

### Background

The Koerner Postdoctoral Research Award is dedicated to finding innovative solutions to major challenges in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of mental illness and improving outcomes for those affected, now and in the future. The Koerner Competition, supports prospective postdoctoral researchers and reflects an investment in the future generation of world class researchers in mental health.

### Award Guidelines

The Michael and Sonja Koerner Foundation in collaboration with CAMH is hosting a Postdoctoral Research Award Competition to provide support for postdoctoral researchers pursuing basic and clinical research to better identify, diagnose, prevent and treat mental illnesses. Postdoctoral researchers are expected to make independent contributions to knowledge during their appointment. These may be in the form of a contribution to an existing project, or through the development of an original project. Projects will be assessed and awarded under the research themes below, listed alphabetically. These research themes have equal weight of importance and no theme is favoured over another.

1. Basic and pre-clinical neuroscience
2. Brain and/or behavior interventions (including technology-based interventions)
3. Clinical measure and/or biomarker identification
4. Community-based research
5. Health policy or health services research
6. Implementation science
7. Social and epidemiological research
8. Translation of clinical neuroscience (i.e. the study of mechanisms of disease and new ways of diagnosis and treatment) into clinical treatment

### One-Year Postdoctoral Research Award

**One 1-year award of \$60,000 CAD stipend + \$5,000 CAD research allowance is available** (conditional on availability of funds). Applications will be evaluated by a team of independent researchers, based on CIHR standards of excellence. The final selection of awards will be made by the Koerner Steering Committee. The inaugural round of the Koerner Postdoctoral Research Award is **open to researchers from underrepresented groups**, in alignment with CAMH, Government of Canada, and Tri-Agency priorities to address systemic racism, sexism, and discrimination in Canadian institutions through an intersectional lens, tackle systemic barriers that limit the full participation of all talented individuals, and increase equitable and inclusive participation in the research system. It reflects the commitment of CAMH to foster a more equitable, diverse, and inclusive research environment for trainees.

### Eligibility Criteria

- Applicants must self-identify with at least one of the following groups:
  - First Nations, Métis and Inuit
  - Racialized persons
  - Women
  - 2SLGBTQ+
  - People with disabilities (including people who have experienced mental health and substance use challenges)

**Note:** In relation to these criteria, eligibility will be determined using the response(s) provided in the Notice of Intent (see below). Given that this funding opportunity is only open to specific populations, selecting "I prefer not to answer" to the question relating to these criteria will prevent your candidacy from being considered.

- This award is intended to support candidates who are seeking **full-time** postdoctoral studies under the

primary supervision of a CAMH Scientist.

- Applicants must obtain sponsorship of a primary supervisor who holds a scientific appointment at CAMH as Associate Scientist, Staff Scientist, Senior Staff Scientist, Scientist, or Senior Scientist. Applicants are encouraged to reach out to potential CAMH supervisors. Information regarding CAMH scientists can be found at the [CAMH staff directory](#). Please contact [internal.funding@camh.ca](mailto:internal.funding@camh.ca) to clarify eligibility if your potential supervisor's scientific appointment type is not listed here.
- Postdoctoral Researchers are only eligible to apply to one CAMH Postdoctoral Research Award per funding cycle.
- Only one applicant per primary supervisor will be permitted to apply for the Koerner Postdoctoral Research Award.
- Applicants cannot hold multiple internal CAMH Research Award awards at the same time (including but not limited to Discovery Fund, *womenmind*, Azrieli, Bebensee, Koerner, etc.).
- Applicants must have a PhD and/or regulated health professional degree at the time they start the award. For examples of health professions, please consult CIHR's list of [Eligible Health Professions](#). Any interruptions, delays or post-degree clinical training in post-PhD/ regulated health professional degree cumulative experience may be taken into account in determining eligibility if detailed information on the interruption, including specific dates, is provided. Postdoctoral researchers that completed their doctoral program more than 5 years ago must first consult with [internal.funding@camh.ca](mailto:internal.funding@camh.ca) regarding eligibility before applying. Proof of degree fulfillment will be required for those applicants that are successful.
- CAMH Employees are ineligible to receive remuneration from a training award and their employment role concurrently. Interested applicants who are currently employed by CAMH under a position other than a trainee must contact [ResearchHR@camh.ca](mailto:ResearchHR@camh.ca) and [internal.funding@camh.ca](mailto:internal.funding@camh.ca) in advance of the deadline to confirm eligibility.
- Applicant's supervisor(s) must agree to provide the applicant with a minimum of 75% protected time for research.
- Applicants with external funding support that overlaps the period of the Koerner Postdoctoral Research Awards are not eligible to apply (i.e., external funding that continues past December 31, 2024).
- Applicants must apply to at least one external agency for stipend support in the time period between April 1, 2023 and December 31, 2024. If there are particular circumstances that prevent this, please first consult with [internal.funding@camh.ca](mailto:internal.funding@camh.ca). You will be asked to provide proof should you be successful in receiving a 2024 Koerner Postdoctoral Research Award.

