



2026/27 Personnel Awards for Women's Heart & Brain Health Recipients

Heart & Stroke and Brain Canada are excited to announce the recipients of the 2026/27 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/or 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, **13 trainees** are being supported from the 2026/27 WPA competition in pursuing their post graduate studies. We are pleased to celebrate the following recipients:

Postdoctoral

Gama de Matos, Dihogo (University of Calgary)

Autonomic and Inflammatory Dysfunction in Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome (POTS): A Randomized Trial of Auricular Vagal Neuromodulation Therapy

Singh, Davindra (Concordia University)

Sex-based evaluation of cardiac focused ultrasound miRNA therapy for pathological left-ventricle hypertrophy

Yoon, Ji Soo (University of Calgary)

Investigating the effects of androgen-estrogen shunting on cardiometabolic health in menopause and obesity

Doctoral

Al Dakka, Masarra (University of Guelph)

Investigating Sex Differences and the role of Menopause in the Cardiac Stress Response to Xenoestrogens

Ayesha, Sana (University of Alberta)

Perimenopause as a critical window of Cardiovascular risk: Investigating Autonomic, Vascular and Hormonal mechanisms underlying neurovascular dysfunction across the menopause transition

Bhaskara, Millie (Toronto Metropolitan University)

Memory at Midlife: Understanding the Influences of Vascular Health and Peri-Menopause on Brain Structure and Function

Gandey, Zoe (Université de Sherbrooke)

Investigating the Effect of Menopausal Hormone Therapy (MHT) on Cerebrovascular Biomarkers in Postmenopausal Women

McCrone, Jenna (University of Guelph)

The Role of Sympathetic Nerve Activity on Cerebral Blood Flow Regulation and Pulmonary Artery Hypertension in Healthy Males and Females

Papadopoulos, Alissa (University of Western Ontario)

A Stepwise Investigation of Mental Health, Hypertension, Placental Oxygenation, and Preeclampsia Risk in Pregnancy

Rai, Harleen (Toronto Metropolitan University)

Menopause and Episodic Memory at Midlife: Pathways Linking Brain Integrity, Inflammation, and Social and Structural Determinants of Health

Sanjoy, Shubrandu Sutradhar (McMaster University)

Sex-Specific Prognosis in Women with Heart Failure Referred for Advanced Heart Failure Therapies

Splinter, Tallinn (University of Toronto)

Multi-Ethnic Insights into Reproductive History, Menopause, and Dementia Risk

Van Berkel, Emily (University of Toronto)

Quantifying the cardiac benefits of Canada's physical activity guidelines in pre- and post-menopausal women