2025 Postdoctoral Research Award

camh
Centre for Addiction and Mental Health

Background

The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) is Canada's largest mental health teaching hospital and one of the world's leading research centres in its field. The organization conducts groundbreaking research, provides expert training to health care professionals and scientists, develops innovative health promotion and prevention strategies, and advocates on public policy issues at all levels of government.

CAMH 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. Each year CAMH provides opportunities to the next generation of scientists to train in a unique learning environment and help contribute to the breakthrough mental illness research and treatments of tomorrow. Postdoctoral researchers 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 aligned with the following themes:

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

Current Postdoctoral Research Award Opportunities

Funding for postdoctoral training is provided across several funding streams (conditional on availability of funds) who may have specific focus areas or eligibility criteria. Please see below and Appendix A for descriptions of each funding stream.

- **Azrieli Adult Neurodevelopmental Centre – Postdoctoral Research Award:** Up to four, 2-year awards of $70,000 CAD/year stipend + $5,000 CAD research allowance are available. This award will require all researchers to complete independent research, contribute clinically to Adult Neurodevelopmental Services at CAMH and get involved in education and training of clinicians to work with people with neurodevelopmental disabilities.

- **Bebensee Postdoctoral Research Award in Schizophrenia Research:** 1-year award of $45,00 CAD stipend + $5,000 CAD research allowance, with additional top-up of $25,000 by the Postdoctoral Research Award supervisor.

- **BRIDGES (Building Research and Innovation through Diversity, Growth, Equity and Sustainability) – Postdoctoral Research Award:** One 1-year award of $70,000 CAD stipend + $5,000 CAD research allowance is available. This award is open to researchers who self-identify as Black, First Nations, Métis and Inuit, or from other racialized groups. CAMH is dedicated to fostering a more equitable, diverse, and inclusive research environment for trainees.

- **Discovery Fund – Talent Development Competition:**
  - **1-Year Postdoctoral Research Award:** 1-year awards of $70,000 CAD stipend + $5,000 CAD research allowance are available.
  - **2-Year Postdoctoral Research Award:** 2-year awards of $70,000 CAD stipend + $5,000 CAD research allowance are available to provide postdoctoral researchers with the opportunity to generate new

international and national collaborations with two co-supervisors from different institutions. During the first year of this award, awardees will be located at an institution external to CAMH (University of Toronto is acceptable, but another institution would be preferable) and during the second year, the awardee will be located at CAMH. Applicants must confirm with their co-supervisor and the collaborating institution that they meet the requirements for being a postdoctoral researcher at the collaborating institution. If the collaborating institution has a minimum stipend amount that is greater than $70,000, the Discovery Fund will not provide any additional funding, and the difference will need to be provided by the supervisor and/or co-supervisor. To be eligible for the 2-year award, applicants must be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident.

- **Koerner Postdoctoral Research Award:** One 1-year award of $70,000 CAD stipend + $5,000 CAD research allowance is available. This award is open to researchers from underrepresented groups, in alignment with CAMH, Government of Canada, and Tri-Agency priorities to address systemic racism, sexism, and discrimination in Canadian institutions through an intersectional lens, tackle systemic barriers that limit the full participation of all talented individuals, and increase equitable and inclusive participation in the research system. It reflects the commitment of CAMH to foster a more equitable, diverse, and inclusive research environment for trainees.

- *womenmind* **- Postdoctoral Research Award:** 1-year awards of $70,000 CAD stipend + $5,000 CAD research allowance will be available.

All applications will be evaluated by a team of independent researchers, based on CIHR standards of excellence. The final selection of awards will be made by the separate committees overseeing each funding stream.

