

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 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 basic and clinical 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. Projects will be assessed and awarded under the research themes below, listed alphabetically. These research themes have equal weight of importance and no theme is favoured 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 (including basic and clinical research projects) 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
- c. Endophenotypes of suicidal behaviour

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

One-Year Fellowship

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

Two-Year Fellowship

The intention of this fellowship is to provide opportunity for postdoctoral fellows to generate new international and national collaborations by holding a fellowship that requires two co-supervisors from different institutions. If both co-supervisors are appointed within the same University, they must have primary appointment in different departments. Up to two, two-year awards of \$60,000 CAD stipend + \$5,000 CAD research allowance each are available (conditional on availability of funds). During the first year of this stipend, awardees will be located at an institution external to CAMH and during the second year, the awardee will be located at CAMH. Selection of awards will follow the same process as for the one-year fellowship outlined above. If you are interested in this fellowship please reach out to Talent.Development@camh.ca with any questions.

Eligibility Criteria

- This award is intended to support candidates who are seeking **full-time** post-doctoral studies. One-year fellowship: Eligible candidates must have the primary supervision of a CAMH scientist. 2 year fellowship: Two supervisors are required, each from different universities or institutions. Candidates must demonstrate that the two supervisors have not had a long-standing collaboration and that these are two distinct research groups. Two supervisors from different hospitals in Toronto but both within the same University department may be eligible but not ideal. Preference will be given to applicants pursuing international training. For questions related to eligibility, please contact talent.development@camh.ca
- Applicants must obtain sponsorship of a primary supervisor who holds a scientific appointment at CAMH as Independent Scientist, Senior Scientist or Clinician Scientist only. Applicants are encouraged to reach out to potential CAMH supervisors. Information regarding CAMH scientists can be found at the CAMH [staff directory](#).
- Only one applicant per primary supervisor will be permitted to apply for the Discovery Fund Postdoctoral Fellowship.
- Current Discovery Fund Postdoctoral Fellowship (DF PDF) awardees are not eligible to apply. Postdoctoral Fellows may receive a maximum of two DF PDF 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.
- Applicants with external funding support that overlaps the period of the DF PDF award are not eligible to apply (i.e. external funding that continues past Dec 31, 2021).
- To be eligible for the 2020 Discovery Fund Postdoctoral Fellowship, applicants must apply to at least one external agency for stipend support in the time period between April 1, 2020 – March 31, 2021. If there are particular circumstances that prevent this, please first consult with talent.development@camh.ca. You will be asked to provide proof should you be successful in receiving a 2021 Discovery Fund Postdoctoral Fellowship award.
- **Women and members of under-represented minorities are strongly encouraged to apply.**

Conditions of 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, 2021 – December 31, 2021
- For the one-year fellowship, successful applicants are expected to be located at CAMH during the one-year period of the award. For the two-year fellowship, successful applicants are expected to be located at another institution during the first-year of the award and at CAMH during the second-year of the award.

Instructions

1. Abstract

Applicants must submit an abstract online using the following form: <https://www.jotform.com/DiscoveryFund/Abstract> by **January 18, 2021**. The abstract is limited to 250 words and may differ slightly from the final application.

2. Application

Applicants must submit their application online (link to be provided following abstract submission and confirmation of eligibility) using the guidelines below. The full application must be submitted by **February 22, 2021**.

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 Plan - 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 build upon your previous training and 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. Highlight specifically the novelty and originality of the training plan relative to prior training and experience and provide further justification if the award is intended to support on-going work at CAMH. 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(s) 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 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(s) CV

- Supervisor(s) CV 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 electronically to the Research Services Office by February 15, 2021. 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 **February 22, 2021**.

For questions regarding the application guidelines or submission, please contact talent.development@camh.ca.

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