



2025/26 Personnel Awards for Black Scholars Recipients

Heart & Stroke and Brain Canada are excited to announce the recipients of the 2025/26 Personnel Awards for Black Scholars (BSA). This program aims to promote strategic growth in heart and brain health science within Black communities by supporting Black students to pursue their post graduate studies.

Following Heart & Stroke's rigorous peer review process, **14 trainees** are being supported from the 2025/26 BSA competition in pursuing their post graduate studies. We are pleased to celebrate the following successful applicants:

Doctoral

Alaka, Shakiru (Brock University)

Investigating Degenerative Protein Modifications as Molecular Mediators Linking Vascular Risk Factors to Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia

Arhen, Benjamin (McMaster University)

Ketones and Brain Health: The effects of a short-term ketone monoester supplementation on cognition and indices of brain function in adults with subjective cognitive decline.

Gessese, Semhal (University of Ottawa)

A Culturally Tailored Patient Decision Aid to Support African, Caribbean, and Black Populations with Brain-Heart Conditions

Habiyambere, Bienvenue (Dalhousie University)

Targeting macrophages using engineered niosome-drug delivery vehicles to enhance intracellular anti-inflammatory effects

Ibukun, Osebhahiem (University of Saskatchewan)

Role of liver defenses in protecting against cardiometabolic disease-associated sepsis

Mulder, Tiara (Dalhousie University)

*Investigating Filamin's Mechanical Role in Muscle Physiology and JNK Pathway Regulation Using *Drosophila melanogaster**

Osei-Boateng, Christabel (University of Guelph)

The role of THC cannabis on Cerebral Blood Flow Regulation

Master's

Adam, Amanda (University of Alberta)

Role of the apelin pathway in cardiovascular and skeletal muscle systems in obesity and type 2 diabetes

Alemayehu, Ruth (University of Toronto)

Investigating practices to increase Black blood donors for cardiovascular patients

Amanual, Samuel (University of Guelph)

The effects of a sodium-reduced diet on sympathetic transduction in normotensive Black individuals.

Ayekun, Lonimi (University of Guelph)

Investigating the Neurodevelopmental Impact of Congenital Heart Disease-Linked KDM5B Mutations in Gene-Edited Cerebral Organoids

Burton, Ann-Marie (York University)

Before the Attack: Intersectional Understanding the Role of Physical Literacy in Physical Activity as a Prevention Strategy for Black Older Adults with Risk of Developing Coronary Heart Disease

Charles, Roberto (McGill University)

Internalization, Trafficking, and Anti-inflammatory Effects of Dendritic Polyglycerol Sulfate in the Hippocampus

Edebor, Osamudiamen (York University)

Addressing the cognitive, environmental, financial, personal, physical, psychological, and social care needs of Black stroke survivors: A Family-Based Case Study Qualitative approach in GTA