



2026/27 Postdoctoral Fellowship Award Recipients

Heart & Stroke is excited to announce the recipients of the 2026/27 Postdoctoral Fellowship Awards (PFA). This program aims to increase the number of researchers and clinical scientists in Canadian universities and research institutions who are focused on cardiovascular and cerebrovascular health by providing stipend funding that enables recipients 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 2026/27 PFA competition in pursuing their post graduate studies. We are pleased to celebrate the following recipients:

Andrade, Lesley (University of Ontario Institute of Technology)

Advancing sodium reduction in Canada: Updating intake estimates and identifying behavioural and contextual factor profiles among high-sodium consumers

Banga, Shubham (University of Calgary)

The Role of Epicardial Adipose Tissue in Cardiac Repair after Myocardial Infarction

Brown, Cherie (University of Calgary)

Exploring a Panx1-Mediated Epigenetic Mechanism as a Novel Therapeutic Strategy to Mitigate Stroke-Induced Dementia

C. de Campos Zani, Stepheny (University of Alberta)

Elucidating whether decreasing ketone metabolism improves cardiometabolic outcomes in type 2 diabetes

Chorghay, Zahraa (University of Toronto)

Activating endogenous neural precursor cells with electrical stimulation to promote regeneration and repair in stroke

Ducroux, Celina (University of Ottawa Heart Institute)

PRrecision ThrOmbus BiomarkerS to Predict the FuturE Risk of Stroke and Heart Disease (The PROSPER)

Jeyarajan Selvakumaran, Sushmaa Chandralekhha (McMaster University)

Molecular Genetics of Von Willebrand factor

Kyriakis, Efthymios (University of British Columbia)

State-Dependent Modulators of KCNQ1 Gating States

Larssen, Beverley (University of British Columbia)

Co-designing clinically relevant outcome measures for a post-stroke rehabilitation monitoring device

Mahmoodianfard, Salma (University of Ottawa Heart Institute)

Exploring the Role of GLP 1 Receptor Agonists in Smoking Cessation and Cardiometabolic Health: A Multi-Phase Study of Evidence Synthesis, Clinical Implementation, and System Impact

Malik, Raza (University of British Columbia)

Combining non-invasive brain and spinal cord stimulation for recovery of autonomic and motor function in people living with stroke

Mamataz, Taslima (University of Toronto)

Boosting Mobility Exercise During Non-Therapy Time in Inpatient Stroke Rehabilitation: A Multimethod Evaluation of the TIME Boost Program

Robinson, Brandon (University of Ottawa Heart Institute)

Interpretable, uncertainty-aware machine learning for brain and heart health: combining physiology-inspired models with Bayesian sparse learning to advance trustworthy AI for risk modelling

Vegh, Caleb (University of Western Ontario)

Extracellular vesicles as contributors to vascular cognitive impairment in chronic kidney disease