



Michael Smith

**Health  
Research BC**

# **2025 Scholar & Health Professional-Investigator, Research Trainee Competitions**

**University of British Columbia – Okanagan**

**Valerie To & Kate Wilczak**

**October 21, 2024**

As a provincial organization, our work extends across many Indigenous lands and territories throughout British Columbia. We acknowledge with respect and humility that our Vancouver office is located on the traditional and unceded territories of the x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əy'əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaʔt (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.



*Capilano canyon, on the unceded territories of the Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh  
Photo by Kate*

# Investing in BC's best talent for world-class health research

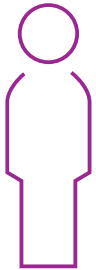
Programs	Area of Focus	Amount & Term
<b>Scholar</b>	Salary award that supports early-career investigators to advance their careers and build independent research programs	\$90,000/year 5 years
<b>Health Professional-Investigator</b>	Salary award that supports health professionals to develop and advance research	\$90,000/year 5 years
<b>Research Trainee</b>	Salary award that supports post-doctoral fellows to prepare for careers in health research	\$64,500/year up to 3 years
<b>Convening &amp; Collaborating</b>	Team-based award that supports collaborative activities between health researchers and research users	\$20,000 18 months
<b>Reach</b>	Team-based award that helps to publicize and distribute health research evidence	\$20,000 18 months

# Agenda

- 2025 Scholar & 2025 HP-I competitions
  - Overview of the programs
  - New for 2025
- 2025 Research Trainee competition
  - Overview of the program
  - New for 2025
- Application tips
- UBC-O award holders

# **2025 Scholar & 2025 Health Professional-Investigator competitions**

# Scholar: supporting early-career health researchers



An early-career researcher within 6 years of their first appointment

## A Scholar award provides:



**\$90,000** per year for up to 5 years



**75%** of time protected for research

## Benefits to BC:

- Develops talent whose work generates evidence for new treatments and diagnostic tools that improve health outcomes.
- Strengthens the health system's capacity to conduct world-class research.



# Scholar eligibility requirements

## Eligibility Requirements

Must have a **PhD** or equivalent.

Commit to a minimum of **75 percent time** conducting research.

Currently hold an **appointment** or have a commitment of an appointment to begin by the award start date of **July 1, 2025** at a BC institution that holds a memorandum of understanding with Health Research BC as a host institution.

Be **within six years from the start of their first university appointment** (at an assistant professor level, or equivalent) **OR be within six years of obtaining a PhD** as of the award start date, **July 1, 2025**, whichever comes last

Research must display clear link to human health research

# Health Professional-Investigator (HP-I) Program



Health professional looking to conduct and apply relevant research

An HP-I award provides:



Up to **\$90,000** per year for 5 years



**50%** of time protected for research

HP-I awards enable researchers to:



Dedicate time to research while continuing clinical practice



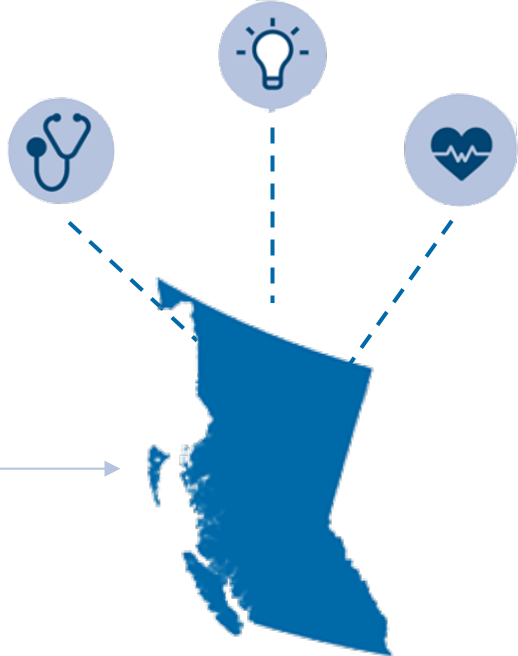
Link their practical knowledge with important research questions



Advance their research careers



Create knowledge to inform practice, policy and further research



- Benefits to BC:**
- Builds health research capacity
  - Connects evidence to patient care
  - Improves patient outcomes



# HP-I eligibility requirements

## Eligibility Requirements

Hold a **valid license to practice in BC** and be a member in good standing of the **appropriate regulatory college** **OR** be a **board-certified/board-eligible health professional** and a member in good standing of the appropriate provincial/national certification body ([BC Health Regulators](#)).

