2022 Health Professional-Investigator Competition

Information Session Webinar

Shannon Tolleson | Research Competitions Coordinator
Gayle Scarrow | Director, Knowledge Translation
Lynne Feehan | Knowledge Translation Lead, BC SUPPORT Unit
Kristi Coldwell | Senior Advisor for Research Advocacy, Transplant Research Foundation of BC

March 23, 2022
Webinar Agenda

1. About Michael Smith Health Research BC
2. Program highlights
3. Insights from an HP-I award recipient
4. Organizations with HP-I award Holders
5. Award amount and duration
6. Eligibility requirements
7. Changes for 2022
8. Patient, public, and community review
9. Knowledge translation
10. Partnership opportunities
11. Mitacs Accelerate partnership
12. Evaluation criteria
13. Tips for developing your application
14. Health Research BC ApplyNet
15. Application process flow
16. Contact information
17. Q & A session
The Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research (MSFHR) and the British Columbia Academic Health Science Network (BC AHSN) have joined forces to create a dynamic and integrated health research organization, 

**Michael Smith Health Research BC**, to support the growth and evolution of BC’s vibrant health research system and life sciences sector.
Overview of the Health Professional-Investigator program
HEALTH PROFESSIONAL-INVESTIGATOR (HP-I) PROGRAM

A health professional looking to conduct and apply relevant research

An HP-I award provides:
- Up to $90,000 per year for five years
- 50% of time protected for research

HP-I awards enable researchers to:
- Dedicate time to research while continuing clinical practice
- Link their practical knowledge with important research questions
- Advance their research careers
- Create knowledge to inform practice, policy + further research

Benefits to BC:
- Builds health research capacity
- Connects evidence + patient care
- Improves patient outcomes
Dr. Marie Westby
2020 HP-I Award Recipient
Physical Therapy Clinical Resource Therapist, Mary Pack Arthritis Program, VCH
Research Associate, Centre for Hip Health and Mobility, VCHRI
Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Physical Therapy, UBC

Project Title: Implementing quality indicators through clinician and patient online toolkits to improve rehabilitation care and outcomes after hip and knee replacement for osteoarthritis
Organizations with HP-I Award Holders

- BC Cancer
- BC Centre for Disease Control
- BC Centre for Improved Cardiovascular Health (ICVHealth)
- BC Centre on Substance Use
- BC Children’s Hospital Research Institute
- BC Women’s Hospital + Health Centre
- Centre for Clinical Epidemiology and Evaluation
- Centre for Health Evaluation and Outcome Sciences (CHEOS)
- Centre for Heart Lung Innovation
- Centre for Hip Health and Mobility
- GF Strong Rehabilitation Centre
- Island Health
- Institute on Aging & Lifelong Health
- Provincial Health Services Authority
- Providence Health Care
- Royal Jubilee Hospital
- Simon Fraser University
- St. Paul’s Hospital
- University of British Columbia
- University of Victoria
- Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute
- Vancouver General Hospital
- Vancouver Island University
- Vancouver Prostate Centre
- Women’s Health Research Institute
Award Amount & Duration

Applicant

$90,000 per year

5 years

Research Themes

Biomedical
Clinical
Health Services
Population Health
Eligibility Requirements

Hold a valid license to practice in BC and be a member in good standing of the appropriate regulatory college OR be a board-certified/board-eligible health professional and a member in good standing of the appropriate provincial/national certification body (BC Health Regulators).

For allied health professionals, must have a bachelor’s degree or higher; for physicians, must have a medical doctorate or equivalent.

Be a clinician, health practitioner, and/or health care provider whose role requires clinical decision-making.

Commit to a minimum of 50 percent time conducting research (min. 20 hours/week).

Currently hold an appointment or have a commitment of an appointment to begin by the award start date of April 1, 2023 at a BC institution that holds a memorandum of understanding with Health Research BC as a host institution.

Research must display clear link to human health.
Key changes for 2022

• Health Research BC has modified the 2022 HP-I application process to include a patient, public and community review.
  ▪ We will cover this in more detail later in this presentation.

• The Letter of Intent (LOI) stage of the 2022 competition will involve an eligibility check only and will not include a competitive peer review.
  ▪ Please note: applicants still need to complete the LOI stage.

• As Health Research BC is now a signatory of the Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA), and in keeping with best practices for responsible research assessment, we will no longer allow the use of Journal Impact Factors, article citation counts or H-index in our applications and assessments.
Continuing impacts of COVID-19 on health professional investigators

• Applicants will continue to have the opportunity to include a COVID-19 impact statement in their application to describe the impact of the pandemic on their clinical and research activities.
  ▪ You may use this section to contextualize changes in productivity or clinical duties over the past year that relate to the pandemic.

• Peer reviewers will account for COVID-19 impacts in application assessment and scoring.
Integrating Patient, Public and Community Partner Engagement into HP-I Research in BC

Kristi Coldwell
Transplant Research
Foundation of BC

Lynne Feehan
BC SUPPORT Unit / Health Research BC
What is the BC SUPPORT (SUpport for People and Patient-Oriented Research and Trials) Unit?

1 of 11 Across Canada

‘Vancouver’
1 of 5 in BC

https://bcsupportunit.ca/
What is Patient-Oriented Research?

- Care Providers
- Researchers
- Clinician-Scientists
- Patient Partners
- Care / Service Decision Makers

Patient-Oriented Research:
- Engages patients as partners
- Focuses on patient-identified priorities to improve patient-centred outcomes
- Is conducted by multidisciplinary teams in partnership with relevant stakeholders
- Aims to apply knowledge generated to improve healthcare systems and practice
Individuals with personal lived or living experience of a health topic relevant to the focus of the research
Why a Patient- Public- Community- Oriented Approach?

- Relevance
- Uptake of research into practice
- Service access / effectiveness
- ++ Reasons
An Approach . . . not a Method

Patient- Public- or Community-Oriented . . .
an approach not a method

Can be adopted in any context or used in any type of health research.
Similar to other approaches, terms . . .

Integrated KT (iKT)
Indigenous Research Approach
Participatory Action Research (PAR)

Researcher
Patient / Public
Health Care Provider (Practice)
Health System Decision Maker (Policy)

Patient-Oriented Research (POR)

Practice-Based Research (PBR)
Mode 2 (M2)
Community-Based Research (CBR)
Not required, but encouraged
### Patient, Public, and Community Engagement in: Reviews, Proposals and HP-I Research

**Full Applications Submitted**
- BC SUPPORT Unit offers virtual training workshops and resources for applicants during the full application stage.

**Patient, Public, and Community Review**
- Top-ranked applications proceed to Patient, Public, and Community Review.
- BC SUPPORT Unit supports the recruitment and training of Patient, Public and Community reviewers.

**Applicant Response to Patient, Public, and Community Reviewers**
- Feedback and recommendations provided to applicants.
- BC SUPPORT Unit works with applicants to develop their responses to reviews.

**Funding Decisions**
- Applicants submit responses to Patient, Public, and Community Review feedback.
- Response template will be provided.

**HP-I Awards Begin**
- Award Start Date: April 1, 2023.
- BC SUPPORT Unit will support & evaluate patient, public, and community partner engagement activities throughout the award.

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<th>May-June</th>
<th>October-December</th>
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Thank you . . . We are here to help

The BC SUPPORT UNIT and Research Competition Teams at Michael Smith Health Research BC
Knowledge Translation
– your pathway to research impact
What is Knowledge Translation?

Knowledge translation (KT) activities aim to close the gap between research and its use by improving the use of research evidence in practice, policy and further research.
Why is KT important?

• Estimated $200B (USD) wasted research funding from failure to use biomedical findings
• 30% of patients do not get treatments of proven effectiveness
• 25% of patients get care that is not needed or potentially harmful
• Up to 75% of patients do not get enough information to make decisions
• Most programs to address gaps in patient care are not:
  ▪ Evidence-based
  ▪ Being implemented as intended
  ▪ Being evaluated rigorously
  ▪ Being sustained

**KT Practice and KT Science**

**KT Practice** = activities to encourage and enable evidence use, for example synthesis, dissemination, exchange, and implementation of evidence

**KT Science** = the study of KT practice activities, including implementation science
Health Research BC requires applicants from all research pillars to include knowledge translation activities in their project proposal in one of two ways:

1. **KT Practice**: As **components** of a research project to promote evidence use (e.g., research user engagement, synthesis of the evidence, and/or research dissemination)

2. **KT Science**: KT is the **focus** of the project (e.g., dissemination science or implementation science)
What is YOUR pathway to research impact?
Engage with those who will use your research

Biomedical  Clinical researchers, clinicians, industry, other biomedical researchers, public, etc.

Clinical  Health services researchers, patients, policy makers, clinicians, public, etc.

Health Services  Clinicians, health care administrators, decision makers, educators, communities, patients, etc.

Population Health  Policy makers, communities, health care professionals, educators, etc.
Some KT strategies

- Interactive small groups
- Educational outreach
- Mass media campaign
- Opinion leaders
- Performance feedback
- Peer reviewed publications
- Conference presentations
- Press release
- Webinar

- Reminders
- IT decision support
- Best practice guidelines
- Financial incentives
- Networks
- Patent license
- Arts-based KT
- Social media
- Patient advisory group
Want to know more?

