



**Results of Excellence in 2023-24 Clinical Trials Training Programs:
A partnership investment of \$ 265,000 to co-fund
sixteen (16) Training Awards for Graduates and Postdoctoral Trainees in Alberta.**

NEWS RELEASE

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Calgary, AB – The “CANadian Consortium of Clinical Trial TRAINing” ([CANTRAIN](#)), along with 3 other Clinical Trials Training Programs (CTTPs), launched the first salary awards programs for Master’s, Doctoral candidates and Postdoctoral Fellows. CANTRAIN is pleased to announce that eight awardees of their 2023-24 competition were selected from Alberta (7 doctoral and 1 postdoc trainees), among a total overall of 16 awardees from Alberta across the 4 CTTPs combined (3 Master’s, 10 doctoral and 3 postdocs). Other CTTP awardees from Alberta included 2 awards with [CAN-TAP-TALENT](#) (1 Master’s and 1 doctoral), 4 awards with [CBITN](#) (2 Master’s and 2 doctoral), and 2 awards with [STROKECOG](#) (2 postdocs).

[Alberta Innovates](#) extended matching co-funding to these awards as a commitment to the developing of clinical research trainees, thus bringing a combined total investment of \$570,000.00 in awards for the province in support of 16 trainees in clinical trials research.

This partnership between Alberta Innovates and the 4 CTTPs has laid the foundations toward reinforcing Canada’s efforts in training the next generation of highly qualified personnel throughout universities and research institutions in Alberta.

“Alberta is a premiere destination for clinical trials supported by a highly skilled clinical research workforce. Our partnership with CANTRAIN will expand the necessary talent for Alberta to continue executing on high-quality, efficient, and integrated clinical trials,” said Tim Murphy, Vice President of Health, Alberta Innovates.

The excitement of the awardees from the province of Alberta is palpable.

Quiming Tan, a doctoral candidate at the [University of Alberta](#) shared: *“The journey into clinical research is both a privilege and a responsibility. With this award, I am motivated to deepen my understanding and contribute to creating a healthier, more informed world.”* Her research involves assessing interventions for children with Prader-Willi Syndrome.

Joy Ezeugwa, a CANTRAIN doctoral award recipient who is from the [Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine](#) at the university of Alberta focusing on optimizing movement-related behaviours after stroke, shared: *“This prestigious accolade stands as a testament to unwavering dedication, collaborative synergy and an unyielding pursuit of knowledge. The recognition not only elevates personal achievements but also underscores the collective triumph of a community dedicated to excellence in health research. It is a source of inspiration, fueling a continued commitment to innovation, breakthroughs, and the meaningful advancement of our shared field. Heartfelt thanks for this esteemed honour, as it propels the journey forward with renewed vigour and purpose.”*

Shaun Ranade, a Primary Care Paramedic and a PhD student at the University of Calgary in the Cardiovascular and Respiratory Sciences program said: *" My primary aim is to enhance health outcomes by transforming impactful patient-centered research into practical applications within clinical practice. Support from this award will greatly facilitate my objective of discovering innovative insights that will translate to clinical applications. These groundbreaking findings are poised to become widely utilized as an optimal therapeutic approach for managing under-recognized and under-represented cardiovascular autonomic disorders"*. Shaun who is with the [Libin Cardiovascular Institute](#), a joint entity of Alberta Health Services and the University of Calgary, is another exemplary CANTRAIN doctoral awardees from the province of Alberta.

"In order to proactively and efficiently lead impactful clinical trials, we need highly qualified personnel who are thoroughly trained to improve the design and execution of these trials," said Dr. Jean Bourbeau, who is the nominated principal applicant of CANTRAIN and also a professor in the Department of Medicine at McGill University and Senior Scientist in the [Translational Research in Respiratory Diseases Program](#) at the RI-MUHC. *"Our goal with CANTRAIN is to harmonize and enhance training, mentoring and networking across the continuum of people engaged in the conduct and successful outcomes of clinical trials. We will promote adherence to regulatory and ethical high standards via continuous improvement in accessible and innovative training and an accredited platform."*

The CTTs were developed as part of three-year ISED-Clinical Trials Fund (CTF) grant managed by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) with a mandate to develop competencies of personnel involved in conducting clinical trials research across the country. This is a post-COVID-19 initiative from the federal government of Canada.

All awardees, the graduate and postdoctoral trainees, will participate in the Training Programs from CANTRAIN its Learning Management System (LMS) Platform. This is a carefully developed program where knowledge-based learning meets mentor-guided experiential-training imparted through a learner-centered approach to nurture the future clinical research professionals and trialists. Registrations are now open for the [CTTP courses](#).

The [graduate](#) and [post-doctoral](#) award programs will return for 2024-25 and 2025-26.

Congratulations to all the awardees of the 2023-24 competition!