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Confronting Challenges to Expanding Clinical Trials Research in Canada One Award at a Time: The CTTTP Studentship/Fellowship Awards Program 2025-26 Competition Is Now Open

NEWS RELEASE

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Montreal, Quebec — Building on the success of the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 national competitions, which awarded over \$4 million to a total of 171 graduate and postdoctoral trainees across Canada, including more than \$1.6 million from provincial co-funders, the **CTTP Studentship/Fellowship Awards Program 2025-26 Competition** is returning for a third edition. CANTRAIN, CAN-TAP-TALENT, CBITN, and StrokeCOG — the 4 clinical trial training platforms (CTTPs) organizing this competition — [invite Master's and PhD students and postdoctoral fellows](#) from across Canada to apply. The deadline for receipt of applications is May 28, 2025, 11:59pm EDT.

“Together with our sister CTTPs, we are excited to launch this third edition of the CTTP Studentship/Fellowship Awards Program. Support for the next generation of researchers through a combination of training, financial support, mentorship and networking opportunities are key to building interest and capacity for clinical trials in Canada,” says **Dr. Jean Bourbeau, CANTRAIN Nominated Principal Investigator.**

“CAN-TAP-TALENT is honoured to be part of the Studentship Awards alongside the other Clinical Trial Training Platforms. Together, we are proud to support Canadian trainees with the education, resources, and opportunities they need to excel and build lasting capacity in clinical trials across Canada. Canada will lead the next generation of researchers to make global impact in science,” shares **Dr. Angela M. Cheung, CAN-TAP-TALENT Nominated Principal Investigator.**

“We are thrilled to embark on the third year of our training platform. Our mentees and mentors have shared the concrete ways their personal and professional development has impacted the quality and progress of their research projects, their academic training and mentoring, and their vision of how their skills and knowledge are relevant, indeed critical, to supporting the healthcare of Canadians. These underscore how the materials, opportunities, and learnings acquired through the CBITN's training platform will help serve and expand the field's capacity. The unique inclusion of professional and community mentors to the CBITN's program further enhances the reach of clinical trial training by bringing in members of industry and those working outside of academia. Expanding our perspectives, these mentors offer real-world



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contributions to our understanding of issues at the patient, community, and implementation level,” shares **Simon Bacon**, CBITN Principal Investigator.

“At StrokeCog, we are thrilled to partner with CANTRAIN again for our third trainee competition and to continue supporting the next generation of stroke researchers through targeted clinical trials training. This year, we are especially excited to launch two competitions: our regular Post-Doctoral Fellowship (PDF) competition, as well as a new opportunity specifically designed for MDs or MD/PhDs pursuing Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R) Fellowships. These initiatives reflect our strong commitment to advancing stroke research, empowering emerging leaders in the field, and ensuring that equity, diversity, and inclusion are a focus for all of our programming,” says **Dr. Jodi Edwards**, Principal Investigator, StrokeCog.

The Awards Program for Graduate and Postdoctoral Training in Clinical Trials is dedicated to building interest in and capacity for clinical trials in Canada by addressing a key challenge faced by researchers interested in clinical trials: access to resources and knowledge of methodologies, regulations, and reporting frameworks specific to clinical trials in Canada.

“This competition represents an important investment in the future of clinical trials in Canada on behalf of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and our funding partners,” says **Dr. Kristian Filion**, CANTRAIN Awards Program Co-Chair.

“Successful applicants will have a unique opportunity to join a community of trainees who together are learning on key aspects of clinical trials, while advancing their work and knowledge in the context of their current graduate thesis project” adds **Dr. Bertrand Jean-Claude**, CANTRAIN Awards Program Co-Chair.

The CTTT Studentship/Fellowship Awards Program advances clinical trial capacity among the next generation of researchers and professionals by providing to successful students and fellows:

- **1 year of funding** to support research related to various types of clinical trials and hypothesis-driven clinical research projects involving the analysis of data from clinical trials
- **Access to specialized training in clinical trials** through CANTRAIN, CAN-TAP-TALENT, CBITN and StrokeCOG training platforms, and
- **Access to mentoring, networking, and opportunities to showcase their research** throughout the year.

