

2021 Postdoctoral Fellowship Competition

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.

womenmind is a community of philanthropists and thought leaders committed to addressing the gender gap in mental health. The goals of *womenmind* are to promote excellence in research on women's mental health and research by women scientists, and develop innovative solutions to improving prevention, policy, and treatment of mental illness among women. Through this work, *womenmind* aims to improve the mental health of women and girls locally, nationally and globally.

Numerous under-researched gender differences exist in mental illness, including differences between women and men in the prevalence patterns in mental illness, underlying mechanisms and risk factors, experiences of stigma, help seeking and service use behaviours, as well as treatment experiences and outcomes. Women* are disproportionately affected by anxiety disorders and depression, with both of these disorders affecting approximately twice as many women as men. Many risk factors for mental illness uniquely or disproportionately affect women, including socioeconomic disadvantage, low social status, gender-based violence, responsibility for caregiving, as well as biological factors. In terms of help-seeking behaviour, women are more likely than men to receive help from primary health care providers, while men are more likely to receive specialist mental health care. When women and men present with identical symptoms in primary care settings, women are more likely than men to be diagnosed with depression.

Award Guidelines

womenmind will provide support for two postdoctoral fellow pursuing research to better understand, prevent and treat mental illnesses among women. Postdoctoral fellows are expected to make independent contributions to knowledge during their appointment. This may be in the form of a contribution to an existing project, or through the development of an original project. 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. Health services, social 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

Two 1-year awards of \$60,000 CAD stipend + \$5,000 CAD research allowance will be available, with the possibility of a 1-year extension upon review of progress. The selection of the award will be made by the *womenmind* selection

*At CAMH, our definition of women includes cis-gender women, as well as those that identify as women and non-binary gender.

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committee and Talent Development Working Group comprised clinician scientists, senior scientists, and independent scientists, based on CIHR standards of excellence.

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. Applicants are encouraged to reach out to potential CAMH supervisors. Information regarding CAMH scientists can be found at the CAMH [staff directory](#).
- Only one applicant per primary supervisor will be permitted to apply for the *womenmind* Postdoctoral Fellowship.
- 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, 2021).
- Successful applicants must apply to at least one external agency (e.g. CIHR) in the time period between April 1, 2020 – March 31, 2021. If there are particular circumstances that prevent this, please first consult with talent.development@camh.ca. You will be asked to provide proof should you be successful in receiving a *womenmind* 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 *womenmind* Postdoctoral Fellowship for other possible applicants. In situations where the value of the external award is less than the *womenmind* 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, 2021 – December 31, 2021.
- Successful applicants are expected to be located at CAMH during the one-year period of the appointment.

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Instructions

1. Abstract

Applicants must submit an abstract online using the following form:

[womenmind abstract submission](#) by **January 18, 2021**. 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 **February 22, 2021**.

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 goals of womenmind. **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 data 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 the goals of the *womenmind* initiative
- 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.**

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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 February 15, 2021. For guidance on RAAF submission, please see the [Research Portal](#).

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6. Submitting the Application

The application must be submitted online (link to be provided following abstract submission) by **February 22, 2021**.

If you have any questions regarding the application guidelines or submission, please contact
Talent.Development@camh.ca.

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