



**Preparing the Next Generation of Clinical Trials Professionals:
Canadian Clinical Trials Training Platforms (CTTPs) Partner with
Provincial and National Co-Funders to Award Over \$2.1 Million in
Support to 79 Graduate and Postdoctoral Trainees**

NEWS RELEASE

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Montreal, Quebec — [CANTRAIN](#) (The Canadian Consortium of Clinical Trial Training), in partnership with [CAN-TAP-TALENT](#) (the Canadian Training Platform Leveraging Existing Networks), [CBITN](#) (the Canadian Behavioural Interventions & Trials Network), and [StrokeCog](#) (Innovative Clinical Trials Training Initiatives for STROKE and COGnition), is proud to share the results of the **CTTP Studentship/Fellowship Awards Program 2025-26 Competition**. With \$610,625 in support from co-funders, the clinical trials training platforms (CTTPs) have awarded over \$2.1 million in funding to 79 clinical research-focused graduate and postdoctoral awardees, including 24 postdoctoral fellows, 35 doctoral candidates, and 20 master's degree students.

"As NPI of CANTRAIN, I'm inspired by the momentum we have built over three years of the Studentship and Fellowship Awards Program. This fall's competition, our third, reflects the strength of ongoing and new collaborations with provincial co-funders and CTTPs, all committed to the shared responsibility of building clinical trials capacity through meaningful collaboration. These awards are more than recognition. They are strategic investments in a resilient, inclusive, and future-ready research ecosystem. Congratulations to all awardees. We are excited to see what you will accomplish," says **Dr. Jean Bourbeau, CANTRAIN Nominated Principal Investigator.**

"CAN-TAP-TALENT is honoured to be part of the Studentship Awards alongside the other Clinical Trial Training Platforms. Together, we are proud to support Canadian trainees with the education, resources, and opportunities they need to excel and build lasting capacity in clinical trials across Canada. Canada will lead the next generation of researchers to make global impact in science," says **Dr. Angela M. Cheung, Nominated Principal Investigator of CAN-TAP-TALENT.**



"We are thrilled to welcome our third cohort of talented mentees who are poised to be next generation leaders in our field, both within and beyond academia. They will be supported by a highly accomplished group of university-based academic mentors as well as community- or industry-based professional mentors, some of whom are patient-partners. Our recruitment efforts, led in part by our EDIA Committee, resulted in a diverse cohort representing a variety of talents, fields, and backgrounds from across the country. We are also grateful for co-funding support from Alberta Innovates in Alberta, FRQ-S in Québec, Health Research BC in British Columbia, and Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation in Saskatchewan," says **Simon Bacon, PhD, Nominated Principal Applicant, Canadian Behavioural Interventions and Trials Network.**

"StrokeCog is pleased to announce another five Post-Doctoral Fellowship Awards—our third consecutive year of supporting outstanding trainees from across Canada, including recipients from British Columbia, Ontario, Manitoba, and Nova Scotia. Advancing stroke and vascular cognitive impairment research requires both scientific excellence and collaboration across disciplines, institutions, and provinces. Through the StrokeCog Post-Doctoral Fellowship Awards, we are empowering emerging leaders whose innovative work and collaborative spirit are accelerating clinical trials and recovery research. Together, we are building a stronger, smarter future for stroke survivors through shared knowledge, collective discovery, and national partnership," says **Dr. Jodi Edwards, Nominated Principal Investigator and Leader, StrokeCog Clinical Trials Training Platform.**

Advancing Talent, Training, and Trial Capacity

Building on the success of the 2023–2024 and 2024–2025 national competitions, which awarded over \$4 million to 170 graduate and postdoctoral trainees across Canada, including more than \$1.6 million from provincial co-funders, the 2025–26 CTPP Studentship/Fellowship Awards Program Competition continues to prepare the next generation of researchers.

"This studentship and fellowship program is designed to support graduate, doctoral, and post-doctoral trainees working in area of clinical trials with the goal of building clinical trials capacity in Canada. On behalf of CANTRAIN and our trainees, I thank our partners from across the country who have co-funded these awards and supported this mission," says **Professor Kristian Filion, CANTRAIN Studentship & Fellowship Task Force Co-Chair**



"We are thrilled to support this outstanding cohort of successful candidates, selected through a rigorous review process by the award committee. With over 100 applications received from institutions across the country, this third competition highlights the unprecedented enthusiasm and nationwide drive to strengthen clinical trial training capacity in Canada. Funding this cohort through this third cycle reaffirms CANTRAIN's strong commitment to supporting trainees both in their research experience and in their understanding of the fundamental principles underlying clinical trials and research," says **Dr. Bertrand Jean-Claude, CANTRAIN Studentship & Fellowship Task Force Co-Chair**

The CTPP Studentship/Fellowship Awards Program fosters interest in and strengthens capacity for clinical trials in Canada by addressing a key challenge: ensuring access to resources and a strong understanding of methodologies, regulations, and reporting frameworks specific to the Canadian clinical trials ecosystem, while also attracting and retaining highly trained students by reducing financial barriers, expanding hands-on training opportunities, and improving access to mentorship and career development.

