**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. 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 Adult Neurodevelopmental Centre is built upon four pillars: Clinical Innovation; Research Excellence; Education and Training; and Knowledge Exchange.

**Clinical Innovation:** Azrieli Centre fellows will work within a rich clinical setting which includes interprofessional inpatient and outpatient services representing 7 disciplines, receiving exposure to a wide-range of services for this diverse population. Post-doctoral Fellows must be registered with or are eligible for registration with their respective Ontario professional college.

**Research Excellence:** At the Azrieli Centre, every fellow 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 fellows 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, fellows 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, fellows 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 fellows 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 the entire CAMH family, including health care providers, health system planners, patients, their families and the broader community.

**Award Guidelines**

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

postdoctoral fellows with a comprehensive training program in the field of adult neurodevelopmental disabilities mental health, with practical training in research techniques. Postdoctoral fellows 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 fellows 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. Fellows from across disciplines will benefit from working together in their various clinical, research, and educational activities. Consistent with the mandate of the Azrieli Centre, applications will be assessed and awarded under the research themes indicated below, listed alphabetically. These research themes have equal weight of importance and no theme is more superior or favored over another. Fellows may also conduct research which cuts across categories.

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

Up to two, two-year awards of $60,000/year stipend + $5,000 research allowance each will be available (conditional on availability of funds). The selection of awardees will be made by the Centre's Operations Committee and the Talent Development Working Group comprised of clinician scientists, senior scientists, and independent scientists. 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.

**Eligibility Criteria**

- This award is intended to support candidates who are seeking **full-time** post-doctoral studies under the primary supervision of a CAMH scientist.
- Applicants must obtain sponsorship of a supervisor who holds a scientific appointment at CAMH as Clinician Scientist, Senior Scientist, or Independent Scientist only.
- Only one applicant per primary supervisor will be permitted to apply for the Azrieli Adult Neurodevelopmental Centre Postdoctoral Fellowship.
- Current Azrieli Postdoctoral Fellowship awardees are not eligible to apply. Applicants must have a PhD and/or MD at the time they start the award. Any interruptions, delays or post-degree clinical training in post-PhD/MD cumulative experience may be taken into account in determining eligibility if detailed information on the interruption, including specific dates, is provided. Postdoctoral fellows that completed their doctoral program more than 5 years ago must first consult with Lina.Chiuccariello@camh.ca regarding their eligibility before applying. Proof of degree fulfillment will be required for those applicants that are successful.
- 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 PDF award are not eligible to apply (i.e. external funding that continues past Dec 31, 2020).

- Successful applicants must apply to at least one external agency (e.g. CIHR) in the time period between April 1, 2019 – March 31, 2020. You will be asked to provide proof should you be successful in receiving an Azrieli Adult Neurodevelopmental Centre Postdoctoral Fellowship.
- **Women and members of under-represented minorities are strongly encouraged to apply.**

**Conditions of Award:**

- If the applicant is successful in obtaining a fellowship offer from an external agency, the applicant will accept the external offer and free up the Azrieli Centre Postdoctoral Fellowship for other possible applicants. In situations where the value of the external award is less than the Azrieli Centre Postdoctoral Fellowship, a top-up will be provided. The amount of top-up will depend on funding availability. **Under no circumstances will fellowship funds be used to cover gaps in funding between the time when existing funding ends and the external funding begins.**
- All fellowships are to commence during the period of July 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020.
- Successful applicants are expected to be located at CAMH during the two-year period of the appointment.

**Instructions**
**1. Abstract**
Applicants must submit an abstract online using the following form:
[Azrieli Abstract Submission](#) **by December 20, 2019.** The abstract is limited to 250 words and may differ slightly from the final application.

**2. Application**
**Applicants must submit their application online (link to be provided following abstract submission and confirmation of eligibility) using the guidelines below.** The full application must be submitted by **January 27, 2020.**
   a) **Project Information:**
- Project Title – **Limit of 640 characters, including spaces.**
- Lay Title – **Limit of 200 characters, including spaces.**
- Lay Abstract - **Limit of 2,000 characters, including spaces.**
- Training Plan - Provide an overview of how your previous research training relates to the present proposal and elaborate on your career goals. Describe how the training you expect to acquire will build upon your previous training and contribute to your productivity, the research goals you hope to achieve and how this award will enable you to establish yourself as an independent investigator. Highlight specifically the novelty and originality of the training plan relative to prior training and experience and provide further justification if the award is intended to support on-going work at CAMH. Indicate why you decided on the proposed training location and what you expect to learn from your training experience. **Limit of 7,000 characters, including spaces.**
- Research Project Summary - The research project summary should be written in general scientific language, and should include the specific hypothesis of the research and describe your role in 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 pillars of the centre. **Limit of 4,000 characters, including spaces, references included.**

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 date to be collected and the method of data analysis proposed.
- Impact – state how the project will advance knowledge if it completed as planned.
- Relevance to Azrieli Centre pillars
- Timetable – include a timetable for the work in your description

b) **Research Training Environment:**
The description must be detailed and include information related to 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. **Limit of 1,750 characters, including spaces**.

c) **Most significant contributions (if applicable):**
Please highlight any relevant publications, awards and recognitions or knowledge translation that are not covered by the CCV. **Limit 3,000 characters, including spaces.**

d) **Interruptions and Delays (if applicable):**
This section should describe any interruptions, delays or post-degree clinical training experience that has taken place post-PhD and/or MD or residency. Make sure to include specific dates. **Limit of 1,500 characters, including spaces.**

**3. Common CV**
**a) Applicant CV**
Go to common CV site https://ccv-cvc.ca/indexresearcher-eng.frm
- Log in (or create an account if you do not already have one)
- Choose CV tab → select Funding from dropdown menu → select CIHR from dropdown menu → select CIHR Academic from the dropdown menu → click LOAD
- On the main screen you will see a list of all the sections that need to be completed. The left hand side of the screen will contain icons:
  - ✎ This icon will allow you to enter or edit the section
  - ✔ This icon indicates that the section does not contain any errors
  - ✘ This icon indicates that the section contains errors.
- Enter data.
- Ensure there are no ✘s on your screen.
- Click PREVIEW and review the pdf document that is generated. Edit if needed.
- Once you are satisfied with the content, submit and save the pdf document that is generated.

b) **Supervisor CV**
- Supervisor CVs should also be in the Canadian Common CV format using the CIHR Academic Template.
- CVs not in a Canadian Common CV format using CIHR Academic Template can be submitted however please ensure they are no longer than 6 pages.

**4. Letters of Reference**

- Two letters of reference must be submitted by 5 p.m. on the due date.
- The letters should be no longer than one page in length each (12-point font).
- Reference letters from the candidate's Supervisor or Co-Supervisor will **not** be accepted.
- Letters must be submitted using the link to be provided.

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

**5. Research Assurances and Approvals Form (RAAF)**

- **A RAAF must be submitted electronically to the Research Services Office by January 20, 2020. For guidance on RAAF submission, please see the Research Portal.**

**6. Submitting the Application**

The application must be submitted online (link to be provided following abstract submission) by **January 27, 2020.**

If you have any questions regarding the application guidelines or submission, please contact **lina.chiuccariello@camh.ca**

Note: REB approval for human and animal subjects will need to be verified before releasing the funds for successful awards.

Note: Supplemental material and material exceeding the specified length will not be considered in the review process.