

McMaster Collaborative for Health and Aging Partnership in Research Fellowship

GUIDELINES

Please note that the Partnership in Research Fellowship was formerly known as the Trainee Engagement Fund.

DEADLINE: April 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.

Objectives

The objectives of the McMaster Collaborative for Health and Aging Partnership in Research Fellowship are to:

- 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

All applicants **must contact the Collaborative prior to completing an application** to discuss the funding opportunity, process, and confirm eligibility (this may be initiated at any time of the year). The Collaborative also encourages all trainees who are interested in pursuing patient-oriented research in their aging-focused health research to contact the Collaborative if you have any questions about this fund or technical issues with the application form.

Email: collabor@mcmaster.ca

Applicants must be:

- Registered in a PhD program or employed as a postdoctoral fellow at an accredited Ontario university.
- A [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 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 supervised by a [member](#) (or willing to become a member) of the McMaster Collaborative for Health and Aging.
- 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

- **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.
- **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.

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

Examples of **eligible expenses** include but are not limited to honorariums for older adult and caregiver partners and advisors; transportation reimbursement for older adults and caregivers; support to ensure the inclusive engagement of individual(s) who may require accommodation re: accessibility needs (e.g., invitation and support for participant to bring a trusted other/support person); expenses associated with in-person meetings with older adults (e.g., food, materials); participation in patient-oriented research training opportunities (e.g., workshop); recruitment and training of an older adult to be a peer research assistant.

Examples of **ineligible expenses** include trainee-only meeting expenses; honorariums for fellow trainees/colleagues; honorariums and reimbursements for research participants; data collection, salary expenses, transcription fees, primary research software.

Note: 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.

How to Apply

Please submit your completed application by email to collabor@mcmaster.ca with the subject headline "Collaborative Partnership in Research Fellowship Application" 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 **April 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 with all 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
- [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)

Additional resources regarding compensation can be found on the Collaborative's [external resources page](#).