

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 fellows applying concepts to better identify, prevent, diagnose and treat mental illnesses in adults with neurodevelopmental disabilities and their families.

Clinical Innovation: Azrieli Centre fellows 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 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 Postdoctoral Fellowship 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. 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 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](#).
- When supervising scientists are not affiliated with the Azrieli Centre, there should be a co-supervisor with an Azrieli Centre affiliation.
- Current Azrieli Postdoctoral Fellowship awardees are not eligible to apply.
- 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. Post-doctoral fellows 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.
- Interested applicants who are currently employed by CAMH must contact 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 PDF award are not eligible to apply (i.e. external funding that continues past December 31, 2023).
- 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 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, 2023 – December 31, 2023.
- 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/223063895492262> by **January 31, 2023**. 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.

*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 **February 28, 2023**. For guidance on RAAF submission, please see the [Research 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 **March 7, 2023**.

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 Training Plan - Limit of 7,000 characters, including spaces. 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 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.

c) Research Project Summary - Limit of 4,000 characters, including spaces, references included. 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 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 projects 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, 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.

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.

4. Curriculum Vitae (CV) – uploaded as PDF attachments.

a) Applicant CV

Provide a **CIHR Academic CV**. Please consult CIHR's [instructions](#) for completing the Academic CV template via the [Canadian Common CV \(CCV\)](#) interface.

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 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.

6. Submitting the Application

The application must be submitted online (link to be provided following NOI submission) by **March 7, 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: January 31, 2023
RAAF: February 28, 2023
Full Application: March 7, 2023
Notice of Award: May 2023