For allied health professionals, must have a **bachelor's degree** or higher; for physicians, must have a **medical doctorate** or equivalent.

Be a clinician, health practitioner, and/or health care provider whose role requires **clinical decision-making**.

Commit to a minimum of **50 percent time** conducting research (min. 20 hours/week).

Currently hold an **appointment** or have a commitment of an appointment to begin by the award start date of **July 1, 2025** at a BC institution that holds a memorandum of understanding with Health Research BC as a host institution.

# Is Scholar or HP-I right for you?



# New for 2025 Scholar and 2025 HP-I competitions

- No Canadian Common CV in the application
- New policy on leave credits for early career researchers
- Distinct peer review panel for Indigenous-led health research applications
- Top-up funding of up to \$10K for recipients whose research involves meaningfully engaging Indigenous communities

# Indigenous Health Research review panel

- Applicants may choose to be reviewed by the Indigenous Health Research review panel at time of application
- The Indigenous Health Research (IHR) panel will review applications with a focus on ***Indigenous-led research***
- Composed on reviewers with living-experience, knowledge, and/or expertise in Indigenous health research
- Specific evaluation criteria for Indigenous health research

# BC SUPPORT Unit top-up fund

- **\$10,000 top-up funds** offered to applicants whose research involves meaningfully engaging Indigenous communities. Supports researchers in their ability to:
  - Support active and meaningful partnerships with Indigenous communities, organizations, or leaders.
  - Support a strong relationship in alignment with Indigenous methodologies.
  - Promote cultural safety and OCAP® practices.
  - Support capacity bridging within the Indigenous community to participate in research.
- **Applicants may be from any panel**; their research must include meaningfully engaging Indigenous communities
- Interested Scholar and HP-I applicants submit a budget for up to \$10,000 in eligible expenses while completing their full application.
- Resource: [Indigenous Research Level of Engagement Tool](#)



Michael Smith  
**Health  
Research BC**  
BC SUPPORT UNIT

# Peer review

## Scholar:

Separate peer review pools for junior faculty:

- Within **three years** of first appointment
- Between **4-6 years** from first appointment

## Health Professional-Investigator:

Separate peer review pools for:

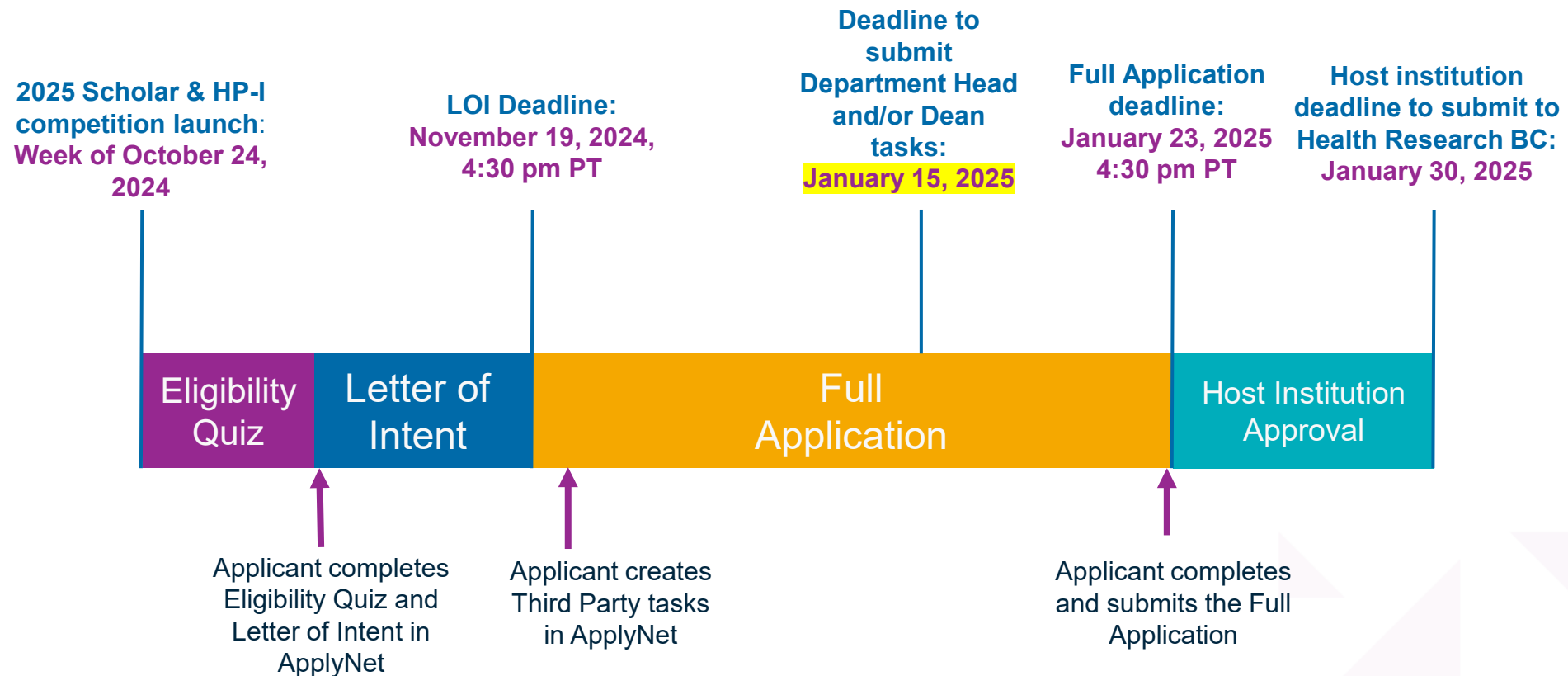
- **Physician** applicants
- **Allied Health** applicants

## Both programs:

Peer review panels by theme

Biomedical | Clinical | Health Services | Population Health

# Scholar and HP-I application process flow



\* **Third Parties:** Department Head and/or Dean

# 2025 Research Trainee competition



# Research Trainee: enabling career development



A post-doctoral health researcher or health professional eligible for a fellowship

## A Research Trainee award provides:



**\$60,000** per year for up to 3 years



Research and travel allowance of **\$4,500** per year for up to 3 years



Up to **75%** of time protected for research

## Benefits to BC:

- Develops talent whose work generates evidence for new treatments and diagnostic tools that improve health outcomes.
- Supports the knowledge economy to inform policy and practice.
- Strengthens the health system's capacity to conduct world-class research.



# Eligibility Requirements

- Canadian citizens, permanent residents, and foreign nationals are eligible.
- Hold a **PhD OR** be a **health professional (HP) in active clinical service**.
- Hold a **Postdoctoral fellowship or equivalent** at a BC university or research institution by the award start date, and for the duration of the award.
- Project in 1 of 4 research themes (Biomedical, Clinical, Health Services Research, Population Health), with clear link to human health.
- 75% protected research time of the PhD applicant's time for research training
- 50% protected research time of a health professional's time applicant's time to health research activities.
- Not have previously held a Michael Smith Health Research BC (formerly Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research) Research Trainee award.

# Supervisor(s)

An applicant can have **up to two** supervisors. The primary supervisor must have an academic appointment (assistant, associate, or full professor) with a BC institution that holds a memorandum of understanding with Health Research BC. Applicants may also have a co-supervisor who is an independent researcher with expertise related to the proposed research area. The co-supervisor may be located outside of BC.

## The primary supervisor agrees to:

- Supervise the applicant's research and provide the resources that are necessary for the successful completion of the research project including any KT activities.
- Administer the research and travel allowance of the award recipient.
- Respect the obligations described in the Health Research BC Research Trainee competition guidelines and conditions of award.

