

Partnership in Research Fellowship

GUIDELINES

DEADLINE: October 15, 2024

Overview

The [McMaster Collaborative for Health and Aging Partnership in Research Fellowship](#) provides funding and supports for trainees engaged in aging-focused health research to meaningfully and ethically engage older adults and/or caregivers in their research.

Purpose

- Build capacity in patient-oriented research and patient engagement with a focus on aging.
- Provide opportunities for Collaborative trainees and older adult and caregiver partners to learn from each other and share their expertise.

Eligibility

Applicants must be:

- Registered in a graduate studies program or employed as a postdoctoral fellow at an accredited Ontario university.
- A current [member](#) (or willing to become a member) of the McMaster Collaborative for Health and Aging (as a member of the Collaborative, recipients are expected to actively participate in Collaborative activities The Collaborative also encourages all trainees who are registered in a **graduate studies program** or employed as a **postdoctoral fellow** at an **accredited Ontario university** who are **interested in pursuing patient-oriented research** in their aging-focused health research to email the Collaborative (collabor@mcmaster.ca) to inquire about this fellowship.
- and trainee events).
- Engaged in existing research with a focus on aging that is supported by a supervisor who is a member of the Collaborative (or willing to become a member).

The proposed project must:

- Be led by the applicant and supported by a supervisor who is already a member the Collaborative (or willing to become a member).
- Demonstrate meaningful impact and ethical engagement of older adults and/or caregivers in their research as advisors or partners (not as participants) in the research project.
- Support the engagement of older adults and/or caregivers in the applicant's existing research.

Please note that no previous experience in patient-oriented research is necessary. The Collaborative can provide:

- Guidance in determining if this funding opportunity is the right fit
- Support in formulating your engagement plan
- Training and mentorship in the area of patient-oriented aging-focused research

Preference will be given to applications where the proposed activities may not be feasible without this fellowship opportunity.

Funding

This funding opportunity is intended to enhance the trainees' learning experiences in their existing research and is not meant to replace sources of funding already available through grants or internal/external university/faculty/department sources.

Fund value: up to a maximum of \$1,500 to support the engagement of older adults and/or caregivers as advisors or partners in existing research projects as well as training and guidance for meaningful engagement from Collaborative researchers and partners.

A minimum of 25% of the proposed budget must directly support older adults and/or caregivers (e.g., honourariums, reimbursement, meeting refreshments).

Fund duration: activities supported through these funds must be initiated within six months upon notification of being a successful applicant and completed within 12 months (up to a maximum of 18 months) following initial funding notification. Extensions may be considered on an individual basis and upon written request.

Examples of eligible and ineligible expenses include:

Eligible Expenses	Ineligible Expenses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honourariums and transportation reimbursement for older adult and caregiver partners and advisors • Support to ensure the inclusive engagement of individuals who may require accommodation re: accessibility needs (e.g., invitation and support for participant to bring a trusted other/support person) • In-person meeting expenses with older adults (e.g., food, materials) • Participation in patient-oriented research training opportunities (e.g., workshop) • Recruitment/training of an older adult to be a peer research assistant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honourariums for fellow trainees, colleagues and/or research participants • Trainee-only meeting expenses • Salary expenses • Data collection • Transcription fees • Primary research software

How to Apply

Please submit your completed application by email to collabor@mcmaster.ca with the subject headline "PRF Application_LAST NAME" and follow the required steps below:

- Review the eligibility checklist to verify if you meet the requirements to apply.
- Email collabor@mcmaster.ca to schedule a (virtual or in-person) meeting prior to completing your application to discuss the funding opportunity, process, and confirm eligibility (this may be initiated at any time of the year).
- Complete the funding application form that includes:
 - Applicant Information
 - Eligibility Checklist
 - Project Information and Engagement Plan
 - Budget and Timeline
 - CV/resume
 - Student Consent and Acknowledgement
 - Supervisor Acknowledgement Form

Deadline

Completed application packages, with supporting Supervisor Acknowledgement Form, must be submitted by **October 15, 2024**. Please note that late or incomplete applications cannot be considered.

Adjudication

Applications will be reviewed by a selection committee that consists of researchers, trainees and older adult members of the McMaster Collaborative for Health and Aging. The committee will review and rank the applications, including supporting documentation, and recommend recipients to the McMaster Collaborative for Health and Aging leadership for final approval.

Notification

Successful applicants will be notified of decisions via email within six to eight weeks of the deadline.

Reporting Guidelines and Conditions of Funding

Successful applicants will be required to:

- Present the project proposal to the Collaborative's older adult and caregiver partners for feedback (and follow up with revisions made based on the discussion).
- Submit a written progress report to the Collaborative at least twice throughout the funding period.
- Acknowledge the Collaborative in any reporting and presentations resulting from this fellowship.
- Share lessons learned (with other Collaborative trainees) during the planning and operation of the project, and the impact of engagement with older adults. Additional funds may be available from the Collaborative to support knowledge mobilization of lessons learned or outcomes of your engagement plan.

- Submit a written report highlighting outcomes of the project for the purpose of publishing on the Collaborative website and/or sharing via newsletter and/or social media.

Contact Information

Please email collabor@mcmaster.ca

Helpful Links and Resources

- [SPOR \(Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research\) Patient Engagement Framework](#), CIHR (Canadian Institutes of Health Research)
- [Partnering Principles and Strategies: A guidance document for researchers, older adults, and caregivers](#), McMaster Collaborative for Health and Aging
- [Co-designing a participatory evaluation of older adult partner engagement in the McMaster Collaborative for Health and Aging](#), McMaster Collaborative for Health and Aging
- [Fairness is Excellence: The Ontario SPOR SUPPORT Unit's Equity Framework](#), Ontario SPOR SUPPORT Unit
- [Supporting Equity-centred Engagement: A step-by-step guide with tailored resources](#), Public and Patient Engagement Collaborative, McMaster University
- [Ethical Considerations for Partnering in Patient-Oriented Research guide](#), Alberta SPOR SUPPORT Unit
- [Methods for Supporting Diverse Patient Engagement in a Diverse World](#), BC SUPPORT Unit Tapestry Project
- [Preparing for Patient-Oriented Research Meetings with Older Adults and Caregivers Trainee Workbook](#), McMaster Collaborative for Health and Aging
- [Implementing Principles of Meaningful and Ethical Engagement Meeting Planner Template](#), McMaster Collaborative for Health and Aging
- [Considerations When Paying Patient Partners in Research](#), CIHR (Canadian Institutes of Health Research)
- [Compensating Patient Partners in Research: Review of Current Guidance and Policies Across Canada](#), Public and Patient Engagement Collaborative
- Explore the [Collaborative's Learning Hub](#) to help guide you in your journey to conduct research and knowledge translation done in partnership with individuals with lived experiences.
- Additional resources regarding compensation can be found on the Collaborative's [external resources page](#).