Eligibility Criteria

- The award is intended to support candidates who are seeking **full-time** postdoctoral studies under the primary supervision of a CAMH Scientist. Applicant's supervisor(s) must agree to provide the applicant with a minimum of 75% protected time for research.
- Applicants must obtain sponsorship of a primary supervisor who holds a scientific appointment at CAMH as Associate Scientist, Staff Scientist, Senior Staff Scientist, Scientist, or Senior Scientist. Applicants are encouraged to reach out to potential CAMH supervisors. Information regarding CAMH scientists can be found at the CAMH staff directory. Please contact internal.funding@camh.ca to clarify eligibility if your potential supervisor's scientific appointment type is not listed here.
- There is no limit to the number of applicants per supervisor applying for any CAMH Postdoctoral Research Award. However, **only one award may be held under each supervisor**, determined by the highest ranked applicant.
- Applicants may only apply to **one** CAMH Postdoctoral Research Award funding stream per cycle. However, ROSS and/or the selection committee(s) may consider an application under a different funding stream based on eligibility, project alignment, and availability of funds.
- Applicants must have a PhD and/or regulated health professional degree at the time they start the award. For examples of health professions, please consult CIHR's list of Eligible Health Professions. Any interruptions, delays or post-degree clinical training in post-PhD/regulated health professional degree cumulative experience may be taken into account in determining eligibility if detailed information on the interruption, including specific dates, is provided. Postdoctoral researchers that completed their doctoral program more than 5 years ago must first consult with internal.funding@camh.ca regarding eligibility before applying.
- CAMH Employees are ineligible to receive remuneration from a training award and their employment role concurrently. Interested applicants who are currently employed by CAMH under a position other than a trainee must contact ResearchHR@camh.ca and internal.funding@camh.ca in advance of the deadline to confirm eligibility.

- Applicants cannot hold multiple internal CAMH Postdoctoral Research Awards at the same time (including but not limited to Discovery Fund, *womenmind*, Azrieli, etc.).
- Current CAMH Postdoctoral Research Awardees are not eligible to apply. Trainees may receive a maximum of two internal CAMH Postdoctoral Research 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 with external funding support that overlaps the period of the CAMH Postdoctoral Research Awards are not eligible to apply (i.e., fellowships, external stipend support, external funding that continues past December 31, 2025).
- Applicants must apply to at least one external agency for research stipend support in the time period between April 1, 2024 and December 31, 2024. If there are circumstances that prevent this, please consult with internal.funding@camh.ca. You will be asked to provide proof should you be successful in receiving a CAMH Postdoctoral Research Award.
- CAMH welcomes applications from First Nations, Métis and Inuit, racialized and 2SLGBTQ+ communities, women, people with disabilities (including people who have experienced mental health and substance use challenges), and those not listed who may contribute to the further diversification of ideas. *Please note: self-identification as a member of an eligible underrepresented group is a specific eligibility criterion for the Michael and Sonja Koerner Foundation and BRIDGES funding streams.*

Conditions of Award:
- All Postdoctoral Research Awards are to commence during the period of July 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025.
- The award must be accepted within 20 working days of the notice of award or the award offer will be cancelled.
- Proof of degree fulfillment will be required to accept the award.
- Proof of external funding application will be required to accept the award.
- If the applicant is successful in obtaining an award offer from an external agency, the applicant will accept the external offer and free up the Postdoctoral Research Award for other candidates. In situations where the value of the external award is less than the Postdoctoral Research Award, a top-up may be provided. The amount of the top-up will depend on funding availability.
- Under no circumstances will Research Award funds be used to cover gaps in funding between the time when existing funding ends and the external funding begins.
- Applicants must be within the CAMH institutional standards for stipend support. Applicants cannot exceed the institutional standard through multiple sources of support.
- If you are awarded a multiyear award, continuation in funding is contingent on an annual review of your research and progress.
- Applicants will not be able to start their award at CAMH if their supervisor has any incomplete/outstanding trainee progress reports. CAMH will work with the supervisor to ensure that the reporting is completed and the applicant can start the Research Award.

Instructions

1. Notice of Intent

Applicants must submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) online using the following form: https://form.jotform.com/241844137154253 **by October 25, 2024 by 5:00pm (EST).** The NOI must identify the supervisor(s), the selected funding stream, include a brief description of the proposed project (250 words), identify research themes and strategic priority areas, answer self-identification* and project representation questions, and provide 3-5 project area and methodology keywords. Information from the NOI will assist the Grants & Awards team with assessing eligibility and matching applications to academic experts in the review process. Late NOIs will not be accepted.

