Rehabilitation Science Research Network for COVID
Research Trainee Award
Rehabilitation Sciences Institute

Fund Description

The Rehabilitation Science Research Network for COVID provides funding opportunities for faculty and trainees in the Rehabilitation Sciences Sector at the University of Toronto who are engaged in advancing evidence in COVID-19 rehabilitation research.

The aim of the trainee funding opportunity is to support trainees in the Rehabilitation Sciences Institute demonstrating high academic and research excellence and pursuing COVID rehabilitation research.

Eligibility

MSc or PhD trainees in any year of study who are pursuing COVID-19 rehabilitation research in the Rehabilitation Sciences Institute (RSI) are eligible for this award. Preference will be given to students supervised or co-supervised by a core or status faculty member from one of the following departments: Physical Therapy, Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy, or Speech-Language Pathology and currently holding a graduate faculty membership in RSI.

Preference will be given to research that addresses one or more of the following **priorities**:

- Health and Disability across COVID and Long COVID Illness Trajectories
  - Understanding experiences of episodic disability
  - Assessing episodic disability
- Rehabilitation across COVID and Long COVID Care Continuums
  - Identifying and examining safe approaches to rehabilitation
  - Examining the role, implementation, and impact of models of rehabilitation care
  - Examining access to safe, timely, and appropriate rehabilitation and other health care provider services

Preference will be given to research addressing one or more of the following **populations**:

- Persons with lived experiences of COVID and/or Long COVID and any other concurrent conditions across the lifespan
- Parents, children, partners, and caregivers of persons with COVID and/or Long COVID
- Rehabilitation and other health care providers working with people with COVID and/or Long COVID and other concurrent conditions.

Preference will be given to research using **methods** that:

- Adopt meaningful patient and community (including caregiver) engaged approaches to conceptualization, implementation, and knowledge translation
  - Consideration of Patient Burden, Patient/Partner Governance, and Integration into Research Process as outlined in the [Patient-Led Research Collaborative Scorecards](#)
- Incorporate principles of health, justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion
- Implement diverse methodological approaches
- Engage in multi-stakeholder / inter-professional collaborations
- Engage in international collaborations.
- Build on foundational knowledge, lessons learned, and resources from those with lived experiences and past post-viral research

Application Process

Please email the full application in one merged PDF document to [rsi.admin@utoronto.ca.](mailto:rsi.admin@utoronto.ca) Please include in the file name the **last name** of the trainee and "**trainee award**". Only complete applications that adhere to the submission guidelines will be considered. Full application:

- **Title of Thesis**
- **Name of Trainee**
- **Please indicate degree program** (i.e., MSc or PhD)
- **Name of Supervisor (s)**
  - **University of Toronto Department for Supervisor** (e.g., OSOT, PT, SLP)
  - **Indicate if Supervisor is Core or Status Faculty Member**
- **Lay summary** (100 words)
- **Plan of study** (rationale, objective, methods, impact, and feasibility) [1-page, single spaced, 1-inch margins, minimum 12-point font]
- **Fit of project with research priorities of the Rehabilitation Science Research Network for COVID** (100 words)
- **Updated CV**
- **Unofficial transcripts**

Reference Letters

- 2 confidential letters of reference (sent directly from referee to rsi.busofficer@utoronto.ca)

Term of Award

This award is for one academic year. Trainees can re-apply in subsequent years and, if successful, hold the award for a second year. For trainees applying to hold the award for a second year, please include a 1-page maximum cover letter providing a summary of your progress during the 1st year of holding the award (e.g., research productivity, impact statement of research conducted to date, knowledge translation of research to date).

Application Deadline

May 31, 2024, 5:00pm EDT. Applications are due in the spring every year.

Date Last Revised: Dec 12, 2023

Amount of Award

The awarded amount will vary and will be a portion of the trainee's funding package or a top-up for secured funding. The amount awarded is at the discretion of the review committee.

End of Award Reporting

Please email a one-page final report including a research summary and any presentations, media, publications and/or other awards/grants applied for or awarded in relation to this project [single spaced, 1-inch margins, minimum 11-point font]. The report is due no later than 6 months after the funding end date to rehab.covid@utoronto.ca. In addition, you will be asked to provide yearly updates on any additional outcomes related to this award (e.g., presentations, publications, new grants).

Acknowledgement

All materials including recruitment, consent forms, and dissemination activities (e.g., presentations, publications, media appearances, etc.) must acknowledge the funding source and include the following statement:

"This research was supported by a trainee award from the Rehabilitation Science Research Network for COVID in the Temerty Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto."