

## The 2022 CCNA Trainee Synapse Challenge Call for Submissions

The CCNA Training and Capacity Building Program invites CCNA trainees to submit project proposals that demonstrate collaboration across CCNA research teams. Put on your creative thinking cap and become a future leader in age-related neurodegenerative disease research. This is an opportunity for CCNA trainees to build valuable research and professional skills.

### **The objectives of The CCNA Trainee Synapse Awards are to:**

- Foster trainee collaboration in neurodegenerative disease research (virtually or on site) across CCNA Teams.
- Promote projects developed and led by trainees.

### **Eligibility:**

1. The Synapse Challenge is open to CCNA trainees. A CCNA trainee is an undergraduate or graduate student (Master's or PhD), or a postdoctoral fellow (or clinical equivalent) working under the supervision of a CCNA investigator and engaged in work on a CCNA project.
2. Previous Synapse Challenge recipients can reapply, although priority will be given to new applicants.
3. One investigator/supervisor must agree to participate and ensure that the eligibility criteria are met and that the trainee applicants fulfill the Synapse Challenge guidelines. The supervisor must agree to hold the funds at their institution and assist the trainee applicants with managing the account.

### **Examples of eligible project submissions:**

1. A new project that demonstrates the collaboration of two or more trainees from different CCNA teams in the project design, analysis, and knowledge translation activities. All projects must be 100% trainee developed and led.
2. The expansion of an existing project that demonstrates the collaboration of two or more trainees from different CCNA teams in the research design, analysis, and knowledge translation activities. All projects must be 100% trainee developed and led.
3. New or existing projects that include a CCNA Cross-Cutting Program component will be considered. The cross-cutting component must be incorporated into the project design, analysis, and knowledge translation activities. We strongly suggest that you

contact the cross-cutting program you would like to work with before submitting your application. All projects must be 100% trainee developed and led.

To view recorded presentations of funded Synapse projects from 2021, click [HERE](#).

**Looking to connect with a trainee from a different CCNA theme or team?**

**Step 1 - Review the list of CCNA teams and subject matter terms [HERE](#).**

**Step 2 – Email the Training Program Coordinator:**

[amanda.duncan@sjhc.london.on.ca](mailto:amanda.duncan@sjhc.london.on.ca)

**Step 3 – The Training Program Coordinator will email the team with an invitation to trainees who may want to collaborate with you.**

### **Major Synapse Funding**

Funding is available in four categories:

1. 1st Ranked: \$20,000
2. 2nd Ranked: \$15,000
3. 3rd Ranked: \$12,000
4. Honorable mentions: \$8,000

### **Use of Major Award Funds**

- Travel funds to meet with trainee co-applicant(s), community partners, or Elders
- Publication and conference fees
- Skills acquisition
- Data access fees
- Knowledge Translation and Exchange product or activity
- Costs associated with research participant compensation e.g., honorariums, thank you gifts, parking fees
- Supplies, software, and other materials.
- Award funds cannot be used for salary.

### **Additional CCNA Cross-Cutting Program Funding**

Cross-Cutting Program funding is additional to the major funding outlined above. Funds will be targeted to applications that demonstrate the sound integration of a CCNA Cross-Cutting Program into the design, analysis, and knowledge translation component.

#### ***I. Women, Sex, Gender and Dementia (WSGD) Program Funding***

Funds are available for 2 projects (\$5000 per project).

The Women, Sex, Gender, and Dementia Program is offering bonus funds for proposals that clearly integrate sex and/or gender in the project design, data analysis and knowledge translation components of the research plan. Award recipients will be invited to present their work at the Women, Sex, Gender and Dementia Champion meeting and to attend the bi-monthly Champion meeting for ongoing feedback on their research plan.

- Expenses must be related to WSGD components of the project.
- Additionally, funds can be used for:
  - Project staff to assist with data cleaning, analysis, collation etc.
  - To present sex and gender findings at a conference.
- Funds cannot be used for trainee salary.

