



2026/27 Grant-In-Aid Recipients

Heart & Stroke Foundation is pleased to announce the 2026/27 Grant-in-Aid (GIA) recipients!

For the 2026/27 (Fall 2025) competition:

- Heart & Stroke received **255 GIA applications**. Following Heart & Stroke's rigorous peer and budget review processes, **56 highly rated** applications have been funded. This represents a **success rate of 21.96%**, and a total investment of **\$18,721,714**.
- Each funded GIA has an average duration of 3.70 years and received an average amount of \$334,316.32.
- For the 2026/27 peer review season, over 200 members of the research community donated their time and expertise to the peer review process.

Avram, Robert (Montreal Heart Institute) Co-PI: Fremes, Stephen
DeepCORO-CLIP: AI-Powered SYNTAX Scoring and Revascularization Decision Support for the STICH3C Trial

Boyd, Lara (University of British Columbia)
Promoting motor and cognitive recovery after stroke with high intensity interval training

Bugeja, Ann (Ottawa Hospital Research Institute)
Communities at New Risk: Hypertension and Heart Disease in Refugees and Immigrants (CAN-NEW)

Cavayas, Yiorgos Alexandros (Hôpital du Sacré-Coeur de Montréal) Co-PI: Cournoyer, Alexis
Rapid prehospital Extracorporeal cArdiopulmoNary resuscitation for Management of out-of-hospital cardiac Arrest: a pre-pilot fEasibility study (REANIMATE-0)

Cerruti, Marta (McGill University) Co-PI: Murshed, Monzur
Exploring the link between sex and extracellular vesicles in medial arterial calcification in chronic kidney disease: from understanding to cure.

Chauhan, Vijay (University Health Network)
Impact of early heart failure with preserved ejection fraction (HFpEF) in patients undergoing atrial fibrillation catheter ablation

Cluff, Tyler (University of Calgary) Co-PI: Dukelow, Sean
REWARDS: REward-based Assessment of motor leaRning and its relationship to clinical Deficits after Stroke

Collins, Michelle (University of Saskatchewan)
Role of PITX2C in atrial arrhythmias

Conklin, Annalijn (University of British Columbia)
Changes in social relationships, mediators and cardiovascular diseases (CVD) in older adults (CLEAR)

Cummins, Carolyn (University of Toronto)
Role of sTREM2 in early atherogenesis

Dawson, John (University of Guelph)
Actin at the Heart of Disease: A Multiscale Prediction and In Vivo Validation Platform for Reclassifying Cardiomyopathy Variants

Delgado Olguin, Paul (Hospital for Sick Children)
Epigenetic control of pediatric dilated cardiomyopathy

Deyell, Marc (University of British Columbia) Co-PI: Sapp, John
Prospective cohort for the sEcoNDary prevention of Ventricular Tachycardia in patients with cardiomyopathies Quality-of-Life (END-VT QoL) extension

Dhingra, Sanjiv (University of Manitoba)
Role of MIF in preserving immunoprivilege of allogeneic mesenchymal stem cells in the ischemic heart

Eisenberg, Mark (Jewish General Hospital)
Individual Participant Data Meta-Analysis of Randomized Controlled Trials Investigating the Use of E-Cigarettes for Smoking Cessation

Epelman, Slava (University Health Network)
Improving Immuno-engineered Heart Tissues

Fedida, David (University of British Columbia)
Structural and electrical characterization of the activation pathway in cardiac IKs channels

Foldes-Busque, Guillaume (Université Laval)
Cognitive-behavioural therapy for panic disorder in patients with comorbid coronary artery disease: a pilot randomized clinical trial

Friedberg, Mark (Hospital for Sick Children)
Right ventricular stiffening in pulmonary hypertension as a new therapeutic target

Gauthier, Claudine (Montreal Heart Institute)
The effects of menopause and hormone replacement therapy on cerebrovascular health

Gioia, Laura (Centre Hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal) Co-PI : Buck, Brian
PRECISION-STROKE: A Multimodal Approach to Enhance Prehospital Stroke Diagnosis

Goldfarb, Michael (Jewish General Hospital)
Virtual Family Participation in Cardiac ICU Rounds: A Multicentre Randomized Trial (The VR-FAMILY Study)

Gramolini, Anthony (University of Toronto)
Biochemical Pathways and Organelle Dysregulation in Phospholamban R14del Arrhythmogenic Cardiomyopathy

Grunau, Brian (University of British Columbia) Co-PI: Christenson, Jim
Naloxone vs. Placebo for Suspected Opioid-Associated Out-of-Hospital Cardiac Arrest: A Pilot Study

Hébert, Terence (McGill University)
Using patient-derived iPSCs to model cardiovascular disease.

