



UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA
HEART INSTITUTE
INSTITUT DE CARDIOLOGIE
DE L'UNIVERSITÉ D'OTTAWA

Endowed Fellowships and Scholarships Call for Applications 2021-22



uOttawa

The University of Ottawa Heart Institute (UOHI) is pleased to launch the 2021-22 Call for Applications for Endowed Fellowships and Scholarships. In alignment with the ORACLE 2.0/2.5 strategic plan, we continue to implement enhancements to the program to better support postdoctoral and research-intensive clinical fellows. We thank our donors, the UOHI Foundation, and the University of Ottawa's Faculty of Medicine for making this effort possible.

Timelines

July 8, 2021 – Notice of Intent deadline

July 29, 2021 – Application deadline

September 2021 – Notification of results

September 1, 2021 – Award start date

HIGHLIGHTS

For the Strategic Research Fellowship only:

- ❖ We continue to maintain an increased number of Strategic Fellowships, dependent on the peer review assessment and funds availability.
- ❖ A priority area in this round is for proposals aimed to advance the goals of an ORACLE 2 Innovation Hub, including advancing precision medicine for cardiovascular health.
- ❖ Continuing priority includes support for senior Postdoctoral Fellows (years 3+) with highly productive track records in their PhD and postdoctoral training to date and in the final stages of training towards independence.

*Dr. Robert Stelmack Memorial Award **NEW***

- ❖ The Dr. Robert Michael Stelmack Memorial Award is a top-up (not full stipend/salary) award to support the highest-ranked applicant in the Endowed Fellowship/Scholarship 2021-22 competition undertaking heart-brain research.

HOW TO APPLY

Submit your application through the UOHI submission portal: <https://uottawaheart-apply.smapply.io>.

Note re portal access: The portal is now on a new and improved platform by the same provider.

- 1) If you had a profile in the previous UOHI 'FluidReview' platform, the same log-in will work in the new portal. If you forget your password, you can re-set.
- 2) If you didn't have a profile in 'FluidReview', please set up a profile in the new portal <https://uottawaheart-apply.smapply.io> and select a password of your choice.

ELIGIBILITY SUMMARY

	Supervisor holding primary appointment with the Division of Cardiology	Postdoctoral Fellow	Clinical Fellow (minimum 50% research time)	Graduate Student	Travel to another centre (a portion of the full award duration)
Strategic Fellowships (up to 2-3 awards available)	Not required	✓ Priority given to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects supporting Innovation Hubs • Projects that will advance precision medicine for cardiovascular health • Incoming/new Fellows with 75% research time • Senior Postdoctoral Fellows (years 3+) 		Not eligible	✓
Division of Cardiology Fellowship (3 awards available): 1) Ford Fellowship 2) Vered-Beanlands Fellowship 3) Kaufman-Chan Fellowship in Cardiac Imaging (The Tucker Fellowship is being held until June 2022.)	Required	✓	✓	Not eligible	✓
University of Ottawa Cardiac Endowment Fund at the Heart Institute (2-3 awards available)	Not required	✓	Not eligible	✓	Not eligible
Dr. Robert Stelmack Top-up Award <i>NEW</i>	Not required	✓	✓	✓	Not eligible

1. Description

A key goal of the [ORACLE 2.0 Strategic Plan](#) (ORACLE stands for **O**ttawa **R**egion for **A**dvanced **C**ardiovascular Research **E**xcellence), now incorporated into ORACLE 2.5, is to recruit the highest caliber trainees into our Innovation Hubs and priority research areas, with a specific focus on very high caliber Postdoctoral Fellows as well as research-focused clinical fellows. A priority area of the ORACLE 2.5 is to advance precision medicine for cardiovascular health. The UOHI Endowed Fellowships and Scholarships program serves as a tool to implement this strategy, to provide funding to recruit and retain high caliber talents to deliver on the goals of ORACLE 2.0/2.5.

2. General Eligibility Requirements

- Applicants must be supervised by a scientist/investigator with a primary appointment with the UOHI and be based at the UOHI.
- Graduate Students applying to the uOttawa award stream must be registered full-time with the University of Ottawa's Faculty of Medicine.
- Candidates are not eligible to apply for an Endowed Fellowship/Scholarship if they are currently holding major funding from any external source.
- Candidates who have previously held any internal Endowed Fellowship or Scholarship are not eligible to apply for another award.
- In the case of a new Fellow recruit to the Institute, the successful applicant must take up his/her position within three months of the notification of results.
- During the term of an Endowed Fellowship or Scholarship, if an awardee receives an external award, they will be eligible only for a top-up amount as long as the external award is active. The top-up amount is the difference between the external award and the Endowed Fellowship/Scholarship and applies only in the case of the external award being of a lesser amount.
- An applicant's research theme(s) can be in any of the four CIHR health research themes: biomedical; clinical; health systems/services; social, cultural, environmental and population health.

