



Canadian Venous Thromboembolism
Research Network

Research Training Awards

Fall 2024 Fellowship Competition Application Instructions

APPLICATION FORM

Application Deadline: **Monday January 20, 2025**

Purpose of the Fellowship Awards Program

The Canadian Venous Thromboembolism Research Network (**CanVECTOR**) is a pan-Canadian, patient-oriented Community Development Program centered on Venous Thromboembolism-related research, training, and knowledge translation. Our mission is to decrease the health, social and economic burden of venous thromboembolism (VTE) on affected individuals, their families, and on Canadians as a whole.

The purpose of the **CanVECTOR Research Training Awards** is to provide financial support for highly qualified, promising trainees or fellows to allow them to pursue research training in thromboembolism at a Canadian centre. The area of training must: 1) align with CanVECTOR priorities, 2) be research focused, and 3) be supervised by a CanVECTOR member.

Competition Partners

These training awards are available thanks to the generous support of our partners. See our [full list of partners](#).

One Fellowship Award will be granted through a partnership between Thrombosis Canada and CanVECTOR. *Please review eligibility criteria and award details for the [Thrombosis Canada CanVECTOR Research Fellowship](#) before applying.* All applications will be reviewed through the same process. Thank you to [Thrombosis Canada](#) for continuing to partner with CanVECTOR to support this joint fellowship award.

Award Details

CanVECTOR Research Fellowships offer support to candidates who are MDs and aim to become clinician scientists or clinician investigators in venous thromboembolism (VTE). The number of awards granted per year is based on the number of applications received and the availability of partner funding.



CanVECTOR clinician scientist:

- ❖ Is committed to devoting a substantive percent ($\geq 75\%$) of their professional effort to research
- ❖ Has formal training in research methodology (MSc or PhD degree)
- ❖ Develops and leads research projects (assumes the role of principal applicant for grant applications and principal investigator for research execution)

CanVECTOR clinician investigator:

- ❖ Is committed to devoting a portion of their professional effort to research
- ❖ May (or may not) have formal training in research methodology
- ❖ Contributes to the development and conduct of research projects (may participate as a co-applicant for grant applications and co-investigator for research execution)

Amount of the fellowship award: maximum of \$50,000

Term of award: Fellowship awards will be granted for one year. It is expected that the awardee will seek peer-reviewed funding during the first year to support any subsequent years of training (if applicable).

Award renewal: Priority for fellowship awards will be given to new applicants. It is expected that renewal applicants will demonstrate evidence of substantial progress in achieving their research objectives. Applications from trainees who have actively participated in CanVECTOR activities will be viewed favourably.

Clive Kearon Award: In honour of Dr. Clive Kearon, an esteemed thrombosis clinician, researcher, and mentor who served as the inaugural co-lead of CanVECTOR's Clinical Trials & Shared Platforms platform, an additional \$10,000 will be awarded to the top-ranking applicant.

Candidate Eligibility

- Citizenship:** Canadian and International candidates are eligible to apply. Priority will be given to Canadian citizens and Canadian permanent residents.
- Prior education:** Fellowship applicants must have completed an MD degree (or international equivalent) and must be eligible for licensure with the provincial College of Physicians where training will take place. Applicants must have completed residency training within the last 3 years. Persons who already hold a faculty position are not eligible.
- Career focus:** Candidate must be committed to a career with a focus on thromboembolism, including a commitment to ongoing research activity.
- Type of research activities:** Eligible research activities must be in an area related to thromboembolism, and aligned with the [mission and goals of CanVECTOR](#).



- e. **Location of training:** The Fellowship must be completed at a CanVECTOR training site at one of the following Canadian universities: Dalhousie University, McGill University, McMaster University, the University of British Columbia, the University of Ottawa, the University of Toronto, Western University, the University of Calgary, Queen's University, Université de Montréal, Université de Sherbrooke, and Université Laval. Applicants from other training sites are invited to email info@canvector.ca to discuss the connection to CanVECTOR, prior to completing an application.
- f. **Concomitant higher degree:** Fellowship applicants may be enrolled in a higher degree program (MSc or PhD) during the tenure of the fellowship provided they demonstrate that they have sufficient time to also conduct substantive research.
- g. **Supervisor(s):** Must be an established researcher who has agreed to be the Fellow's supervisor and who accepts the conditions of the award as outlined below. At least one of the applicant's supervisors must be a CanVECTOR member.

