



# **FUNDING GUIDELINES**

## **2027 PSI Mid-Career Knowledge Translation Fellowship**

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## OVERVIEW

The PSI Foundation was established in 1970 by the physicians of Ontario with the original capital of Physicians Services Incorporated, the doctor-sponsored prepaid medical care plan. The Foundation was established with the mission of improving the “health of Ontarians.” Physicians from across Ontario remain involved as members of the Foundation’s House of Delegates as well as part of the governing board of directors for the Foundation.

PSI’s granting interests are in two areas: education of practising physicians and health research with an emphasis on research relevant to patient care.

This document serves as the funding guidelines for the PSI Mid-Career Knowledge Translation Fellowship funding program offered by PSI.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Please contact us at 416.226.6323 or by email at [psif@psifoundation.org](mailto:psif@psifoundation.org) to discuss any questions you may have about submitting an application for funding.

Follow us on X (Twitter) [@PSIFoundation](https://twitter.com/PSIFoundation), Bluesky [@psifoundation.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/psifoundation.bsky.social), and check our website at [www.psifoundation.org](http://www.psifoundation.org) for the latest news and updates, such as updated forms and policy revisions.



## PURPOSE OF THE FELLOWSHIP

This Fellowship is intended to provide salary support for an Ontario investigator, who has demonstrated the ability to successfully complete high impact knowledge translation research. The Fellowship's funds, dedicated to salary support, must protect at least 50% of the Fellow's time to conduct such research.

**PLEASE NOTE: THIS FUNDING OPPORTUNITY IS NOT AN ADDITIONAL PSI OPERATING GRANT. KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION MUST BE THE FUNDAMENTAL PURPOSE OF THIS FUNDING REQUEST AND MUST BE DEMONSTRATED IN THE APPLICATION.**

## PSI'S DEFINITION OF KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION RESEARCH

PSI recognizes that numerous definitions exist for knowledge translation research. Please see the following PSI Foundation definition to assist with your application.

Knowledge translation research is aimed at taking research discoveries and moving them into the real world to improve health outcomes. Relevant discoveries may result from many disparate sources, including the physiologic or mechanistic studies in the laboratory setting, or findings from human trials. Therefore, knowledge translation research may involve taking observations in the laboratory and integrating them into the design of clinical studies, or may involve taking clinical research findings and encoding them into clinical policies. The latter is the knowledge translation focus of the PSI Foundation, which is more likely to directly affect the health outcomes of Ontarians. Approaches to knowledge translation could include, but are not limited to, understanding and analyzing barriers to health care availability, access or uptake; examining behavioural, organizational, financial, ethical, and cultural determinants of practice; or effectively and efficiently addressing modifiable gaps in care. Translational research of greatest interest to the PSI Foundation is multi-disciplinary and multi-method, focused on improving the processes of care and/or outcomes of care for Ontarians.

## FUNDING EXCLUSIONS

Listed below are the items and areas which will not be accepted for consideration by the Foundation:

- Research in the areas of cancer, heart and stroke, and pharmaceutical drug development studies. PSI will not accept nor fund applications associated with the screening, diagnosis, prevention, survivorship, or any phase of the illness of cancer and cardiac research.
- Projects outside the province of Ontario.



## ELIGIBILITY OF CANDIDATE

### ELIGIBLE CANDIDATE

The candidate for the Fellowship must be:

- **A practicing physician** with a College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario licensed M.D. having direct patient care responsibilities and an academic appointment, thus eligible to apply for their own research grants as an independent investigator.
- **Within six (6) to fifteen (15) years of the start of their first academic appointment** (e.g. when they first became a Lecturer or Assistant Professor), and have demonstrated potential for high-impact research work. Applicants may currently hold any academic rank.
- Dedicating at least 50% of a full-time schedule to the Fellowship.

The PSI Mid-Career Knowledge Translation (KT) Fellow is able to apply to PSI for an operating grant (e.g. Clinical Research grant).

If you have any questions regarding the eligibility, please contact the PSI Foundation office.

