

# Arthritis Alliance of Canada

## Research Awards Program Overview

May 2018

### ABOUT ARTHRITIS ALLIANCE OF CANADA (AAC)

The Arthritis Alliance of Canada was formed in 2002 with a commitment to improve the lives of individuals living with arthritis, including patients, voluntary associations, healthcare providers, researchers and clinicians, government and industry. While each member organization continues its own work, the Alliance provides a central focus for national arthritis-related initiatives. For more information, please visit [www.arthritisalliance.ca](http://www.arthritisalliance.ca)

### OUR RESEARCH PRIORITY AREAS

In 2012, the AAC launched "[Joint Action on Arthritis: A Framework to Improve Arthritis Prevention and Care in Canada](#)". The Framework establishes research priorities and strategies, suggests prevention strategies, identifies principles to guide the design and delivery of care, and calls on the arthritis community to work collectively on actions to drive dramatic improvements in arthritis prevention and care to mitigate the growing burden of arthritis. The Research priorities focus on aligning and strengthening arthritis research in Canada. Specifically, our goal is to:

- a) Promote increased funding for arthritis research
- b) Build capacity in arthritis research and innovation (e.g. increase in the number of trainees, involvement of patients in arthritis research, partnerships and linkages);
- c) Facilitate and support initiatives that harmonize and strengthen research infrastructure and enhance networking to foster collaborations (e.g. optimizing research use of databases, creating new platforms and research infrastructure) and partnership;
- d) Promote knowledge translation and exchange (KTE) as effective KTE is critical to ensure that research findings are implemented and lead to improved health outcomes (e.g. involve stakeholders in 1) KT co-creation, 2) co-interpretation, 3) support with dissemination and evaluation where appropriate).
- e) Support and facilitate patient participation/engagement in arthritis research.

### Arthritis Alliance of Canada Research Awards Program: Recognizing contributions in Arthritis Research

The AAC Research Awards program will nationally recognize high quality research in AAC priority areas identified above. This recognition will: (1) formally acknowledge the outstanding contributions of patient partners and scientists; (2) help researchers in competing for and participating in national grants and programs in arthritis research; and (3) provide opportunities to highlight arthritis research via media releases.

### AWARD CATEGORIES

1. The AAC will provide up to eight awards, one award per category valued at \$750 CAD/award.  
**\*\*\*Please note: An Early Career Researcher/Early Career Faculty Member Investigator award now includes two sub-categories: 1) Basic/Clinical Science; and 2) Health Science/Population Health.**

## Award Categories (\$750 each)

Six awards for **Trainees/Early Career Researchers/Early Career Faculty Members/Investigators** for contributions to arthritis research, one award for each of the following categories:

**1. Master Student**

\*\*\* **Please note:** Master Award applications will be scored based on the impact of your research in your program; therefore, you must be currently enrolled in your program or within six (6) months post graduation date.

**2. PhD Student**

\*\*\* **Please note:** PhD Award applications will be scored based on the impact of your research in your program; therefore, you must be currently enrolled in your program or within six (6) months post graduation date.

**3. Post-Doctoral Fellow**

\*\*\* **Please note: Post-Doctoral Fellow** applications will be scored based on the impact of your research in your program; therefore, you must be currently enrolled in your program or within six (6) months post graduation date.

**4. Early Career Researcher/Early Career Faculty Member/Investigator:**

**1) Basic/Clinical Science**

**2) Health Science/Population Health**

\*\*\* **Please note:** (your application will be scored on the impact of research in your program; must be within the first five years of your first appointment as faculty member/independent researcher)

**5. Knowledge Translation (KT) research (open to all investigators, at all career level).** Advancing robust scientific methods underpinned by theories, models, and frameworks to improve the impact of transforming research into practice.

**6. Knowledge Translation (KT) practice (open to all investigators, at all career level).** Processes by which targeted and tailored data and information (main messages or key implications) are transmitted to specific relevant audiences to increase the application and uptake of evidence to bridge research-practice gaps.

**7. Patient for active engagement in arthritis research.** Active engagement occurs when patients meaningfully and actively collaborate in the governance, priority setting, and conduct of arthritis research, as well as in summarizing, distributing, sharing, and applying its resulting knowledge.

