



## CANTRAIN Next 2024/25 Financing Offer for National Clinical Research Internships is NOW OPEN

### Announcing the 2023/24 year recipients from British Columbia and Ontario

Montreal, August 12<sup>st</sup>, 2024

Three clinical research professionals and new investigators in British Columbia and Ontario are among the first in Canada to begin a unique pathway to enhancing their skills through a new immersive, internship program. The clinical research internship program is an initiative of the Canadian Consortium of Clinical Trial Training ([CANTRAIN](#)), a national platform funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). The program integrates online training with experiential, engaged learning opportunities and expert mentorship. It offers clinical research professionals, early career researchers and new investigators a distinctive opportunity to upgrade their skills and gain valuable experience in clinical trial activities outside their own institutions.

CANTRAIN is pleased to announce the award co-funding for internships to BC recipients **Ms. Sherry Sandhu** and **Dr. Aresh Sepehri**, and CANTRAIN funding to Ontario recipient **Dr. Aarya Gore**.



Ms. Sherry Sandhu is a research assistant in the department of mental health and substance use at **Fraser Health** and conduct her internship at both the **BC Centre on Substance Use** and **Changemark Research + Evaluation**.

*“My entire team and I are beyond thrilled to accept this award. It represents opportunity, learning and new avenues for innovation for me, our research project and all of us at Fraser Health,”* says Sherry.



**Fraser Health** provides care on the traditional, ancestral and unceded lands of the Coast Salish and Nlaka'pamux Nations, and is home to 32 First Nations within the territories of the Fraser Salish region. People - those Fraser Healthcares for and those who care for them – are at the heart of everything Fraser Health does.

Fraser Health is dedicated to serving all Indigenous people, and honors the unique cultures of the First Nations, Métis and Inuit living within the Fraser Salish region.

As the largest regional health authority in B.C., Fraser Health continues to transform their health system so they can improve the health and health outcomes for over two million people in 20 diverse communities.



**British Columbia Centre on Substance Use (BCCSU)** was established in 2017 to provide a center of expertise to help meet the needs of people impacted by substance use and related harms in their lifetime. We aim to be highly collaborative and coordinated in our approach. We place emphasis on research to generate evidence-informed strategies, while harnessing clinical guidance and training to ensure that evidence is implemented into clinical practice in every part of the province.



**Changemark Research + Evaluation** is a dynamic and vibrant company dedicated to providing inclusive and accessible research and evaluation services to public, non-profit and private sector organizations across Canada. They combine research-driven approaches with person-centred, participatory, and experiential knowledge to leave a lasting change – a Changemark. Changemark Research + Evaluation offers immediate access to affordable, quality services in the fields of mental health and substance use. Their consultants are seasoned experts that provide innovative, pragmatic approaches for each and every client.



Dr. Aresh Sepehri is an orthopedic trauma surgeon at Vancouver General Hospital and clinical assistant professor in the department of orthopedic surgery in the faculty of medicine at the University of British Columbia. He will complete his internship at McMaster University.

*“The internship will support the growth and training of the orthopedic research team in clinical trial design, conduct and management,” says Aresh. “This will provide the foundation needed to initiate our site for enrollment in two multicentre clinical trials in orthopedic trauma at Vancouver General Hospital.”*



**Vancouver General Hospital (VGH), part of Vancouver Coastal Health**, offers specialized healthcare services to residents in Vancouver and across the province through regional programs. VGH provides a full range of basic and highly specialized emergency healthcare and trauma services to British Columbia and addresses wide-ranging medical issues such as emergency healthcare, kidney dialysis, cardiac services and mental health support, and specialized acute care services for trauma, neurological concerns, stroke and burns. VGH serves as B.C.’s referral center for many provincial programs and provides care for patients requiring specialist services across the province. VGH is also a teaching hospital affiliated with the University of British Columbia and home to one of the largest research institutes in Canada.