### INELIGIBLE CANDIDATE

Applications will not be considered from the following Principal Investigators:

- Residents
- Individuals who hold a Ph.D but not a M.D.
- Individuals based outside of Ontario

### REAPPLYING TO THIS PROGRAM

Applicants who were unsuccessful in previous competitions may reapply to this program.



## APPLICATION POLICY & REQUIREMENTS

### SPONSORING INSTITUTION

All applications must have a sponsoring institution which is registered with Revenue Canada as carrying on charitable activities.

Eligible institutions must:

- Be located in the Province of Ontario
- Be a registered charity
- Have its own, independent research ethics board\*
- Be eligible to hold Canadian Institute of Health Research grants. The list can be found at <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/36374.html>.

The sponsoring institution must provide the necessary infrastructure for the research project: including, but not limited to, accounting and reporting of grant funds, as well as ensuring the research is carried out according to the institution's policies and procedures and accepted research standards in Canada. In addition, the institution must assure that REB approvals, clinical trials registrations, and Health Canada approvals are acquired as needed before the research takes place.

\*For institutions who do not have an internal REB, they may access an existing REB at another institution.

### AMOUNT AND DURATION OF FUNDING, INCLUDING MATCHING FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

#### TOTAL SUPPORT

This program offers two options for a funding timeline for salary support:

- A maximum of \$400,000 over two years;

OR

- A maximum of \$400,000 over three years.

The award is intended to protect at least 50% of the fellow's time to undertake research, regardless of whether the award is taken over two or three years.

#### MATCHING FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

Sponsoring institution is required to fund 50% of the total award.

If the candidate requests a total support of \$400,000 over two years, then PSI will fund \$200,000 over two years (\$100,000 per year) and the institution is required to provide \$200,000 over two years (\$100,000 per year).

If the candidate requests a total support of \$400,000 over three years, then PSI will fund \$200,000 over three years (\$67,500 in Year 1; \$67,500 in Year 2; and \$65,000 in Year 3) and the institution is required to provide \$200,000 over 3 years (\$67,500 in Year 1; \$67,500 in Year 2; and \$65,000 in Year 3).

A lesser amount in matching funding is admissible with explanation from the applicant and institution. Please note: such matching funds obtained from another source MAY NOT come from another salary support fellowship/award, operating grant, nor project specific funding.



If a sponsoring institution is unable to provide matching funds, then the candidate may obtain matching funds from another source.

## USE OF FUNDING

Even though this program is primarily intended to offer salary support to protect research time, the fellow may allocate a portion of the total award to undertake a research project.

PSI will consider up to 25% of the award to support a research study. Budget items may not be used outside of Ontario.

Please note: PSI expects the Fellow to have a minimum of \$30,000 from another source in place to undertake this study, before allocating any of these funds to the operating grant. Any institutional In-Kind support will not be considered towards this required amount.

The proposed budget involving research expenses must include a detailed budget narrative within the application (including quantities and rates/prices) to explain how amounts were determined. A detailed breakdown and justification of costs is required for projects involving the Institute of Clinical and Evaluative Studies (ICES), specifically the number of hours an analyst is dedicating to a project and their hourly rate.



## FUNDING CRITERIA

Applications will be assessed on the following:

- The knowledge translation program's alignment with PSI's mandate
- Candidates past research productivity
- Research program: the research protocol(s) that will be undertaken during the duration of the Fellowship
- The candidate's proven leadership in teaching, supervision, and mentorship
- Leveraging PSI funding: PSI's internal review committee will seek to fund the candidate who is best able to demonstrate the ability to leverage the fellowship with funding from other sources, such as in-kind support from the sponsoring institution and/or grants from other peer review agencies.
- Institutional support and in-kind support
- PSI's internal review committee will evaluate support provided by the sponsoring institution, demonstrated by letters of support.



## APPLICATION PROCESS

### SUBMISSION DEADLINES & APPLICATION TIMELINE

PSI is launching this competition through a Letter of Intent (LOI) process. Please note that for this competition, applicants are required to submit their applications directly to PSI, not through the institution.

We require all applicants to submit the completed LOI directly to PSI by **June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026**, 5pm EST. LOIs will be reviewed by the PSI Grants Committee in June/July 2026.