*Information collected will be confidential, cannot be accessed by reviewers, and will not be linked to personnel data. Data regarding the applicant pool will be reported only to the selection committee and a small number of ROSS staff members for the purposes of program administration, process improvement, and reporting requirements.

2. Research Assurances and Approvals Form (RAAF)
A RAAF must be submitted via the eRA Portal by **December 6, 2024 by 5:00pm (EST)**. For guidance on RAAF submission, please see the Research Portal. If you are applying as an external applicant, please reach out to internal.funding@camh.ca for instructions on how to create an account for the eRA Portal.

3. Full Application
Applicants must submit their application online using the guidelines below. The full application must be submitted by **December 13, 2024 by 5:00pm (EST).** Late applications will not be accepted. A link to the online form will be provided following NOI submission and confirmation of eligibility.

a) **Project Information:**
- **Project Title – Limit of 640 characters, including spaces.**
- **Lay Title – Limit of 200 characters, including spaces.** Provide a title for the project that is in a language clear to the general public.
- **Lay Abstract – Limit of 2,000 characters, including spaces.** Describe the project in a way that is accessible to a lay audience.

b) **Training Plan – Limit of 7,000 characters, including spaces.**
- Provide an overview of how your previous research training and/or experience outside of academia relates to the present proposal (i.e., how your previous experience will benefit your current/upcoming research training work) and elaborate on your career goals.
- Describe how the training you expect to acquire will contribute to your productivity and research goals.
- If relevant, describe how additional postdoctoral/post-health professional training experience, including the development of research, technical, and professional skills and networks, will contribute toward your career goals.
- Indicate why you decided upon your proposed training location (i.e., CAMH, supervisor, etc.) and what you expect to learn from the training experience.
- Provide justification if you are planning to hold this award in the same research environment (i.e., research institution or its affiliate, supervisor or co-supervisor) where you completed your previous degree.

c) **Research Project Summary – Limit of 5,000 characters, including spaces, references included.** The research project summary should be written in general scientific language, which is an important skill to acquire for future success in the research environment as applications can be reviewed by multi-disciplinary committees. This section should include the specific research hypothesis and describe your role on the proposed project. It must include 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 an explanation of the relevance of your project to the goals of the competition. Please use the following headings:
- **Background –** summarize the stage 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. Clearly define the population.

- **Impact –** state how the project will advance knowledge if completed as planned.
- **Relevance to the goals of the award –** demonstrate your proposed project's alignment with the research themes and strategic priorities of your specific funding stream (see Appendix A for details). It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the proposal meets the criteria of the selected funding stream.
- **Role on proposed project –** address how the proposed research will support your training goals.
- **Timetable –** include a timetable for the work in your description
- **Reference Page –** include reference list

d) **Research Training Environment – Limit of 1,750 characters, including spaces.**

Describe the 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 their commitment to support the development of the applicant's research project (funding, facilities, equipment, etc.) and professional development. It should also demonstrate a commitment to developing your research, technical and professional skills and networks over the training period by providing career planning, skills development and networking opportunities to prepare for an impactful career.

e) **Most significant contributions (if applicable) – Limit 3,000 characters, including spaces.**

Please highlight any relevant publications, activities, awards and recognitions or knowledge translation that are not covered by the CCV.

f) **Interruptions and Delays (if applicable) – Limit of 1,500 characters, including spaces.**
Applicants may explain any gaps in the chronology of their experience. Applicants can list any considerations that have had an effect on their performance or productivity, including considerations that may have resulted in delays in disseminating their research results, such as health problems, family responsibilities, disabilities, trauma and/or loss, pandemic impact or other circumstances, for example, the time necessary to complete a monograph, file a patent, or commercialize an industrial process or product; and for health professionals, engagement in post-degree non-research related clinical training (residency, etc.). Applicants should list the interruption/delay and provide specific dates, but are not expected to disclose confidential details. If there are none, leave this section blank.

