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ABOUT ARTHRITIS ALLIANCE OF CANADA (AAC)

The Arthritis Alliance of Canada was formed in 2002 to improve the lives of individuals living with arthritis, including patients, voluntary associations, healthcare providers, researchers and clinicians, government and industry. While each member organization continues its own work, the Alliance provides a central focus for national arthritis-related initiatives. For more information, please visit www.arthritisalliance.ca.

OUR RESEARCH PRIORITY AREAS

In 2012, the AAC launched "[Joint Action on Arthritis: A Framework to Improve Arthritis Prevention and Care in Canada](#)". The framework establishes research priorities and strategies, suggests prevention strategies, identifies principles to guide the design and delivery of care, and calls on the arthritis community to work collectively to drive dramatic improvements in arthritis prevention and care to mitigate the growing burden of arthritis. The research priorities align and strengthen arthritis research in Canada. Specifically, our goal is to:

- Promote increased funding for arthritis research
- Build capacity in arthritis research and innovation (e.g. increase trainees, involve people living with arthritis in arthritis research, partnerships and linkages);
- Facilitate and support initiatives that harmonize and strengthen research infrastructure and enhance networking to foster collaborations (e.g. optimize use of databases, create new platforms and infrastructure) and partnerships;
- Promote knowledge translation and exchange (KTE) to ensure that research findings are implemented and lead to improved health outcomes. For instance, it is highly desirable to involve stakeholders in KT co-creation and co-interpretation, and support with dissemination and evaluation where appropriate.
- Support and facilitate patient participation/engagement in arthritis research.

RESEARCH AWARDS PROGRAM: RECOGNIZING CONTRIBUTIONS IN ARTHRITIS RESEARCH

Welcome to the Arthritis Alliance of Canada Research Awards Program!

The AAC Research Awards program recognizes high quality research nationally in AAC priority areas. This recognition is intended to:

- 1) Formally acknowledge the outstanding contributions of scientists and patient partners.
- 2) Help researchers compete for and participate in national grants and programs in arthritis research.
And;
- 3) Provide opportunities to highlight arthritis research in communications.

AWARD CATEGORIES

The AAC Research Award program includes eight awards categories, with one award per category valued at \$750 CAD/award.

Award Categories

Trainees: These awards recognize trainees who demonstrate genuine enthusiasm and curiosity towards arthritis research and create new opportunities for them to continue research in arthritis. Preference will be given to trainees who do not have other competitions to apply for awards.

1. **Master's Student.** Student enrolled in Master's programs who have identified a high quality research question in arthritis with the potential to have a high impact.
2. **PhD Student.** Students enrolled in PhD programs who demonstrate a commitment towards research in arthritis, and who have identified a high quality research question in arthritis with the potential to have a high impact.
3. **Post-Doctoral Fellow.** Post-Doctoral fellow who is committed to the field of arthritis, with a particular interest in a specific research area and a defined research program with the potential to have a high impact.

Early Career Researchers/Investigators: These awards recognize early career researchers and investigators who have an ongoing commitment to research in arthritis and whose research program demonstrates the potential to address knowledge gaps and meaningfully impact the lives of Canadians living with arthritis.

4. **Early Career Researcher/Early Career Faculty Member/Investigator: *Basic/Clinical Science.*** Early career researchers/faculty members/investigators who conduct basic and clinical science/research in arthritis in Canada.
5. **Early Career Researcher/Early Career Faculty Member/Investigator: *Health Science/Population Health.*** Early career researchers/faculty members/investigators who conduct research in Canada to address determinants, interventions, outcomes, and policies to improve population health and reduce health disparities in arthritis.
6. **Knowledge Translation (KT) research (open to all investigators, all career levels).** Researchers in Canada who advance robust scientific methods underpinned by theories, models, and frameworks to improve the impact of transforming arthritis research into practice.
7. **Knowledge Translation (KT) practice (open to all investigators, all career levels).** Researchers who applying KT practice to target and tailor arthritis information (main messages or key implications) and transmit it to specific Canadian audiences to increase the application and uptake of evidence and bridge research-practice gaps.
8. **Patient for Active Engagement in Arthritis Research:** This award recognizes people living with arthritis who are meaningfully engaged and actively collaborate in the governance, priority setting, conduct, dissemination and/or application of arthritis research in Canada.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

For all awards, the applicants must:

- Work in a research area relevant to the research priorities of the AAC identified above.
- Conduct their research in Canada.
- Demonstrate interest in and enthusiasm about research in arthritis.

Trainees (Master's, PhD and Post-Doctoral Fellow)

- Applicants must be currently enrolled in a training program in a Canadian institution **or** within **six (6) months of graduation**.
- Priority will be given to applicants who are not eligible for similar training awards (e.g., non-physician trainees).

