

## Collaborative Research Grant Initiative: Mental Wellness in Seniors and Persons with Disabilities

### CRGI STUDENTSHIP GUIDELINES

#### BACKGROUND

The former Alberta Mental Health Board (now Alberta Health Services) was granted \$3M in funding from the Ministry of Seniors and Community Supports to advance applied research activity in mental health within areas of interest to their Ministry. The grant funds the Collaborative Research Grant Initiative (CRGI): Mental Wellness in Seniors and Persons with Disabilities, where the focus will be on collaboratively generating knowledge to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the programs, services, and support to respond to the mental health needs of seniors and adults with disabilities.

#### OBJECTIVES

The specific objectives of this award are to:

- support full-time Master's-level students to undertake training in research related to the mental health of seniors or persons with disabilities, and
- to build research capacity across Alberta to address mental health issues among seniors and persons with disabilities.

#### TERM AND AMOUNT OF AWARD

The CRGI Studentship consists of a stipend and a research allowance. Students may be funded for a maximum of 3 years at \$21,500 per annum (\$20,000 stipend; \$1,500 allowance).

#### ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must meet the following criteria in order to be eligible for a CRGI Studentship:

- The applicant must be a full-time student;
- The applicant has been accepted into, or is currently studying in, a Master's-level graduate program at an Alberta-based university;
- The applicant's focus of study relates to the mental health of seniors and/or persons with disabilities; and
- The applicant resides in Alberta.

#### START DATE

The award is to be implemented on or before September 1, 2010.

#### SUPERVISOR

A faculty supervisor possessing both a record of productive health-oriented research and sufficient resources to ensure the satisfactory conduct of the research must sponsor the applicant. He/she must provide direct supervision.

## RESEARCH ALLOWANCE

The research allowance will be administered by Alberta Health Services. To access the allowance, invoices must be sent to Alberta Health Services for allowable expenses. Approved uses of the research allowance include:

- the purchase of scientific materials, supplies and expendables,
- the purchase of minor equipment (note: the policies of the host institution with respect to ownership of equipment will apply to equipment bought with these funds),
- computer software programs,
- costs for the use of libraries, or computers,
- costs associated with the publication of research results,
- travel expenses to attend scientific meetings,
- purchase of books, periodicals and journals.

## SUPPLEMENTAL INCOME

Students may receive up to 40% of the value of their CRGI award from any single external agency. Supplemental income is NOT additive; as long as the value of any **single** award does not exceed 40% of their CRGI awards, students may receive an unlimited number of awards.

## UNEXPENDED FUNDS

Unexpended funds must be returned to AHS upon expiry of the term of the award or should the funding be terminated.

## TERMINATION OF FUNDING

AHS reserves the right to terminate any award if the terms and conditions of the award are not met, or if there is evidence of unsatisfactory progress or inappropriate academic behaviour. AHS reserves the right to disqualify applicants from future competitions should funding be terminated.

## CHANGES TO STUDENTSHIP

If a student is considering any changes to their studentship, or has any change in circumstance that will affect their studentship, (e.g. change of research topic, transfer from full to part-time study, if a period of suspension is required due to illness or other problems), the student and their University must inform and seek approval from AHS.

## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Application form (see below for URL)
- University documentation of acceptance into graduate program
- University transcript
- Two letters of reference from academic researchers
- List of supervisor's published papers
- Statement of research interests/ research proposal:
  - Length: 4 pages maximum
  - Format: Double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font
  - Instructions: It should include a brief account of the applicant's academic history and what in particular has interested him/her to undertake research

in this area. The proposal should set out the area of study he/she proposes to work in and the research he/she intends to do. Research must relate to the mental health of seniors or persons with disabilities<sup>1</sup>. It is understood that the proposal at this stage will be provisional, but it should show that the applicant knows something about the field, has started on the relevant reading, and has a sense of the interesting research questions and problems likely to be faced, and of the methodology proposed.

- References: Please include no more than five references.

## **APPLICATION PROCESS**

The CRGI Studentships application form is available for download at [http://www.mentalhealthresearch.ca/KeyInitiatives/ResearchGrants/Seniors\\_PwD/Pages/Studentships.aspx](http://www.mentalhealthresearch.ca/KeyInitiatives/ResearchGrants/Seniors_PwD/Pages/Studentships.aspx).

All sections must be completed. Please submit your application form and all appendices by email (in MS Word or PDF) as well as four hard copies to:

Corrina Pasarica  
Administrative Assistant, Knowledge & Strategy  
Alberta Health Services  
Edmonton General  
8th Floor, R Wing  
11111 Jasper Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5K 0L4  
Email: [corrina.pasarica@albertahealthservices.ca](mailto:corrina.pasarica@albertahealthservices.ca)

## **DEADLINE**

The deadline for submitting applications is July 1, 2010. Late submissions will not be considered.

## **REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS**

Applications for the CRGI Studentships will be reviewed by a Studentship Review Panel for merit and feasibility. The Panel will be comprised of external experts, chosen for their expertise in the area of mental health and their methodological expertise. Applications will be reviewed in terms of the following criteria:

- Strength of the applicant (e.g., academic performance, letters of reference)
- Relevance of the proposed research to the CRGI
- Strength of the student's supervisor and research department
- Work/volunteer experience

All applicants will receive a letter no later than August 1, 2010, notifying them of the competition results.

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<sup>1</sup> The Ministry provides services/supports to both seniors and adults with various disabilities. Disability types include: developmental disabilities, severe physical and/or mental disabilities, brain injury, and others. For more information please visit the Ministry's website: [www.seniors.gov.ab.ca](http://www.seniors.gov.ab.ca)

## **REPORTING**

Award recipients will be required to submit annual reports and a final report (templates will be provided). The student may be required to submit progress updates from time to time at the request of the CRGI Project Steering Committee.

Portions of the report(s) or summaries may be made publicly available through the Research Partnership Program website, [www.mentalhealthresearch.ca](http://www.mentalhealthresearch.ca), as well as through other formats deemed appropriate by Alberta Health Services and/or the Ministry of Seniors and Community Supports.

## **COMMUNICATIONS / ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

All investigators are required to acknowledge AHS and the Ministry of Seniors and Community Supports in all reports, publications, presentations, materials and other media arising from grants provided or administered through the Collaborative Research Grant Initiative. This should be done by inclusion of the following statement: "This research was funded in part by a Collaborative Research Grant Initiative Studentship from Alberta Health Services and Alberta Seniors and Community Supports"

The Alberta Addiction and Mental Health Research Partnership Program logo as well as the AHS logo should be included in printed or electronic materials relating to research funded through the Collaborative Research Grant Initiative, including presentations, non-refereed publications, news releases, signage, websites, advertising, promotional materials, etc.

Investigators must inform the AHS communications staff in advance if their research will be published in a major journal, including press releases, media events or formal engagement of the print media. Investigators may, from time to time, be asked to participate in AHS-generated media work, interviews, or public events.

AHS reserves the right to publish and/or disseminate information regarding its grants and awards.

## **QUESTIONS OR ASSISTANCE**

If you have any questions or concerns and would like to speak with someone at Alberta Health Services, please contact Corrina Pasarica at 780-342-8820 or [corrina.pasarica@albertahealthservices.ca](mailto:corrina.pasarica@albertahealthservices.ca).