PSI will invite successful applicants to submit full applications by October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026, 5pm EST, which will undergo internal review for a final funding decision in December 2026.

### HOW TO APPLY

All requests for funding, including the LOI and full application, must be submitted using PSI's online application system (<https://psifoundation.smartsimple.ca/>). Please refer to the online application form for specific information in regards to the documents required, page limits, signatures, etc. for the proposal.

To be eligible for consideration, applications must contain all requested information in full. PSI is unable to consider incomplete applications.

All applicants are required to complete the PSI application submission survey. The link is available in the online application form.

Please do not upload scanned documents to the online system, with the exception of letters of support with signatures and the completed signature page.

Please note: all applications received by the Foundation through the online system are acknowledged automatically. You will receive a second notification of acceptance within a few weeks.

Applications submitted will be reviewed for completeness and eligibility. PSI will notify you through the online grants management system if we require clarification or additional information. Failure to respond in a timely manner may result in your application's review being delayed or your application being declined.

Once completeness and eligibility are confirmed the application will be reviewed by the internal review committee.

### DECISION PROCESS

The internal review committee will review the applications prior to meeting, and each application will be assessed and a successful candidate may be selected. Please note: the Foundation may not award this Fellowship.

All applicants will be notified of the result within 15 business days of the Committee's decision.



## FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT REQUIREMENTS

If funding is awarded, the following requirements are a condition of funding:

### ASSISTING THE FOUNDATION

- External peer review is a core component of PSI's grants review process. Like many other funders and journals, PSI continues to experience difficulty in securing sufficient external reviewers. We believe that our grantees can be part of the solution to this ongoing challenge; therefore, as a condition of funding, all currently funded KT Fellowship recipients are expected to provide at least two (2) external peer reviews for the KT Fellowship per year of support. The peer review process for the KT Fellowship program typically occurs between October and December each year. We will make every effort to limit our requests to KT Fellowship applications; however, in exceptional circumstances, we may request the Fellow's assistance in reviewing applications from other funding streams (e.g., the New Investigator Grant).
- The Fellow must agree to attend and potentially present their results of research at PSI events, which may include but not limited to its annual symposium, Fellows retreat, and Lunch & Learn workshops.

### CONDITIONS OF RELEASING THE INITIAL PAYMENT

- The Fellow is to provide a start and end date of the fellowship. Please note: PSI will use this date to determine when the sponsoring institution will close the funds account and when to expect interim and final reports from the Fellow.

### REPORTING & CONDITIONS OF RELEASING FUNDS

- The Fellow is responsible for submitting an annual report for review by PSI's internal review committee. Subsequent funding depends upon a satisfactory report.
- The Fellow is responsible for submitting a final report via the PSI Online Grants Management system, describing the impact of the fellowship within three months of the end date of the scholarship.
- If a portion of the award is used to fund a study, a statement of disbursement of these funds must be submitted to the Foundation at the completion of the project.

### CHANGES TO THE ORIGINAL PROPOSAL

- The Fellow and/or the sponsoring institution are responsible for notifying the Foundation of any significant changes to the scholar's position.
- The Fellow must notify the Foundation of any leave to be taken that will affect the award.



## UNUSED FUNDS

- The institution to which a Fellowship is paid must immediately notify and return unused funds to PSI if the Fellow is unable, for any reason, to carry out or complete the research for which the Fellowship is given.
- Within three months of the end of the granting period, the research account must be closed and all unused funds remaining in the account must be returned to PSI along with a final accounting statement for how funds were used.
- When work is completed or cannot be continued for any reason unused funds must be immediately returned to PSI.

## ACKNOWLEDGING PSI FOUNDATION

- All publications, presentations, public messages, or media coverage arising from the funded project are to include acknowledgement of funding from "PSI Foundation." Grant recipients are encouraged to connect with us prior to any media announcements. Furthermore, PSI's logo should be included whenever possible. An electronic file of the logo is available on the [website](#).
- Where papers are published or presented, reprints or copies must be submitted to PSI. Please note that you may send electronic copies by email rather than paper copies.

## OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- PSI requires that all funded research projects adhere to the sponsoring institution's policies and procedures as well as accepted research standards.