If you would like to reach out to the WSGD Program, please email the Program Lead Dr. Gillian Einstein: [gillian.einstein@utoronto.ca](mailto:gillian.einstein@utoronto.ca)

## **II. Knowledge Translation and Exchange (KTE) Program Funding**

Funds are available for 3 projects (\$5000 per project).

The Knowledge Translation and Exchange Cross-Cutting Program is offering bonus funds for proposals that clearly consider the perspective and knowledge needs of target knowledge users in their project plan and are committed to carrying out the development of relevant KTE activities. Citing relevant KTE scientific literature and descriptions of well-justified KTE strategies will be considered an advantage. See the list of eligible KTE activities below.

### **KTE Funding - Eligible Activities**

- Design work to produce KTE products such as websites, pamphlets, infographics, slides.
- Video production.
- Printing costs (of KTE materials).
- Translation of a KTE product text.
- Paid social media advertising of KTE materials.
- Travel cost only in cases where travel is needed to reach the KTE audience (e.g., attending clinician-specific conference to reach clinicians with KTE content).
- Costs associated with virtual public/audience engagement (e.g., Zoom account for public webinars, conference platform).
- Award funds cannot be used for trainee salary or project staff to assist with data cleaning, analysis, collation, and transcription.

Other costs may be covered but if you are not sure, please contact the KTE Program Coordinator, Inbal Itzhak: [Inbal.Itzhak@ladydavis.ca](mailto:Inbal.Itzhak@ladydavis.ca)

### **How to Apply:**

#### **Application packages must include:**

1. A five-page research proposal. Within that page limit, one page should include a detailed budget and justification. Page five should include a list of team members and their CCNA team affiliations and references.
2. One **5-minute** recorded PowerPoint presentation using a maximum of **5 slides**. The format should align with the 5-page written proposal. The video presentation should be uploaded to a video hosting site e.g., Vimeo or YouTube. Please send the video link to the Program Coordinator.

## Proposal Guidelines

Maximum 5 pages; Arial font, minimum 10 pts + normal spacing:

- Page 1, 2 & 3: The project/research plan;
- Page 4: Budget and justification. The budget must include a separate KTE Program component outlining how you plan to use the funds. If your research plan includes a WSGD Program component, please include a separate budget reflecting how you plan to use these funds.
- Page 5: References and list of team members.

## Mandatory Proposal Sections

All proposals must include the following mandatory sections:

- I. Introduction
- II. Rationale
- III. Preliminary data (if any)
- IV. Impact + expected results
- V. Knowledge Translation Activities
- VI. Feasibility (Applicants must give careful consideration to the timeline and budget).
- VII. Budget: As above, you are required to provide a budget for the KTE component of your research plan. A WSGD Program component is optional. If included in your research plan, please include a separate budget reflecting how you plan to use the WSGD funds.
- VIII. List of Team Members and Description of Collaboration (Name, CCNA Team and role of each team member)
- IX. References

## Optional Proposal Sections

- Women, Sex, Gender and Dementia Program Component

## IMPORTANT DEADLINES/DATES

1. **Friday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022:** Written 5-page application submission deadline. Applicants will receive acknowledgment of receipt within one week of submission. Late submissions will not be accepted.
2. **Monday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022:** 5-minute recorded PowerPoint presentation deadline.
3. **October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022 (tentative):** Trainee applicants will present their projects to the review panel for a live 2022 Science Days session.
4. **Tuesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022:** Letters of notification sent to teams.
  - Please send written proposals and videos to the Training Program Coordinator, Amanda Duncan: [amanda.duncan@sjhc.london.on.ca](mailto:amanda.duncan@sjhc.london.on.ca)

Questions about the application process may be directed to the Training Program Coordinator: [amanda.duncan@sjhc.london.on.ca](mailto:amanda.duncan@sjhc.london.on.ca)