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Beatrice Hunter Cancer Research Institute

Cancer Research Training Program



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Program Overview:

The Beatrice Hunter Cancer Research Training Program (CRTP) has the overarching goal of supporting the development of cancer research careers by exposing trainees at all levels to the broad spectrum of cancer research approaches. All trainees should understand and value all disciplines involved in cancer research and understand the context for their particular research within the ‘big picture’ of cancer control and treatment. In addition to appreciating the various approaches to cancer research, trainees also need to develop professional skills including but not limited to writing and presentation skills, awareness of policies and practices that impinge on equity, diversity and inclusion, peer review, the roles of health charities and government agencies in research, the need to engage and support patients and patient advocacy groups, career options and building networks of colleagues for collaboration and support.

The Cancer Research Training Program is a two-year, multidisciplinary opportunity that spans from bench to bedside. It is intended to enhance both the specific knowledge and skills of cancer research trainees as well as increase the breadth of their understanding of cancer research and the role research plays in cancer prevention, treatment, and survivorship. This is done through integrated learning sessions, work in progress sessions, an annual trainee workshop and biennial conference. These events provide the opportunity to interact with fellow trainees, researchers and clinicians across multiple disciplines and geographic locations. . Students will need to complete 80% of the requirements of the program before graduation, to qualify for transcript notation/co-curricular record. The CRTP is designed for all trainees with an interest in enhancing their knowledge in cancer research, participating in collaborative discussions and establishing connections in the cancer field. CRTP is a supplementary program to the research conducted by trainees at their institutions. Students in the CRTP can remain in the program following the two-year term while registered as a graduate student, postdoctoral fellow, CIP trainee or resident research fellow, to attend other sessions of interest, becoming honorary CRTP trainees. Honorary trainees are not eligible for stipend, travel, or SAP funds.

Program Benefits

Trainees who participate in the training program have many benefits:

- Access to experts in the cancer research community
- Opportunities to build collaborations
- Eligible to apply for stipends through BHCRI
- Eligible to apply for travel funds
- Eligible to apply to the Skills Acquisition/Exchange Program through BHCRI
- An official transcript notation and/or co-curricular record of acknowledgement where possible

- One-on-one and team mentoring opportunities with Senior Scientists and CRTP Alumni through the Individual Development Plan. CRTP Alumni are leaders in their fields (including a Canada Research Chair) and have gone on to hold prestigious positions at academic institutions, industry and health care(<https://bhcri.ca/alumni>)
- Assistance with research applications
- Letters of support provided by BHCRI for research applications
- Opportunities to present their research to fellow researchers and/or the public

Program Description

Trainees in the Beatrice Hunter Cancer Research Training Program should expect to spend approximately 4-5 hours/month engaged in program offerings. CRTP offerings are a combination of mandatory and optional components. A typical year may look like:

September	October	November	December
Workshop (2 days)	ILS (2 hrs)	Conference (2 days - biennial)	
January	February	March	April
ILS (2 hrs)		ILS (2 hrs)	
May	June	July	August
Research Presentations (1-2 days)	ILS (2 hrs)		

Curriculum Components:

Integrated Learning Sessions (Mandatory)

These sessions involve active discussion and articulation of ideas, which are broadened by the input of a variety of perspectives. Students are presented with “real-life” problems, explore and come to a conclusion to acquire new knowledge. Bringing various perspectives to each topic. Four ILS sessions are scheduled throughout the year. ILS sessions are typically two hours in length.

Topics may include:

- Incorporating the patient perspective into cancer care
- Communicating and translating your science to patients, non-scientists, and other professionals (knowledge translation)
- "The history of cancer"
- Research Ethics for Cancer Researchers
- Long term consequences of treatment: when is the cost too high?
- The cancer experience – from a patient/advocate/survivor
- Equity, diversity and inclusion in cancer research
- Unconscious bias

Work in Progress sessions – (Mandatory)

Work-in-progress is an opportunity for trainees to present their work to their peers. This is an opportunity to develop presentation and communication skills. Trainees have the opportunity to meet with mentors to practice prior to their scheduled WIP and discuss their evaluation following their presentation upon request.

Annual Trainee Workshop (mandatory)

In the past, annual trainee-directed workshops have tackled core competencies such as presentation skills, writing lay abstracts, career options after completion of training, enhancing CV's and understanding patient perspectives. The trainee workshop is typically held over two days, with an option to participate online for those unable to attend in person (subject to the availability of required technology at various institutions).

Conference (Mandatory)

Biennial BHCRI cancer research conference – The conference is an opportunity for trainees to present their research to both their peers and experts in the field. This two-day conference is typically held on alternate years to the national Canadian Cancer Research Alliance conference.

