

## TRAINEE AWARDS: PROGRAM GUIDELINES

<b>Overview</b>	
<b>Award Value</b>	Master's/PhD awards provide \$18,000/year; PDF awards provide \$40,000/year
<b>Award Duration</b>	One year from September 1, 2021 – August 31, 2022
<b>Themes of interest</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Digital health and remote health monitoring</li> <li>• Health equity for heart failure</li> <li>• Patient and community-participatory approaches to heart failure self-management, well-being and care</li> <li>• User-centered technology design and assessment</li> </ul>
<b>Application deadline</b>	June 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2021 at 5pm EST
<b>Application procedure</b>	Email completed application with all supporting documentation to <a href="mailto:info@transformhf.ca">info@transformhf.ca</a> by the deadline.

### Background

TRANSFORM Heart Failure is an interdisciplinary strategic research network to confront the staggering health, economic, and societal burdens and disparities that exist in access to high-quality heart failure care. New approaches and models of care are needed, with promising indications that technological advances in digital medicine and remote healthcare monitoring will enable proactive, personalized, and decentralized solutions that also empower patients to become more active in their own health.

Our initiative fosters collaboration and integration of various disciplinary research and training approaches: technology innovation and implementation, basic science, heart failure medicine, data analytics and artificial intelligence, health technology assessment, Indigenous health and engagement of people with lived experience. Together, we aim to create both a translational pipeline of innovative approaches and an interdisciplinary community sharing a mindset and commitment to implement these solutions in a respectful and collaborative fashion appropriate to diverse communities and values.

For more information, email [info@transformhf.ca](mailto:info@transformhf.ca)

### Master's, PhD & Postdoctoral Fellowship Awards: Eligibility and Award Value

TRANSFORM HF ISI is accepting applications for Master's, PhD and Postdoctoral (PhD or MD) Fellowship awards. Applicants must:

- Focus on new approaches and models of care to address heart failure, proposing or exploring how technological advances in digital medicine and remote healthcare monitoring might enable proactive, personalized, and decentralized solutions that also empower patients to become more active in their own health.

- Seek to co-create with patient or community partners to arrive at potential solutions that respond to realities of the lived experience in a manner of mutual respect and understanding of all parties involved.
- Have at least two co-supervisors affiliated with the University of Toronto who are members of TRANSFORM HF and represent different disciplines and perspectives.
- Explore these approaches through the lens of basic science, clinical practice, data science and artificial technology, Indigenous health, lived experience, health systems or policy change. More than one lens must be applied, and applicant must focus on the translational aspects of their research activities.
- Applicants cannot hold a TRANSFORM HF award at the same time as another external funding award; Fellows who accept another award at the time of application must declare this award and indicate the end date. Fellows who accept another award concurrent with the TRANSFORM HF award timeframe must advise TRANSFORM HF's director and return remaining funds to TRANSFORM HF.

Awards are provided at two levels: Master's/PhD awards provide \$18,000/year; Postdoctoral awards provide \$40,000/year for trainee salary support. Awards may be renewed once for a second year. Renewal is dependent on progress demonstrated during the first year and continued alignment with TRANSFORM HF ISI's goals.

All winning recipients will also receive enrollment in the First Nations Governance Information Centre's [Fundamentals of OCAP](#) online course as well as the Ontario Cultural Safety Program as part of their award. If a recipient has already completed these programs, additional training of equal value will be supported by TRANSFORM HF, pursuant to approval of the Director.

The number of awards to be funded depends on the quality of applications received.

Funding will begin in September 2021.

## Application requirements

Application forms are available from [info@transformhf.ca](mailto:info@transformhf.ca). All sections must be completed and must adhere to the word limits.

## Inclusion of SGBAR, patients, community and IDEA

### Sex and gender-based analysis and reporting

Applicants are required to integrate sex and gender-based analysis and reporting (SGBAR) in their research design. Any application that does not incorporate SGBA must provide a rationale why it would not be relevant to the project. All applicants must complete appropriate CIHR Institute of Gender and Health training modules: [Online Training Modules](#).

### Patient and community engagement

UHN is committed to engaging patients in their care and in decision-making to improve the quality and safety of care across the hospital<sup>1</sup>. Within TRCHR's own Heart Function and Heart Transplant programs, our Engaging Patients in Care (EPIC) framework articulates a set of guiding principles for this work: respect, support, transparency, responsiveness, fairness of

<sup>1</sup> UHN. UHN Patient Declaration of Values. Available at: [https://intranet.remote.uhn.ca/cvbn/zOQc\\_wu93edVKgEpFI8Y2DG3-8WwSA/departments/patient\\_experience/about/declaration-values.asp](https://intranet.remote.uhn.ca/cvbn/zOQc_wu93edVKgEpFI8Y2DG3-8WwSA/departments/patient_experience/about/declaration-values.asp). Accessed January 21, 2021.

opportunity and accountability<sup>2</sup>. Applicants are required to illustrate how they intend to meaningfully engage patients in their project. Any application that does not engage patients must provide a rationale why it would not be relevant.

#### Inclusion, diversity, equity and accessibility

Applicants must illustrate how their project adheres to and potentially advances TRANSFORM-HF's commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion whether in the composition and training of research team members or the diversity of research design. For more information, consult the [Equity, Diversity and Inclusion resources](#) available through U of T's Office of the Vice-President, Research and Innovation and your institution's Research office.

#### Evaluation Criteria:

Each of the applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

- ❑ **25%** - academic and research excellence of the applicant.
- ❑ **25%** - significance, quality and impact of the project; alignment with the vision and goals of TRANSFORM HF ISI.
- ❑ **15%** - focus on new approaches and models of care to address heart failure, proposing or exploring how technological advances in digital medicine and remote healthcare monitoring might enable proactive, personalized, and decentralized solutions that also empower patients to become more active in their own health.
- ❑ **15%** - evidence of collaboration among diverse disciplines, perspectives and TRANSFORM HF partners in achieving the project.
- ❑ **15%** - appropriate and explicit incorporation of SGBAR, patient and community engagement and equity, diversity and inclusion as appropriate.
- ❑ **5%** - plans/activities for translation and/or commercialization of the research findings.

Applications will be reviewed and adjudicated by a panel comprised of TRANSFORM-HF research investigators, trainee and heart failure patient/caregiver.

#### Application Submission:

Submit your completed application form & associated documents **by June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 5:00 pm EST** as a single PDF document via email to: [info@transformhf.ca](mailto:info@transformhf.ca).

More information and any questions to Anne Simard, Director of Strategy and Translation, at [info@transformhf.ca](mailto:info@transformhf.ca).

Receipt of complete/on-time submissions will be acknowledged. Incomplete or late applications will not be accepted.

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<sup>2</sup> Macklin J, Djihanian N, Killackey T, Maclver J. Engaging Patients in Care (EPIC): A Framework for Heart Function and Heart Transplant-specific Patient Engagement. Can J Cardiol Open 1 (2019): 43-46. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cico.2019.01.002>.