Lee, Warren (St. Michael's Hospital)
Lp(a) and the arterial endothelium: Elucidating mechanisms of residual cardiovascular risk

Lettre, Guillaume (Montreal Heart Institute)
Sex-specific effects of coronary artery disease- and blood pressure-associated variants and genes in vascular endothelial cells

Luo, Honglin (University of British Columbia)
Extracellular vesicles in viral myocarditis: Unlocking therapeutic potential

Maass, Philipp (Hospital for Sick Children)
The impact of a novel RNA gene on blood pressure control and hypertension

Mann, Koren (Jewish General Hospital) Co-PI: Baglole, Carolyn
Vaping During Pregnancy: the Risk of Atherosclerosis for the Next Generation

Mansfield, Avril (University Health Network)
Novel implementation of underused cardiorespiratory training in stroke rehabilitation to drive recovery: the role of kinesiologists as exercise specialists

Menard, Caroline (Université Laval)
Sex-specific effects of stress on neurovascular health: implication for post-stroke depression prevalence, symptoms, and recovery

Miller, Robert (University of Calgary)
Improving Identification and Management of Frailty in Patients with Cardiovascular Disease through Automated Quantification of Sarcopenia

Mital, Seema (Hospital for Sick Children)
Cardiac magnetic resonance spectroscopy and lipidomics to decode diastolic dysfunction in pediatric cardiomyopathy

Mulvihill, Erin (University of Ottawa Heart Institute)
The role of plasminogen activator inhibitor-1 deficiency in cardiac fibrosis

Ni, Heyu (St. Michael's Hospital)
The PSI domain of $\beta 3$ integrin: A novel mechanism and target for anti-thrombotic therapy

Ofori, Sandra (McMaster University) Co-PI: Kessler Borges, Flavia
PeRiopErative smokiNg CessaTion (PREVENT) Trial

Ospel, Johanna (University of Calgary)

Intravascular Treatment of Medium-sized Primary Vessel Occlusions (IMPACT): A Randomized Controlled Trial

Pelletier-Galarneau, Matthieu (Montreal Heart Institute)

In vivo quantification of myocardial and skeletal mitochondrial function with positron emission tomography imaging

Peters, Sue (University of Western Ontario)

Enabling bedside brain measurement to maximize motor outcomes after stroke

Prager-Khoutorsky, Masha (McGill University)

Neuroendocrine regulation of blood pressure during pregnancy

Raj, Satish (University of Calgary) Co-PI: Dadar, Mahsa

Carbon Dioxide Therapy for Managing Orthostatic Hypotension

Rajah, Natasha (Toronto Metropolitan University)

The effect of biological sex and menopause status on MRI biomarkers of vascular health and episodic memory at midlife

Robertson, George (Dalhousie University)

Nose-to-Brain Delivery of IRX4204 to Promote Functional Recovery After an Ischemic Stroke

Rodés Cabau, Josep (Institut de cardiologie de Québec)

TraNscatheter Aortic Valve Implantation vs surGical AorTic valVe Replacement in Patients with Bicuspid Aortic Valve Stenosis – the NAVIGATE Bicuspid Trial

Schmölzer, Georg (University of Alberta)

Optimization of initial vasopressor therapy during cardiopulmonary resuscitation of asphyxiated newborns at birth

Servant, Marc (Université de Montréal)

Roles of the deubiquitinase USP17 in abdominal aortic aneurysm development and VSMC phenotypic switching

Sheldon, Robert (University of Calgary)

Syncope Trial to Understand Tilt Testing or ECG Recording (POST 10)

Singh, Hardeep (University of Toronto) Co-PI: Nelson, Michelle

Engaging health providers, health system leaders and racialized stroke populations in the co-design of a culturally responsive framework that optimizes stroke care transitions

Steinberg, Benjamin (Hospital for Sick Children)

Gasdermin D drives right ventricular dysfunction in pulmonary hypertension: cellular mechanisms and therapeutic targeting

Sze, Newman (Brock University) Co-PI: Liang, Ping

Investigating the Role of the isoDGR-damaged Proteins in Cardiovascular and Cerebrovascular Disease

Thanassoulis, George (The Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre)

Co-PI: Engert, James

Clinical Characteristics and Consequences of High Lp(a)

Trigatti, Bernardo (McMaster University)

HDL signaling in myeloid cells and its role in protection against atherosclerosis

Verma, Subodh (St. Michael's Hospital) Co-PI: Hess, David

Lipoprotein(a) and circulating vascular regenerative cell depletion and dysfunction in humans

Welsh, Donald (University of Western Ontario)

Blood Pressure Regulation of L-type Ca²⁺ Channel in Cerebral Arteries: Cellular Mechanisms to Disease Application

Yang, Burton (Sunnybrook Research Institute)

Targeting circSlc8a1 Translation with LNA Mixmer: A Novel Approach to Treat Cardiac Fibrosis