

Sun Life Chair in Youth Mental Health

Dalhousie University, Faculty of Medicine

The Department of Psychiatry, Dalhousie University and IWK Health are accepting applications for the Sun Life Chair in Youth Mental Health.

The successful applicant will lead the development of a clinical research program which will further develop innovative, evidence-based interventions in youth mental health and mental illness. It is expected the Chair will work collaboratively with other research groups, regionally, nationally, and internationally as well as within Dalhousie University and the IWK Health Centre.

We wish to attract a talented and energetic leader (MD and/or PhD) with an excellent, established record of research accomplishments related to youth mental health. The successful applicant will demonstrate the ability to develop and direct an internationally recognized research program in mental illness/mental health, emphasizing the potential for translation and application to clinical practice. Applicants shall be collaborative and committed to the development of a strategy for youth mental health research, clinical practices and community outreach in the region and beyond. A demonstrated ability to attract external funding and sustain a strong research program is essential.

The Chair position provides a blend of salary, research funding and infrastructure support, and the incumbent will be expected to compete successfully in regional, national and international funding competitions to further enhance the productivity of their research program. The ability to fulfill roles as a leader, mentor, collaborator and facilitator is an important asset. Evidence of outstanding collaborative, interdisciplinary research achievements, both nationally and internationally are valued attributes. Experience in clinical research working with diverse and equity-deserving populations is highly recommended for this Chair position.

The IWK Mental Health and Addictions Program provides a full range of mental health and psychiatric treatments for children, and adolescents up until their 19th birthday, within a patient and family-centered context, with 50,000 visits per year provided by over 450 interprofessional staff and 17 Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists. Psychiatric services are integrated within the program which includes community clinics, specialty clinics, intensive services, addiction services, forensic services, emergency psychiatric services and an acute psychiatry inpatient unit. The specific care clinics provide consultation services related to their specialty areas to child and adolescent psychiatrists within the Maritime Provinces. The IWK inpatient psychiatric unit is a provincial child and adolescent unit for acute severe psychiatric illness requiring inpatient psychiatric care. The IWK Mental Health and Addictions Program has a strong continuous improvement process that facilitates real-time, data-informed decision-making with the aim of enhancing patient-centered outcomes, access to high quality care, and staff experience.

The Dalhousie University Department of Psychiatry is home to six academic chairs: The Killam Chair in Mood Disorders, the Sun Life Chair in Youth Mental Health, the Dr. Paul Janssen Chair in Psychotic Disorders, and three Canada Research Chairs (CRCs) in the following areas: Early Intervention; Addictions and Mental Health; and Developmental Psychopathology and Youth Mental Health. The IWK Health Centre undertakes significant research into disorders and diseases affecting women, children, youth and families and is home to two of these CRCs, as well as the Sobey Family Chair in Child & Adolescent Mental Health Outcomes (Department of Community Health and Epidemiology).

The Chair reports to the IWK Chief of Psychiatry and Head of the Department of Psychiatry. Working closely with the Faculty of Medicine, the IWK Health Centre, and mental health researchers and clinicians, the Chair will:

- Develop and lead a clinical research program in youth mental health with input from the Head, Dalhousie University Department of Psychiatry and Associate Dean of Research, Faculty of Medicine and Head, Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry; the IWK Mental Health and Addictions Program and VP Research, IWK Health Centre
- Develop and lead a clinical research program in youth mental health with input from the Head, Dalhousie University Department of Psychiatry and Associate Dean of Research, Faculty of Medicine and Head, Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry; the IWK Mental Health and Addictions Program and VP Research, IWK Health Centre, Associate and the Chair, Advisory Board of the Sun Life Chair in Youth Mental Health (once established).
- Conduct independent externally funded research in aspects of youth mental health that are in keeping with the strategic plan/goals of the Department of Psychiatry, Dalhousie Faculty of Medicine and IWK Mental Health and Addictions Program.
- Participate in clinical activities consistent with the research programs with clinical reporting relationships within IWK Health, and the expectation of 25% clinical and 75% research time allocation (if the chair is a clinician/physician).
- In conjunction with other leaders in research, develop a training program directed toward producing independent researchers in youth mental health.

The successful candidate will be appointed to a five-year limited term appointment as the Sun Life Chair in Youth Mental Health and to an academic appointment at the rank of Associate or Full Professor (commensurate with qualifications) in the Department of Psychiatry at Dalhousie University. The Chair appointment is renewable and subject to a successful review prior to the end of each five-year term.

Review of applications will begin **December 31, 2022** and continue until position is filled. All applications are to be submitted via PeopleAdmin. <https://dal.peopleadmin.ca/postings/11601>

All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority.

Dalhousie University commits to achieving inclusive excellence through continually championing equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility. The university encourages applications from Indigenous persons (especially Mi'kmaq), persons of Black/African descent (especially African Nova Scotians), and members of other racialized groups, persons with disabilities, women, and persons identifying as members of 2SLGBTQ+ communities, and all candidates who would contribute to the diversity of our community. For more information, please visit www.dal.ca/hiringfordiversity.