



2017 Master's Studentship Award

Call for Applications

Updated August 02, 2017

Emergency Strategic Clinical Network
and
Seniors Health Strategic Clinical Network

BACKGROUND

Strategic Clinical Network™ (SCN) Scientific Offices were created to lead Alberta Health Services (AHS) in the promotion, adoption and diffusion of innovation as well as the creation and use of evidence to drive decision-making. The Emergency SCN and Seniors Health SCN Scientific Offices have identified the provision of scholarship funds to a Master's student as an opportunity to build research capacity and advance knowledge. The goal of this activity is to support a highly qualified Master's level student conducting research related to older persons' emergency medicine care or experiences.

FUNDING

The 2017 Joint Emergency SCN & Seniors Health SCN Master's Award will fund one (1) student in the second year of their graduate program. The value of the award is \$14,000 for a maximum twelve (12) month period. The award is non-renewable.

RELEVANT TOPIC AREAS

Any proposed clinical, health services, or population health research question that has relevance to seniors' emergency medicine care or experiences will be considered. Basic science (Pillar 1) research will not be considered.

ELIGIBILITY

The eligibility criteria are as follows. Applicants must be:

- Engaged in a major/thesis research project as part of their studies. Research is “an undertaking intended to extend knowledge through a disciplined inquiry or systematic investigation” (Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans. Government of Canada. <http://www.pre.ethics.gc.ca/eng/policy-politique/initiatives/tcps2-eptc2/Default/>). Research projects involving human participants must be approved by a Research Ethics Board.
- Conducting a project related to older persons' emergency medicine care or experiences;
- Enrolled full-time in a Master's program at a post-secondary academic institution in Alberta;
- Supervised or co-supervised by a qualified faculty member at a post-secondary academic institution in Alberta;
- Entering the second year of their graduate studies with course requirements completed (or nearly completed), where the 12-month focus will be on the thesis;
- Holders of other full-time studentship awards granted by a provincial or national funding body (CIHR, NSERC, SSHRC, AI, etc.) between September 1, 2017 and August 31, 2018 are ineligible.

REPORTING

The awardee must submit an interim progress report to the Emergency and Seniors Health SCN Scientific Offices six (6) months after the start of the award describing the progress made on their project.

The awardee must submit a final progress report at the end of the award period. The final report will provide a summary of the research activities accomplished during the award period.

KNOWLEDGE DISSEMINATION

An abstract of the research conducted by the award recipient will be shared with the Core Committees of the Emergency and Seniors Health SCNs and published in SCNs' newsletters and websites. The awardee is encouraged to publish their research results in relevant peer-reviewed journals.

TIMELINES

June 15, 2017	Call for 2017 Master's Studentship Applications
September 29, 2017	Revised Application Deadline
October 27, 2017	Notification of Results

PROGRAM POLICIES

1. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.
2. The SCNs reserve the right to withhold payment of the second funding installment based on unsatisfactory progress, as outlined in interim progress report.
3. Failure to submit a final report will disqualify the supervisor from future Emergency and Seniors Health SCN funding.
4. Changes to the proposed study are permitted; however, they must be reported to the Emergency and Seniors Health Scientific Offices in a timely fashion.
5. The funding is to be paid as a scholarship to the student. No supervisor project or university overhead costs can be deducted from the funds.
6. The awardee is required to notify the Emergency and Seniors Health SCN Scientific Offices about any publications or presentations derived from the work supported by the award.

7. It is expected that the awardees include the following statement under the Acknowledgements section of any publications:

“Research reported in this publication was supported by the Alberta Health Services Emergency and Seniors Health Strategic Clinical Networks. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the views of the Scientific Offices or Alberta Health Services”.

EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS

Applications will be reviewed by a panel. The assessment criteria will include:

1. The quality of the research proposal;
2. Distinctive contribution to, and likely impact on, older persons' emergency medicine care or experiences;
3. Feasibility of the proposed project;
4. The quality of the research and training environment and supervisory arrangements.
5. The student's academic record.

A total score (maximum of 30) per applicant will be calculated using the rubric below.

**Emergency and Seniors Health SCN Master's Studentship Competition
Application Review Rubric**

Applicant: _____ Reviewer: _____

Conflicts of Interest Identified: _____

CRITERIA	Sub-Score
Scientific Quality of Proposal	
Links to existing literature in the field, strength of basis in theory, consideration of a broad range of possible outcomes, suitability of methods to answering the research question(s).	/6
Importance of Research Question	
Importance of the question for advancing knowledge with the potential to positively impact older persons' emergency medicine care or experiences. The size of the patient population should be considered.	/6
Feasibility of the Project	
Feasibility of project timeline, student preparation and expert support to complete the work proposed.	/6
Training Environment	
Quality of the institution for research, training and career development. Scientific/supervisory track record of the supervisor.	/6
Academic Record of Applicant	
Academic excellence as evident in the letters of support as well as through student record of publications, awards/prizes, and academic experience (e.g. methods training, research assistantships, participation in conferences and academic workshops).	/6
Overall Score	/30

Scoring: 6 = Outstanding, 5 = Exceptional, 4 = Very Good, 3 = Good, 2 = Fair, 1 = Poor, 0 = Not Fundable

A score of 0 in any category is a recommendation to eliminate the applicant from the competition.

HOW TO APPLY

Application forms may be requested from Dr. Heather Hanson at heather.hanson@ahs.ca or Dr. Patrick McLane at patrick.mclane@ahs.ca. Students should submit their completed application **as a single .pdf file** using the provided Application Form to Dr. Heather Hanson and Dr. Patrick McLane at the email addresses listed above, no later than **4pm on Friday September 29, 2017**.

Please indicate “Master’s Studentship Application – *Student Last Name*” in the email subject line.

For more information contact:

Dr. Heather Hanson
Assistant Scientific Director
Seniors Health Strategic Clinical Network
email: heather.hanson@ahs.ca

or

Dr. Patrick McLane, MA, PhD
Assistant Scientific Director
Emergency Strategic Clinical Network
email: patrick.mclane@ahs.ca