3. Specific Eligibility Requirements and Priority Areas:

a. Strategic Research Endowed Fellowship

The Strategic Research Fellowship is aimed at supporting a wide range of cutting-edge cardiovascular research that aligns with, and will help advance the goals of, the UOHI-led [ORACLE 2 Strategic Plan](#). A major goal of the ORACLE 2 strategy (2018-2024) is to recruit the highest caliber trainees to enable the goals of the [Innovation Hubs](#).

For the 2021-22 competition, funding priority for the Strategic Research Fellowship stream, dependent on the peer review assessment and funds availability, is for Postdoctoral Fellows and Clinical Research Fellows who are:

- 1) Working on a project that will enable the goals of an ORACLE 2.0/2.5 Innovation Hub, including

advancing precision medicine for cardiovascular health. The project must be supervised by an Innovation Hub member.

- 2) Senior Postdoctoral Fellows (years 3+) with highly productive track records in their PhD and postdoctoral training to date and in the final stages of training towards independence. Typically, they will have already held an external fellowship (e.g., CIHR or Heart & Stroke Foundation Fellowship). This support to senior Postdoctoral Fellows assists our research teams in reaching their goals, while supporting the new generation of researchers and boosting the reputation of the Institute with successful UOHI alumni researchers across the world. Funding can be provided up to year 7 of the postdoctoral tenure (post PhD training), in alignment with UOHI policy 8-220.
- 3) New recruits (Canadian or international) whose research is expected to have a global impact.

Postdoctoral and Clinical Fellows are eligible to apply:

- Applicants must spend at least 75% of their time doing research.

b. Division of Cardiology Endowed Research Fellowships

- Applicants must be supervised by a scientist/investigator who holds a *primary appointment* with the UOHI's *Division of Cardiology*.
- Postdoctoral and Clinical Fellows are eligible to apply.
- Applicants must spend at least 50% of their time doing research.
- For details regarding travel request to another centre to acquire advanced skills as portion of the full award duration (see section 4 below).

c. University of Ottawa Cardiac Research Endowed Fellowships and Scholarships at the Heart Institute

- Postdoctoral Fellows working or proposing to work with a scientist/investigator who holds a primary appointment within the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Ottawa are eligible.
- ***Postdoctoral Fellows must be registered with the University of Ottawa.***
- Graduate Students registered full-time in their program of study within the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Ottawa are eligible to apply.

d. Dr. Robert Stelmack Memorial Award

The purpose of this award, in alignment with the donor's wishes, is to incentivize the priority area of heart-brain research at UOHI. This top-up award will be given to the highest-ranked applicant in the Endowed Fellowship/Scholarship 2021-22 competition (any stream) undertaking heart-brain research. Fellows and Graduate Students supervised by a researcher with a primary appointment with, and based at, UOHI are eligible for this award.

e. Eligibility to Request Travel to Another Centre to Acquire Advanced Skills

The Strategic Fellowship and the Division of Cardiology Fellowships now support proposals that include travel to another centre to acquire new, advanced skills.

Only one award with a travel component is available in each year.

To be eligible:

- Incoming Postdoctoral Fellows (who are not yet at the UOHI at the time of the application) will be eligible to travel to another centre after completing at least the first year of a two-year award.
- Clinical Fellows must already be working with a scientist/investigator at the UOHI at the time of the launch of this Call for Applications.

Fellows who currently hold an Endowed Fellowship and wish to travel to another centre to acquire new, advanced skills during the remaining time of their award are required to submit a new application—see section 5 for details on how to apply.

4. Award Information and Terms

The award start date will be September 1, 2021. The award term is two years except where noted.

The annual award amount for all Endowed Fellowships is \$58,000 which is inclusive of salary (\$50,000) and benefits (\$8,00).

The annual stipend for a Scholarship is \$20,000 (no benefits).

The Dr. Robert Stelmack Memorial Award is a top-up (not full stipend/salary) award added to the total annual award for endowed fellowships and scholarships. The annual top-up amount is \$4,000 for a Fellowship and \$2,000 for a Scholarship.

Conditions of award will include maintaining eligibility criteria (see sections 2 & 3), the production of a satisfactory progress report (see below), proof of application for an external award, and presenting once a year at the UOHI Work-in-Progress Rounds during the award term. For the University of Ottawa Cardiac Endowment Fund at the Heart Institute, proof of postdoctoral registration with the Faculty of Medicine will be required.

An annual progress report to ResearchServices@ottawaheart.ca is required for review by the Selection Committee. For the Strategic Research and Division of Cardiology Fellowships, the progress reports will be shared with the UOHI Foundation and the donors; for the University of Ottawa Cardiac Research Endowed Fellowships and Scholarships, the progress reports will be shared with the Faculty of Medicine and the anonymous donor. The due date for the progress report will be stipulated in the award letter.

