2025/26 Personnel Awards for Women's Heart & Brain Health Recipients

Heart & Stroke and Brain Canada are excited to announce the recipients of the 2025/26 Personnel Awards for Women's Heart & Brain Health (WPA). This program aims to support Postdoctoral and Doctoral researchers in Canadian universities and research institutions who are focused on women's heart and brain health by providing stipend funding that enables them to dedicate time to their research and engage with mentors throughout their training.

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

Postdoctoral

Furtado, Rochelle (University Health Network)
Development and testing of a co-designed rehabilitation program for people living with shoulder pain after stroke

Doctoral

Abbasi-Hashemi, Taha (McMaster University)
Predicting Cerebral Hemodynamic Responses on an Adjustable Head-Up Tilt Table

Bommarito, Julian (University of Guelph)
Sex differences in blood pressure regulation following acute sleep deprivation

Dahlby, Julia (University of British Columbia)
The role of sex and mesocorticolimbic tract integrity on motor learning in chronic stroke

Gaudreau-Majeau, Flavie (Montreal Heart Institute)
Comparaison des effets de l'entrainement physique, de l'entrainement cognitif et de la danse sur la cognition chez des femmes avec facteurs de risque cardiovasculaire

Henry, Andria (Unity Health Toronto - St. Michael's Hospital)
Lipoprotein(a) and the Arterial Endothelium: Elucidating Mechanisms of Residual Cardiovascular Risk

Lindsay, Katherine (Research Institute of McGill University Health Centre)
Uncovering the Impact of Sex and Gender on Microvascular Function: A Path to Better Cardiovascular Disease Prevention in Women

Magnan, Pierre-Olivier (Montreal Heart Institute)
Sex Differences in the Relationship Between the Determinants of Cardiorespiratory Fitness, Cognition and Brain Volumes and the Impact of Physical Training.

Martin, Hannah (University of Western Ontario)
Can measuring circulating extracellular vesicles discriminate microglia burden and post-stroke cognitive impairment?

Mei, Yixue (McMaster University)
The impact of sex, endogenous sex hormones, and hormonal contraceptives on cardio- and cerebrovascular hemodynamics

Park, Suejean (University Health Network)
Extracellular vesicles as a circulating biomarker for cerebrovascular dysfunction in women with heart failure

Reyes, Agafe Bless (Ottawa Hospital Research Institute)
Mechanisms of Vascular Injury in Gestational Diabetes Mellitus

Shafaati, Tanin (University of Alberta)
Elucidating a Cardiac Metabolic Signature that Defines Postmenopausal-Related Diabetic Cardiomyopathy

Stein, Ryan (University of British Columbia)
Rise & Shine: Promoting Sleep Quality in Chronic Stroke with Exercise