



## **The CHIWOS Scholar Awards (Revised June 29, 2020)**

The Canadian HIV Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health Cohort Study (CHIWOS) is pleased to announce this special call for the CHIWOS Scholar Awards with the CIHR Canadian HIV Trials Network (CTN). This unique funding opportunity will support training and mentorship opportunities for emerging academic scholars who are interested in building their capacity in the field of women and HIV. The one-time CHIWOS Scholar Awards are intended as salary support for trainees at the master, doctoral, and postdoctoral levels for the 2020/2021 or 2021/2022 academic year.

## **The Canadian HIV Women's Sexual & Reproductive Health Cohort Study (CHIWOS)**

The Canadian HIV Women's Sexual & Reproductive Health Cohort Study, or [CHIWOS](#), was developed to address the unique health care and health issues, needs and priorities of women living with HIV in Canada. CHIWOS enrolled 1,422 women living with in Ontario, Quebec, and British Columbia for a quantitative component and has complementary arts-based research programs in Saskatchewan and Manitoba, and more recently a new implementation sciences program is being launched in the Maritimes. CHIWOS operates using community-based research and MEWA (meaningful engagement of women living with HIV and/or AIDS) approaches, prioritizing the leadership, and valuing the experiences of the diverse women who are living with HIV. CHIWOS is further guided by Critical Feminist, Anti-Oppression and Intersectionality frameworks and a continuous analysis of the social determinants of health over women's lifespans. CHIWOS seeks to put its research into action in order to further social change and justice and improve the health, lives and care of women living with HIV.

## **The CIHR Canadian HIV Trials Network (CTN)**

The CTN is a Canada-wide partnership of researchers, people living with HIV and their caregivers, governments, health advocates, and the innovative pharmaceutical and biotechnology industry who are all committed to generating knowledge on the prevention, treatment, and management of HIV, hepatitis C (HCV), and other sexually transmitted and blood-borne infections (STBBIs) and developing a cure for HIV, through the conduct of scientifically sound clinical trials, research, and other interventions. The CTN is dedicated to engaging with community and maximizing the impact of research and ultimately improving the health of Canadians by applying knowledge gained through research at home and abroad into clinical and non-clinical practice.

## **The Details**

The CHIWOS Scholar Awards offer funding opportunities to outstanding junior researchers at major Canadian centres. The goals of the funding are:

- To increase the research capacity related to women and HIV across Canada;
- To foster a research environment that is grounded in principles of community-based research, social justice, and equity for women living with HIV;
- To promote the analysis and uptake of national CHIWOS data through scholarly research and knowledge translation and exchange activities.

## **Priority Call**

CHIWOS is founded on anti-oppressive, social justice, and community-based frameworks. We recognize that academic institutions, clinicians, and researchers have perpetuated and continue to contribute to systemic racism, actively and through complacency. Through listening to community members who have experienced these injustices and by proactively searching for ways to support Black



and Indigenous communities, we have made the decision to issue a priority call for Black and Indigenous scholarship applicants. Black and Indigenous scholars experience systemic access barriers, sustained institutional racism, and often do not receive the same academic recognition or reward for their efforts. We understand the value of community-led and community-engaged initiatives and the importance of supporting individuals to pursue knowledge about their own communities as one way of challenging false beliefs and the status quo. For these reasons, we will be reserving a minimum of one CHIWOS Scholar Awards for a Black or Indigenous scholar. The awardee will be invited to join the Women and HIV Research Program (WHRP) and CHIWOS to launch a new WHRP objective aimed at changing policy and programming that currently creates and contributes to racial inequities. Additionally, all of CHIWOS' future award recipients will be required to complete anti-oppression training before completion of their award.

### **Amount**

Each awardee receives one-year funding based on the degree being sought: Master's (\$17,500\*), Doctoral (\$21,500\*), or Postdoctoral (\$55,000\*). An additional travel allowance of up to \$2,000 will be available for travel costs associated with attending the Annual CAHR Conference in Spring 2021.

