

## AISHA REA RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP IN VASCULITIS

### Award Guide

*The University of Calgary strives to create and maintain a positive and productive learning and working environment in which there is respect for the dignity of all persons, and fair and equitable treatment of individuals in our diverse community. As part of the UCalgary community, ACHRI believes that diversity in our team is a strength. ACHRI commits to considering qualified applicants from members of any and all equity seeking groups, including women, Indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, and persons who are members of a visible minority group in Canada.*

#### Purpose of Award

This award is made possible through the generous support of the Rea Family. The fellowship is a competitive award intended to provide salary support to eligible trainees who wish to pursue research training in the area of childhood inflammatory diseases, with preferred focus on vasculitis.

#### Eligibility Criteria

Candidates are eligible to apply for the Aisha Rea Research Fellowship if:

- they are being recruited for, or are currently in a postdoctoral or clinical research training position at the University of Calgary with a primary research supervisor who is a member of ACHRI or another research institute at the Cumming School of Medicine **and**
- their research project fits with the mandate of the Aisha Rea Research Fellowship award, as outlined below.

Candidates for the Aisha Rea Research Fellowship may be medical residents or fellows as well as postdoctoral fellows conducting research in childhood inflammatory diseases, with preferred applications to vasculitis and Takayasu's Arteritis. All applicants must be working within the child health and wellness context. Ideally, the applicant will work closely with investigators at the Childhood Inflammatory Diseases Program at the Alberta Children's Hospital to help transform care and optimize outcomes for children living with inflammatory diseases by integrating best biological and clinical evidence into clinical practice, standardizing treatment and evaluation in care, and enabling clinical and translational research integration.

The Aisha Rea Research Fellowship funds may not be used to fund training of individuals at another institution outside of the Alberta Children's Hospital (ACH), University of Calgary and allied facilities. However, applicants from other jurisdictions, including from out of province and international are encouraged to apply.

In case of clinical research trainees, to qualify for the Aisha Rea Research Fellowship, applicants must be eligible to be registered with the Postgraduate Medical Education (PGME) office at the University of Calgary. Interested applicants who are physicians should contact the ACHRI STEP office to discuss arrangements for the appropriate clinical training program at the University of Calgary prior to application submission.

In case of postdoctoral scholar applicants, to qualify for the Aisha Rea Research Fellowship award, an

applicant must conform to the definition of a postdoctoral scholar as defined by the UCalgary Postdoc Office: this typically means that the candidate must have been awarded a PhD or equivalent within the five years immediately preceding the appointment, or ten years from the completion of an MD, DDS, DVM or equivalent (aside from time taken off for parental leaves, family or personal matters). Please note that ACHRI requests a written confirmation from the UCalgary postdoc office that all the eligibility requirements have been met by the awardee and their supervisor prior to release of funds.

The fellowship requires 70-80% dedicated research time for this fellowship. Therefore, clinical work (defined as per current PGME policies for Clinical Research Fellowship) must be limited to 20-30%.

Current holders of internal and external fellowship awards such as CIHR, NSERC and other agencies, are eligible to apply for the Aisha Rea Research Fellowship only if funding from these agencies will be ending within 12 months from the application deadline.

Only one fellowship application will be accepted from a single supervisor in a given competition.

Successful applicants/awardees must register with ACHRI as trainees. Postdoctoral applicants must produce evidence of completion of a graduate degree prior to the start of fellowship.

### **Financial Support**

The award amount will be commensurate with the training level/category and the year of training, as per the current ACHRI/ UCalgary stipend standards. Remuneration for eligible residents/clinical research fellows will be based on the appropriate post-graduate year level, in accordance with the current PARA agreement. Remuneration for postdoctoral fellows who do not hold a clinical license will be at \$50,000 per year.

The Aisha Rea Research Fellowship award may be used for salary support only, and may not be used for research expenses, travel, relocation or other purposes.

Health benefits are not provided as part of the award. Health benefits of postdoctoral scholars registered with the UCalgary Postdoc Office must be covered by their supervisor. Clinical research fellows are not eligible for health benefits through UCalgary.

Holders of the Aisha Rea Research Fellowship are expected to apply for internal and external awards or grants for which they are eligible, including those from provincial and national agencies. Renewal for the second year of Aisha Rea Research Fellowship funding is contingent upon satisfactory progress of the trainee, completion of a trainee progress report (approved by the supervisor), participation in the ACHRI training activities and events, and demonstrated efforts to secure external fellowship support (e.g., submitted application to an external agency). We also ask awardees to kindly notify us of any awards they may receive through either external or internal agencies or programs during the term of their Aisha Rea Research Fellowship.

