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Bridging Talent and Opportunity: Canadian Clinical Trials Training Programs (CTTPs) Partner with Provincial Co-Funders to Award over \$2.1 Million in Support to 87 Graduate and Postdoctoral Awardees

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION

February 24, 2025

Montréal, QC – The Canadian Consortium of Clinical Trial Training, [CANTRAIN](#), in partnership with [CAN-TAP-TALENT](#) – the Canadian Training Platform Leveraging Existing Networks, [CBITN](#) – the Canadian Behavioural Interventions & Trials Network, and [STROKECOG Platform](#) - Innovative Clinical Trials Training Initiatives for STROKE and COGNition, is announcing the completion of a successful CTTP Studentship/Fellowship Awards Program 2024-25 Competition. Together with over \$900,000 in support from Provincial co-funders, the CTTPs are announcing the awarding of over \$2.1 Million in funding to a total of 87 clinical research-focused graduate and postdoctoral awardees– including 19 postdoctoral fellows, 38 doctoral candidates, and 30 master’s degree students.

In addition to financial support, all awardees will have access to support from mentors through CANTRAIN’s mentorship program “CANTRAIN Connect” and CANTRAIN’s expanding offering of online learning modules. Awardees also receive an all-expense paid opportunity to participate in the [2025 Clinical Trials Training Summit](#) – to be held in February 2025 at The Fairmont Hotel, Vancouver. The Awards Program for Graduate and Postdoctoral Training in Clinical Trials was coordinated by CANTRAIN in collaboration with the partnering CTTPs, from applications to review and decisions.

“It was such a pleasure for us at CANTRAIN, a CIHR funded project, to collaborate with 3 other CTTPs, 6 provincial co-funders and 1 provincial partner and bring to fruition the 2024-25 Awards Program for Graduate and Postdoctoral Training in Clinical Trials,” says Dr. Jean Bourbeau – CANTRAIN-Nominated Principal Investigator. *“This rich*



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collaboration contributes to building clinical trials capacity by offering to graduate and postdoctoral awardees across the country a harmonized access to training, mentoring and networking opportunities as they become highly trained to improve the design and execution of clinical trials.”

“On behalf of CBITN, we extend our sincere congratulations to all this year's Studentship and Fellowship Competition winners. Your dedication and innovation in the field of behavioural interventions are significant and impactful. We are proud to support your continued growth and success,” shares Dr. Simon Bacon – the NPI for CBITN (Canadian Behavioural Interventions and Trials Network).

“We are proud to partner with CANTRAIN, the other CTTs, and several provincial collaborators in this PDF funding competition, a vital initiative advancing stroke and vascular cognitive impairment research in Canada. By supporting diverse, talented trainees and embedding equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility principles, we are fostering high-quality clinical trials and shaping a more inclusive and impactful research future,” shares Dr. Jodi Edwards, Principal Investigator of STROKECOG.

Dan Nguyen, McGill University, CANTRAIN Master's Studentship 2024-25, shares: *“There is an unmet need to rebalance [the] deficit of research funding opportunities, research training programs and academic publications from resource-limited settings. This award will definitely enable me to attain expertise in conducting clinical trials under the guidance of eminent researchers in Canada. My aim is to mentor young researchers in India, improve the research training facilities in my country and conduct collaborative research with eminent researchers of Canada. My dream is to find ways in reducing disparities in health care and research opportunities in developing countries through collaborative efforts.”*

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*



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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."

Dr. Monna Ghannad, University of British Columbia, CANTRAIN Post-Doctoral Fellowship 2024-25, shares: *"The CANTRAIN CTTTP Award, mentorship, and certified clinical trial training for postdoctoral fellows [...] will set me up to work with leading Canadian and global organizations to improve the quality of research, reduce waste, and increase the value of research. I will be provided with valuable experience on convening collaborators from diverse backgrounds and settings in a workplace environment to advance an initiative with real-world impact. I will also have the opportunity to learn from the experiences of clinical trial investigators, coordinators, knowledge translation specialists, evaluators, communicators, and scientific leaders who are in the field and tackling the challenges as part of their organizational objectives.*

Florence Coulombe Raymond, Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM), CBITN Doctoral Fellowship 2024-25, shares: *"My efforts being recognized through the awards competition is very motivating and encouraging. This fuels my enthusiasm for behavioural interventions even more and pushes me to work even harder this year."*

Aidan Smyth, McGill University, CBITN Doctoral Studentship 2024-25, shares: *"I am deeply honoured and grateful to be a recipient of the CANTRAIN Awards Competition. This represents an invaluable opportunity to receive specialized training in clinical trials research and contribute to the development of evidence-based behavioural interventions to support the Canadian population."*

Manuela González, Concordia University, CBITN Doctoral Studentship 2024-25, shares: *"Thank you to CANTRAIN for this scholarship, which supports my growth as a researcher in behaviour change interventions. This recognition inspires me to keep working toward meaningful solutions that make a real difference in people's lives."*

Elise Wiley, PhD, University of British Columbia, STROKECOG Post-Doctoral Fellowship 2024-25, shares: *"I am incredibly grateful to have received a STROKECOG post-doctoral fellowship to support my research aimed at determining the efficacy of telerehabilitation for women with stroke who face greater barriers to accessing stroke*



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rehabilitation. The award's focus on clinical trials with an EDIA lens is particularly exciting and novel. As an early career researcher, I will seize learning opportunities from my STROKECOG mentors on not only how to incorporate EDIA principles into all aspects of the development and delivery of clinical trials, but to also learn considerations around building and fostering diverse research teams."

