



2025/26 Grant-In-Aid Recipients

Heart & Stroke Foundation is pleased to announce the 2025/26 Grant-in-Aid (GIA) recipients!

For the 2025/26 (Fall 2024) competition:

- Heart & Stroke received **274 GIA applications**. Following Heart & Stroke's rigorous peer and budget review processes, **58 highly rated** applications have been funded. This represents a **success rate of 21.17%**, and a total investment of **\$19,387,324**.
- Each funded GIA has an average duration of 3.56 years and received an average amount of \$334,264.21.
- For the 2025/26 peer review season, over 150 members of the research community donated their time and expertise to the peer review process.

Advani, Andrew (Unity Health Toronto - St. Michael's Hospital)
Defining the roles of protein-bound and secreted ISG15 in heart failure

Albert, Paul (Ottawa Hospital Research Institute)
Enhancing neuroplasticity for behavioral and cognitive recovery after stroke.

Atzema, Clare (Sunnybrook Research Institute)
Examining the capacity of an opinion leader to alter emergency physician practice: Initiating oral anticoagulation for patients with atrial fibrillation

Auger, Nathalie (Centre hospitalier de l'université de Montréal)
Severe maternal cardiovascular morbidity: Impact on maternal and child health

Avila, Laura (Hospital for Sick Children)
Development, implementation, and evaluation of an intervention to improve health literacy in adolescents with thrombotic events

Bouchard, Karen (University of Ottawa Heart Institute)
Complicated grief among caregivers bereaved from heart failure: A pilot and feasibility prospective cohort study

Brophy, James (Research Institute of McGill University Health Centre)
Assessing the interpretability of cardiovascular trials

Brown, Craig (University of Victoria)
Role for Serpine1/PAI-1 in regulating cerebral microcirculation and stroke recovery

Chen, S.R. Wayne (University of Calgary)
Mechanism and Treatment of RyR2-associated Atrial Fibrillation

Conen, David (McMaster University)
Continuous electrocardiographic monitoring for the detection of postoperative atrial fibrillation and myocardial ischemia after noncardiac surgery

Connelly, Kim (Unity Health Toronto - St. Michael's Hospital)
Role of Bag3 mediated autophagy in diabetic heart disease

Conway, Jennifer (University of Alberta)
Understanding Childhood eVents Related (UNCOVER) to Cardiomyopathy Study

Dakshinamurti, Shyamala (University of Manitoba)
Targeting Adenylyl Cyclase in Hypoxic Pulmonary Hypertension

Daskalopoulou, Styliani Stella (Research Institute of McGill University Health Centre)
early Prediction of late onset preeclampsia using Urinary biomarkers anaLyseS in high-risk prEgnancies (PULSE-U)

Delgado Olguin, Paul (Hospital for Sick Children)
The heart as a regulator of systemic metabolism, a new paradigm in heart failure

Dolinsky, Vernon (University of Manitoba)
Gestational Diabetes and Post-pregnancy cardiac dysfunction: The role of mitochondria

Duceppe, Emmanuelle (Centre hospitalier de l'université de Montréal)
SecondarY prevention and maNagement of myocardial injury after Noncardiac surGerY – a pilot pragmatic randomized controlled trial

Floras, John (University Health Network) Co-PI: Cherney, David
Sodium glucose co-transporter inhibition in heart failure with preserved ejection fraction with and without diabetes: the autonomic-cardio-renal axis

Fullerton, Morgan (University of Ottawa)
Dissecting immunometabolic signals that drive trained immunity in atherosclerosis

Gagnon, Daniel (Montreal Heart Institute)
Cardiac rehabilitation to reduce heat-induced cardiac strain of adults living with heart disease

Haykowsky, Mark (University of Alberta) Co-PI: McMurtry, Michael Sean
Understanding the Impact of Exercise on Cardiovascular Function in Patients with Aortic Disease

Hoesli, Corinne (McGill University)
Biofabrication de cellules progénitrices endothéliales sur des microporteurs multifonctionnels

Jassal, Davinder (University of Manitoba) Co-PI: Dixon, Ian
Empagliflozin in the prevention and treatment of doxorubicin and trastuzumab mediated cardiotoxicity (EMPACT) study

Jenkins, David (University of Toronto) Co-PI: Sievenpiper, John
Do high glycemic index and glycemic load diets contribute to increase the risk of CVD and all-cause mortality?

