**

FULL APPLICATION: **MARCH 29, 2021, 4:30 P.M. PT**

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1. General

- 1.1. Compliance with these Conditions of Award is mandatory for MSFHR's continued support of the Research Trainee award. Award recipients and host institutions are required to respond in a timely fashion to any requests from MSFHR personnel regarding the verification of compliance of these Conditions of Award.
- 1.2. Award recipients must retain their appointment as a post-doctoral fellow at an eligible¹ BC host institution during the term of the Research Trainee award.
- 1.3. Funding received from MSFHR can be used only for the purpose intended by the Research Trainee Program.
- 1.4. Successful applicants are required to confirm their acceptance of the award within the stipulated time indicated in the award notification package, or the award will be rescinded.
- 1.5. Award recipients and their host institutions must comply with ethical and research policies outlined by the [Tri-Agency Framework: Responsible Conduct of Research \(2016\)](#); [Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans \(2018\)](#) and specifically [TCPS 2 – Chapter 9: Research Involving the First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples of Canada](#) if research project involves Indigenous peoples; [Principles on Digital Data Management](#); and the policies and guidelines regarding animal care, biohazards, and research activities having potential effects on the environment. Any breach of ethics, conflict of interest or scientific integrity must promptly be reported to MSFHR by the host institution. MSFHR reserves the right to investigate and/or impose any sanctions it determines to be appropriate.
- 1.6. MSFHR will not be responsible for any expenditure over and above the approved amount of the Research Trainee award, or for any expenses incurred prior to or after the funding period of the Research Trainee award. All unexpended funds at the end of the award funding period must be returned to MSFHR.
- 1.7. Funding will be guaranteed for the first **twelve (12) months** of the award. Future funding will be contingent upon:
 - Timely submission of all reports
 - A satisfactory review of the annual progress reports detailing research-related activities and research outcomes
 - Future funding of the Foundation by the provincial government and annual budgetary approval by MSFHR's Board of Directors
- 1.8. Award recipients and/or host institutions must advise MSFHR promptly in writing of any major changes during the funding period with regard to status and academic affiliation of the post-

¹ An institution that has a signed memorandum of understanding with MSFHR



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- doctoral fellow and/or supervisor. MSFHR will determine the impact of the change and may decide to continue funding or, in some cases, terminate the award.
- 1.9. Host institutions must administer any awards granted by MSFHR in accordance with the memorandum of understanding signed.
 - 1.10. Following the receipt of the signed Research Trainee Award Acceptance Form, payment will be transferred electronically to the host institution as identified in the application in quarterly installments.
 - 1.11. Award recipients consent to the disclosure of their information under the following circumstances:
 - MSFHR reserves the right to publish and/or disseminate information regarding the Research Trainee award and award recipients.
 - MSFHR will use the information provided in the application for processing the application for peer review, partnership support, payment, monitoring and evaluation of the Research Trainee award, and other administrative purposes.
 - To meet MSFHR's obligations for public accountability and the dissemination of information, details of awards and award recipients are also made available on MSFHR's website, and in reports, documents and disclosures to government, partners, stakeholders and/or the public.
 - 1.12. All publications and public messages regarding the research or initiative supported by the MSFHR award must acknowledge the support of MSFHR.
 - 1.13. MSFHR expects award recipients to disseminate their work and experiences through traditional and non-traditional activities such as educational sessions with patients, practitioners or policy-makers; media engagement; and social media to maximize the impact and utility of their work.
 - 1.14. Award recipients must ensure that all final peer-reviewed journal manuscripts arising from research supported by the award (in whole or in part) are accessible without charge through **either** the publisher's website **or** an online repository within **twelve (12) months** of publication. If these methods are not possible, award recipients should make every effort to ensure these publications are available to the public, such as posting them on their own website or providing copies (paper or electronic) upon request.
 - 1.15. All Research Trainee awards are held by the host institution and may be subject to audits or inspection.
 - 1.16. Failure to submit a final report or the accompanying financial statement, or any other information requested by MSFHR within the designated time frame may result in the denial of new applications to other MSFHR funding programs by the award recipient until the outstanding documents are received.