# New for 2025

- No Canadian Common CV
- Health Research BC no longer has eligibility window requirements. Instead, applicants must check with their host institution to ensure they are eligible to hold a post-doctoral position for the duration of their award

# Peer review

## PhD applicant:

You have completed a PhD and have 75% protected time for research

## Health Professional applicant:

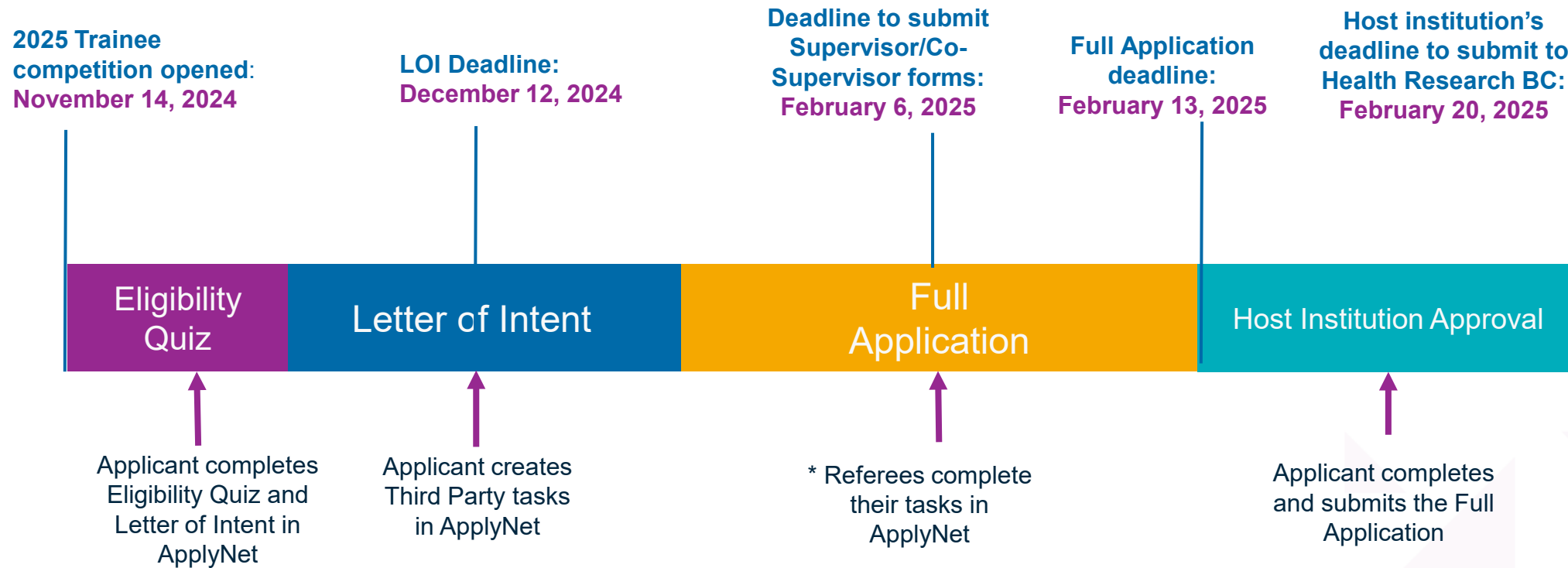
You have completed a health professional degree, are in active clinical practice during your Trainee award period, and have 50% protected time for research

## Both programs:

Peer review panels by theme

Biomedical | Clinical | Health Services | Population Health

# Application Process Flow



\* **Third Parties:** Supervisor (and optional Co-Supervisor), at least 2 (max 3) referees

# Application tips

# Tips for developing your application

- Seek support from your organization's **grant facilitation office** for development, editing, and revision of your application.
- Have your application critically reviewed by **colleagues**.
- Review the competition's **evaluation criteria** and make sure they are addressed in your application.
- Pay attention to **grantsmanship** — cohesive flow of information allows reviewers to read the application without having to flip back and forth between pages.
- If an optional question doesn't apply to you, you **do not need** to fill it out.
- Format the program of research to be easy to read. Use **headings** to show a logical progression and break up the text into **paragraphs**. Don't be afraid of white space.



