

Background

The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) is the largest mental health and addiction teaching hospital in Canada, as well as one of the world's leading research centres in its field. Our services are delivered to help transform the lives of people affected by mental illness and addictions. Our goal is to tailor treatment to each individual, providing patient-centered, comprehensive, coordinated care.

The Azrieli Adult Neurodevelopmental Centre is aligned with CAMH's strategic goals of improving care for the patients of today and innovating care for the patients of tomorrow. It is intended to promote excellence in the field of adult neurodevelopmental disabilities (e.g., intellectual disability, autism) and mental health. The Azrieli Centre is dedicated towards finding innovative solutions to solving major challenges in care delivery, and the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of mental illness in adults with neurodevelopmental disabilities and to increasing educational opportunities in this field for mental health trainees and providers. The Azrieli Centre is built upon four pillars: Clinical Innovation; Research Excellence; Education and Training; and Knowledge Exchange. Through this work, the Azrieli Centre will help improve education, awareness, diagnosis and treatment of the adult neurodevelopmental population locally, nationally and globally.

The Azrieli Centre will provide support for postdoctoral researchers applying concepts to better identify, prevent, diagnose and treat mental illnesses in adults with neurodevelopmental disabilities and their families.

Clinical Innovation: Azrieli Centre researchers will work within a rich clinical setting, which includes interprofessional inpatient and outpatient services representing six disciplines, receiving exposure to a wide-range of services for this diverse population. Postdoctoral Researchers must be registered with or are eligible for registration with their respective Ontario professional college.

Research Excellence: At the Azrieli Centre, every postdoctoral researcher will have sustained support to conduct innovative research that will lead to better care for this population with mentorship available from across CAMH. Research projects will have clinical application and offer opportunities for researchers to work together and learn from one another. Projects can fall under one of the research themes listed below under Award Guidelines.

Education and Training: In addition to their research activities, researchers will work closely with CAMH Education and Professional Practice portfolios and with their respective health discipline at a CAMH affiliated academic institution to explore how to integrate teaching about neurodevelopmental disabilities and mental health into discipline specific training and health care curricula.

Knowledge Exchange: To maximize the reach of discovery and educational efforts, researchers will engage in creative professional activities and develop expertise in knowledge exchange, to learn from and share knowledge directly with patients, their families and the public. Every project will include a knowledge-exchange component, and all researchers will receive training in knowledge exchange and benefit from working with individual and family project advisors at the centre. The Azrieli Centre will help transform the way information and resources for this population get shared across CAMH, including health care providers, health system planners, patients, their families and the broader community.

Award Guidelines

The Azrieli Centre Postdoctoral Research Award competition will provide postdoctoral researchers with a comprehensive training program in the field of adult neurodevelopmental disabilities mental health, with practical training in research techniques. Postdoctoral researchers are expected to make independent contributions to knowledge during their appointment. These may be in the form of a contribution to an existing project, or through the development of an original project. Additionally, all researchers will contribute clinically to the Adult Neurodevelopmental Service at CAMH, and be involved in teaching, supervision and curriculum development.

Awards are targeted toward the diverse clinical disciplines responsible for mental health care in the

neurodevelopmental disabilities population, including but not limited to psychiatry, psychology, nursing, social work, occupational therapy, and behaviour analysis. Researchers from across disciplines will benefit from working together in their various clinical, research, and educational activities. Projects will be assessed and awarded under the research themes below, listed alphabetically. These research themes have equal weight of importance and no theme is favoured over another.

1. Basic and pre-clinical neuroscience
2. Brain and/or behavior interventions (including technology-based interventions)
3. Clinical measure and/or biomarker identification
4. Community-based research
5. Health policy or health services research
6. Implementation science
7. Social and epidemiological research
8. Translation of clinical neuroscience (i.e. the study of mechanisms of disease and new ways of diagnosis and treatment) into clinical treatment

Up to four, two-year awards of \$60,000 CAD/year stipend + \$5,000 CAD research allowance each will be available (conditional on availability of funds). Applications will be evaluated by a team of independent researchers, based on CIHR standards of excellence. The final selection of awards will be made by the Azrieli Centre's Operations Committee.