Sydney MacNinch, Dalhousie University, CANTRAIN Master's Studentship 2025-26, shares: *"I'm honored to receive this award, which serves as a meaningful reminder of my ongoing commitment to enhancing physiotherapy programs for residents in long-term care. It supports my journey to becoming a physiotherapist who not only provides compassionate care but also contributes to the research that shapes our field. I'm deeply grateful for the opportunity to grow both academically and professionally through this recognition."*

Bianca Perry, University of Calgary, CAN-TAP-TALENT Master's Studentship 2025-2026, shares: *"The CAN-TAP-TALENT award has been instrumental in supporting my academic and professional development. I am deeply grateful for the federal and provincial funding I received through the program, which has eased financial pressures and allowed me to focus on my research. Beyond the financial support of the CTPP Master's Award, CAN-TAP-TALENT's training opportunities (e.g., webinars, professional development modules) have provided me with valuable skills and practical tools that I continue to apply throughout my graduate studies and will carry forward into my future career."*

Laura Harris-Lane, York University, CBITN Master's Studentship 2025-26, shares: *"As a returning mentee, CBITN provides unparalleled training and mentorship, allowing*



me to develop specialized skills in evidence-based behavioural intervention design and trial. The training and professional development opportunities (e.g., internships) are directly informing my MA-PhD research, and shaping me as a future clinician-scientist. I am also grateful that CBITN fosters a collaborative environment where I can connect with other mentees, mentors, and international experts. It is inspiring to be part of a community that is dedicated to training the next generation of leaders and improving the mental health, physical health, and well-being of Canadians through enhanced behavioural interventions."

Kylie Arsenault, University of Regina, CANTRAIN Doctoral Studentship 2025-26,

shares: *"I am honoured to be a recipient of the CANTRAIN 2025-2026 Doctoral Studentship! This opportunity will be instrumental to my growth as a researcher, equipping me with the knowledge and skills to lead patient-centred clinical trials aimed at improving the psychosocial well-being of adults living with cystic fibrosis. I am excited to collaborate with, and learn from expert clinical trialists, academic and patient-partner mentors, and fellow trainees over the coming year."*

Megan George, University of Toronto, CAN-TAP-TALENT Doctoral Studentship 2025-26,

shares: *"Receiving the CAN-TAP-TALENT award is not just an honor - it is a catalyst. This recognition will enable me to develop diverse clinical trials expertise and connect with Canada's leading trial networks. Through this platform's training and collaborative opportunities, I will be equipped to transform ideas into real-world solutions that will enhance the field of psychosocial oncology."*

Sitara Sharma, University of Ottawa, CBITN Doctoral Studentship 2025-26,

shares: *"I'm so grateful to be a CBITN mentee and to learn alongside such an inspiring community of experts and budding behavioural scientists. CBITN's unique structure—combining mentorship, funding, collaborative opportunities, and comprehensive behaviour change training—offers me the ideal environment to grow as an early scholar in health promotion and education. Thanks to this program, I'm gaining the knowledge, skills, and connections needed to advance my doctoral research, and design innovative, evidence-based interventions to help drive meaningful change in public health and well-being."*

Dihogo de Matos, University of Calgary, CANTRAIN Postdoctoral Fellowship 2025-26,

shares: *"Receiving this CANTRAIN award represents a key step in my transition toward research independence. It will allow me to deepen my expertise in autonomic regulation and postural tachycardia syndrome at the Calgary Autonomic*



Investigation Lab, while expanding collaborations across disciplines. This support will accelerate my ability to translate research findings into better care for individuals affected by autonomic disorders and to build a long-term academic career dedicated to advancing cardiovascular and autonomic health."

Dr. Raza Malik, University of British Columbia, StrokeCOG Postdoctoral

Fellowship 2025-26, shares: *"This fellowship is an exciting next step in my career toward establishing an independent research program in neurorehabilitation. It provides the opportunity to lead a trial on brain stimulation and motor recovery while receiving mentorship from experts in stroke rehabilitation. I am grateful for the financial support and stability this fellowship provides, allowing me to dedicate my time fully to research and training. The supportive and collaborative environment will help me strengthen my skills in clinical trial design and patient-oriented research".*

Dr. Heidi Riek, University of Toronto and Sunnybrook Research Institute,

StrokeCOG Postdoctoral Fellowship 2025-26, shares: *"I'm honoured to have received a StrokeCog postdoctoral fellowship. This support will enable me to spend the next year investigating how we can improve the meaningfulness and validity of cognitive assessment after stroke, and to further develop my own skills as a researcher and a clinical trialist. Through the financial and professional support provided by the fellowship and the StrokeCog community, I hope to make new connections and gain new expertise that can help me drive progress in stroke and vascular cognitive impairment research for years to come."*

Strengthening Canada's Clinical Trial Capacity Through National Collaboration

CANTRAIN, CAN-TAP-TALENT, CBITN, and StrokeCog, wish to highlight the invaluable support and significant financial contributions from [Alberta Innovates](#) (\$310,000), [Le Fonds de recherche du Québec - secteur Santé](#) (\$118,750), [Michael Smith Health Research BC](#) (\$103,750), [Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation](#) (\$52,500), the [Cancer Research Society](#) (\$21,250), and [ResearchNB](#) (\$4,375).