If the awarded trainee is successful in obtaining a major external fellowship award (e.g., Alberta Innovates, Tri-Council), in which remuneration exceeds the Aisha Rea Research Fellowship amount, the trainee is expected to decline the Aisha Rea Research Fellowship award in favor of the other award(s). If the external award amount is lower than the Aisha Rea Research Fellowship amount, applicants are expected to accept the external award and request a top-up from ACHRI to match the Aisha Rea Research Fellowship remuneration.

## Term of Support

The term of fellowship support is maximum two years (24 months). Renewal for the second year is contingent upon satisfactory progress of the trainee as well as participation in ACHRI/CHW training activities and events, and evidence that an external training award application has been submitted.

## Application Deadline

Applications are due by **5 pm local time on May 1 of each year, unless otherwise posted\*, for a term commencing as early as July 1 of the same year and no later than July 1 of the following year.** Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.

**\*2022 Competition deadline is Monday, July 4, 2022.**

When the application deadline falls on a statutory holiday or weekend, applications are due on the next working day.

## Application Instructions: New Applicants

Applicants must submit:

- Completed Fellowship Application form, available on the [ACHRI website](#);
- Two letters of reference submitted by the referees via email. One of the letters must be from the proposed research supervisor. If there are co-supervisors, a joint letter should be submitted, and the second letter should come from another referee.

Application packages and reference letters must be submitted electronically to the ACHRI STEP office at [achri.training@ucalgary.ca](mailto:achri.training@ucalgary.ca).

It is the responsibility of the applicant and their supervisor to ensure all application documents are complete and submitted on time. Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted. If the application is deemed non-compliant (e.g., does not follow application instructions as stated; supporting documents exceed page limit, etc.), reviewers have the right to reject the application.

## Application Instructions: Renewing Applicants

In order to renew the Aisha Rea Research Fellowship funding for a second year, applicants must submit:

- Progress Report, available on the [ACHRI website](#), completed by the trainee;
- Letter of support written by the supervisor
- Evidence that an application for an external salary award has been submitted

Renewal packages and reference letters must be submitted electronically to the ACHRI STEP office at [achri.training@ucalgary.ca](mailto:achri.training@ucalgary.ca) a minimum of one month prior to the end date of the funding period.

## Adjudication Process and Evaluation Criteria

Eligible applications will be reviewed by the ACHRI Training Review Committee, selected from the ACHRI

College of Reviewers, in conjunction with the ACHRI Training and Education Committee. Applications will be adjudicated and awarded based on the following criteria:

- Novelty and impact of the proposed project and its alignment with the purpose of the fellowship, as described above
- Clarity of the research proposal, feasibility within timelines, and the applicant's role in the project
- Training environment (e.g., proposed supervisor's publications, grant support, experience in trainee supervision, excellence in mentorship, clinical work being performed in an area as per the purpose of the award)
- Candidate's demonstrated commitment to research and scholarship demonstrated by research outputs, **or** potential impact on career trajectory the fellowship will enable, as well as letters of reference

Please note that the Review Committee is a multi-disciplinary group of reviewers who may not have the in-depth knowledge in all the projects submitted. Applicants must ensure that their project proposals can be understood by a non-specialist reviewer, and in particular patient partner reviewers.

### **Terms of the Award**

The Aisha Rea Research Fellowship will be administered under the terms and conditions of the ACHRI STEP/ACHRI Research Training Programs, which includes the following requirements:

- Participation of the awardee in training activities (i.e., courses, workshops, professional development opportunities) organized by ACHRI and/or ACHRI's partner programs;
- Continued application for external funding support: with a goal of increasing training capacity in the child health and wellness domain, we require all our awardees to explore opportunities for external awards, so that if successful, training funds can be released for supporting additional trainees. We also ask you to kindly notify us of any awards you may receive through either external or internal agencies or programs during the term of your fellowship.
- Participation and presentation by the awardee at the ACHRI Annual Research Retreat (or another similar event);
- Timely submission of trainee and supervisor final report, and other documentation, as required;

Additional requirements as part of the Aisha Rea Research Fellowship award include:

- Recipient's research plan must align with the purpose of the Fellowship, as described above;
- Recipient will recognize the Aisha Rea Research Fellowship in any publication, research report, policy brief, promotional material, public event, news release or other work arising from this support;
- In addition to reporting requirements of ACHRI STEP, the recipient will be available to meet with the donor to provide a verbal update on progress and will provide a written, lay language summary of activity/progress during the tenure of the award.

**With any questions, please contact the ACHRI STEP office at:**

**Email: [achri.training@ucalgary.ca](mailto:achri.training@ucalgary.ca)**

**Telephone: 403.220.8158**