Experiential learning opportunity (Mandatory)

Meant to develop leadership skills, experiential learning opportunities are intended for trainees to get involved with organizations who support cancer research or cancer care. For trainees with children, participating in a fundraising activity like the Terry Fox Run would be a great way to help without time away from family. Participating on a BHCRI committee also counts as an experiential learning opportunity. It is expected that students will take these opportunities to promote BHCRI and the training program. Students are encouraged to contact the program manager in advance of any proposed activity to ensure the experience qualifies.

Seminar Series (Optional)

Trainees are encouraged to take advantage of various seminars and lectures offered throughout the year, through both BHCRI and various departments, grand rounds, Terry Fox Research Institute, etc. Seminar information will be included in the bi-weekly notices from BHCRI and BHCRI sessions will be posted under events on the BHCRI website.

In addition, CRTP Trainees are eligible to apply for BHCRI's Stipend, Travel and SAP funds (when funds are available).



BHCRI Cancer Research Training Program:

Eligibility – Open to any graduate student, postdoctoral fellow, or clinical resident conducting any form of cancer research at a BHCRI-affiliated institution in Atlantic Canada. Supervisors must be Senior Scientists, Scientists, Associate Scientists or Honorary Members (in Atlantic Canada and qualifying as a Senior Scientist, Scientist or Associate Scientist) of the Beatrice Hunter Cancer Research Institute (BHCRI) for their trainees to apply.

To receive transcript notation and/or co-curricular record, CRTP trainees are expected to complete 80% of program offerings.

Terms and Conditions

To remain in the Cancer Research Training Program, CRTP Trainees are expected to:

-  Participate in at least 80% of CRTP curriculum activities
-  Participate in one experiential opportunity per year

- Remain in a cancer research training position at a qualified institution in Atlantic Canada
- Present their research at the biennial BHCRI Conference
- Consent to follow up contact from BHCRI

Core Competencies Gained through CRTP Participation: (matching Co Curricular Records competencies)

Effective Communication - Through Work in Progress

- Able to influence and/or engage others through writing, speaking or artistic expression
- Effectively articulates abstract ideas
- Delivers presentations or gives performances
- Exhibits effective listening skills

Leadership Development - Through committee membership and Experiential Learning

- Demonstrates effective leadership styles and qualities when making decisions
- Exhibits ability to visualize a group purpose and desired outcomes
- Encourages and empowers others
- Exhibits positive role modeling

Personal Values

- Articulates and acts in congruence with personal values
- Demonstrates willingness to scrutinize personal beliefs and values

Collaboration - Through Interdisciplinary Learning Project

- Works cooperatively with, and seeks feedback from others
- Contributes to achievement of group goals or shared vision and demonstrates awareness of team/group dynamics

Appreciating Diversity - Overarching

- Seeks involvement in diverse interests
- Articulates the advantages and challenges of diversity
- Appropriately challenges abusive use of stereotypes by others

Social Responsibility – Through Experiential Learning

- Appropriately challenges the unfair, unjust or uncivil behaviour of other individuals or groups
- Participates in service/volunteer activities
- Understands, abides by, and participates in the development, maintenance, and/or orderly change of community, social, and legal standards or norms
- Understands and participates in university systems

Intellectual Growth – Through Integrated Learning Sessions

- Employs critical thinking in problem solving
- Forms decisions or opinions based on past personal experiences
- Reinforces personal knowledge by teaching others

Enhanced Self Awareness - Overarching

- Articulates personal strengths and weaknesses
- Understands and articulates personal belief system, identity and culture
- Articulates rationale for personal behaviour

Healthy Behaviour – Through Experiential Learning

- Articulates relationship between health and wellness and accomplishing life goals
- Exhibits and promotes behaviours that advance a healthy community

Meaningful Interpersonal Relationships - Overarching

- Establishes mutually rewarding relationships with friends and colleagues
- Participates in establishing a respectful environment for all community members

Intentional Learning - Overarching

- Sets, articulates and pursues individual and educational goals
- Uses personal and educational goals to guide decisions
- Reflects on interests, values, skills and abilities that influence life and career choices
- Makes the connection between class and out-of-classroom learning

Professionalism - Overarching

- Follows tasks through to completion in an efficient manner
- Respects personal boundaries and uses discretion as needed
- Resolves matters of conflict in a respectful manner
- Works effectively in a team environment

All CRTP Trainees:

- Are student members of BHCRI
- Have consideration for Travel and Skills Acquisition Program Funding
- Have their profile on the BHCRI website
- Receive regular BHCRI newsletters by email
- Have speaking opportunities at BHCRI conference sessions
- Can include CRTP as a notation on their academic transcript or co-curricular record (where available)

Contact admin@bhcri.ca for questions relating to CRTP.

Please visit the website for information on BHCRI: <https://bhcri.ca/>