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- 1.17. Award recipients and host institutions must notify MSFHR promptly in writing if an award is not held for the full period approved. The purpose is to facilitate corresponding prorated reductions in the stipend, and research and travel allowance.
- 1.18. The Research Trainee award is to be implemented by the host institution and award recipient independent of MSFHR. Management, compensation, and termination of any personnel funding by the award should be conducted in accordance with these award conditions and the host institution's policies, but is otherwise wholly within the discretion and power of the award recipient and the host institution. MSFHR shall not be liable for and is hereby released and indemnified by the host institution for all liability or responsibility related to the conduct of the award recipient.
- 1.19. Applicants must contribute to the monitoring, review and evaluation of MSFHR's programs, policies and processes by participating in evaluation studies, surveys or interviews, and provide data or reports as required for the purpose of collecting information to assess progress and results.
- 1.20. The Research Trainee award may be terminated at any time for good or sufficient reason by the award recipient, the host institution, or MSFHR.

2. Responsibilities of the Award Recipient

- 2.1 The Research Trainee award is effective September 1, 2021. Deferrals may only be requested for the following reasons: relocation, medical or parental leave, and caregiving. Other reasons not stated will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. If a deferral is required, award recipients **must indicate the requested award start date and the reason for deferral on the Award Acceptance Form and obtain approval from MSFHR**. The deferred start date must be on the first day of any month and be no later than September 1, 2022. **Deferred start dates, once confirmed by MSFHR, cannot be revised**. Please note that deferral may affect the term of the award if it impacts the five year (or ten-year for health professionals) eligibility requirement as described in the Guidelines.

Deferral of the start date of the award to meet the eligibility requirement for PhD or health professional degree completion **will not** be accepted.

- 2.2 The Research Trainee award must be held in British Columbia.

Award recipients must:

- 2.3 Hold a post-doctoral fellow position at the time of taking up the Research Trainee award and for the duration of the award.
- 2.4 Commit at minimum 75 per cent of their time to health research training activities. This represents no fewer than 30 hours per week. Health professionals in active clinical service



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- must commit at least 50 per cent of their time to health research activities. This represents no fewer than 20 hours per week.
- 2.5 Notify MSFHR as soon as it is known if their Research Trainee award will not be held for the full duration.
 - 2.6 Inform MSFHR in writing **thirty (30) days** prior to leaving British Columbia to take up another position.
 - 2.7 In accordance with their host institution's policies, seek patent, copyright and design protection for intellectual property likely to result in a commercial product.

Special Conditions for Research Projects Focused on the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

- 2.10 Data produced as a result of this funding must be shared in line with the [Joint statement on sharing research data and findings relevant to the novel coronavirus \(nCoV\) outbreak](#). Specifically, award recipients must ensure:
 - Research findings made available on publishing platforms that make articles openly accessible **before** peer review and where post publication peer review is conducted on that platform; **OR** published on a preprint server, like [medRxiv](#) or [biorXiv](#) as soon as possible and in any event prior to submission to a journal.
 - Research findings that are submitted to journals are made openly available at the time of publication and licensed under the Creative Common Attribution license (CCBY).
 - All submissions (to platforms, preprint servers and journals) must include clear statements regarding the availability of underlying data and/or software/code.
 - Interim and final data is shared as rapidly and openly as possible – as soon as it is appropriately quality assured, in line with any ethics requirements and irrespective of the timing of journal publication.

3. Funding from Other Sources

- 3.1 Within the first **twelve (12) months** of a Research Trainee award, award recipients are required to apply for and accept, when offered, external salary awards from major national or international funding agencies. MSFHR considers a salary award to be external if the award meets **all** the four conditions below:
 - Is external to BC
 - Is granted through an open competition
 - Is peer-reviewed



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- Has a total value² of 50 per cent or more of the value of the MSFHR Research Trainee award

Award recipients may be eligible to receive an incentive award for the stipend and research and travel allowance. Additional awards and remuneration may be held/earned at the discretion of the host institution.

- 3.2 Award recipients must inform MSFHR in writing of the receipt of any other salary award funding within **thirty (30) days** of receipt of notification of the other funding. The notification must include a copy of the document that states the source, amount, and start and end dates of the funding.
- 3.3 Award recipients who also receive additional BC-based, non-peer-reviewed awards can keep the awards that have a value **not exceeding 50 per cent** of their MSFHR Research Trainee award. BC-based, non-peer-reviewed awards with a value exceeding 50 per cent of the MSFHR Research Trainee awards will be treated the same as external awards.

4. Partnered Awards

- 4.1 All MSFHR award conditions apply to partnered awards; the total value of the award remains at MSFHR amounts.
- 4.2 Award recipients who receive partnered awards may be required to commit to the partnership organization's request for participation in select activities; e.g., attend an event, contribute to their website or internal communication regarding the research.