Eligibility Criteria

- This award is intended to support candidates who are seeking **full-time** postdoctoral studies under the primary supervision of a CAMH Scientist.
- Applicants must obtain sponsorship of a primary supervisor who holds a scientific appointment at CAMH as Associate Scientist, Staff Scientist, Senior Staff Scientist, Scientist, or Senior Scientist. Applicants are encouraged to reach out to potential CAMH supervisors. Information regarding CAMH scientists can be found at the [CAMH staff directory](#). Please contact internal.funding@camh.ca to clarify eligibility if your potential supervisor's scientific appointment type is not listed here.
- When supervising scientists are not affiliated with the Azrieli Centre, there should be a co-supervisor with an Azrieli Centre affiliation.
- Postdoctoral Researchers are only eligible to apply to one CAMH Postdoctoral Research Award per funding cycle.
- Only one applicant per primary supervisor will be permitted to apply for the Azrieli Centre Postdoctoral Research Award.
- Current Azrieli Centre Postdoctoral Research Awardees are not eligible to apply.
- Applicants cannot hold multiple internal CAMH Postdoctoral Research awards at the same time (including but not limited to Discovery Fund, *womenmind*, Azrieli, etc.).
- Applicants must have a PhD and/or regulated health professional degree at the time they start the award. For examples of health professions, please consult CIHR's list of [Eligible Health Professions](#). Any interruptions, delays or post-degree clinical training in post-PhD/ regulated health professional degree cumulative experience may be taken into account in determining eligibility if detailed information on the interruption, including specific dates, is provided. Postdoctoral researchers that completed their doctoral program more than 5 years ago must first consult with internal.funding@camh.ca regarding eligibility before applying. Proof of degree fulfillment will be required for those applicants that are successful.
- CAMH Employees are ineligible to receive remuneration from a training award and their employment role concurrently. Interested applicants who are currently employed by CAMH under a position other than a trainee must contact ResearchHR@camh.ca and internal.funding@camh.ca in advance of the deadline to confirm eligibility.
- Applicant's supervisor(s) must agree to provide the applicant with a minimum of 75% protected time for research.
- Applicants with external funding support that overlaps the period of the Azrieli Centre Postdoctoral

Research Award are not eligible to apply (i.e., external funding that continues past December 31, 2024).

- The Azrieli Centre welcomes applications from First Nations, Métis and Inuit, racialized and 2SLGBTQ+ communities, women, people with disabilities (including people who have experienced mental health and substance use challenges), and those not listed who may contribute to the further diversification of ideas.

Conditions of Award:

- If the applicant is successful in obtaining a Research Award offer from an external agency, the applicant will accept the external offer and free up the Azrieli Centre Postdoctoral Research Award for other possible applicants. In situations where the value of the external award is less than the Azrieli Centre Postdoctoral Research Award, a top-up may be provided by the Azrieli Centre. The amount of the top-up will depend on funding availability. **Under no circumstances will Research Award funds be used to cover gaps in funding between the time when existing funding ends and the external funding begins.**
- All Azrieli Centre Postdoctoral Research Awards are to commence during the period of July 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024.
- Successful applicants are expected to be located at CAMH during the two-year period of the appointment.
- The second year of funding is contingent upon successful review following the first year in the program. There may be an option to renew for a third year.

Instructions

1. Notice of Intent

Applicants must submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) online using the following form:

<https://form.jotform.com/232115091393248> by **October 27, 2023 by 5:00pm (EST)**. The NOI must identify the supervisor(s), include a brief description of the proposed project (250 words), identify Azrieli Centre research themes and strategic priority areas, answer self-identification* and project representation questions, and provide 3-5 project area and methodology keywords. Information from the NOI will assist the Grants & Awards team with matching applications to academic experts in the review process. Late NOIs will not be accepted.

*Information collected will be confidential, cannot be accessed by reviewers, and will not be linked to personnel data. Data regarding the applicant pool will be reported only to the Azrieli Centre selection committee and a small number of ROSS staff members for the purposes of program administration, process improvement, and reporting requirements.

2. Research Assurances and Approvals Form (RAAF)

A RAAF must be submitted via the [eRA Portal](#) by **December 1, 2023 by 5:00pm (EST)**. For guidance on RAAF submission, please see the [Research Portal](#). If you are applying as an external applicant, please reach out to internal.funding@camh.ca for instructions on how to create an account for the eRA Portal.

3. Full Application

Applicants must submit their application online (link to be provided following NOI submission and confirmation of eligibility) using the guidelines below. The full application must be submitted by **December 8, 2023 by 5:00pm (EST)**. Late applications will not be accepted.

a) Project Information:

- **Project Title – Limit of 640 characters, including spaces.**
- **Lay Title – Limit of 200 characters, including spaces.** Provide a title for the project that is in a language clear to the general public.
- **Lay Abstract – Limit of 2,000 characters, including spaces.** Describe the project in a way that is accessible to a lay audience.

b) Training Plan – Limit of 7,000 characters, including spaces.

