

Alzheimer Society

C A N A D A

February 9, 2022

The Alzheimer Society of Canada is **the only Canadian non-governmental organization that funds research exclusively on dementia**. Our commitment to people-centered care means that our research process engages people living with dementia to ensure that our research will truly improve their quality of life. Our vision is a world without Alzheimer's disease and other dementias.

To date, we have invested over \$67 million in Alzheimer's and dementia research through our Alzheimer Society Research Program (ASRP).

The ASRP is a national, annual research competition that has been operating for over 30 years funding across a range of sub-programs including the Proof-of-Concept grants, and New Investigator grants.

We have focused on innovative **research**, providing funding to the best and brightest dementia researchers across the country. The ASRP currently funds four types of grants and awards:

- (1) **New Investigator Grants**, designed to help launch the careers of outstanding researchers within the first 6 years of their initial academic appointment.
- (2) **Proof of Concept Grants**, designed to fund established researchers in conducting innovative, high-risk, and high-reward approaches to dementia research.
- (3) **Postdoctoral Awards**, for graduates with a PhD or MD wishing to gain additional research experience within an established research environment.
- (4) **Doctoral Awards**, which provide an opportunity for promising individuals, pursuing a PhD, to begin the process of becoming future independent investigators in the field of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias.

The ASRP uses a rigorous Peer Review process working with a range of experts in the field of dementia (scientists, academics, and investigators, as well as people living with dementia, caregivers, and frontline staff) to ensure the quality and validity of the proposed research and maintain our commitment to patient care in research is upheld.

More information is located on our website:

<https://alzheimer.ca/en/research/alzheimer-society-research-program>



ALZHEIMER SOCIETY OF CANADA
20 EGLINTON AVENUE WEST, 16TH FLOOR, TORONTO, ON M4R 1K8
TEL: 416-488-8772 FAX: 416-322-6656
WEBSITE: www.alzheimer.ca EMAIL: info@alzheimer.ca
CHARITABLE REGISTRATION #: 11878 4925 RR0001

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Building on this work, the BIPOC Research Program, is a new program within the ASRP that aims to promote, and support dementia research from and within BIPOC communities.

In Canada, there are substantial knowledge gaps about dementia in Black, Indigenous and People of Color communities (BIPOC). These knowledge gaps have also created significant gaps in the types of dementia related policies, programs, and services available to people living with dementia from these communities and their caregivers. This initiative was borne out of this recognized need for greater representation of diverse populations in dementia research and the impact this will have on future research, policy, and programming.

The new initiative includes 2 streams:

Stream 1: Emerging BIPOC Researchers: This stream is designed to address the underfunding and underrepresentation of BIPOC researchers in the dementia space; this stream will support increased access to funding mechanisms, research opportunities, and networks for Canadian BIPOC researchers (at the PhD or Masters' level) to conduct dementia-related research.

Stream 2: Community Collaboration Research: This stream will support community-based dementia research conducted within BIPOC communities; designed to provide funding support to researchers (they do not have to identify as BIPOC) who want to partner with community-based organizations to conduct dementia research in BIPOC communities, providing these organizations with increased opportunities to access research funding and collaborate with researchers.

We are excited to invite key stakeholders to a series of cumulative, online consultations to be held in the months of March and April of 2022 to engage in discussion on the design of the program as potential users of it in the future.

Each consultation will be 60 minutes in length, with an honorarium provided. The results of these consultations will help inform the design of our program.

If this is of interest, kindly provide the name, title, and email of those who'd like to participate, and we will send them a formal invitation which **includes a link to register**.

Please join us in supporting more inclusivity and diversity in dementia research.

For more information, please contact

Ngozi Iroanyah
Manager, Diversity and Community Partnerships
niroanyah@alzheimier.ca
416-669-5715



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