

## CHARLIE FISCHER FELLOWSHIP IN ADVANCING PATIENT- AND FAMILY-CENTRED RESEARCH

### 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 has been made possible through a gift honouring Mr. Charlie Fischer by Randy and Claudia Findlay. This Fellowship was created to honour the many contributions made by Mr. Charlie Fischer toward improving outcomes for children and families through research, education and care. Reflecting his strong support for child health research and his life-long passion and advocacy for patients and their families, the Fellowship will enable transformative research for children and families. New knowledge will empower families, advance their voices, and amplify child and youth health and wellness.

#### Eligibility Criteria

Candidates are eligible to apply for the Charlie Fischer 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 supervisor who is a member of ACHRI;
- their research project fits with the mandate of the Charlie Fischer Fellowship award; and
- They are working within the child health and wellness context

Areas of study could include but are not limited to the following:

- Advancing the voices of patients and families in their role of informing and co-creating clinical research;
- Creating new knowledge that advances and contributes to improved patient and family outcomes;
- Generating evidence to enable care transformation and improve outcomes;
- Improving understanding of the importance of research among patients and families.

The Charlie Fischer 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. In case of clinical research trainees, to qualify for the Charlie Fischer Fellowship award, applicants must be eligible to be registered with the Postgraduate Medical Education (PGME) office at the University of Calgary.

In case of postdoctoral scholar applicants, to qualify for the Charlie Fischer 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 for leaves or other circumstances). 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 his/her supervisor prior to release of funds.

Current holders of internal and external fellowship awards such as CIHR, NSERC and other agencies, are eligible to apply for the Charlie Fischer 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 and produce evidence of completion of a graduate degree prior to the start of their 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 PGY level, in accordance with the current PARA agreement. Remuneration for postdoctoral fellows who do not hold a clinical license will be at \$60,000 per year.

In addition to the fellowship salary, the awardee will receive a \$5,000 research allowance.

The Charlie Fischer Fellowship award may be used for salary support only, and may not be used for travel, relocation or other purposes.

The Charlie Fischer Fellowship may not be held in conjunction with another award. If the awarded trainee is successful in obtaining a major fellowship award (e.g., Alberta Innovates, Tri-Council), the trainee is expected to decline the Charlie Fischer Fellowship in favor of the other award(s). In this case, the freed-up research fellowship funds will be used to fund another eligible candidate.

### **Term of Support**

The term of fellowship support is 12 months. Funding support for an additional year is possible through the ACHRI Postdoctoral Fellowship program.

### **Application Deadline**

Applications are due by **the deadline indicated on the [ACHRI website](#), 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.

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

## Application Instructions

Applicants must submit:

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

It is the responsibility of the applicant and her/his/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.

## 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 based on the following criteria:

1. novelty and impact of the proposed work to advance patient- and family-oriented research
2. clarity of the research proposal and the applicant's role in the project
3. training environment (e.g., proposed supervisor's publications, grant support, experience in trainee supervision, excellence in mentorship)
4. candidate's demonstrated commitment to research and scholarship demonstrated by publications or other research outputs and letters of reference

Please note that the Review Committee is a multi-disciplinary group of reviewers and may include a patient/community representative, 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.

## Terms of the Award

The Charlie Fischer Fellowship will be administered under the terms and conditions of ACHRI STEP/ ACHRI Research Training Programs, which include 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;
- 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;

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 Charlie Fischer Fellowship.

Additional requirements as part of the Charlie Fischer Fellowship award include:

- Recipient's research plan must align with the purpose of the Fellowship, as described above.

- At the end of the funding term, the recipient will be given the opportunity to deliver the Charlie Fischer Lecture in Advancing Patient- and Family-Centred Research at a relevant venue within UCalgary.
- The recipient is required to use the following wording for funding recognition in any publication, research report, policy brief, promotional material, public event, news release or other work arising from this support: *“Financial assistance is provided by generous community donations to the Charlie Fischer Fellowship in Advancing Patient- and Family-Centred Research through the Alberta Children’s Hospital Foundation.”*
- In addition to reporting requirements of ACHRI/ 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**