### Conditions of Award:

- If the applicant is successful in obtaining a Research Award offer from an external agency, the applicant will accept the external offer and free up the Koerner Postdoctoral Research Awards for other possible applicants. In situations where the value of the external award is less than the Koerner Postdoctoral Research Awards, a top-up may be provided by Koerner. The amount of the top-up will depend on funding availability. **Under no circumstances will Research Award funds be used to cover gaps in funding between the time when existing funding ends and the external funding begins.**
- All Koerner Postdoctoral Research Awards are to commence during the period of July 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024.
- Successful applicants are expected to be located at CAMH during the one-year period of the award.

### Instructions

#### 1. Notice of Intent

Applicants must submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) online using the following form:

<https://form.jotform.com/232115091393248> by **October 27, 2023 by 5:00pm (EST)**. The NOI must identify the

supervisor(s), include a brief description of the proposed project (250 words), identify Koerner research themes and strategic priority areas, answer self-identification\* and project representation questions, and provide 3-5 project area and methodology keywords. Information from the NOI will assist the Grants & Awards team with matching applications to academic experts in the review process. Late NOIs will not be accepted.

\*Information collected will be confidential, cannot be accessed by reviewers, and will not be linked to personnel data. Data regarding the applicant pool will be reported only to the Koerner selection committee and a small number of ROSS staff members for the purposes of program administration, confirmation of eligibility, process improvement, and reporting requirements.

### 2. Research Assurances and Approvals Form (RAAF)

A RAAF must be submitted via the [eRA Portal](#) by **December 1, 2023 by 5:00pm (EST)**. For guidance on RAAF submission, please see the [Research Portal](#). If you are applying as an external applicant, please reach out to [internal.funding@camh.ca](mailto:internal.funding@camh.ca) for instructions on how to create an account for the eRA Portal.

### 3. Full Application

Applicants must submit their application online (link to be provided following NOI submission and confirmation of eligibility) using the guidelines below. The full application must be submitted by **December 8, 2023 by 5:00pm (EST)**. Late applications will not be accepted.

#### a) Project Information:

- **Project Title – Limit of 640 characters, including spaces.**
- **Lay Title – Limit of 200 characters, including spaces.** Provide a title for the project that is in a language clear to the general public.
- **Lay Abstract – Limit of 2,000 characters, including spaces.** Describe the project in a way that is accessible to a lay audience.

#### b) Training Plan – Limit of 7,000 characters, including spaces.

- Provide an overview of how your previous research training and/or experience outside of academia relates to the present proposal (i.e., how your previous experience will benefit your current/upcoming research training work) and elaborate on your career goals.
- Describe how the training you expect to acquire will contribute to your productivity and research goals.
- If relevant, describe how additional postdoctoral/post-health professional training experience, including the development of research, technical, and professional skills and networks, will contribute toward your career goals.
- Indicate why you decided upon your proposed training location (i.e., CAMH, supervisor, etc.) and what you expect to learn from the training experience.
- Provide justification if you are planning to hold this award in the same research environment (i.e., research institution or its affiliate, supervisor or co-supervisor) where you completed your previous degree.

