TRAINEE AWARDS: PROGRAM GUIDELINES

OVERVIEW

| Award Value          | Master’s/PhD awards provide $18,000/year  
|                      | Postdoctoral awards provide $40,000/year |
| Award Duration       | One year from September 1, 2022 – August 31, 2023 |
| Eligibility          | Trainee must be a University of Toronto student at the undergraduate, graduate, or post-doctoral level. Trainee must be co-supervised by two members of TRANSFORM HF who provide different disciplines and perspectives. Applicants cannot hold a TRANSFORM HF award at the same time as another external funding. |
| Areas of Focus       | Address inequity in heart failure care and improve the lived experience of heart failure through research centered on:  
|                      | • Inclusion, diversity, accessibility, and health equity  
|                      | • Digital health: Remote monitoring and consultation  
|                      | • Digital health: Wearables and remote diagnostic sensors  
|                      | • Co-creation and ideation: Patient and community-based participatory approaches to advancing heart failure self-management, well-being, and models of care  
|                      | • Co-creation and ideation: User-centered technology design and assessment  
|                      | • Machine learning and Artificial Intelligence |
| Application Deadline | March 11, 2022 at 5pm EST |
| Application Submission | Email completed application with all supporting documentation to info@transformhf.ca by the deadline. |

BACKGROUND

TRANSFORM HF is an Institutional Strategic Initiative formed in partnership between the University of Toronto and the Ted Rogers Centre for Heart Research to address the grand challenge of inequity in heart failure (HF) care. The initiative’s ultimate goal is to enable patients to become more active in their own health and change the lived experience of HF care. TRANSFORM HF is committed to co-creating and implementing new approaches and models of care to enable proactive, personalized, and decentralized solutions, with technological advances in digital health at the forefront.
Consult the TRANSFORM HF website for more information and to view past Trainee Award recipients.

ELIGIBILITY AND AWARD VALUE

TRANSFORM HF is accepting applications from University of Toronto Master’s, PhD, and Postdoctoral (PhD or MD) students for Trainee Awards. Applicants must:

- Focus on new approaches and models of care to address heart failure and inequities in care, proposing or exploring how technological advances in digital health (remote monitoring and consultation; wearables and remote diagnostic sensors/testing), machine learning, and AI might enable proactive, personalized, and decentralized solutions that 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. Applicants must demonstrate how their research will integrate principles of inclusion, diversity, accessibility, and health equity.
- Explore these approaches through the lenses 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 applicants must focus on the translational aspects of their research activities.

Awards are offered 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’s goals.

Trainees must be co-supervised by two TRANSFORM HF members from two different disciplines (e.g., engineering and medicine).

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 of Strategy and Translation and return remaining funds to TRANSFORM HF.

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. The intention is to fund at least one award at each level: Master’s, PhD, and Postdoctoral.

Funding will begin in September 2022 and terminate in August 2023.
APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Application forms are available from the TRANSFORM HF website or upon request from info@transform.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 project or research design. Any application that does not incorporate SGBAR must provide a rationale why it would not be relevant to the project. All successful applicants must complete appropriate CIHR Institute of Gender and Health training modules: Online Training Modules.

Patient and community engagement

TRANSFORM HF is committed to engaging patients in their care and in decision-making to improve the quality and safety of care across the hospital. 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.

Community-oriented initiatives must ensure community engagement in the planning, delivery and evaluation of health programs and technologies. Initiatives with Indigenous organizations and communities must develop meaningful relationships, ensuring a sense of accountability and reflexive allyship, and “an ability to step aside and allow Indigenous people to lead.”

Inclusion, diversity, accessibility, and health equity

Applicants must illustrate how their project will align with and potentially advance TRANSFORM HF’s commitment to inclusion, diversity, accessibility, and health equity, whether in the composition of the research team, EDI training of research team members, or the considerations of EDI in research/project design. For more information, consult the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion resources available through the University of Toronto’s Office of the Vice-President, Research and Innovation.

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.

15% Focus on new approaches and models of care to address heart failure and inequities in care, proposing or exploring how technological advances in digital health (remote monitoring and consultation; wearables and remote diagnostic sensors/testing), machine learning, and AI might enable proactive, personalized, and decentralized solutions that 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 through research team, project design, and/or translation plan.

15% Appropriate and explicit incorporation of SGBA; patient and community engagement; and inclusion, diversity, accessibility, and health equity 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, trainees, and heart failure patient/caregivers.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Submit your completed application form and associated documents by March 11, 2022 at 5:00 pm EST as a single PDF document via email to: info@transformhf.ca.

Please address any questions or requests for more information to Anne Simard, Director of Strategy and Translation, at info@transformhf.ca.

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

Applicants will be notified of their status in April 2022.