



## Nine (9) Poster Competition Prizes at the First National Conference

Organized by CANTRAIN & Partnering CTTs: 2024 CLINICAL TRIALS TRAINING SUMMIT

THE FIRST COMPETITION OF THE 2023-24 COHORT OF GRADUATE & POSTDOCTORAL CTTP STUDENTSHIP/FELLOWSHIP AWARDEES PARTICIPANTS INCLUDED 52 OF THE 60 AWARDEES ACROSS MASTER'S, DOCTORAL AND POSTDOCTORAL CATEGORIES FROM 3 CTTs

### NEWS RELEASE

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Montreal, QC, Canada – CANTRAIN and three collaborating Clinical Trials Training Programs (CTTs) – CAN-TAP-TALENT, CBITN and STROKECOG – organized the first national conference: The Annual [Clinical Trials Training Summit, towards Mastering Excellence through Innovative Competency Training](#).

All 60 awardees of the 2023-24 graduate & postdoctoral studentship/fellowship awards program from CANTRAIN, CAN-TAP-TALENT, and STROKECOG were invited to participate in the 1<sup>st</sup> Poster Competition (CBITN awardees did not participate in the competition). Fifty-two (52) awardees, across the categories of Master's, Doctoral and Postdoctoral Trainees from the 3 CTTs presented their proposed clinical trial during the competition. Each awardee had the opportunity to present and interact with at least two reviewers (out of the panel of 14 reviewers) who scored each participant for the presentation and post-presentation discussion of their respective proposed clinical trials, along with the overall appearance, organization and flow, clarity of the content, and content details (including introduction, methods, expected outcomes, feasibility and timeline) of the poster in accordance with the competition guidelines.

At the concluding session of the 3-day conference, three prizes were announced for each of the three categories for a total value of \$2,550.

The winners were:

RANK	NAME	INSTITUTIONS	SUPERVISORS	CTTP
<b>CATEGORY: MASTER'S</b>				
1st	Nena Sofia Nicolls	BC Women's Hospital, University of British Columbia	Prof. Deborah McColl Money MD, FRCSC	CANTRAIN
2nd	Candus Chik	Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre, McGill University	Prof. Indra Rani Gupta MD, FRCPC	CANTRAIN
3rd	Nicol Vaizman	Heart Lung Innovation Centre at St. Pauls Hospital, University of British Columbia	Prof. Liam Robert Brunham MD, PhD, FRCPC, FACP, FNLA	CANTRAIN
<b>CATEGORY: DOCTORAL</b>				
1st	Elena Kum	McMaster University	Prof. Imran Satia M.A, MB, BChir (cantab), MRCP, PhD	CANTRAIN
2nd	Timo Tolppa	University of British Columbia	Prof. Srinivas Murthy MD CM, MHsc, FRCPC	CANTRAIN
3rd	Julia Shaw	Ottawa Hospital Research Institute, University of Ottawa	Prof. Monica Taljaard PhD	CANTRAIN
<b>CATEGORY: POSTDOCTORAL</b>				
1st	Nárlon Cássio Boa Sorte Silva	Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health, University of British Columbia	Prof. Roger Tam PhD	STROKECOG
2nd	Denise Jaworsky	East Kootenay Regional Hospital, University of British Columbia	Prof. Nadia Khan MD, MSc	CANTRAIN
3rd	Raza Malik	Blusson Spinal Cord Centre, International Collaboration on Repair Discoveries (ICORD), University of British Columbia	Prof. Michael Berger MD, PhD, FRCPC, CSCN (EMG)	CAN-TAP-TALENT



All 52 participants from across Canada were supported by the CIHR-CTTP grant for travel and accommodation to enable in-person participation. The poster presentations catalyzed constructive discussions, potential collaborations, and networking amongst the community of learners, mentors, practitioners, partners, and stakeholders representing the diverse facets of the clinical trial process.

*“CANTRAIN has great potential and a great team of people to improve the clinical research field like making learning resources for clinical trials more accessible. There are many experts in this field and a lot of different roles that are needed to make a clinical trial successful which is why understanding how these different components work together can make for a smoother clinical trial. Patient partners, EDI are crucial to consider not only when recruiting patients, but when you are actually planning the clinical trial and asking these big research questions. It is important to take them into consideration at the very start.”* wrote an attendee in their feedback (voluntary and anonymous process) as their biggest takeaway from this conference.

Comments from other attendees included: *“This is the train to be in - it’s going somewhere.”*

*“The poster presenters were awesome as these are the researchers of our future.”*

*“Hope for the future of the clinical trials ecosystem in Canada.”*

*“Patient engagement will drive changes in clinical trials.”*

*“The passion, diversity of ideas, quality of presentation and presenters, the hard work of CANTRAIN staff to bring it all to fruition while performing their other work.”*

*“Our goal was to create an environment that promotes a larger conversation surrounding a holistic approach to clinical trials and associated training, from inception to culmination. During the 3 days of the national conference our team celebrated the work and dedication of the 2023-24 studentship and fellowship program awardees, facilitated a meeting ground for exchanging of ideas and experiences through a series of sessions with inspirational speakers, engaging workshops, and a competition to foster excellence towards nurturing an ecosystem to support patient-centric and inclusive future research and innovations by building a community of competent professionals across the clinical trial continuum. The overwhelmingly positive feedback from the attendees summarizes the team’s endeavour of organizing this national event under the guidance of the CANTRAIN leadership.”* said Dr. Sharmistha Biswas, the National Manager of the Awards and Internships Program, CANTRAIN.

After the conclusion of the annual summit, Prof. Jean Bourbeau, the Nominated Principal Applicant and National Leader, CANTRAIN, said: *“CANTRAIN hit multiple targets with great success in 2023-2024 building a national ecosystem for training graduates and postdoctoral trainees to become the next generation of Clinical Research Professionals, Trialists (clinical researchers / investigators). These trainees are our wealth, and the development of their career is one of our main focuses.”* In his message to the 2023-24 cohort of the participating CTPP studentship and fellowship awards programs, Dr. Bourbeau said: *“I want to congratulate all the student awardees of CANTRAIN, STROKECOG, CAN-TAP-TALENT who participated in the poster competition alongside the first national conference in February 2024 at the Palais des congrès. This conference would not have been a success without their presence, without their poster presentations. I would like to give a very special congratulations to the winners of the poster presentation competition. You are our future; you are the leaders of tomorrow!”*

Dr. Jodi Edwards, the Nominated Principal Applicant and National Leader for the Innovative Clinical Trials Training Initiatives for STROKE and COgnition, STROKECOG, said in her message: *“We were amazed at the calibre of poster presentations across all networks. These training platforms and events such as this*