4. Curriculum Vitae (CV) – uploaded as Postdoctoral Research Award attachments.
  a) Applicant CV
    Provide a CIHR Biosketch CV (completed via the Canadian Common CV interface) or NIH Biosketch.

  b) **Supervisor CV**
    - Supervisor CVs should also be in the Canadian Common CV format using the CIHR Academic or Biosketch templates.
    - Other CV templates will also be accepted, with a limit of 6 pages.

5. Letters of Reference – max 1 page each, using 12-point font. Two referees must provide an assessment of the applicant. These assessments should come from people under whom you have trained and/or who have had a good opportunity to assess your potential for research. Applicants should refer their selected sponsors to CIHR's Information for Sponsors web page for useful tips.

- Two letters of reference must be submitted by 5 p.m. on the application due date.
- Reference letters from the candidate's Supervisor or Co-Supervisor will **not** be accepted.
- Letters must be submitted by email from the referee's email to internal.funding@camh.ca. The Reference Letter

must be on institutional letterhead and signed by the referee.

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

6. Submitting the Application

The application must be submitted online (link to be provided following NOI submission) **by December 13, 2024.** If you have any questions regarding the application guidelines or submission process, please contact Elizabeth Mueller via **internal.funding@camh.ca.**

Note: Supplemental material and material exceeding the specified length will not be considered in the review process. The reviewing committee consists of academic experts but not necessarily specialists in the applicant's specific subject area.

DEADLINES AT A GLANCE
Notice of Intent: October 25, 2024
RAAF: December 6, 2024
Full Application: December 13, 2024
Notice of Award: May 2025

Appendix A – Postdoctoral Research Award Funding Streams

Azrieli Adult Neurodevelopmental Centre – Postdoctoral Research Award

The Azrieli Adult Neurodevelopmental Centre is aligned with CAMH's strategic goals of improving care for the patients of today and innovating care for the patients of tomorrow. It is intended to promote excellence in the field of adult neurodevelopmental disabilities (e.g., intellectual disability, autism) and mental health. The Azrieli Centre is dedicated towards finding innovative solutions to solving major challenges in care delivery, and the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of mental illness in adults with neurodevelopmental disabilities and to increasing educational opportunities in this field for mental health trainees and providers. The Azrieli Centre is built upon four pillars: Clinical Innovation; Research Excellence; Education and Training; and Knowledge Exchange. Through this work, the Azrieli Centre will help improve education, awareness, diagnosis and treatment of the adult neurodevelopmental population locally, nationally and globally.

The Azrieli Centre will provide support for postdoctoral researchers applying concepts to better identify, prevent, diagnose and treat mental illnesses in adults with neurodevelopmental disabilities and their families.

Clinical Innovation: Azrieli Centre researchers will work within a rich clinical setting, which includes interprofessional inpatient and outpatient services representing six disciplines, receiving exposure to a wide-range of services for this diverse population. Postdoctoral Researchers must be registered with or are eligible for registration with their respective Ontario professional college.

Research Excellence: At the Azrieli Centre, every postdoctoral researcher will have sustained support to conduct innovative research that will lead to better care for this population with mentorship available from across CAMH. Research projects will have clinical application and offer opportunities for researchers to work together and learn from one another. Projects can fall under one of the research themes listed below under Award Guidelines.

Education and Training: In addition to their research activities, researchers will work closely with CAMH Education and Professional Practice portfolios and with their respective health discipline at a CAMH affiliated academic institution to explore how to integrate teaching about neurodevelopmental disabilities and mental health into discipline specific training and health care curricula.

Knowledge Exchange: To maximize the reach of discovery and educational efforts, researchers will engage in creative professional activities and develop expertise in knowledge exchange, to learn from and share knowledge directly with patients, their families and the public. Every project will include a knowledge-exchange component, and all researchers will receive training in knowledge exchange and benefit from working with individual and family project advisors at the centre. The Azrieli Centre will help transform the way information and resources for this population get shared across CAMH, including health care providers, health system planners, patients, their families and the broader community.