Jolly, Sanjit (McMaster University) Co-PI: Harlock, John
CLARITY Vanguard Trial

Joseph, Philip (McMaster University)
Thiamine supplementation in heart failure

Karwi, Qutuba (Memorial University of Newfoundland)
Targeting macrophage energy metabolism to treat heart failure with preserved ejection fraction

Kazak, Lawrence (McGill University)
Targeting adipose tissue for safe and effective weight loss

Kessler, Dorothy (Queen's University)
Supporting re-engagement in life: Coaching to enhance participation in valued activities following stroke

Kim, Kyoung-Han (University of Ottawa Heart Institute)
The combinatorial role of Iroquois homeobox transcription factors in cardiovascular neurocristopathy

Kirshenbaum, Lorrie (University of Manitoba)
UNC-51 kinase regulated autophagy in cardiac myocytes

Koelwyn, Graeme (Simon Fraser University)
Exercise reprogramming of innate immune memory to mitigate residual inflammatory risk following myocardial infarction

Kramer, Caroline (Mount Sinai Hospital)
Impact of semaglutide withdrawal on cardiometabolic profile and physiology of energy balance: a randomized controlled trial comparing gradual dose reduction with immediate treatment cessation.

Kubes, Paul (Queen's University)
Studying monocytes and macrophages in normal heart repair and in ischemic heart injury using novel in vivo imaging approaches

Lagace, Diane (University of Ottawa)
Harnessing the Potential of Astrocytes to Improve Stroke Recovery

Li, Ren-Ke (University Health Network)

Feasibility and mechanism for an atrial adhesive conductive membrane to synchronize electrical signaling and alleviate atrial fibrillation

Liang, Wenbin (University of Ottawa Heart Institute)

Role of GABA type A receptors in cardiac remodeling after myocardial infarction

Martel, Catherine (Montreal Heart Institute)

Assessing Lymphatic Function Can Improve Risk Assessment and Management of Cardiovascular Diseases Due to Hormonal Changes

McIntyre, Christopher (London Health Sciences Centre)

Exploratory study of pharmacological cerebrovascular endothelial stabilization to reduce hemodialysis-induced recurrent brain injury, to provide long term neuroprotection

Miliku, Kozeta (University of Toronto)

Unraveling the Paternal Contribution to the Developmental Origins of Offspring Cardiovascular Health

Min, Wei-Ping (University of Western Ontario)

Cardioprotective effect of $DLC1\beta$ in heart transplantation: Molecular mechanism and therapeutic potential

Moghaddam, Nima (University of British Columbia) Co-PI: Hawkins, Nathaniel

Efficacy of a Mobile Health Short Messaging Service in Reducing Hospital Readmissions after Heart Failure Hospitalization [SMS-HF]

Parkash, Ratika (Nova Scotia Health Authority)

A randomized ablation-based atrial fibrillation rhythm control versus rate control trial in patients with heart failure and preserved ejection fraction (CABANA RAFT HF): A Pilot study

Ploughman, Michelle (Memorial University of Newfoundland)

Investigating factors contributing to worse physical outcomes after stroke in women

Protze, Stephanie (University Health Network)

Generating mature sinoatrial node pacemaker cells for biological pacemaker applications.

Rayner, Katey (University of Ottawa Heart Institute)

Pneumonia-Induced Vascular Inflammation & Atherosclerosis

Ruiz, Matthieu (Montreal Heart Institute)

Targeting the epigenetic factor EZH2 to reprogram the pathological heart and improve cardiac function

Sanatani, Shubhayan (University of British Columbia)

Improving our understanding of CPVT: Examining the brain's role

Selvanathan, Thiviya (University of British Columbia)
Brain health in adolescents with critical congenital heart disease

Shamy, Michel (Ottawa Hospital Research Institute) Co-PI: Dowlathshahi, Dar
COMPACT Stroke: COnsent Modernization for Platform Adaptive Clinical Trials in Stroke

Simpson, Jeremy (University of Guelph) Co-PI: Brunt, Keith
Addressing the unmet medical need for treatment of pulmonary hypertension induced by LV dysfunction

Smith, Eric (University of Calgary)
Plasma Predictors of Intracerebral Hemorrhage Recurrence

Wang, Jing (Ottawa Hospital Research Institute)
Ischemia-induced pericyte neural reprogramming and its role in post-stroke regeneration and recovery

Wang, Yu Tian (University of British Columbia)
Development of a novel class of NMDA receptor subtype-specific neuroprotectants for stroke

Widenmaier, Scott (University of Saskatchewan)
Impact of a Nrf1/VLDL axis on sepsis outcomes in a mouse model of familial hypercholesterolemia

Xiao, Changting (University of Saskatchewan)
Gut-derived Extracellular Vesicles in Vascular Health

Zha, Xiaohui (Ottawa Hospital Research Institute)
Statins Decrease Macrophage Cholesterol in vivo and in vitro to Upregulate Jmjd3, to be Anti-inflammatory in Atherosclerosis Prevention

Zheng, Xi-Long (University of Calgary)
SIK3 (Salt-Inducible Kinase 3) in Vascular Smooth Muscle Cells: A New Avenue for Atherosclerosis Research