

Background

The Discovery Fund is dedicated to finding innovative solutions to major challenges in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of mental illness and improving outcomes for those affected, now and in the future. The Discovery Fund Talent Development Competition, supporting prospective graduate trainees and postdoctoral fellows, reflects an investment in the future generation of world class researchers in mental health.

Award Guidelines

The Discovery Fund is hosting a Talent Development Competition to provide support for postdoctoral fellows pursuing research to better identify, diagnose, prevent and treat mental illnesses. Postdoctoral fellows are expected to make independent contributions to knowledge during their appointment. These may be in the form of a contribution to an existing project, or through the development of an original project.

Consistent with the vision and strategic priorities of the Discovery Fund, applications will be assessed and awarded under the research themes indicated below, listed alphabetically. These research themes have equal weight of importance and no theme is superior or favored over another.

1. Basic and pre-clinical neuroscience
2. Brain and/or behavior interventions (including technology-based interventions)
3. Clinical measure and/or biomarker identification
4. Health services and epidemiological research
5. Implementation science
6. Translation of clinical neuroscience (i.e. the study of mechanisms of disease and new ways of diagnosis and treatments) into clinical research

The Discovery Fund strategic priorities are listed below. All applications must identify the relationship to at least one of these three priority areas:

- 1. Suicide Rate Reduction**
 - a. Community/public health-based interventions
 - b. Hospital-based interventions
- 2. Reducing Disability Associated with Mental Disorders**
 - a. Addressing cognitive dysfunction associated with mental disorders across the lifespan
 - b. Decreasing disability associated with depression and other common disorders
- 3. Improving Psychosis Prevention and Outcomes**
 - a. Primary prevention/early intervention
 - b. Improving functional outcomes associated with chronic psychotic illness

Up to seven one-year awards of \$60,000 stipend + \$5,000 research allowance each will be available (conditional on availability of funds). The selection of awards will be made by the Talent Development Working Group comprised clinician scientists, senior scientists, independent scientists, based on CIHR standards of excellence.

Eligibility Criteria

- This award is intended to support candidates who are seeking **full-time** post-doctoral studies under the primary supervision of early career CAMH scientists.

- Applicants must obtain sponsorship of a primary supervisor who holds a scientific appointment at CAMH. **Only candidates sponsored by scientists who hold a university appointment at the rank of Assistant Professor are eligible.** Candidates whose primary supervisors are Associate or Full Professors are not eligible to apply.
- Only one PDF applicant per primary supervisor will be permitted to apply for the Discovery Fund Postdoctoral Fellowship.
- Current Discovery Fund Postdoctoral Fellowship awardees are not eligible to apply. Postdoctoral Fellows may receive a maximum of two Discovery Fund Postdoctoral Fellowship awards; however, these awards cannot be held in two consecutive years (new awardees must wait one year to re-apply following receipt of the award) and each application will be considered independently.
- Applicants must have a PhD and/or MD at the time they start the award. Any interruptions, delays or post-degree clinical training in post-PhD/MD cumulative experience may be taken into account in determining eligibility if detailed information on the interruption, including specific dates, is provided. Post-doctoral fellows that completed their doctoral program more than 5 years ago must first consult with Lina Chiuccariello regarding eligibility before applying. Proof of degree fulfillment will be required for those applicants that are successful.
- Applicant's supervisor(s) must agree to provide the applicant with a minimum of 75% protected time for research.
- Successful applicants are expected to be located at CAMH during the one-year period of the award.
- Applicants with external funding support that overlaps the period of the PDF award are not eligible to apply (i.e. external funding that continues past Dec 31, 2019).
- To be eligible for the 2019 Discovery Fund Postdoctoral Fellowship, applicants must apply to at least one external agency for stipend support in the time period between April 1, 2018 – March 31, 2019. You will be asked to provide proof should you be successful in receiving a 2019 Discovery Fund Postdoctoral Fellowship award.
- If the applicant is successful in obtaining a fellowship offer from an external agency, the applicant will accept the external offer and free up the Discovery Fund Postdoctoral Fellowship for other possible applicants. In situations where the value of the external award is less than the DF PDF, a top-up may be provided by the Discovery Fund. The amount of the top-up will depend on funding availability. **Under no circumstances will fellowship funds be used to cover gaps in funding between the time when existing funding ends and the external funding begins.**
- All Discovery Fund fellowships are to commence during the period of July 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019.
- **Women and members of under-represented minorities are strongly encouraged to apply.**

Instructions

1. Abstract

Applicants must submit an abstract online using the following form:

<https://form.jotform.com/DFTalentCompetition/Abstract> by **November 26, 2018**. The abstract is limited to 250 words and may differ slightly from the final application. This is to facilitate selection of appropriate reviewers.