Click on the *KT links* in the Guidelines

Visit [KT Pathways](http://www.ktpathways.ca)
Partnership opportunities
Partnership Opportunities

Health Research BC partners with leading organizations to grow BC’s health research capacity.

Process:
Applicants interested in being funded through a partnered award are encouraged to Complete the Potential Co-Funding Partners tab in their Full Application in ApplyNet.

Additional partners will sometimes come on board during or after the full application phase and these are listed on our website. If you'd like to be considered for an award co-funded by any of these partners, please let us know by emailing partners@healthresearchbc.ca.

Health Research BC uses the details captured in your full application and keywords provided by partners to identify applications that may be relevant to and align with partners’ area of interest.
More information about partnership opportunities will be available in the full application form and at: msfhr.org/funding/partnered-msfhr-awards.
Mitacs Accelerate Partnership

• Introduced in 2019 – expedited application process for Mitacs Accelerate funding for HP-I applicants. Not mandatory.
• Mitacs Accelerate funding supports experiential training internships for Master’s, PhD students, and post-doctoral fellows who are supporting your research.
• Applicants indicate interest at letter of intent.
• Separate application form outside of ApplyNet system. Form to be uploaded to Full Application.
• Contact a Mitacs business development representative for more information and to obtain an Accelerate Proposal application.
Review process
## Evaluation Criteria

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### Applicant Expertise and Experience
- Health Research BC Full CCV (last 5 years)
- Publication list
- Most significant contributions
- Letters of reference (optional)
- Information about your clinical/research training/practice

### Research Proposal
- 5-year research proposal
- KT plan
- Letters of collaboration (optional)

### Environment and Support
- Research support statement
- Department Head and/or Dean Forms in which reviewers look for clear commitment and support by applicant’s host institution.

### Impact of Award
- Award impact statement
Evaluation Criteria

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**Continuing for 2022**

- Separate peer review pools for allied health and physician applicants
- Reference letters are optional, rather than required.
- The evaluation criteria continue to emphasize the research proposal and the potential impact of the research (including knowledge translation)
- The optional COVID-19 impact statement may be submitted to contextualize changes in productivity or clinical duties that relate to the pandemic.
Writing and submitting your application
Tips for developing your application

• Seek support from your organization’s grant facilitation office for development, editing, and revision of your application.

• Have your application critically reviewed by colleagues.

• Reach out to your Department Head very early in the process to discuss your appointment and the resources and support available to you.

• Review the competition’s evaluation criteria and make sure they are addressed in your application.

• Pay attention to grantsmanship — cohesive flow of information allows reviewers to read the application without having to flip back and forth between pages.

• Format the research proposal to be easy to read. Use headings to show a logical progression and break up the text into paragraphs. Don't be afraid of white space.
Tips for developing your application

• Reviewers do not have the time to look up information on your behalf — if it is important, **make it explicit** in the application.

• If you have **pilot data**, mention it.

• You will have 8 additional pages for your appendices, which may include references, tables, charts, figures, and photographs. However, if the data is important to your research proposal, please include it within the **Research Proposal document**.

• If you were not able to capture important information about your activities and contributions in the CCV, you can add it to the **Most Significant Contributions** section.

• The sample application on our website provides some tips for the application.
Applications are submitted through our online grants management system, ApplyNet, [https://healthresearchbc.smartsimple.ca/](https://healthresearchbc.smartsimple.ca/)
From the home page, click **Apply**.

The next page will display a list of competitions available for application.

Click **View Details** to see competition information and to launch an eligibility quiz. A successful completion of the quiz will open the Letter of Intent.
2022 HP-I competition launch:
Week of March 14, 2022
4:30 pm PT

LOI Deadline:
April 29, 2022
4:30 pm PT

Deadline to submit Department Head task:
June 13, 2022

Full Application deadline:
June 20, 2022
4:30 pm PT

Host institution’s deadline to submit to Health Research BC:
June 27, 2022
4:30 pm PT

Applicant creates Department Head and/or Dean tasks in ApplyNet

Applicant completes Eligibility Quiz and Letter of Intent in ApplyNet

Applicant completes and submits the Full Application

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4:30 pm PT
For questions regarding the application and submission process, please contact:

**Shannon Tolleson**  
Coordinator, Research Competitions  
604.714.2779  
hpi@healthresearchbc.ca

For technical support with ApplyNet, please contact:

**Health Research BC Help Desk**  
604.714.6609 | 1.866.673.4722  
helpdesk@healthresearchbc.ca
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<td>Peer Review Panel Meetings</td>
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<td>Patient, Public, and Community Review + Applicant Response</td>
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<td>Anticipated Notice of Funding Decision</td>
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