Fellowship Conditions and Responsibilities

Submission of an application implies acceptance of the following conditions by both the applicant and supervisor(s):

- a. **Protected time:** It is expected that the principal focus and time commitment of the successful candidate will be to further their research experience in thromboembolism. Fellows in the clinician scientist stream must devote at least 75% of their time to research-related activities. Non-research related clinical work or teaching may be done concurrently during the fellowship but should not exceed 25% of their time. Fellows in the clinician investigator stream must devote 25-50% of their time to research-related activities. Preference will be given to candidates with a greater time commitment to research.
- b. **Award administration:** The administration of the award will be through a university department or hospital research department and not sent to the successful candidate directly. The University or Hospital will then issue the funds to the award recipient according to their own procedures and payment schedules. Payment from CanVECTOR to the Fellow's institution will be made within 3 months of award notification, provided that the Fellowship training has begun. For Fellows who have not yet started their Fellowship training, the timing of fund transfers will be coordinated with the receiving institution.
- c. **Top-up:** It is the responsibility of the host university or hospital to ensure that the total stipend that the Fellow receives meets the minimum institutional and provincial funding standards (as applicable). Top-up of the CanVECTOR award by the institution or other internal or external sources is permitted to a maximum of \$100,000 per year. Successful candidates must declare all sources of salary support to the CanVECTOR Training Office. The Clive Kearon Award is not included in the \$100,000 cap.



- d. **Letter of offer:** Upon receiving an award offer, the applicant must notify the CanVECTOR Training Office training@canvector.ca of their decision to accept within 14 days.
- e. **Letter of agreement:** On acceptance of the award, the successful candidate and supervisor will sign a letter agreeing to the Conditions and Responsibilities of the award and submit this to the CanVECTOR Training Office training@canvector.ca within 2 months of the offer.
- f. **Acknowledgment:** Any formal presentation (e.g. poster, oral paper), publication, or thesis resulting from the CanVECTOR *Fellowship Award* must acknowledge the support of CanVECTOR, and a copy of any publications resulting from the fellowship must be sent to the CanVECTOR Training Office. See [CanVECTOR Acknowledgment Policy](#).
- g. **Final report:** A summary of the activities and accomplishments achieved during the *Fellowship* year shall be submitted to the CanVECTOR Training Office within 3 months of the end of the funding year.
- h. **Presentation:** The Fellow will be invited to present a summary of research activities and findings at the CanVECTOR annual conference.
- i. **Ongoing funding:** It is expected that the awardee will seek peer-reviewed funding during the first year to support any subsequent years of training (if applicable).

Components of the Application

Complete the online CanVECTOR Fellowship Award Application Form, including six attachments.

APPLICATION FORM

All PDF attachments: minimum of 12-point font, 2cm (0.79 inch) margins, single spacing

1. **Letter of intent from the applicant** (2 pages maximum)

Headings

- Background preparation
- Specific objectives for the fellowship
- Plans for the research year (*to be based on the specific objectives*)
- Career plans

2. **Summary of proposed research project** (2 pages maximum)

Headings

- Background and rationale
- Research question
- Study design and methods



- Significance and novelty
- Study timeline
- Funding source

describe the source of funding for the research - obtained or applied for - and potential alternatives, if applied-for funding is not successful

3. **Lay summary** (1 page maximum)

Summarize the study in language suitable for a lay audience.

Headings

- Lay title
- Purpose of the research
- Relevance
- Expected results
- General approach
- Uniqueness of the Study

Refer to [A Guide to Writing Lay Summaries](#), prepared by CanVECTOR Patient Partners.

4. **Applicant CV**

5. **Primary supervisor CV**

6. **Letter of support** from the primary supervisor outlining

- The strengths and accomplishments of the candidate
- The research facilities and resources available to the candidate
- The proportion of time the candidate will spend on research, course work, clinical duties, and teaching.

Application Submission

Applications are to be submitted online before the **Application deadline:**

Monday January 20, 2025 - Midnight EST

Inquiries can be addressed to info@canvector.ca.

Selection Process

Fellowship Award applications will be reviewed by scientific reviewers and lay summaries will be reviewed by CanVECTOR Patient Partner reviewers. Final Decisions will be made by the CanVECTOR Training, Mentoring, and Early Career Development co-leads based on applicant ranking (using compiled ratings from all reviewers).



- a. **Scientific reviews** of each submission will use a 10-point rating system that recognizes:
- The qualifications and potential of the **candidate**, including demonstration of a sincere commitment to a career in research or other aspects of academic medicine related to venous thrombosis (**5 points**)
 - The quality of the research **environment and the supervisor** (**2.5 points**)
 - The quality and potential importance of the **proposed research activities**, including relevance to [CanVECTOR's Mission](#) (**2.5 points**)
- b. **Conflicts of interest:** A guideline has been developed to manage actual or perceived, direct or indirect conflicts of interests in the selection process. All reviewers (scientific and patient partner) will disclose any previous relationships or collaborations with the applicants or their supervisors. The Training Platform co-leads will review all disclosures.
- c. **Patient Partners:** The CanVECTOR Patient Partner Council will review lay summaries from each application and will provide rankings and comments to the Training Platform co-leads. Constructive comments may be given to applicants to develop their lay summary writing.

Application Checklist

Please check that each of the items below is completed (an incomplete application package will not be accepted):

CanVECTOR Fellowship Award Online Application Form Fall 2024

Applicant's letter (2 pages maximum)

Summary of research proposal (2 pages maximum)

Lay summary (1 page maximum)

Applicant's current CV

Primary supervisor's current CV

Letter from Primary Supervisor