2. Application

Applicants must submit their application online (link to be provided following abstract submission) using the guidelines below. The full application must be submitted by **December 17, 2018**.

a) Project Information:

- Project Title - **Limit of 640 characters, including spaces.**

- Lay Title - **Limit of 200 characters, including spaces.**
- Lay Abstract - **Limit of 2,000 characters, including spaces.**
- Training Expectations - Provide an overview of how your previous research training relates to the present proposal and elaborate on your career goals. Describe how the training you expect to acquire will contribute to your productivity, the research goals you hope to achieve and how this award will enable you to establish yourself as an independent investigator. Indicate why you decided on the proposed training location and what you expect to learn from your training experience. **Limit of 7,000 characters, including spaces.**
- Research Project Summary - The research project summary should be written in general scientific language, and should include the specific hypothesis of the research and describe your role in the proposed project. Make sure that it provides a concise account of the subject matter; an overview of each part of the research plan, specific project aims and the methodology. The summary should reflect the significance of your project and should clearly state the relevance of your project to one or more of the themes of the Discovery Fund as indicated above as well as the strategic priorities. **Limit of 4,000 characters, including spaces, references included.**

Please use the following headings:

- Background - summarize the state of knowledge relevant to the proposal.
- Hypotheses/research questions - state these clearly and concisely
- Methods - give essential details of methods; describe the data to be collected and the method of data analysis proposed.
- Impact - state how the project will advance knowledge if it is completed as planned.
- Relevance to Discovery Fund themes and strategic priorities
- Timetable - include a timetable for the work in your description.

- b) **Research Training Environment:** The description should be detailed and include information related to space, facilities and personnel support that will be available to you. This section should be written with the input of the proposed supervisor and should demonstrate the commitment of the proposed supervisor(s) and their institution to support the development of the applicant's research project (funding, facilities, equipment, etc.) and professional development. **Limit of 1,750 characters, including spaces.**
- c) **Most Significant Contributions (if applicable):** Please highlight any relevant publications, awards and recognitions or knowledge translation that are not covered by the CCV. **Limit 3,000 characters, including spaces.**
- d) **Interruptions and Delays (if applicable):**
This section should describe any interruptions, delays or post-degree clinical training experience that has taken place post-PhD and/or MD or residency. Make sure to include specific dates. **Limit of 1,500 characters, including spaces.**

3. Common CV

a) Applicant CV

Go to common CV site <https://ccv-cvc.ca/indexresearcher-eng.frm>

- Log in (or create an account if you do not already have one).
- Choose CV tab → select Funding from dropdown menu → select CIHR from dropdown menu → select CIHR Academic from the dropdown menu → click LOAD
- On the main screen you will see a list of all the sections that need to be completed. The left-hand side of the screen will contain icons:
 -  This icon will allow you to enter or edit the section
 -  This icon indicates that the section does not contain any errors
 -  This icon indicates that the section contains errors.

- Enter data.
- Ensure there are no **x**s on your screen.
- Click PREVIEW and review the pdf document that is generated. Edit if needed.
- Once you are satisfied with the content, submit and save the pdf document that is generated

b) Supervisor CV

- Supervisor CVs should also be in the Canadian Common CV format using the CIHR Academic Template.
- CVs not in a Canadian Common CV format using CIHR Academic Template can be submitted, however please ensure they are no longer than six pages.

4. Letters of Reference

- Two letters of reference must be submitted by 5 p.m. on the due date.
- The letters should be no longer than one-page in length each (12-point font).
- Reference letters from the candidate's Supervisor or Co-Supervisor will **not** be accepted.
- Letters must be submitted to using the link to be provided.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure letters of reference are sent by the submission deadline.

5. Research Assurances and Approvals Form (RAAF)

- **A RAAF must be submitted to the Research Services Office by December 10, 2018. For guidance on RAAF submission, please see the [Research Portal](#).**

6. Submitting the Application

The application must be submitted online (link to be provided following abstract submission) by **December 17, 2018**.

For questions regarding the application guidelines or submission, please contact lina.chiuccariello@camh.ca.

Note: REB and ACC approval for clinical and preclinical research will need to be verified before releasing the funds for successful awards.

Note: Supplemental material and material exceeding the specified length will not be considered in the review process.