



**Results of Excellence in 2023-24 Clinical Trials Training Programs:  
A partnership investing \$52,500 to support  
two (2) Graduate Awards in Newfoundland and Labrador.**

**NEWS RELEASE  
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St John's, Newfoundland and Labrador – This year competition regrouping a consortium of four Clinical Trials Training Programs working together received 148 applications from across Canada in response to the launch of the Awards Programs (studentships/fellowships) through the platform of the CANadian Consortium of Clinical Trial TRAINing ([CANTRAIN](#)) for graduate students and postdoctoral trainees. CANTRAIN, which is coordinated via the Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre (RI-MUHC) is funded via a three-year Clinical Trials Fund (CTF) grant managed by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) with a mandate to develop competencies to qualify various types of personnel conducting clinical trials across Canada in a post-COVID-19 initiative from the federal government of Canada.

Dr. Liam Kelly, the director of research and innovation at Newfoundland and Labrador (NL) Health Services said: *‘Clinical trials are essential to medical knowledge and patient care advancement as they help measure the effectiveness of novel treatments, devices, vaccines, or interventions’.* *Clinical trials are a mechanism to attract brilliant minds to our province, individuals who are committed to learning and better care for Newfoundlanders and Labradorians’.*

This year, NL health services partnered with CANTRAIN to extended 100% matching and co-fund the two meritorious awardees from Newfoundland and Labrador which included one master and one doctoral trainees. *“We are pleased to partner with CANTRAIN towards a corpus of \$52,500 in total award amounts to NL awardees this year”.*, said Dr. Kelly.

Hamidreza Barzegarpour Shoroki obtained a doctoral studentship while Shabbir Ahmed Sany was successful in the Master's category. Shabbir, a Master's student at the Memorial University of Newfoundland with a Bachelor degree in Medicine and Surgery from Bangladesh, described this as *“a rare opportunity to receive extensive training on clinical trials”.* Shabbir added: *“Thank you again for considering me and providing a vital platform to build my career as a clinical scientist. I hope you will continue this great initiative in the future by providing a learning platform for international students like me.”*

While there was a total of 84 awards from the 4 partnering CTTs (translating to over 2 million dollars in awards) across master's, doctoral and postdoctoral fellow categories, 74 of these were open to potential co-funding opportunities by provincial partners.

A matching and leveraging collaborative partnership between NL health services and CANTRAIN has not only heralded new beginnings and paved the way forward to strengthen Canadian efforts in creating the next generation of well-trained high-quality personnel within the province across different academic / hospital /

health authorities. This is part of a strategy to empower the clinical trials health research enterprise towards unleashing the potential for innovations in NL.

*“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, the nominated principal applicant of CANTRAIN and Senior 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.”*

Congratulations to all successful awardees!