# Tips for developing your application

- If you have **pilot data**, mention it. Additionally, anything you can provide to support your research program decisions, such as power calculations, sample size justifications, etc., should be provided where possible to demonstrate feasibility.
- You will be able to add important information about your activities and contributions to the **Most Significant Contributions** section and details about your leadership in funded **research projects**.
- **Reach out to your Department Head or Supervisor** very early in the process to discuss your appointment and the resources and support available to you. More detail is always appreciated about the details of your appointment, particularly if it is a unique position, as well as any supports, infrastructure, space, and teaching load, if applicable. Consider how you and your Head/Supervisor can demonstrate how you will build and maintain your independent research program. How will you be mentored as you progress in your career?

# Partnership opportunities

# Partnerships play an integral role in advancing health research



Since 2014, we have co-invested over \$56 million in health research that is advancing partner priorities related to discovery, treatments, cures and care delivery.

# Mitacs Accelerate partnership

- Optional expedited application process for Mitacs Accelerate funding for Scholar and HP-I applicants.
- Mitacs Accelerate funding supports experiential training internships for Master's, PhD students, and post-doctoral fellows who are supporting your research.
- Applicants indicate interest at letter of intent.
- Separate application form outside of ApplyNet system. Form to be uploaded to Full Application.
- Contact a Mitacs [business development representative](#) for more information and to obtain an Accelerate Proposal application.



# Upcoming partnership opportunities

## Match-funding

- For BC applicants applying to non-BC gov't funded competitions

## Mitacs partnership

- Embedded internships with BC Life Science and Health System sectors

## SSHRC Research on Research funding opportunity

- Joint funding opportunity with SSHRC and CIHR. Full launch Oct 2024

## CIHR Health System Impact Fellowship

- Our partnership enables more BC-based researchers to receive funding at the doctoral and post-doctoral levels

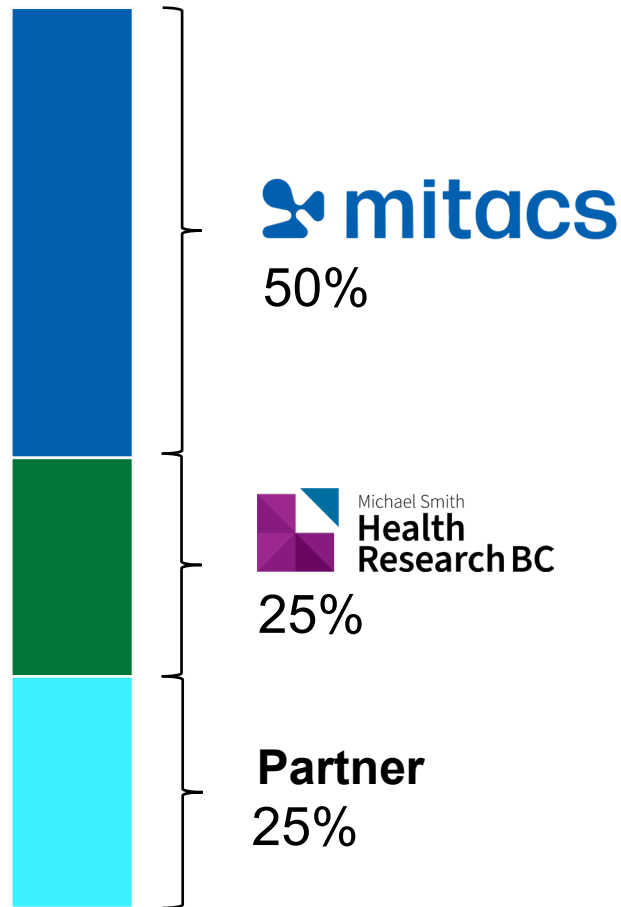
## Clinical trial talent partnered awards

- 5 Clinical Trial Training Platform partners
- Master's, Doctoral and Post-Doctoral streams
- Internships for clinical trial research professionals and new investigators



**Curtis Leclerc** | MD/PhD student, UNBC  
2023 CTTT partnered (CANTRAIN) awardee

# Health Research BC & Mitacs partnership



Award contributions

## Purpose

- Support **graduate students and postdoctoral fellows** to gain real-world experience across BC's health system and life science industry

## Partners

- Life science companies, health organizations and municipalities

## Reducing cost

- Health Research BC is reducing the financial burden for companies and organizations to embed researchers within their environment

## Timelines

- Applications **accepted on a rolling basis**
- Industry-based stream application deadline: **December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024**
- Health system stream application deadline: **July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025**