Rochelle Furtado, MPT, PhD, University of Toronto, STROKECOG Post-Doctoral Fellowship 2024-25, shares: *"Our work is an essential first step towards creating an accessible and gender-sensitive upper extremity home rehabilitation program that uses functional electrical stimulation. Having the support from the STROKECOG Clinical Trials Training Platform not only funds the costs of the project, but ensures we can engage with people with lived experience to be able to co-design our program. Further, the networking and education opportunities within STROKECOG will launch my career goals of starting a research program that will be able to meet Canadian's needs for more accessible stroke rehabilitation."*

Guilherme Moraes Balbim, PhD, University of British Columbia, STROKECOG Post-Doctoral Fellowship 2024-25, shares: *"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."*

Significant Contributions from Provincial Co-Funders Amplify Impacts

Together, CANTRAIN, CAN-TAP-TALENT, STROKECOG Platform, and CBITN, wish to highlight the invaluable support and significant financial contributions from [Michael Smith Health Research BC](#) (\$421,250), [Le Fonds de recherche du Québec - secteur Santé](#) (\$217,500), [Alberta Innovates](#) (\$152,500), [Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation](#) (\$53,750), [Newfoundland and Labrador Health Services](#) (\$47,500), and [Nova Scotia Health Authority](#) (\$21,250). Together, these Provincial co-funders have



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created new opportunities for trainees across Canada with their combined contribution of \$913,750.

CANTRAIN and partnering CTTTs further wish to acknowledge [Research Manitoba](#) for their support as a partner of the CTTT Awards Competition (co-funding was not requested from Research Manitoba in the 2024-25 awards competition cycle).

CTTP	Awardees	Total CTTT Funding (CIHR)	Total Provincial Co-Funding	Total Funding
CANTRAIN	46	\$593,750	\$591,250	\$1,185,000
CAN-TAP-TALENT	16	\$210,000	\$96,250	\$306,250
CBITN	20	\$212,250	\$162,500	\$374,750
STROKECOG	5	\$192,650	\$63,750	\$256,400
Totals	87	\$1,208,650	\$913,750	\$2,122,400

“Michael Smith Health Research BC is proud to partner with CANTRAIN, CAN-TAP-TALENT, CBITN, and STROKECOG to co-fund clinical research trainees in British Columbia. Through collaborative efforts, we are developing the capability and capacity that BC needs to conduct high quality clinical research across the province.” – Alison Orth, Portfolio Director, Research Programs, Michael Smith Health Research BC



“By supporting the training of the next generation of clinical researchers, we are not only contributing to the development of highly qualified and agile talent, but also strengthening the competitiveness of clinical research in Quebec. This commitment is a direct response to the objectives of the Québec Life Sciences Strategy 2022-2025,



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which aims to position Québec as a key player on the international life sciences scene.”
- Carole Jabet, Vice-President, Research, Scientific Director, Fonds de recherche du Québec – secteur Santé



“SHRF is pleased to partner with the CTTs to support these outstanding trainees pursuing clinical trials training and research in Saskatchewan. Clinical trials are essential to advancing patient care, and it is crucial to build this capacity locally so that Saskatchewan patients can benefit now and in the future.” - Mr. Patrick Odnokon, SHRF CEO



“This fellowship is a testament to the high-caliber clinical research talent we are cultivating in Nova Scotia. By investing in researchers like Jodi, we are strengthening our province’s leadership in health innovation.” - Dr. Jeannie Shoveller, Interim Vice President, Research, Nova Scotia Health



“Newfoundland and Labrador (NL) Health Services is pleased to support medical and health sciences graduates in pursuing clinical trials research in our province. Clinical trials are essential to medical knowledge and patient care advancement as they help measure the effectiveness of novel treatments, devices, vaccines, and interventions. By supporting researchers, we are helping improve care and health outcomes for



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Newfoundlanders and Labradorians.” – Ron Johnson, chief operating officer of the Eastern Urban Zone and vice president of Innovation and Research for NL Health Services.



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Congratulations to all the awardees of the CTTT Studentship/Fellowship Awards Program 2024-25 Competition from CANTRAIN, CBITN, CAN-TAP-TALENT and STROKECOG!

The CTTT [Awards Program](#) will return in 2025-26.

CTTP Funding Acknowledgement

Funded through the Canadian Institutes for Health Research’s [Clinical Trials Fund](#), CANTRAIN represents the largest of 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.

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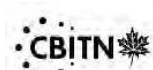
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