**McMaster University** is a public research university in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. The main McMaster campus is on 121 hectares of land near the residential neighborhoods of Ainslie Wood and Westdale, adjacent to the Royal Botanical Gardens. It operates six academic faculties: the DeGroote School of Business, Engineering, Health Sciences, Humanities, Social Science, and Science. It is a member of the U15, a group of research-intensive universities in Canada.



Dr. Aarya Gore, Clinical Research Coordinator in Thoracic Surgery and Medical Oncology at the Michael Garron Hospital, part of Toronto East Health Network. She will complete her internship at Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, part of University Health Network.

*“Thank you for the wonderful news! Thank you very much for providing me with this wonderful learning opportunity, seeking additional experience in clinical trial management and help me to grow in my career.”*



**Michael Garron Hospital, a division of Toronto East Health Network**, is a vibrant community teaching hospital serving one of Canada’s most diverse communities. For more than 90 years, MGH have delivered high-quality, patient-centered healthcare services to nearly 400,000 people in their catchment area and beyond. This includes 22 distinct neighborhoods from Midland Avenue in the east to Bayview Avenue in the west and north from Lake Ontario to Eglinton Avenue. From welcoming a new life to facing the end-of-life, the hospital has continually renewed its commitment to the East Toronto community by adapting its programs and services to meet the evolving needs of the diverse population it serves.

**Princess Margaret Cancer Centre at the University Health Network** is the largest comprehensive cancer program in Canada. Working collaboratively with the University of Toronto and The Princess Margaret Cancer Foundation, the Princess Margaret drives cancer discovery, fuels advancements in cancer care and shares innovations globally.



Clinical trials are crucial for making sure that new drugs, treatments, medical devices and therapies are safe and effective. There is a critical need in Canada to train and mentor clinical researchers to conduct high-quality clinical trials.



*“CANTRAIN is pleased to have initiated this ambitious program for setting an example in Canada for an internship program of clinical trial research professionals and new investigators. These first three awardees and their participating home and hosting institutions will foster collaboration and exchanges of best practices for clinical trials across Canada,”* says **Professor Jean Bourbeau**, National Lead for CANTRAIN from the RIMUHC/McGill University.

CANTRAIN will further advertise and disseminate the present [CRP/ECR/New Investigators' Internship Program](#), and other three in-coming internships opportunities for Graduate & Postgraduate Trainees, Landed immigrants and Community Partners across Canada, and foster additional participation from provincial partners. CANTRAIN is pleased to continue our partnership with Michael Smith Health Research BC, Research Manitoba and Nova Scotia Health Innovation Hub to support this unique program for 2024/25, also open to applicants from other provinces.

### **2024/25 Financing Offer for CRP/ECR/New Investigators' internship is OPEN NOW**

The clinical research internship program for 2024/25 is currently accepting applications from interested clinical research professionals (CRP), early career researchers (ECR) and new investigators. Internships can be in the form of in-person, virtual or hybrid engagements. CANTRAIN partners in [STROKECOG](#) and [CAN-TAP-TALENT](#) also have similar programs accessible [here](#).

Applications to CANTRAIN are open on a rolling basis until March 2025. For information on eligibility and other details, visit [2024-2025 Application Guidelines](#).



**About CANTRAIN.** CANTRAIN is the result of a national consultation across Canada in response to the CIHR – Clinical Trials Training Platforms call in the summer of 2022, a necessity in response to shortcomings we experienced facing COVID, and an integral component of “Canada’s Biomanufacturing and Life Sciences Strategy”. The overarching goal of CANTRAIN is to harmonize, enhance and sustain the quality and capacity of the Canadian clinical trials workforce through an innovative and integrated training platform. This approach revolutionizes the existing clinical trials training landscape by extending standardized programming to a broad spectrum of trial stakeholders across the entire country. With a dedicated pan-Canadian team, CANTRAIN provides accredited training programs that combine theoretical knowledge with hands-on practice, experiential learning opportunities and expert mentorship.