

2024 Thrombosis Canada CanVECTOR Research Fellowship

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History

Thrombosis Canada was founded in 1991 and a research fellowship was initiated in 1993. To date, 25 worthy candidates have been supported by the Thrombosis Canada Fellowship (in partnership with CanVECTOR since 2016), and many are now leaders in thrombosis both nationally and internationally.

Purpose of the Fellowship

The purpose of the Thrombosis Canada CanVECTOR Fellowship is to provide financial support for highly qualified, promising new clinician-investigators to allow them to pursue further training in thromboembolism at a Canadian center, focusing on knowledge translation and/or clinical outcomes research. The Fellowship is provided for salary support, to lessen clinical work requirements, and also requires that the applicant does not hold another major salary award (e.g., CIHR) or have salary support from a sponsoring institution.

Fellowship Award

- a. *Number of Thrombosis Canada CanVECTOR Fellowship Awards:* One fellowship award is provided each academic year if there are suitable, outstanding applicants.
- b. *Amount of the Award:* Up to \$50,000
- c. *Term of Support:* The Fellowship is awarded for one year, to benefit the greatest number of trainees and on the assumption that the candidate should be able to obtain alternate funding for preceding or succeeding year(s) of fellowship training.
- d. *Renewal:* The Fellowship may, under unusual circumstances, be renewed but only if there are no acceptable first-time applicants, AND if the incumbent is exceptionally meritorious and has provided evidence of substantial progress in achieving his/her research objectives, AND if this individual has applied for other peer-reviewed fellowship support for the coming year and has been unsuccessful.
- e. *Deferral:* The Thrombosis Canada CanVECTOR fellowship award cannot be deferred.



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Candidate Eligibility

- a. *Citizenship:* Canadian citizen, permanent resident or landed immigrant or citizen of a foreign country without salary support from his/her home institution.
- b. *Prior Education:* 1) Has completed an MD degree (or equivalent) and has obtained a fellowship from the Royal College of Physicians & Surgeons of Canada (or equivalent from a foreign country) or from the Canadian College of Family Physicians; or 2) has completed a PharmD; or 3) is a registered nurse (or equivalent from a foreign country); or 4) has completed a PhD (post-doc). Persons who already hold a faculty position (or who will obtain a faculty position during the award year) are not eligible.
- c. *Type of Research Activities:* Eligible research activities must involve knowledge translation, clinical outcomes research OR clinical/basic science research in an area related to thromboembolism, which may include study of venous and/or arterial vascular disease. Knowledge translation or clinical outcomes research focusing on thrombosis education will also be considered.
- d. *Location of Fellowship:* The applicant must be enrolled full-time in a research training program at a center of excellence in the field of thrombosis at a Canadian university. Under exceptional circumstances, eligible candidates may apply to pursue part of their training in a foreign institution, as long as justification is provided that similar training is not available in Canada.
- e. *Concomitant Higher Degree:* Applicants may be enrolled in a higher degree program (MSc or PhD) during the tenure of the fellowship as long as they demonstrate that they have sufficient time to also conduct substantive research.
- f. *Supervisor:* Must be an established researcher who has agreed to be the Fellow's supervisor and who accepts the conditions of the fellowship as outlined below.
- g. *Other Application(s):* The applicant is also encouraged to apply to other agencies for fellowship support (Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Heart and Stroke Foundation, subspecialty or disease-specific fellowships, etc.) and to provide evidence of this application.

Fellowship Conditions and Responsibilities

Submission of an application implies acceptance of the following conditions by both the applicant and his/her supervisor:

- a. It is expected that the principal focus of the successful candidate will be to further his/her research experience in thromboembolism. Candidates 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 (or the equivalent of one full day/week).
- b. *Letter of agreement:* On acceptance of the Fellowship, the successful candidate and his/her supervisor will sign a letter of agreement and submit this to training@canvector.ca within 1 month of the offer.
- c. *Acknowledgment:* Any publication, thesis, or formal presentation resulting from the research fellowship must acknowledge the support of Thrombosis Canada and CanVECTOR, and a copy of all publications resulting from the fellowship must be sent to the Fellowship & Training Committee Chair (training@canvector.ca).



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- d. *Final report:* A brief summary of the fellowship year shall be submitted to info@thrombosiscanada.ca, within 3 months of the end of the fellowship year.
- e. The Fellow will be invited to present a summary of his/her research activities at the Thrombosis Canada annual general meeting and the CanVECTOR annual conference.

Components of the Fellowship Application

The components of the application include:

- a. The completed Thrombosis Canada CanVECTOR Fellowship Award Application Form
- b. A **letter from the applicant** (2 pages maximum) with the following headings:
 - i. Background preparation for the fellowship
 - ii. List of specific objectives for the fellowship
 - iii. Plans for the research year based on the specific objectives
 - iv. Future career plans
- c. Summary of **proposed research project** (2 pages maximum). If the research proposal requires additional funds, the summary should describe the source of this funding (obtained or applied for) and should include a brief discussion of alternatives if funding is not successful.
- d. Lay summary (1 page maximum) - Summarize the study in language suitable for a lay audience.
- e. A copy of the **applicant's current CV**
- f. The applicant is encouraged to also apply to at least one **alternative agency for fellowship support**. If this is done, the face sheet and summary of the alternative fellowship applications(s) should be included in the Fellowship application.
- g. A copy of the **supervisor's current CV**
- h. A **letter of support from the proposed clinical and/or research supervisor** outlining the strengths and weaknesses of the candidate, the research facilities and resources available to the candidate as well as the proportion of time the candidate will spend on research, course work, clinical duties, and teaching.

Please note: Applications must use a minimum of 12 point font for all submitted material

Selection Process

- a. *Introduction:* A formal selection process will review each of the submissions using a ranking system that recognizes:
 - i. The quality and potential of the **candidate**, including demonstration of a sincere commitment to a career in investigative or other aspects of academic medicine related to thrombosis/vascular medicine
 - ii. The quality of the clinical and research **environment and the supervisor**
 - iii. The quality and potential importance of the proposed **fellowship activities**, including its relevance to the mandate of Thrombosis Canada
- b. *Rating System:* A 10-point rating system will be used by the reviewers:

Component	Maximum Points
The candidate	5
The environment/supervisor	2.5
The research proposal	2.5

- c. *External Reviews:* The Fellowship & Training Committee may, if necessary, request **formal, written** external reviews from people who have knowledge of the candidate or his/her supervisor or who have expertise in the area of proposed research.
- d. *Conflicts of Interest:* It is possible that reviewers may have potential conflicts of interest in the review of applicants and in the selection of successful fellowship candidates. A set of guidelines has been developed to prevent actual or perceived, direct or indirect conflicts of interests in the selection process.

Fellowship Application Submission

Complete application packages must reach the CanVECTOR Training Office (via online application) by 11:59 PM ET on Monday, January 20, 2024. <https://www.canvector.ca/funding/fellowship-and-studentship/call-for-applications-fellowships>

Fellowship Application Checklist*

Please check that each of the items below are completed. An incomplete application package cannot be accepted.

- Completed Fellowship Application Form
- Applicant's letter (2 pages maximum)
- Summary of research proposal (2 pages maximum)
- Lay summary (1 page maximum)
- Copy of applicant's current CV
- Evidence of application for alternate source(s) of fellowship funding, if any (summary of applications)
- Copy of supervisor's current CV

Letter from supervisor

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