

PWHR MID-CAREER EXCELLENCE IN WOMEN'S HEALTH RESEARCH AWARD

The Partnership for Women's Health Research Canada (PWHR) is a coast-to-coast alliance of women's health research institutes: the Women's Health Research Institute (WHRI) in British Columbia, the Women and Children's Health Research Institute (WCHRI) in Alberta, the Research and Innovation Institute at Women's College Hospital in Ontario, and IWK Health in Nova Scotia.

Our common vision is *"Better health for all women, trans and non-binary people through research equity, excellence, and inclusion."*

This non-monetary award recognizes mid-career research excellence in women's health. The award recipients from each of PWHR's partner institutions (WHRI, WCHRI, WCH and IWK Health) will be recognized at a PWHR event where they will present their research. They will also be expected to participate in future adjudication of this award.

The PWHR Mid-Career Excellence in Women's Health Research Award honours outstanding mid-career investigators who have made significant contributions to advancing women's health research in any of the four Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) research theme areas:

1. Biomedical research
2. Clinical research
3. Health systems and services
4. Social, cultural, environmental and population health.

In alignment with the CIHR Institute of Gender and Health definition of women's health and PWHR's vision, we recognize women's health as an evolving concept. Women's health refers to "physical, biological, reproductive, psychological, emotional, cultural, and spiritual health and wellness across the life-course in the context of the unique intersecting concerns related to our bodies, our roles, our social locations, and our identities."¹

For this award, the definition of women's health research includes research focused on/relevant to:

- Females, cis-women, transgender women and transgender men
- Underrepresented gender identities, including but not limited to, Two-Spirit, non-binary, gender fluid, and agender people.

¹ Canadian Institutes of Health Research Institute of Gender and Health, National Women's Health Research Initiative, <https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/53095.html>. Consulted May 31, 2024.

To be eligible to apply individuals must be a:

1. Mid-career researcher (at the time of application, they must have assumed their independent research position 5-15 years ago).
2. Member of one of PWHR's partner institutions (WHRI, WCHRI, WCH or IWK Health).

The complete application package will include:

1. Biography of the Applicant: Please attach the applicant's narrative CIHR academic CCV. Free form CVs will not be accepted.
2. Two Letters of Support (max two (2) pages each, 12-point font) are required. No more than two letters of support may be submitted.
 - One letter of support must be provided by another member of the applicant's research institute (WHRI, WCHRI, WCH or IWK Health).
 - One letter must come from an individual outside the applicant's institution (i.e., an external reference).

Note: The Letters of Support should supplement the information provided in the CCV and contextualize the applicant's achievements. The letter should also address the evaluation criteria considering PWHR's strategic aims and principles.

3. Personal statement that justifies the application (max 500 words): Applications will be assessed based on the evaluation criteria listed below, in the context of PWHR's strategic aims and principles. Please ensure you provide the appropriate detailed information in order for the review committee to assess the candidates accordingly.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMISSION

Deadline: March 31, 2026, by 12 AM (midnight) Pacific Standard Time

- Send the complete application package as a single or multiple PDF attachments via email to Tamil Kendall, tkendall@pwhr.org.
- **Email subject line:** PWHR Award, [Applicant last name], [Name of PWHR Partner Research Institute] (e.g., *PWHR Award, Smith, WHRI*).

The application package must include:

- PWHR Mid-Career Research Excellence Award checklist and cover page
- CIHR Narrative CV
- Two (2) Letters of Support
- 500-word personal statement justifying the application.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

1. Applications will be assessed based on the applicant's contribution to advancing women's health research in Canada and internationally over the last ten years, including:
 - What the applicant has done
 - Why their work is important
 - The impact of their research
2. The strength and reputation of the applicant in the field of women's health research in Canada and internationally.
3. The applicant's impact on mentorship and training of early career scientists and other highly qualified personnel (including mentorship of clinicians in research, i.e., clinical residents) in Canada and internationally.

Applications will be assessed against the evaluation criteria listed above, in the context of the following PWHR strategic aims and principles:

PWHR Strategic Aims

- Support and grow the next generation of women's health researchers.
- Elevate the profile and prioritization of women's health research in Canada.
- Strengthen strategic partnerships to advance women's health research and inform policy and practice.

PWHR Principles

PWHR is committed to establishing mutually respectful relationships and to advancing research that values the lived experiences, knowledge systems and priorities of diverse groups of women, transgender and non-binary people, particularly those who have been systemically and historically excluded in health care and health science career trajectories.

PWHR promotes equity, excellence, collaboration, diversity, and inclusion and leverages our collective resources accountably and sustainably.

NOTE:

- Applications from highly competitive candidates not selected may be carried forward for consideration up to three (3) consecutive years from the original application year.
- Late applications or applications with missing and/or incorrect documents will not be accepted.