



## ***BrightRed* Student Research Awards Program Guidelines 2017/18**

### **Background**

---

Heart & Stroke, a volunteer-based health charity, leads in eliminating heart disease and stroke and reducing their impact through the advancement of research and its application, the promotion of healthy living, and advocacy. Our vision is healthy lives free of heart disease and stroke. Together we will make it happen.

Heart & Stroke invests in research excellence to have the greatest impact in tangibly improving the health of Canadian families every day. Since its inception in 1952, Heart & Stroke has invested more than \$1.4 billion in vital heart and stroke research, making it the largest contributor in Canada after the federal government.

The Heart & Stroke's *BrightRed* Student Research Awards Program, offered exclusively in Nova Scotia, is a donor-funded investment, which provides scholarship opportunities for student investigators, in collaboration with training institutions, to strengthen the recruitment and retention of researchers in Nova Scotia that align with Heart & Stroke's strategic mission priorities.

### **Objective**

---

The goal of the *BrightRed* Student Research Awards Program is to recognize excellent emerging cardiovascular and cerebrovascular researchers in Nova Scotia at differing stages of career development. It will provide financial support to students and trainees enrolled in research-based Masters, Doctoral, Postdoctoral, or Doctor of Medicine training programs at academic institutions in Nova Scotia.

### **Eligibility**

---

Individuals eligible for the *BrightRed* Student Research Awards Program will be:

- Currently enrolled (in good standing) and/or accepted as a full-time student in a research-based Masters, Doctoral or Postdoctoral training program at a Nova Scotia university<sup>1</sup> or the Research in Medicine Doctor of Medicine program at Dalhousie University;
- Under the supervision of (at minimum) one supervisor who has a full-time academic appointment;
- Undertaking research training that is relevant to the mission and strategic priorities of Heart & Stroke.

In addition, potential recipients will have demonstrated:

- Academic excellence – a GPA of 3.70 or higher in the last two completed academic years of study, or if circumstances indicate, a letter from their supervisor outlining merit for support despite a grade-point average below this standard; and

---

<sup>1</sup> We encourage students and trainees to apply even if they have not yet received official confirmation of acceptance into a research-based program. Disbursement of award to successful applicants will only occur once official confirmation of enrollment is received by Heart & Stroke.



- Potential as an excellent emerging cardiovascular and/or cerebrovascular researcher (various places to highlight this in the application).

The *BrightRed* Student Research Awards are open to Canadian citizens, landed immigrants, or people who reside in Nova Scotia with a valid work or student visa.

## **Value and Duration**

---

A limited number of awards will be supported by Heart & Stroke based on budgetary approval by the Heart & Stroke Provincial Board of Directors and upon recommendation by the Research Advisory Committee of Heart & Stroke.

**For the 2017/2018 academic year, Heart & Stroke will be offer up to five (5) awards, each valued at \$5,000, as follows:**

- The *BrightRed* Mission Award: to the highest rated candidate of any level
- The John and Judy Bragg Family Foundation Award: to the highest rated Masters level or Doctor of Medicine candidate
- The Paul and Mary O'Regan Graduate Research Award: to the highest rated Doctoral or Postdoctoral candidate
- The *BrightRed* Award: to the next highest rated candidate at any level
- The *BrightRed* Award: to the next highest rated candidate at any level

Awards are one-year, non-renewable and non-transferable. Individuals may receive the *BrightRed* Student Research Award only once.

Heart & Stroke will offer awards to applicants who are currently in receipt of research funding from other external granting agencies or organizations (e.g., NSHRF, CIHR, NSERC, SSRHC) or internal funding from their academic institution. Potential awardees may also currently be in receipt of a national junior personnel award through Heart & Stroke.

## **Submitting an application**

---

The application must include the following documents to be considered:

1. Completed *BrightRed* Student Research Awards application form, including a description of the proposed research project that is not to exceed two pages (references excluded) and lay summary of research;
2. Copy of applicant's current CV (maximum of two pages);
3. Official copies of academic transcripts from all academic training; and
4. Sealed assessment form from applicant's primary supervisor (one copy only, sealed and signed by supervisor across the flap).



See the application form for specific details on each of these application documents. Please note that the application form and the supervisor assessment form are writable Word documents. Please download, fill out (in type), save and return for consideration in this format.