- Provide an overview of how your previous research training and/or experience outside of academia relates to the present proposal (i.e., how your previous experience will benefit your current/upcoming research training work) and elaborate on your career goals.
- Describe how the training you expect to acquire will contribute to your productivity and research goals.
- If relevant, describe how additional postdoctoral/post-health professional training experience, including the development of research, technical, and professional skills and networks, will contribute toward your career goals.
- Indicate why you decided upon your proposed training location (i.e., CAMH, supervisor, etc.) and what you expect to learn from the training experience.
- Provide justification if you are planning to hold this award in the same research environment (i.e., research institution or its affiliate, supervisor or co-supervisor) where you completed your previous degree.

c) Research Project Summary – Limit of 4,000 characters, including spaces, references included. The research project summary should be written in general scientific language, which is an important skill to acquire for future success in the research environment as applications can be reviewed by multi-disciplinary committees. This section should include the specific hypothesis of the research and describe your role on the proposed project. Make sure that it provides a concise account of the subject matter; an overview of each part of the research plan, specific project aims and the methodology. The summary should reflect the significance of your project and should clearly state an explanation of the relevance of your project to the goals of the Azrieli Centre. Please use the following headings:

- **Background** – summarize the stage of knowledge relevant to the proposal.
- **Hypotheses/research questions** – state these clearly and concisely.
- **Methods** – give essential details of methods; describe the data to be collected and the method of data analysis proposed. Clearly define the population.
- **Impact** – state how the project will advance knowledge if completed as planned.
- **Relevance to the goals of the Azrieli Centre** – demonstrate your proposed project’s alignment with the research themes and strategic priorities of the Azrieli Centre.
- **Role on proposed project** – address how the proposed research will support your training goals.
- **Timetable** – include a timetable for the work in your description

d) Research Training Environment – Limit of 1,750 characters, including spaces.

Describe the space, facilities and personnel support that will be available to you. This section should be written with the input of the proposed supervisor and should demonstrate the commitment of the proposed supervisor(s) to support the development of the applicant’s research project (funding, facilities, equipment, etc.) and professional development. It should also demonstrate a commitment to developing your research, technical and professional skills and networks over the training period by providing career planning, skills development and networking opportunities to prepare for an impactful career.

e) Most significant contributions (if applicable) – Limit 3,000 characters, including spaces.

Please highlight any relevant publications, activities, awards and recognitions or knowledge translation that are not covered by the CCV.

f) Interruptions and Delays (if applicable) – Limit of 1,500 characters, including spaces.

Applicants may explain any gaps in the chronology of their experience. Applicants can list any considerations that have had an effect on their performance or productivity, including considerations that may have resulted in delays in disseminating their research results, such as health problems, family responsibilities, disabilities, trauma and/or loss, pandemic impact or other circumstances, for example, the time necessary to complete a monograph, file a patent, or commercialize an industrial process or product; and for health professionals, engagement in post-degree non-research related clinical training (residency, etc.). Applicants should list the interruption/delay and provide specific dates, but are not expected to disclose confidential details. If there are none, leave this section

blank.

4. Curriculum Vitae (CV) – uploaded as POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH AWARD attachments.

a) Applicant CV

Provide a [CIHR Biosketch CV](#) (completed via the [Canadian Common CV](#) interface) or [NIH Biosketch](#).

b) Supervisor CV

- Supervisor CVs should also be in the Canadian Common CV format using the CIHR [Academic](#) or [Biosketch](#) templates.
- Other CV templates will also be accepted, with a limit of 6 pages.

5. Letters of Reference – max 1 page each, using 12-point font. Two referees must provide an assessment of the applicant. These assessments should come from people under whom you have trained and/or who have had a good opportunity to assess your potential for research. Applicants should refer their selected sponsors to CIHR's [Information for Sponsors](#) web page for useful tips.

- Two letters of reference must be submitted by 5 p.m. on the application due date.
- Reference letters from the candidate's Supervisor or Co-Supervisor will **not** be accepted.
- Letters must be submitted by email from the referee's email to internal.funding@camh.ca. The Reference Letter must be on institutional letterhead and signed by the referee.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that letters of reference are sent by the submission deadline.

6. Submitting the Application

The application must be submitted online (link to be provided following NOI submission) **by December 8, 2023**. If you have any questions regarding the application guidelines or submission process, please contact Elizabeth Mueller via internal.funding@camh.ca.

Note: Supplemental material and material exceeding the specified length will not be considered in the review process. The reviewing committee consists of academic experts but not necessarily specialists in the applicant's specific subject area.

DEADLINES AT A GLANCE

Notice of Intent: October 27, 2023

RAAF: December 1, 2023

Full Application: December 8, 2023

Notice of Award: April 2024