

MSFHR Research Programs 2016/17

The Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research (MSFHR) is developing an expanded suite of funding programs that will meet specific needs identified through conversations with key stakeholders.

MSFHR recently completed a review of its funding programs as well as a three-year plan to government; the output was a set of funding program objectives. These objectives informed the development of the programs outlined below, which are designed to support MSFHR's overall strategic goals.

Existing programs

At the core of this suite are MSFHR's two longstanding salary support awards – the **Scholar Program** for early-career investigators, and the **Research Trainee Program** for post-doctoral fellows. Feedback from the research community has demonstrated the value of these programs, and our commitment is to offer both competitions on an annual basis. The 2017 Scholar and Research Trainee programs are scheduled to launch this fall.

Scholar Program	Research Trainee Program
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports early-career investigators to build independent research programs • Provides 75% protected time for research activities • \$90,000/annum • Annual intake • 5-year award term 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports post-doctoral fellows to prepare for careers as independent health researchers • Provides 75% protected time for research activities • \$37,000-47,000/annum + \$4,500 research allowance • Annual intake • 3-year award term

New programs seeking external consultation

MSFHR is committed to a consultative approach to program development that will ensure the operational details of new funding opportunities meet the specific needs of stakeholders across BC. Consultation on the development of several new award programs will take place in each BC region throughout spring 2016. MSFHR is in the process of preparing consultation questions for each of these new programs that will support stakeholders to provide focused input on their design.



Health Professional Program	Implementation Science Teams	Translational Scholar Award
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will support clinician-researchers to advance careers in the conduct and application of research in addition to their clinical work • Addresses expertise and knowledge gaps in health research and its implementation • Provides 50% protected time for research activities • \$90,000/annum • Annual intake • 5-year award term 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will support teams to study methods and mechanisms that promote the integration of evidence into health policy and practice • Aims to accelerate the uptake and application of knowledge by linking researchers and research users • Annual intake • 5-6 year award term 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will support researchers to advance discoveries towards practical applications • Aims to increase the number and type of intellectual property developed by BC health researchers and increase potential for downstream investment • Annual intake • 2-year award term
<p><i>Proposed award details are subject to budget availability and the outcomes of MSFHR's stakeholder consultations</i></p>		

New programs in advanced stages of development

Three new funding programs have been developed following consultation with stakeholders across BC. These programs are expected to roll out in 2016 and will be presented for additional input in each region. MSFHR is in the process of preparing consultation questions for each of these new programs that will support stakeholders to provide focused input on their design.

Health Policy Fellowship	Convening and Collaborating (C ²) Awards	Dissemination Awards
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will fund short-term policy assignments for post-doctoral fellows • Intended to foster positive exchanges between health researchers and policy makers, and bridge the gap between science and policy making • \$45,000/annum + \$5,000 relocation/travel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will support the planning of research programs, projects, and/or activities, partnership development or collaboration between researchers and research users • Intended to build capacity for the development and use of research evidence in practice and policy by promoting knowledge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will support the use of research evidence to inform and/or improve practice and/or policy making • Supports MSFHR-funded researchers and research users to work collaboratively to develop and implement tools and/or products (e.g., plain language summaries, webinars, or clinical decision tools) resulting from a peer-



allowance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 3 intakes per year • 6-12 month award term 	exchange <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$15,000/award • 2 intakes per year • Up to 12-month award term 	reviewed research project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$10,000/award • Annual intake • Up to 12-month award term
<p><i>Proposed award details are subject to budget availability and the outcomes of MSFHR's stakeholder consultations</i></p>		

Funding objectives

The proposed suite of programs has been designed around a set of funding objectives identified through internal review of MSFHR's competition processes.

1. Support the establishment of the most highly qualified early career researchers to BC, across a broad spectrum of health disciplines, to increase BC's long-term capacity to address health and health system challenges through research.
2. Support the retention of excellent, established researchers in BC, across a broad spectrum of health disciplines, to maintain BC's capacity to address current health and health system challenges through research.
3. Support excellent post-doctoral fellows to prepare for careers in a broad spectrum of health research and research user roles to:
 - Advance knowledge in biomedical, clinical, health services and policy, and population health research (health research roles).
 - Increase evidence-informed decision making related to health and the health system (research user roles).
4. Support BC health professionals to advance the conduct and application of research in addition to their clinical work, to decrease the gap between research and implementation.
5. Support interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral teams of researchers and research users to achieve solutions to complex health or health system problems.
6. Support integrated teams of researchers, practitioners and decision-makers to conduct applied research to address priorities identified through BC's health system strategy.

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