Collectively, these co-funders have created new opportunities for trainees across Canada. Their combined contribution of \$610,625 has supported a total of 35 awardees: 6 awardees in British Columbia, 15 in Alberta (including 5 fully funded by



Alberta Innovates), 3 in Saskatchewan, 9 in Quebec, 1 in New Brunswick, and 1 focused on cancer research.

CTTP	Awardees	Total CTTP Funding (CIHR)	Total Co-Funding	Total Funding
CANTRAIN	33	\$476,250	\$299,375	\$775,625
CAN-TAP-TALENT	22	\$515,000	\$140,000	\$655,000
CBITN	19	\$247,000	\$171,250	\$418,250
STROKECOG	5	\$262,500	\$0	\$262,500
Totals	79	\$1,500,750	\$610,625	\$2,111,375

"Clinical trials are Alberta's engine for research, commercialization, and patient impact, built on a strong training pipeline. By partnering with Canada's Clinical Trial Training Platforms, Alberta Innovates leverages federal funding and national curriculum to grow our provincial clinical trial workforce," shares **Dr. Raja Mita, Vice-President, Health, Alberta Innovates.**



"Michael Smith Health Research BC is proud to partner with the CTTPs to co-fund BC-based graduate and postdoctoral trainees. By supporting these emerging researchers, we are strengthening BC's capacity to conduct high-quality clinical trials. Through Clinical Trials British Columbia, we continue to support CANTRAIN's national training platform, education program, and evaluation," shares **Muneerah Kassam, Director, Partnerships, Michael Smith Health Research BC.**





"SHRF is pleased to partner with CANTRAIN's Clinical Trials Training Program to help Saskatchewan trainees access valuable training and research opportunities, which will help build the clinical research capacity of the next generation of researchers in our province," shares **Patrick Odnokon, CEO, Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation (SHRF).**



"The Cancer Research Society is proud to partner with CANTRAIN to foster the next generation of cancer researchers in Canada. Encouraging these promising scientists is essential to nurturing innovation and advancing discoveries that will ultimately bring hope to patients and families affected by cancer," shares **Dr. Dajan O'Donnell, Director, Scientific Affairs and Partnerships, Cancer Research Society.**



"ResearchNB is proud to partner on investments in clinical trial training in New Brunswick. Clinical trials are essential to advancing health care, increasing access to innovative medicines, and improving our health care system. We congratulate the New Brunswick awardees and look forward to continued efforts to grow clinical trials in our province," shares **Candice Pollack, Chief Executive Officer, ResearchNB.**



Congratulations to all the awardees of the 2025-26 CTP Studentship/Fellowship Awards Program Competition from CANTRAIN, CBITN, CAN-TAP-TALENT, and StrokeCog!

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About Clinical Trials Training Platforms (CTTPs): A \$250 million investment from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) through the Clinical Trials Fund, established in 2021, was designed to strengthen Canada's clinical trials ecosystem by supporting research and infrastructure. This funding led to the creation of the Pan-Canadian Accelerating Clinical Trials Consortium (ACT) and seven Clinical Trials Training Programs (CTTPs). Through this initiative, the federal government has made substantial contributions to enhancing coordination and collaboration across the clinical trial landscape, building training platforms to expand capacity, and directly supporting trials through operating grants.

CANTRAIN (Canadian Consortium of Clinical Trial TRAINing) was established in 2023 through a grant from CIHR's Clinical Trials Fund, with the goal of creating a dedicated national training platform for clinical trials. Based at the [Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre \(RI-MUHC\)](#) in Montreal, CANTRAIN provides competency-based, online learning and career development support nationwide to ensure all Canadians are better prepared to participate in clinical trial research.

CAN-TAP-TALENT (Canadian Training Platform for Trials Leveraging Existing Networks) is intended to meet the need for increased clinical trials capacity and expertise in Canada, in order to efficiently answer critical questions in the context of our own diverse population and unique healthcare systems, reduce redundancies, streamline state-of-the-art training of highly qualified personnel (HQP), and produce Canadian-led clinical trials with global impact.

CBITN (Canadian Behavioural Interventions and Trials Network) is a specialised pan-Canadian training platform to support the development, testing and delivery of behavioural interventions using innovative approaches and trial designs. CBITN's vision is to be world leaders in promoting and advancing behaviour change interventions for the purpose of improving the health and quality of life of individuals and communities.

StrokeCog is an equity, diversity, inclusivity and accessibility (EDIA)-centered training platform that redefines how stroke clinical trials expertise is developed in Canada. StrokeCog's vision is to innovate new approaches to clinical trials training that directly embed evidence-based EDIA principles at every stage, to create sustainable change in the systems of clinical trial design and conduct in Canada.



For more information contact: Awards Committee at awards@wecantrain.ca
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