The Azrieli Centre Postdoctoral Research Award competition will provide postdoctoral researchers with a comprehensive training program in the field of adult neurodevelopmental disabilities mental health, with practical training in research techniques. Postdoctoral researchers 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. Additionally, all researchers will contribute clinically to the Adult Neurodevelopmental Service at CAMH, and be involved in teaching, supervision and curriculum development.

Awards are targeted toward the **diverse clinical disciplines responsible for mental health care** in the neurodevelopmental disabilities population, including but not limited to psychiatry, psychology, nursing, social work, occupational therapy, and behaviour analysis. Researchers from across disciplines will benefit from working together in their various clinical, research, and educational activities.

Bebensee Postdoctoral Research Award in Schizophrenia Research

The Bebensee Postdoctoral Research Award in Schizophrenia Research, enabled by a generous gift from the Ian Douglas Bebensee Foundation, is intended to support a clinical research Postdoctoral Research Award in schizophrenia studies. The goal of the Postdoctoral Research Award is to contribute significantly to the study of the causes and treatment of schizophrenia.

In line with institutional priorities, the award will support research into the causes and treatment of schizophrenia with special focus on:
  A. Improving functional and personal recovery related outcomes in schizophrenia
  B. Early intervention in schizophrenia
  C. Addressing negative symptoms, cognitive dysfunction, or metabolic dysfunction associated with schizophrenia.

BRIDGES (Building Research and Innovation through Diversity, Growth, Equity and Sustainability) – Postdoctoral Research Award: The Northbridge General Insurance Corporation in collaboration with CAMH will provide support for postdoctoral researchers from underrepresented groups pursuing basic and clinical research to better identify, diagnose, prevent and treat mental illnesses. To be eligible for this opportunity, applicants must self-identify with at least one of the following groups:
  - First Nations, Métis and Inuit
  - Black
  - Racialized persons

Note: In relation to these criteria, eligibility will be determined using the response(s) provided in the Notice of Intent. Given that this funding opportunity is only open to specific populations, selecting "I prefer not to answer" to the question relating to these criteria will prevent your candidacy from being considered.

Discovery Fund - Talent Development Competition

The Discovery Fund will provide support for postdoctoral researchers pursuing basic and clinical research to better identify, diagnose, prevent and treat mental illnesses. 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

Koerner Postdoctoral Research Award

The Michael and Sonja Koerner Foundation in collaboration with CAMH will provide support for postdoctoral researchers from underrepresented groups pursuing basic and clinical research to better identify, diagnose, prevent

and treat mental illnesses. To be eligible for this opportunity, applicants must self-identify with at least one of the following groups:

- First Nations, Métis and Inuit
- Racialized persons
- Women
- 2SLGBTQ+
- People with disabilities (including people who have experienced mental health and substance use challenges)

Note: In relation to these criteria, eligibility will be determined using the response(s) provided in the Notice of Intent. Given that this funding opportunity is only open to specific populations, selecting "I prefer not to answer" to the question relating to these criteria will prevent your candidacy from being considered.

womenmind - Postdoctoral Research Award

womenmind is a community of philanthropists committed to addressing the gender gap in mental health. The goals of *womenmind* are to promote excellence in research on women's mental health and support women in the sciences, with the understanding that gender is fluid, non-binary and diverse – *womenmind* is a program for all women. *womenmind* seeks to develop innovative solutions to improving prevention, policy, and treatment of mental illness among women and girls. Through this work, *womenmind* aims to improve the mental health of women and girls locally, nationally and globally. *womenmind* is inclusive, supporting people from diverse and intersecting backgrounds and experiences. We acknowledge the impact that implicit bias and systemic discrimination can have in the design of programs and welcome feedback regarding barriers to access, program requirements, or other issues of importance.

> "Women" refers to a broad gender categorization that does not necessarily relate to one's sex recorded at birth. We use the term for anyone who self-identifies as such, regardless of gender expression or gender identity.

womenmind will provide support for postdoctoral researchers pursuing research to better understand, prevent and treat mental illnesses, **with a focus on the mental health of women and/or girls**. This opportunity includes research involving sex and gender based analyses+ (SGBA+) and intersectionality (i.e., examining overlapping systems of discrimination or disadvantage) to improve the mental health of women and girls.