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

### Trainees/Early Career Researchers (Faculty Members/Investigators)

- Applicants must be working in a research area relevant to the research priorities of the AAC identified above.
- Applicants must have made significant contributions to arthritis research or KT activities (for their stage of career).
- Research must have been conducted in Canada.
- For trainees (Master/PhD Students), they must have been enrolled in a training program in a Canadian institution when the research was conducted or been within six (6) months post graduation date.
- For Early Career Researcher/Early Career Faculty Member, you must be a graduate within the first five years of faculty appointment.

### Patients actively engaged in research

- Applicants must demonstrate active engagement in arthritis research (see definition provided in the award categories) for a minimum of 2 years.

## HOW TO APPLY

- **Full applications must be received** by AAC office, [lgazizova@arthritisalliance.ca](mailto:lgazizova@arthritisalliance.ca) **Tuesday, July 31, 2018 (midnight ET)**. A **confirmation email** from the AAC Office will be sent to you within 48 hours of receipt of your application. If you do not receive a confirmation email, please contact [lgazizova@arthritisalliance.ca](mailto:lgazizova@arthritisalliance.ca).
- **Decisions will be announced on Wednesday, November 21, 2018** at the AAC Annual Meeting in Toronto, Ontario.

## ALL APPLICATIONS MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

### **For Trainees/Early Career Researchers (Early Career Faculty Members/Investigators):**

1. A Completed Application Form, signed and dated, available at: <http://arthritisalliance.ca/en/researchawards>.
2. Common CV (Academic)
3. A narrative letter that describes research contributions and/or activities, outcomes, publications, reports, conference presentations (1-page maximum) \*\*\***Please note:** Your Narrative Letter and Description of Impact (1-pagers) should be written in Times New Roman, Font 12, with 2.0 cm of margins, no exceptions.
4. A description of the impact of the research (1-page maximum)
5. A Letter of Support from a Mentor (if applicable).

**Please email** the complete application package to: Lina Gazizova at [lgazizova@arthritisalliance.ca](mailto:lgazizova@arthritisalliance.ca) at Arthritis Alliance of Canada.

### **For Patient Representatives:**

1. A Completed Application Form, signed and dated, available at: <http://arthritisalliance.ca/en/researchawards>.
2. A Letter of Support from a Nominator
3. A narrative letter that describes your volunteer's active participation and contributions in arthritis research (activities, outcomes, publications, reports, speaker engagements, conference presentations, and the impact of the research.) \*\*\***Please note:** Your letter of support and your narrative letter must be written in Times New Roman, Font 12, with 2.0 cm of margins, 1 page each maximum, no exceptions

**Please email** the complete nomination package for patient representatives to: Lina Gazizova at [lgazizova@arthritisalliance.ca](mailto:lgazizova@arthritisalliance.ca) at Arthritis Alliance of Canada.

## REVIEW AND EVALUATION PROCESS

The winners of the awards will be designated based on the recommendations of the AAC Research Award Review Committee comprised of 10-12 members (including a consumer-patient/per each award category), with expertise in related areas of arthritis research, such as biomedical, basic and clinical research, health services and policy, and population and public health, knowledge translation science and knowledge translation activities.

The AAC appreciates that applications may highlight different approaches to arthritis research and knowledge translation; hence, reviewers are expected to weigh the following criteria differently from one nomination to another:

- 1) **Applicability:** whether the research project meets the criteria of the award
- 2) **Relevance:** whether the research project is relevant to arthritis

- 3) **Clarity and Quality of research description:** whether the research description is written in a coherent, logical, clear and professional manner.
- 4) **Excellence of research or knowledge translation** in the Review Committee's opinion was the research project outstanding (exceptional)?

#### **ADMINISTRATION OF THE RESEARCH AWARDS**

The administration of all grants and awards is the responsibility of The Arthritis Alliance of Canada with the aid and advice of the Research Committee, Board of Directors and Membership. These advisors are selected for their knowledge within their chosen fields and for their recognized accomplishments in research. Advisors will refrain from participating in discussions where they have a conflict of interest.

The payment of grants and awards approved by the AACs Board for support of these programs is contingent upon the availability of the necessary funds. All awards are made in Canadian dollars.

A CONFIRMATION OF RECEIPT email will be sent within 48 hours of the application submission. If a CONFIRMATION OF RECEIPT email is NOT received, the onus is on the individual submitting the application to follow-up with AAC office (Lina Gazizova at [lgazizova@arthritisalliance.ca](mailto:lgazizova@arthritisalliance.ca)) to ensure that the application was received. We want to ensure that all applications submitted are received; we appreciate your assistance with this process.