If a scholarship is not held for the full year, the recipient must immediately notify CHIWOS (see contact details below). A prorated reduction in funds will then be made.

\*Please note that total award amounts may vary depending on the successful applicants' current awards. If the successful applicant in any of the categories holds award(s), the CHIWOS scholarship amount will be reduced such that the applicant will receive a total award sum (between all awards) equal to or lesser than the CIHR award levels for trainees. For example, the current CIHR award level for a doctoral student is \$35,000. If the top CHIWOS Scholar applicant in the Doctoral category already holds internal awards of \$12,000, they will receive the full CHIWOS Scholar amount. If the top CHIWOS Scholar applicant in the Doctoral category already holds internal awards of \$16,000, the CHIWOS award will be reduced to \$19,000. The remaining amounts will be allocated to other top-ranking applicants. Any questions about this process should be directed to the Angela Underhill ([angela.underhill@wchospital.ca](mailto:angela.underhill@wchospital.ca)).

### **Eligibility**

Applicants must be accepted to, or be enrolled full time in a graduate-level academic program at a recognized Canadian university or be conducting a research project at a recognized Canadian Institution as a Postdoctoral fellow. The applicant's primary research project must focus on an issue related to women living with HIV in Canada and they must use CHIWOS data for at least part of their research.

Full-time enrollment must be intended from September 2020 or later (latest possible start date: January 2022) for 12 months. The student may not be in receipt of any additional, external major award. If you have questions about your individual eligibility please contact the coordinator (details on page 4).

### **CHIWOS Affiliation**

The applicant's academic supervisor, or a member of their supervisory committee, must be a CHIWOS Investigator, and be willing to support the recipient's engagement as a member of the CHIWOS research team.

### **CHIWOS Investigator's Responsibilities**

Regardless of whether the CHIWOS Investigator is the direct academic supervisor of the scholar, they will assume supervisory responsibilities related to this scholarship. The CHIWOS Investigator will be required to ensure that the scholar has the necessary support, guidance and insight to support the scholar's use of CHIWOS data in their academic research ethically and responsibly. Specific responsibilities will include:

- Ensuring the scholar has access to the necessary CHIWOS dataset in accordance with data sharing agreements and privacy legislation;
- Ensuring the scholar has received anti-oppression, GIPA and MEWA, and anti-racism training prior to the conclusion of their award (trainings may be able to be arranged through the CHIWOS research team);
- Ensuring the scholar is aware of CHIWOS policies related to data analysis, presentations, and publications;
- Ensuring the scholar has meaningfully engaged all members of the CHIWOS team, specifically Peer Research Associates to keep in line with the GIPA and MEWA, in the development and implementation of their intended research.



### **Sponsoring Institution**

Each recipient must be enrolled at a recognized Canadian institution (or be conducting a research project at a recognized Canadian Institution). The institution must be prepared to provide proof of enrollment/affiliation as well as suitable space and research facilities.

To facilitate the transfer of funds, the Sponsoring Institution will be required to enter into a Sub Grant Agreement with Women's College Hospital.

### **Transfer**

If a recipient transfers to another institution, the award terminates. However, the recipient may apply to have the unspent portion allocated for use at the new institution. Such a request must be supported by a revised application plus a letter of undertaking from the supervisor at the new institution in Canada, similar in content to the letter required from the supervisor in the initial application.

### **Research Project Proposal**

During the course of the scholarship, each recipient is required to develop (or build towards) a research proposal. The proposal will require the ongoing support of the CHIWOS Investigator. The research project must make use of the CHIWOS data or other data available that addresses one of CHIWOS' key research objectives. The awardee must follow CHIWOS policies and submit the project using the CHIWOS data collection form ([www.chiwos.ca](http://www.chiwos.ca)), which includes approval from the CHIWOS National Management Team (NMT).

### **Payment**

The award is paid directly to the recipient in two installments.

