



**Results of Excellence for the 2023-24 Clinical Trials Training Programs:
Ten (10) Graduates and Postdoctoral Fellows in Quebec awarded a total of \$270,000.**

**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION**

February 8th, 2023

Montreal, QC – In response to the recent pandemic, the federal government created the [Clinical Trials Fund](#) (CTF) managed by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), leading to the selection and creation of seven Clinical Trials Training Programs (CTTPs) which mission is to develop highly-qualified professionals to boost Canada's footprint over Clinical Trials Research and health innovations. The major national [CTTPs selected by the CIHR](#) for such mission the CANadian Consortium of Clinical Trial TRAINing ([CANTRAIN](#)) led by Pr. Jean Bourbeau at the RIMUHC, McGill University, assisted by 100 other principal investigators, co-investigators and public and private sector collaborators.

“In order to proactively and efficiently lead impactful clinical trials, we need highly qualified investigators and clinical research professional who are thoroughly trained to improve the design and execution of these trials,” said Dr. Jean Bourbeau, professor at the Department of Medicine, McGill University and a Senior Scientist in the [Translational Research in Respiratory Diseases Program](#) at the Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre (RI-MUHC) and the nominated principal investigator of CANTRAIN (www.wecantrain.ca).

CANTRAIN coordinated the awards programs application process via its website portal. Three other CTTPs supported by the CTF grant joined in. Together, 84 master's and doctoral candidates and post-doctoral fellows received an award in this 2023-24-year competition; ten (10) are in Québec, seven (7) with [CANTRAIN](#) and three (3) with the Canadian Behavioural Interventions and Trials Network ([CBITN](#)). These scientifically meritorious awardees are supported by CIHR-funded CTTPs with co-funding from the *Fonds de Recherche du Québec-Santé* (FRQS) for a total salary awards' investment of \$270,000 into clinical trials training in the province of Québec. Visit: <https://wecantrain.ca/home/2023-2024-awards-results/>.

“This sector of activity cannot prosper without talent that guarantees the highest quality for clinical research. This is why the FRQS supports the training of the next generation to meet the needs for a highly qualified workforce, in this field as in all areas of life sciences and health technology», mentioned Dr. Carole Jabet, Scientific Director of the Fonds de recherche du Québec – Santé

These awards are highly meaningful for the young and promising clinical researchers across a spectrum of therapeutic areas across public academic institutions in the province of Québec.

Shabnam Abbaszadeh Ahranjani, a master's degree student in Experimental Medicine at McGill university, quite excited for being selected, saying: *“I am eager to make a meaningful impact”; adding: “This opportunity fuels my passion for research. I look forward to delving into the impactful project entitled 'Effect of Sublingual Fentanyl on breathlessness in COPD: A randomized cross-over trial.’”*

Asmaa Housni, a PhD candidate at the School of Human Nutrition at McGill University, is aspiring to become a clinical trials researcher. She said: *"I am looking forward to the learning experience, collaborative opportunities, and the unique impact this award will have on shaping the landscape of my research in type 1 diabetes."*

Jade Maillo, another doctoral student at the Centre de recherche du Centre Hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal (CR-CHUM) said: *"Embrace the challenges, for in pursuit of knowledge, every obstacle is a stepping stone to discovery"*.

Developed collaboratively by a community of stakeholders ranging from senior clinical research professionals, trialists, clinical researchers, scientists to community partners, the CANTRAIN [Clinical Trials Training Programs](#) (CTTP) aims to prepare the current and future scientists and trial professionals with the competency - where knowledge-based learning meets mentor-guided experiential-training - to surmount challenges in their journey dedicated to improving health outcomes and developing novel interventions through a learner-centric approach.

"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 include but training will go beyond adherence to regulatory and ethical high standards, moving into a model of competency with continuous improvement in accessible and innovative training and an accredited platform", said Dr. Bourbeau.

"Building our healthcare capacity, delivered at the provincial level, is imperative for positioning Canada at the forefront of research and clinical practice. The collaboration between federal and provincial governments is essential to facilitate this advancement. We are pleased that provinces have embraced the initiative to expand our capacity, contributing significantly to the improvement of the health and well-being of Canadians." said, Dr. Bacon, Nominated Principal Investigator and National Leader of CBITN, and CIHR SPOR Chair in Innovative, Patient-Oriented, Behavioural Clinical Trials, Health, Kinesiology and Applied Physiology at Concordia University and Integrated University Health and Social Services Centre (CIUSSS) for Nord-de-l'île de Montréal.

Congratulations to the 10 Quebec awardees of the CANTRAIN and CBITN 2023-24 competition!

The [award programs](#) will return in 2024-25 and 2025-26.