

Results of the 2020 Graduate Studentship Competition

The [WCHRI Graduate Studentship Program](#) offers competitively funded trainee support to students engaged in a full-time, thesis-based graduate level program of study at the University of Alberta.

The award is valued at up to \$18,000 per year and may be held for up to two years. Incentive awards are offered to those who have been successful in obtaining both the WCHRI Graduate Studentship award and other qualifying studentship award.

On behalf of WCHRI, Louanne Campbell, WCHRI director of operations and Dr. Andrew Waskiewicz, chair of the [Graduate Studentship Grant Advisory Committee](#), would like to congratulate the awardees and thank all of the applicants for the time and effort invested in their grant submission.

Finally, WCHRI would like to acknowledge the ongoing commitment and generosity of the Stollery Children's Hospital Foundation (SCHF) and the Alberta Women's Hospital Foundation (AWHF) for their financial support of this grant program.

Listing of awardees

| Applicant | Institution | Supervisor | Primary appointment | Project title | WCHRI Funder |
|------------------|---|-----------------------|---|--|--------------|
| Aslesh, Tejal | Medicine & Dentistry-Medical Genetics | Yokota, Toshifumi | Medicine & Dentistry-Medical Genetics | Development of novel DNA-like molecules for the treatment of spinal muscular atrophy | SCHF |
| Azimi, Tara | School of Public Health | Montesanti, Stephanie | School of Public Health | Exploring the lived experiences of mothers caring for children with type 1 Diabetes | AWHF / SCHF |
| Cyrkot, Samantha | Agriculture, Life & Environmental Sciences-Agricultural, Food & Nutritional Science | Mager, Diana | Agriculture, Life & Environmental Sciences-Agricultural, Food & Nutritional Science | Perspectives on implementing a gluten-free nutrition guideline for children | SCHF |

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|--------------------------|---|--------------------|---|--|-------------|
| Ghoman, Simran | Medicine & Dentistry-Pediatrics | Schmolzer, Georg M | Medicine & Dentistry-Pediatrics | Remote learning during the COVID-19 pandemic: using simulation-games to teach healthcare providers how to save babies at birth | SCHF |
| Harasym O'Byrne, Jessica | Rehabilitation Medicine-Occupational Therapy | Phelan, Shanon K | Rehabilitation Medicine-Occupational Therapy | The impact of post-concussion communication difficulties on daily life: perspectives of teens and families | SCHF |
| Holody, Claudia | Medicine & Dentistry-Pediatrics | Bourque, Stephane | Medicine & Dentistry-Anesthesiology & Pain Medicine | Understanding how the baby's heart develops when iron is low can help prevent disease in adults | AWHF / SCHF |
| Klassen, Danielle | School of Public Health | Storey, Kate E | School of Public Health | From school to community: understanding the broad reach and impact of the comprehensive school health approach | SCHF |
| Mattson, Danielle | Education-Educational Psychology | Pei, Jacqueline R | Education-Educational Psychology | Social support and mental health in young people with prenatal alcohol exposure | SCHF |
| Nguyen, Kim Cuong | Medicine & Dentistry-Radiology & Diagnostic Imaging | Le, Lawrence H. | Medicine & Dentistry-Radiology & Diagnostic Imaging | Imaging dental tissues in children using ionizing radiation-free ultrasound and artificial intelligence | SCHF |
| Pagano, Ana Paula | Agriculture, Life & Environmental Sciences-Agricultural, Food & Nutritional Science | Prado, Carla | Agriculture, Life & Environmental Sciences-Agricultural, Food & Nutritional Science | Defining energy recommendations during and beyond ovarian cancer | AWHF |
| Pasha, Mazhar | Medicine & Dentistry- | Davidge, Sandra | Medicine & Dentistry- | How impaired blood vessel function can | AWHF / SCHF |

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|------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|--|------|
| | Physiology | | Obstetrics & Gynecology | impact pregnancy outcomes in older mothers | |
| Sirajee, Reshma | Medicine & Dentistry-Pediatrics | Hawkes, Michael | Medicine & Dentistry-Pediatrics | Identifying proteins to predict growth and learning problems in HIV-exposed but uninfected infants in Uganda | SCHF |
| Soni, Shubham | Medicine & Dentistry-Pediatrics | Dyck, Jason RB | Medicine & Dentistry-Pediatrics | Testing a new treatment for babies with developmental defects caused by iron deficiency during pregnancy | SCHF |
| Tessier, Carmen | Medicine & Dentistry-Pediatrics | Kozyrskyj, Anita | Medicine & Dentistry-Pediatrics | How the bacteria in our gut impact the developing brain: insight on a pathway from maternal stress to infant brain development | SCHF |
| Watson, Adrienne | Medicine & Dentistry-Medical Genetics | Voronova, Anastassia | Medicine & Dentistry-Medical Genetics | Engaging neural stem cells for healthy brain development | SCHF |

Formal outcomes will be provided to all applicants July 17, 2020.

Application statistics

Total eligible applications: 61

Total applications awarded: 15

Funding rate = 24.6%

WCHRI Program Leverage

Of the 15 WCHRI Graduate studentship awardees offered funding through this program, at the time of this announcement, 4 have funding from alternative funding sources (overall program leverage of 26.6%). Students who are awarded alternative funding receive incentive funding from WCHRI. Leveraging allows WCHRI to fund more students that we would otherwise be unable to fund given budget constraints.

Application statistics by faculty and department (funded/applied)

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| Agriculture, Life & Environmental Sciences-Agricultural, Food & Nutritional Science: 2/3 |
| Education-Educational Psychology: 1/4 |
| Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation: 0/2 |
| Medicine & Dentistry-Biochemistry: 0/2 |
| Medicine & Dentistry-Dentistry and Dental Hygiene: 0/2 |
| Medicine & Dentistry-Laboratory Medicine & Pathology: 0/1 |
| Medicine & Dentistry-Medical Genetics: 2/2 |
| Medicine & Dentistry-Medical Microbiology & Immunology: 0/2 |
| Medicine & Dentistry-Pediatrics: 5/12 |
| Medicine & Dentistry-Pharmacology: 0/1 |
| Medicine & Dentistry-Physiology: 1/4 |
| Medicine & Dentistry-Psychiatry: 0/1 |
| Medicine & Dentistry-Radiology & Diagnostic Imaging: 1/2 |
| Medicine & Dentistry-Surgery: 0/1 |
| Nursing: 0/4 |
| Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences: 0/3 |
| Rehabilitation Medicine-Occupational Therapy: 1/2 |
| Rehabilitation Medicine-Physical Therapy: 0/3 |
| School of Public Health: 2/9 |
| Science-Chemistry: 0/1 |

Questions?

Contact [Michelle Bailleux](#), WCHRI Research Grants Administrator.