Early Career Researchers

- Applicants must be within the **first five years** of faculty appointment as a faculty member/independent researcher.

Knowledge Translation

- Applicants must have made significant contributions to KT research (science) or KT (practice)-dissemination and implementation activities in arthritis.

Patient for Active Engagement in Arthritis Research

- Applicants must be people living with arthritis who have been actively engaged in arthritis research or activities for a minimum of **2 years**.

Please refer to a definition of each of the Award categories above.

HOW TO APPLY

- **Full applications** must be submitted to lgazizova@arthritisalliance.ca by email to the AAC office by **Friday, May 31st, 2019 (midnight EDT)**.
- A CONFIRMATION OF RECEIPT email will be sent within 48 hours of the application submission. If you do not receive a CONFIRMATION OF RECEIPT email, please contact lgazizova@arthritisalliance.ca to ensure that your application was received. We appreciate your assistance with this process.
- Applicants will be notified on the results of the award program via email by **Friday, November 1st, 2019**. Awards will be presented to the recipients on **Friday, November 29th, 2019** at the **AAC Annual Meeting Special Award Ceremony in Toronto, Ontario**. Travel and accommodation will be arranged for the award recipients to attend the event; the costs will be covered by the AAC.

ALL APPLICATIONS MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

For Trainees (Master's, PhD, Post-Doctoral Fellow), Early Career Researchers and Knowledge Translation categories:

1. A completed application form, signed and dated, available at: <http://arthritisalliance.ca/en/research-awards-program-deadlines>
2. A Canadian Common CV (Academic)
3. A 1-page narrative letter that describes interest and enthusiasm for arthritis research, and relevant contributions and/or activities, outcomes, publications, reports, conference presentations, etc.
4. A 1-page description of a research project summarizing the following:
 - a) The gap in arthritis knowledge;
 - b) How your research will address this gap; and
 - c) How the results of the research could lead to improving the lives of Canadians living with arthritis.

*****Please note:** *Your narrative letter and description of a research project (1-page maximum/per each document), must be written in Times New Roman, 12-point font with 2.0 cm of margins.*

5. A letter of support from supervisor.

For Patients:

1. A completed application form signed and dated, available at: <http://arthritisalliance.ca/en/research-awards-program-deadlines>
2. A 1-page narrative letter that describes your involvement in arthritis research (projects, activities, outcomes, publications, reports, speaker engagements, conference presentation, etc.)
3. **Two (2)** letters of support.

*****Please note:** Your narrative letter and letters of support must be written in Times New Roman, 12-point font with 2.0 cm of margins.

REVIEW AND EVALUATION PROCESS

Applications will be reviewed by the AAC Research Award Review Committee which consists of 10-15 arthritis stakeholder members (including people living with arthritis) with expertise in arthritis research, health services and policy, population and public health, knowledge translation science and activities.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The AAC Research Award Review Committee will review and score the applications based on these criteria. Scoring of applications is done individually by each scientific expert and scores are added together to determine the final ranking of each application.

Master's, PhD Students and Post-Doctoral Fellows; Early Career and Knowledge Translation Researchers:

- 1) **Clarity of research description:** whether the application is written in a coherent, logical, clear and professional manner.
- 2) **Quality of the research question:** whether the research question identifies a gap in current arthritis care cascade, policy or research.
- 3) **Significance of the research project to arthritis research and care:** the degree to which the research project contributes to fill the gaps, ultimately aiming at improving the lives of Canadians living with arthritis.
- 4) **Engagement of appropriate stakeholders:** whether the research project engages or plans to engage appropriate stakeholders (i.e. people living with arthritis/families) in the research process.

Patient for active engagement in arthritis research:

- 1) **Efforts in arthritis research and advocacy in Canada:** whether efforts put into the research projects/activities that the patient initiated/was engaged in, have contributed to increasing awareness, driving changes in research, healthcare system and health policy.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE RESEARCH AWARDS

The administration of all awards is the responsibility of the Arthritis Alliance of Canada (AAC) with the aid and advice of the Research Committee, Board of Directors and Membership. Advisors are selected for their knowledge within their chosen fields and for their recognized accomplishments in research. The payment of awards approved by the AAC Board for support of these programs is contingent upon the availability of the necessary funds. All awards are made in Canadian dollars.

A CONFIRMATION OF RECEIPT email will be sent within 48 hours of the application submission. If a CONFIRMATION OF RECEIPT email is NOT received, the onus is on the individual submitting the application to follow-up with AAC office (lgazizova@arthritisalliance.ca) to ensure that the application was received. We want to ensure that all applications submitted are received; we appreciate your assistance with this process.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN THIS PROGRAM!