#### *Description of proposed research*

Heart & Stroke supports excellence in research across all research themes<sup>2</sup>; however, at a strategic level, Heart & Stroke is interested in broadening research support beyond the biomedical theme. To this end, Heart & Stroke encourages submissions of applications from the biomedical, clinical, health services/systems and population health areas.

Importance will also be placed on awarding those individuals whose research is *consistent with identified priorities of Heart & Stroke*. These priorities are:

- Children and youth;
- Health promotion;
- Resuscitation and acute intervention; and
- Care giving, recovery, rehabilitation and reintegration

Applicants will have the opportunity to identify how their proposed project is consistent with these priorities within the research proposal.

#### *Curriculum vitae (CV)*

The CV should include the following:

- Academic background;
- Work experience (highlight particular relevance to research/academic pursuits);
- Academic and research experience (publications, reports, conferences, etc);
- Awards, prizes and distinctions (include title, date, amount, awarding institution).

#### *Supervisor Assessment Form*

This form is to be completed by the applicant's primary supervisor. Supervisors will have the opportunity to provide an assessment of the applicant across a variety of characteristics and provide additional details where appropriate.

#### *Deadlines*

Complete applications for the *BrightRed* Student Research Awards Program must be received in the Heart & Stroke office no later than **4:00 pm AST on Friday, May 19th**. **Any applications received after this time will not be accepted.** A complete application includes:

- One original application
- One scanned softcopy (PDF format) emailed to [pamela.fonseca@heartandstroke.ca](mailto:pamela.fonseca@heartandstroke.ca)  
(NOTE: supervisor assessment form is not to be included in the scanned softcopy)

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure completeness of the application package. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

---

<sup>2</sup> Four themes of health research used by Heart & Stroke, as defined by the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research are: 1) basic biomedical, 2) clinical, 3) health services/systems, and 4) population health.



## **Application review**

---

Decisions on awardees will be subject to evaluation and recommendation by the Nova Scotia Research Advisory Committee of Heart & Stroke. Applicants will be evaluated on the following:

- Academic excellence (transcripts, scholarships/awards, CV, supervisor assessment form);
- Research potential (scholarly activities including publications);
- Quality of proposed research; and
- Relevance to mission and strategic priorities of Heart & Stroke.

## **Award regulations and financial administration**

---

Notification of successful award will be made by Heart & Stroke to the recipient and to the recipient's department head. Individuals selected to receive an award will be contacted by letter; all other applicants will be notified by email. Notification to all applicants will occur by June 2017.

**All award recipients must confirm full-time enrollment in their program at a Nova Scotia academic institution before disbursement of award.** Awards will be paid directly to the recipient by Heart & Stroke after September 1, 2017.

Awardees will be recognized at an Awards gala organized by Heart & Stroke during the 2017-18 academic year.

The granting of a *BrightRed* Student Research Award is deemed to establish neither an employer-employee relationship nor a partnership between Heart & Stroke and the award recipient.

## **Obligations of recipients**

---

Awardees must submit a 1-2 page summary report on the work (in progress or final) that they accomplished during the period of the *BrightRed* Student Research Award. This report will be due to Heart & Stroke one year from receipt of award (September 1st). Details on the report will be provided to the awardee by Heart & Stroke.

Awardees are expected to attend an Awards gala held in the fall of 2017. Details will be confirmed and communicated with recipients at a later date.

Award recipients are also expected to acknowledge Heart & Stroke in all communications regarding their award and related research activities. This includes, but is not limited to, academic publications, presentations (oral, poster, other) and related dissemination activities. The Heart & Stroke logo (provided to recipients) and following statement should be included:

“This research was supported in part by Heart & Stroke.”

Heart & Stroke encourages receipt of copies of academic publications funded fully or in part by the *BrightRed* Student Research Awards Program.



## **Contact information**

---

For further questions, or to submit an application, please contact the following:

*BrightRed* Student Research Awards Program  
c/o Pamela Fonseca, Coordinator, Health Promotion and Research  
Heart & Stroke  
Park Lane Mall, Level 3  
5657 Spring Garden Road, Box 245  
Halifax NS B3J 3R4  
T: 1-800-423.4432 ext.1112  
F: 902-492-1464  
E: [pamela.fonseca@heartandstroke.ca](mailto:pamela.fonseca@heartandstroke.ca)  
Website: [www.heartandstroke.ca](http://www.heartandstroke.ca)