#### c) Research Project Summary – Limit of 4,000 characters, including spaces, references included.

The research project summary should be written in general scientific language, which is an important skill to acquire for future success in the research environment as applications can be reviewed by multi-disciplinary committees. This section should include the specific hypothesis of the research and describe your role on the proposed project. Make sure that it provides a concise account of the subject matter; an overview of each part of the research plan, specific project aims and the methodology. The summary should reflect the significance of your project and should clearly state an explanation of the relevance of your project to the goals of the Koerner. Please use the

following headings:

- **Background** – summarize the stage of knowledge relevant to the proposal.
- **Hypotheses/research questions** – state these clearly and concisely.
- **Methods** – give essential details of methods; describe the data to be collected and the method of data analysis proposed. Clearly define the population.
- **Impact** – state how the project will advance knowledge if completed as planned.
- **Relevance to the goals of the Koerner** – demonstrate your proposed project’s alignment with the research themes and strategic priorities of the Koerner.
- **Role on proposed project** – address how the proposed research will support your training goals.
- **Timetable** – include a timetable for the work in your description

**d) Research Training Environment – Limit of 1,750 characters, including spaces.**

Describe the space, facilities and personnel support that will be available to you. This section should be written with the input of the proposed supervisor and should demonstrate the commitment of the proposed supervisor(s) to support the development of the applicant’s research project (funding, facilities, equipment, etc.) and professional development. It should also demonstrate a commitment to developing your research, technical and professional skills and networks over the training period by providing career planning, skills development and networking opportunities to prepare for an impactful career.

**e) Most significant contributions (if applicable) – Limit 3,000 characters, including spaces.**

Please highlight any relevant publications, activities, awards and recognitions or knowledge translation that are not covered by the CCV.

**f) Interruptions and Delays (if applicable) – Limit of 1,500 characters, including spaces.**

Applicants may explain any gaps in the chronology of their experience. Applicants can list any considerations that have had an effect on their performance or productivity, including considerations that may have resulted in delays in disseminating their research results, such as health problems, family responsibilities, disabilities, trauma and/or loss, pandemic impact or other circumstances, for example, the time necessary to complete a monograph, file a patent, or commercialize an industrial process or product; and for health professionals, engagement in post-degree non-research related clinical training (residency, etc.). Applicants should list the interruption/delay and provide specific dates, but are not expected to disclose confidential details. If there are none, leave this section blank.

**4. Curriculum Vitae (CV) – uploaded as Postdoctoral Research Award attachments.**

**a) Applicant CV**

Provide a [CIHR Biosketch CV](#) (completed via the [Canadian Common CV](#) interface) or [NIH Biosketch](#).

**b) Supervisor CV**

- Supervisor CVs should also be in the Canadian Common CV format using the CIHR [Academic](#) or [Biosketch](#) templates.
- Other CV templates will also be accepted, with a limit of 6 pages.

**5. Letters of Reference – max 1 page each, using 12-point font.** Two referees must provide an assessment of the applicant. These assessments should come from people under whom you have trained and/or who have had a good opportunity to assess your potential for research. Applicants should refer their selected sponsors to CIHR’s [Information for Sponsors](#) web page for useful tips.

- Two letters of reference must be submitted by 5 p.m. on the application due date.
- Reference letters from the candidate’s Supervisor or Co-Supervisor will **not** be accepted.
- Letters must be submitted by email from the referee’s email to [internal.funding@camh.ca](mailto:internal.funding@camh.ca). The Reference Letter must be on institutional letterhead and signed by the referee.

**It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that letters of reference are sent by the submission deadline.**

### 6. Submitting the Application

The application must be submitted online (link to be provided following NOI submission) **by December 8, 2023**. If you have any questions regarding the application guidelines or submission process, please contact Elizabeth Mueller via [internal.funding@camh.ca](mailto:internal.funding@camh.ca).

**Note:** Supplemental material and material exceeding the specified length will not be considered in the review process. The reviewing committee consists of academic experts but not necessarily specialists in the applicant’s specific subject area.

### DEADLINES AT A GLANCE

**Notice of Intent: October 27, 2023**

**RAAF: December 1, 2023**

**Full Application: December 8, 2023**

**Notice of Award: April 2024**