### **Reports**

Within 60 days of the end of the scholarship period, the recipient must provide a written report detailing the achievements related to their training objectives as listed in their application. This report will include presentations, publications, the yearly presentation at CAHR, and any other relevant achievements. The report should include a list of the projects that they were involved with and any publications and/or presentations that resulted.

### **Acknowledgement**

All CHIWOS Scholars need to acknowledge the support provided. If the recipient has an additional sponsor, the sponsor must also be acknowledged and the order will be determined by the level of support.

The following wording is required: This study was supported by the CHIWOS Scholarship Awards Program, which was funded by the Women and HIV Research Program at Women's College Hospital, Toronto, Ontario, Canada with a grant from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Foundation Grant (FDN154325).

## **The Training Objectives**

The training program contemplated by the applicant and supervisor should supplement the applicant's present training and experience in the specialized field of women and HIV.

## **The Application**

*A complete application must contain:*

1. A cover letter from the applicant, which must include (max: 2 pages):
  - a. a summary of training and experience to-date (particularly as they pertain to women and HIV);
  - b. a description of what the applicant is currently doing, and their career goals;
  - c. how the scholarship would fit into the applicant's long-term career plans;
  - d. how CHIWOS will play a role in the applicant's research;
  - e. how the scholar intends to meaningfully engage with the community and/or Peer Research Associates in their research process; and,
  - f. a statement confirming, if applicable, if the scholar is eligible for priority call consideration.
2. A letter of undertaking from the CHIWOS Investigator (who must be the academic supervisor or a committee member), which must include (max: 2 pages):
  - a. the nature and content of the research project arranged for the candidate (include all relevant training activities—formal and informal—and the supervision that would be provided);
  - b. a description of how the proposed training program would supplement the candidate's present training;
  - c. a description of the supervisor's recent and current research work and how the candidate's career track fits into that work;
  - d. additional information about the supervisor's current position and background, including relevant supervisory experience and publications; and
  - e. information regarding additional remuneration of the fellow.
3. Letters from at least two referees assessing the applicant's qualifications as a scholarship candidate.
4. Any other documents the applicant feels are pertinent to the application.

## **The Deadline**

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS IS **JULY 16<sup>th</sup> 2020.**

Complete applications and requests must contain all the required information as listed in the previous section.



Complete applications must be submitted to:

Angela Underhill  
Scholarship Coordinator  
Women and HIV Research Program  
Women's College Hospital  
76 Grenville St., Suite 6407  
Toronto ON M5S 1B2

[angela.underhill@wchospital.ca](mailto:angela.underhill@wchospital.ca)

Tel: 416-351-3732 ext. 3736

\*Please note that, due to COVID-19, the best way to reach the scholarship coordinator is via email.

Late or incomplete applications cannot be considered.

More information may be obtained by sending an email to Ms. Angela Underhill, the Scholarship Coordinator, [angela.underhill@wchospital.ca](mailto:angela.underhill@wchospital.ca)

### **The Adjudication Process**

The Adjudication Committee operates under the policies of the CTN and CIHR. Its members serve without remuneration. Composed academic and community researchers, the Committee relies heavily on the peer review process. The adjudication favours applicants with high potential who are working with an affiliate investigator of CHIWOS that can channel their potential into broad experience in the formulation and execution of research projects.

All factors are considered, including:

- the applicant's ability, educational background and career plans;
- the proposed program of training and supervision; and
- the research activities to be undertaken.

The Adjudication Committee will rank eligible applicants in each category and assign a final score to their application. The top-ranking applicant for each graduate level will receive the award as outlined in the Amount section of the CHIWOS Scholar Award guidelines. If the full CHIWOS award is not assigned to the top applicant (due to the scholar having additional, internal funding, for example), remaining amounts may be reallocated to the next highest ranking applicant.

### **Privacy Statement**

According to the Privacy Act and the Access to Information Act, applicants must be aware of the use and disclosure of the information contained in their application. This information will not be released without the candidate's consent.

### **Announcements of Winners**

The recipients of the CHIWOS Scholarships will be announced by email in August 2020.