

womenmind 2022 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. CAMH conducts groundbreaking research, provides expert training to health care professionals and scientists, develops innovative health promotion and prevention strategies, and advocates on public policy issues at all levels of government.

[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 support women in the sciences, with the understanding that gender is fluid, non-binary and diverse – *womenmind* is a program for all women. *Womenmind* aims to develop innovative solutions to improving prevention, policy, and treatment of mental illness among women and girls. Through this work, *womenmind* aims to improve the mental health of women and girls locally, nationally and globally.

"Women" refers to a broad gender categorization that does not necessarily correlate with one's sex assigned at birth. We use the term therefore to include all those who self-identify as women, including cisgender women, transgender women, two-spirit, gender variant and non-binary people.

Numerous under-researched sex and gender-based disparities exist in mental illness, including differences across these groups in the prevalence of mental illness, underlying mechanisms and systemic risk factors, experiences of stigma, help seeking and service use behaviours, as well as treatment experiences and outcomes. Evidence shows that women are disproportionately affected by mental illnesses such as anxiety disorders and depression. Risk factors for mental illness and disparities in access to mental health services can be greater for people with intersecting identities, such as sexual orientation, gender identity, race, Indigeneity, disability, and socio-economic disadvantage, requiring a focus in research on women's mental health.

Award Guidelines

womenmind will provide support for up to **four postdoctoral fellows (PDFs)** pursuing research to better understand, prevent and treat mental illnesses, **with a focus on women's mental health**. This opportunity includes research involving [sex and gender based analyses+ \(SGBA+\) and intersectionality](#) (i.e., examining overlapping systems of discrimination or disadvantage) to improve the mental health of women and girls. 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. 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

Four 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. 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 *womenmind* selection 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](#).
- Only one applicant per primary supervisor will be permitted to apply for the *womenmind* Postdoctoral Fellowship.
- All applicants must be supervised or co-supervised by a researcher with expertise in women's mental health and/or in [Sex and Gender-Based Analysis+ \(SGBA+\)](#). If their primary supervisor at CAMH does not have expertise in women's mental health, then the applicant must seek a co-supervisor with such expertise and/or a position at a leading a Centre in women's mental health. Collaborations and cross-training with different institutions are welcome, to build capacity in women's mental health research.
- 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 grants.awards@camh.ca regarding 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 December 31, 2022).
- Successful applicants must apply to at least one external agency (e.g. CIHR) in the time period between April 1, 2021 – March 31, 2022. If there are particular circumstances that prevent this, please first consult with grants.awards@camh.ca. You will be asked to provide

proof should you be successful in receiving a womenmind Postdoctoral Fellowship.

- *womenmind* especially welcomes applications from First Nations, Métis and Inuit, racialized and LGBTQ2+ 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 *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 may 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, 2022 – December 31, 2022.
- Successful applicants are expected to be located at CAMH during the one-year period of the appointment.

Instructions

1. Notice of Intent

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

<https://form.jotform.com/213066420903245> by **January 14, 2022**. The NOI is limited to 250 words and should include a brief description of the proposed project.

2. 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 **February 18, 2022**.

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 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.**

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 application 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 via the [eRA Portal](#) by **February 11, 2022**. 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 **February 18, 2022**. If you have any questions regarding the application guidelines or submission process, please contact grants.awards@camh.ca.

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

| DEADLINES AT A GLANCE |
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| Notice of Intent: January 14, 2022 |
| RAAF: February 11, 2022 |
| Full Application: February 18, 2022 |
| Final Decision: Mid-April 2022 |