Jana Radosavljevic, McMaster University, CANTRAIN Doctoral Studentship 2024-25 , shares: “The CANTRAIN studentship is an invaluable opportunity to receive specialized training from diverse mentors and community partners, equipping me with essential skills to lead innovative, inclusive, and impactful clinical trials. This training brings me closer to my goal of improving mental health outcomes through precision medicine, and I’m excited to learn alongside fellow trainees in the CANTRAIN community as we work together to advance clinical trials research in Canada.”



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Alysha Deslippe, PhD, University of British Columbia, CBITN Doctoral Studentship 2023-24, shares: *"Understanding behaviours and creating interventions that support health is hard - it takes lots of collaborative brain power, time and resources. Having provincial level funding for students helps elevate some of the financial burden that we experience in our degrees, letting us focus our efforts on research tasks that make behavioural interventions better. In my specific academic journey this means that I can worry a little less about feeding myself and more on how I can support BC high school athletes in developing their own positive dietary habits through school-based interventions."*

Scott Strum, M.D., MSc, FRCPC, Clinical Fellow, Drug Development Program – Phase I Program, Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, University Health Network, CAN-TAP-TALENT Fellowship 2024-25, shares: *"As a Clinical Research Fellow, the CAN-TAP-TALENT Award has been instrumental in supporting my training and professional development. The funding provided has afforded me the opportunity to engage in all facets of prospective clinical trial operations. Concurrently, the program's structured curriculum will strengthen my foundational expertise in clinical trials and translational research, while fostering national networks that are essential for advancing high-quality, collaborative cancer care across Canada. I am deeply grateful to be part of an initiative that is not only shaping my own growth, but also contributing to the future of clinical research in Canada."*

Guilherme Moraes Balbim, PhD, University of British Columbia, STROKECOG Post-Doctoral Fellowship 2024-25, adds: *"The STROKECOG Clinical Trials Training Platform Postdoctoral Fellowship is highly motivating and intrinsically meaningful to me due to my lived experience with stroke recovery. Professionally, being a STROKECOG trainee is an unprecedented opportunity to expand the breadth and depth of my research skills. It will allow me to work side-by-side with a world-class network of experts on stroke research and gain critical experience in patient engagement in clinical trials."*

With this third edition of the CTTTP Studentship/Fellowship Awards Program, we are inching, one award at a time, closer to a future where well-trained professionals drive advancements in clinical trials research, ultimately leading to improved healthcare outcomes so we can all be: ***Better prepared. Better Care. Together.***

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About Clinical Trials Training Platforms (CTTPs): The COVID-19 pandemic made clear that Canada's clinical trials capacity needed major improvement. A [\\$250M investment](#) from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) in 2023 created the Pan-Canadian Accelerating Clinical Trials Consortium (ACT), plus seven Clinical Trials Training Programs (CTTPs). Together Canada's CTTPs play a key role in delivering on Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada's (ISED's) Biomanufacturing and Life Sciences Strategy.



[CANTRAIN](#) (CANAdian Consortium of Clinical Trial TRAINing platform) is the largest and broadest of the CTTs. Housed at the [Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre \(RI-MUHC\)](#) in Montreal, CANTRAIN offers a unique training program based on cognitive adult learning techniques, expert guidance from mentors, and a focus on making clinical trials more effective, efficient, and inclusive.

[CAN-TAP-TALENT](#) (Canadian Training Platform for Trials Leveraging Existing Networks) is intended to meet the need for increased clinical trials capacity and expertise in Canada, in order to efficiently answer critical questions in the context of our own diverse population and unique healthcare systems, reduce redundancies, streamline state-of-the-art training of highly qualified personnel (HQP), and produce Canadian-led clinical trials with global impact.

[CBITN](#) (Canadian Behavioural Interventions and Trials Network) is a specialised pan-Canadian training platform to support the development, testing and delivery of behavioural interventions using innovative approaches and trial designs. CBITN's vision is to be world leaders in promoting and advancing behaviour change interventions for the purpose of improving the health and quality of life of individuals and communities.

[StrokeCog](#) is an equity, diversity, inclusivity and accessibility (EDIA)-centered training platform that redefines how stroke clinical trials expertise is developed in Canada. StrokeCog's vision is to innovate new approaches to clinical trials training that directly embed evidence-based EDIA principles at every stage, to create sustainable change in the systems of clinical trial design and conduct in Canada.

For more information contact: Awards Committee at awards@wecantrain.ca or Valérie Simon (Communications Specialist, CANTRAIN) at valerie.simon@wecantrain.ca

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