# UBC - Okanagan award holders

# UBC – O award holders: Research Trainee

Elise Wiley	2024 Research Trainee	Exploring the natural history of chronic disease self-management and health resource utilization after stroke	Supervisors: Drs. B. Sakakibara and J. Davis
Justine Magnuson	2024 Research Trainee	A personalized approach to non-physical practice after stroke	Supervisors: Drs. S. Kraeutner and L. Boyd
Jelena Komanchuk	2024 Research Trainee	Caregiver-Child Sleep and Relationships in Canadian Foster and Kinship Families	Supervisor: Dr. D. Collin-Vezina
Alexis Marcotte-Chénard	2024 Research Trainee	Integrating Exercise Snacks into Type 2 Diabetes Care: feasibility and management of cardiovascular risk factors	Supervisor: Dr J. Little
Seongho Kim	2023 Research Trainee	Harnessing NK cell mechanics for fine-tuning cancer immunotherapy	Supervisor: Dr. I. Li
Sze Lok Fan	2022 Research Trainee	Improving access to breastfeeding support in British Columbia: needs assessment of a virtual health intervention	Supervisor: Dr. M. Tarrant
Jessica Bourne	2021 Research Trainee	Let's Ride! Supporting individuals at risk of type 2 diabetes who self-identify as an ethnic minority in a community-based diabetes prevention program using electrically assisted bicycles	Supervisor: Dr. M. Jung



# UBC – O award holders: HP-I and Scholar

Natasha Haskey	2024 HP-I	Precision Nutrition for Digestive Diseases: Bridging the Gap through Translational Nutrition Research (PRECISE Study)
Carla Hilario	2024 Scholar	Addressing the structural and social determinants of young people's health
Rebecca Feldman	2023 Scholar	Evaluating microstructural changes in multiple sclerosis with magnetic resonance imaging
Laura Struik	2023 Scholar	Innovating health promotion efforts in response to youth tobacco use.
Elizabeth Keys	2023 Scholar	The SLeep soLUtions to proMote Better Early childhood Relationships (SLUMBER) Program: Helping families optimize infant mental health by supporting sleep health in early childhood.
Kirk Bergstrom	2023 Scholar	Mucus-directed therapeutics to prevent and treat chronic microbiota-dependent diseases of the gut
Jessica Lougheed	2023 Scholar	Supporting Mental Health in Adolescents and their Parents: Using Developmental Science to Refine and Promote the Uptake of a Local Community Intervention
Sarah Kraeutner	2022 Scholar	Examining motor imagery-related brain function in health and after stroke to leverage its prescription
Sana Shahram	2021 Scholar	Systems Transformation for Health Equity: The PHAIRNESS Research Program
Isaac Li	2020 Scholar	Molecular Tools for Monitoring and Controlling the Mechanobiology of Diseases
Katrina Plamondon	2020 Scholar	Advancing Health Equity Action
Thu Dang	2020 Scholar	Plant based anticancer drugs - from discovery to final products

# Key application dates

Competition stage	Scholar & HP-I	Research Trainee
Applications open	Week of October 21, 2024	Week of November 12, 2024
Webinar	October 31, 2024	November 19, 2024
Letter of Intent deadline	November 19, 2024 4:30 pm PT	December 12, 2024 4:30 pm PT
Full Application deadline	January 23, 2025 4:30 pm PT	February 13, 2025 4:30 pm PT
Peer review	March-May 2025	May-June 2025
Award start date	July 1, 2025	September 1, 2025

# Contact us

- **Scholar and HP-I Program**
  - Andrew Biagtan – [career@healthresearchbc.ca](mailto:career@healthresearchbc.ca)
- **Research Trainee Program**
  - Asta Jureliaviciute – [trainee@healthresearchbc.ca](mailto:trainee@healthresearchbc.ca)
- **Post award administration**
  - Danica Rint – [postaward@healthresearchbc.ca](mailto:postaward@healthresearchbc.ca)
- **Technical questions**  
[helpdesk@healthresearchbc.ca](mailto:helpdesk@healthresearchbc.ca)
- **Kate Wilczak, Manager, Research Competitions**  
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# Questions?

## Thank you!