“Travel” Fellowship

The duration of a ‘travel’ fellowship may be a portion or the whole of a two-year award. For Clinical Fellows, during the ‘travel’ portion, the award will be paid out as a stipend (not a salary and without benefits).

Strategic Research Fellowship

A number of Strategic Research Fellowships is on offer this year, dependent on the peer review assessment and availability of funding. These fellowships are intended for exceptionally high-caliber Postdoctoral Fellows and research-intensive Clinical Fellows.

Division of Cardiology Fellowships

Funds are available for three Endowed Fellowships in cardiology research: 1) Ford Fellowship; 2) Vered-Beanlands Fellowship; and 3) Kaufman-Chan Fellowship in Cardiac Imaging.

The Whit and Heather Tucker Fellowship is held by the current incumbent until June 30, 2022.

University of Ottawa Cardiac Research Endowed Fellowships and Scholarships at the Heart Institute

Funds are expected to support one Postdoctoral Fellowship and/or one or more Scholarships.

5. How to Apply

Send a Notice of Intent to ResearchServices@ottawaheart.ca by **JULY 8, 2021**. Include the following info in your NOI: name of the applicant; position (Postdoctoral Fellow; Clinical Fellow; or Graduate Student); and name of the supervisor.

The application is due by **JULY 29, 2021**. Please apply through the UOHI submission portal: <https://uottawaheart-apply.smapply.io>.

Note re portal access: The portal is now on a new and improved platform by the same provider.

- 1) If you had a profile in the previous UOHI 'FluidReview' platform, the same log-in profile will work in the new portal. If you forget your password, you can re-set.
- 2) If you didn't have a profile in the previous UOHI 'FluidReview' platform, please set up a profile in the new portal <https://uottawaheart-apply.smapply.io> and select a password of your choice.

Applicants are required to provide the following in the application package:

- **Proposal** (2-page limit): A description of the research including background, hypotheses, methodologies, sex and gender considerations as appropriate (see Appendix – UOHI Checklist for Sex- and Gender-based Research), anticipated outcomes and clinical relevance.
- **References:** not counted toward the proposal page limit
- **Training expectations** (1-page limit):
 - Provide an overview of how your previous research training, and/or experience outside of academia, relates to the present proposal (i.e., how previous experience will benefit current/upcoming postdoctoral/graduate work), and elaborate on your career goals, including how this may have been informed by careful career planning using tools such as [CIHR Individual Development Plan](#).
 - Describe how the training to be acquired will contribute to your productivity and research goals you hope to achieve.

- Indicate why you decided upon the proposed training location and what you expect to learn from the training experience.
- **A letter by the Primary Supervisor** (1-page limit) to include: i) recommendation of the candidate (half a page; and ii) grant funding and resources available to support the proposed project; the supervisor's mentorship and supervisory experience; a training plan for the applicant (half a page).
For Clinical Fellows only: Include in the supervisor's letter confirmation of the percentage of time the Fellow will have for research;
- **CV of the applicant** – include the following sections: i) Academic & Training Background; ii) Awards & Other Honours; iii) Publications.

For applicants requesting a 'travel' Fellowship, include:

- in the proposal, a description of the work that will be done during the 'travel' portion;
- in the Primary Supervisor letter, a nomination for a 'travel' fellowship;
- a separate nomination letter for a 'travel' Fellowship by the Division Chief;
- a letter by, and a CV of, the Supervisor at the other centre.

**It is the responsibility of the applicants to ensure that all required documentation and information are provided.*

6. Review Criteria and Process

A Selection Committee will be convened to review all the applications submitted. Conflict of interest rules will apply. A member of Research Services will be present at the review meeting.

The applications will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Academic/Scientific achievement and track record;
- Quality of the applicant's proposed research project;
- Applicant's plans;
- Evidence that the candidate exhibits the skills or aptitude to learn the skills required to carry out the proposed research;
- Training environment;
- Applicants must display significant promise for future excellence in cardiac research;
- Strategic Fellowship only: alignment with ORACLE priority areas for 2021-22.

The composition of the Review Committee will include:

- UOHI Chief Scientific Officer/VP Research or delegate, Chair
- A representative of UOHI Basic Science Researchers (may be the same as one of the members listed below)
- A representative of UOHI Clinical, Population Health and Health Services Researchers (may be the same as one of the members listed below)

For the Division of Cardiology Fellowships stream:

- Chief of the Division of Cardiology or delegate, Co-Chair
- Director of Research, Division of Cardiology or delegate
- Director of Education, Division of Cardiology or delegate
- A representative from the various sections of the Division of Cardiology (e.g., Interventional Cardiology; Electrophysiology; Imaging; Heart Failure)

For the uOttawa Cardiac Endowment Fund stream:

- Dean of uOttawa Faculty of Medicine or delegate, Co-Chair
- Additional members with Faculty appointment

For queries, please contact:

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