5. Reporting Requirements

Award recipients must submit all required reports within the stipulated time:

- 5.1 An annual progress report and an updated Canadian Common CV (CCV) MSFHR Reporting version to update MSFHR on their research activities.
- 5.2 A final progress report in the last year of the award.
- 5.3 Submit a final financial statement to MSFHR within **three (3) months** following completion of the Research Trainee award.
- 5.4 Contribute to MSFHR's monitoring, review, and evaluation of programs by participating in annual reviews, surveys, and other activities organized for the purpose of collecting information to assess progress and results. Research Trainee awardees are required to participate in these activities during the course of their award and up to **five (5) years** post award.

² Inclusive of match-funding from other funding sources, if applicable. Total award value applies to the portion used for salary, i.e., it is not inclusive of other components above and beyond salary, such as research or travel allowances.



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- 5.5 MSFHR reserves the right to contact award recipients at any time during or after the award as an evaluation activity to track middle- and longer-term evaluation and research impact outcomes.

6. Change of Supervisor/Co-Supervisor or Host Institution

Award recipients are normally required to complete their training under the original sponsoring supervisor(s), adhere to the research project outlined in the application, and remain in the original training location (host institution). All information regarding changes to any of the above must be provided in writing to MSFHR at least **thirty (30) days** in advance of the change.

Change of Supervisor/Co-Supervisor

The award recipient must:

- Have the new supervisor(s) complete the MSFHR Supervisor Form.
- Outline any changes to the approved research plan.
- Provide an acknowledgement of the change from the original supervisor(s).

Change of Host Institution

The award recipient must:

- Provide a description of the new host institution and justification for the proposed transfer.
- Provide a letter from the present supervisor indicating approval of the proposed transfer.
- Be aware that if a new supervisor(s) is required, they must hold an academic appointment at an eligible BC host institution, be physically present in BC and complete the MSFHR Supervisor Form.

7. Acknowledgement of MSFHR and Partners

Award recipients must:

- 7.1 Complete and update an award recipient profile on an annual basis.
- 7.2 Acknowledge the support given by MSFHR and partners in any publication or public messages made while holding an MSFHR Research Trainee award or resulting from the tenure of the award. Acknowledgement of MSFHR support should include, where appropriate, MSFHR's logo (see www.msfhr.org/about/msfhr-logo for logos and usage guidelines). Copies of these publications are not required by MSFHR or their partners.
- 7.3 Refer to themselves as a Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research Trainee/Name of Partner (if applicable), and acknowledge the partner and MSFHR in the signature line of their correspondence. MSFHR/Partner award recipients may be required to meet specific communication needs of the partner.



8. Responsibilities of the Host Institution

The host institution must:

- 8.1 Provide physical, organizational, policy, and procedural infrastructure for the conduct of research.
- 8.2 Be responsible for any expenditure over and above the approved amount of the Research Trainee award or for any expenses incurred prior to the effective start date of the Research Trainee award. MSFHR is not responsible for any expenses incurred prior to the start date of the Research Trainee award.
- 8.3 Have a signed memorandum of understanding with MSFHR.
- 8.4 Acknowledge that additional awards and remuneration may be earned by the award recipient at the discretion of the host institution.
- 8.5 Notify MSFHR if the Research Trainee award is not held for the full duration approved, as a prorated reduction in salary award may be made.
- 8.6 Ensure that award recipients are paid in accordance with the host institution's payroll policy. MSFHR will transfer the award funds to the host institution in quarterly instalments.
- 8.7 Inform MSFHR **thirty (30) days** prior to leaves (with the exception of vacation leaves) sanctioned to the award recipient.
- 8.8 Provide access to all accounts, records and other information related to the Research Trainee award that MSFHR may reasonably request during the course of an on-site monitoring visit or inquiry, and respond fully and frankly to any requests MSFHR may make for information concerning specific grant accounts.
- 8.9 Allow its financial records related to this award to be audited by an independent auditing firm.
- 8.10 Determine ownership of MSFHR-funded intellectual property and responsibility for its identification, protection, management, and exploitation.
- 8.11 MSFHR will not be liable for any costs or liabilities arising from any research activity funded by the Research Trainee award. The host institution will fully defend and indemnify MSFHR with respect to any claims brought against MSFHR in this regard.

9. Responsibilities of the Supervisor(s)

Supervisor(s) must:

- 9.1 Commit to supervising the MSFHR Research Trainee's research and provide the resources that are necessary for the successful completion of the research project including any knowledge translation (KT) activities, as appropriate.



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- 9.2 Commit to administering the research and travel allowance of the award recipient.
- 9.3 Respect the obligations described in the MSFHR Research Trainee competition guidelines and Conditions of Award, as well as those of the host institution as they relate to the role of a trainee supervisor.
- 9.4 Ensure the award recipient:
- Respects and abides by the obligations described in the MSFHR Research Trainee competition guidelines, Conditions of Award, supervisor's form for annual progress reports, and the host institution's policies and procedures.
 - Uses the MSFHR award funds only for the purposes intended, informs MSFHR and the host institution immediately of any substantive changes including eligibility status, and meets all reporting requirements of MSFHR in a timely fashion.
- 9.5 The co-supervisor agrees to all of the above and in addition, provides academic support when the primary supervisor is unavailable (e.g., sabbatical leave, extended sick leave).

10. Leaves

The general policies of the host institution relating to vacation, extended illness, parental, family or other types of leaves of absence shall apply to Research Trainee award recipients. A minimum **one (1) month** prior approval must be obtained from MSFHR for leaves other than vacation.

Leaves of Absence

- A letter to MSFHR outlining the reason(s) for the leave.
- A letter from the primary supervisor in support of the leave.

If approved, award funding is on hold for the duration of the leave. The period of leave will be added to the term of the award.

Paid Parental Leave³

Award recipients may be eligible to receive a paid parental leave for a maximum of **six (6) months** during the term of the MSFHR award in order to be the primary caregiver for the child/children. The leave must be taken within six months of the birth and/or adoption of the child/children. Award recipients may start the leave up to 13 weeks before the expected birth date. If both parents are MSFHR award recipients, they may share the paid leave for a cumulative maximum of six months. An award recipient may request a parental leave for every birth and/or adoption that occurs during the tenure of the MSFHR award. Award recipients will be paid the same rate excluding research and travel allowance during the leave.

³ Parental leave is defined as a leave of absence offered to parents who are caring for a newborn or newly adopted child. This leave may begin no later than six months after the birth or adoption of a child.



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Requests for paid parental leave must be in writing and submitted to MSFHR **thirty (30) days** in advance of the start date of the leave. The request from the award recipient must include the following:

- Start and end date of the leave.
- Statement acknowledging that the award recipient is the primary caregiver for the child.
- Statement acknowledging that during the leave, the award recipient will not be actively engaged in studies/research activities or employed in any capacity.
- If the award recipient also holds an external award, a letter from the external funding agency indicating the dates of parental leave and the new award end date.
- Letter from the primary supervisor providing approval for the leave and confirming the start and end dates of the leave.

MSFHR reserves the right to request additional supporting documentation.

Unpaid Parental Leave

Award recipients may apply for unpaid parental leave in addition to any requested paid parental leave. The sum of the entire parental leave (including paid and unpaid) may not exceed 18 months. Unpaid parental leave may be taken as one large interruption or in smaller increments. Requests for unpaid parental leave must be in writing and submitted **thirty (30) days** prior to the beginning of the desired leave period and include:

- Start and end date of the leave.
- Letter from primary supervisor providing approval for the unpaid leave and confirming the start and end dates.

Upon written confirmation of return to the research training location after paid and/or unpaid parental leave, MSFHR will reinstate the research and travel allowance. The award end date will be extended by the duration of the parental leave and the award recipient will continue to receive the research and travel allowance to the end of the award term.

11. No-Cost Extensions

11.1 No-cost extensions are only applicable for the research and travel allowance.

11.2 A no-cost extension of up to **three (3) months** after the award end date may be requested for the research and travel allowance. Longer extensions may be granted on a case-by-case basis. A request for a no-cost extension **must be made thirty (30) days prior to the award end date**. No extensions will be granted if the award recipient contacts MSFHR after the award end date. Any unspent research and travel allowance funds must be returned to MSFHR at the end of the award.



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- 11.3 A request for a no-cost extension must include the following:
- The duration of the no-cost extension.
 - Justification for the request.
 - Confirmation from the primary supervisor that the justification and duration is approved.
- 11.4 The final report will be required within **thirty (30) days**, and the final financial statement within **three (3) months** from the end date of the no-cost extension.

12. Termination of Awards

MSFHR reserves the right to terminate the award:

- 12.1 If a contract of employment between the host institution and the award recipient is terminated. No liability for payment of other compensatory payment for dismissal of staff funded by the Research Trainee award will be accepted by MSFHR and the host institution will fully indemnify MSFHR with respect to any claims brought against MSFHR in this regard.
- 12.2 If there is significant lack of progress, or for any unacceptable changes to the approved research objectives identified in the application.
- 12.3 If there is a major deviation from these Conditions of Award. Any remaining funds must be returned by the host institution to MSFHR.

