



BEATRICE HUNTER
Cancer Research Institute

Evolving Cancer Research in Atlantic Canada

Beatrice Hunter Cancer Research Institute

Cancer Research Training Program

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BHCRI Website: <https://bhcri.ca>

Beatrice Hunter Cancer Research Training Program

Program Overview:

The Beatrice Hunter Cancer Research Training Program (CRTP) supports the development of cancer research careers by exposing trainees to a full spectrum of approaches—from basic science to patient care. Trainees gain insight into how their work fits into the broader picture of cancer control and treatment.

CRTP enhances both research expertise and essential professional skills, including:

- Scientific writing & presentation.
- Equity, diversity & inclusion in research.
- Peer review and public funding landscapes.
- Patient engagement and advocacy.
- Career development and collaboration.

This two-year, multidisciplinary program includes integrated learning sessions, work in progress meetings, a trainee workshop, and an annual conference. These events connect trainees with researchers and clinicians across Atlantic Canada.

The CRTP is 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.

Benefits Include:

- Meaningful connections with cancer scientists and thought leaders across Atlantic Canada's research community,
- Opportunities to form lasting interdisciplinary collaborations and broaden your research scope,
- Access to competitive funding, including stipends and travel support,
- Recognition through transcript notation or co-curricular records to highlight your achievement,
- Mentorship and career guidance from renowned CRTP alumni who now lead in academia, healthcare, and industry—including Canada Research Chairs,
- Expert support in developing strong, fundable research proposals,
- Letters of endorsement from BHCRI to strengthen your application packages,
- A platform to present your research to peers, professionals, and broader audiences.

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 at least 7 out of 10 Work in Progress (WIP) sessions per year – for Dalhousie University CRTP trainees, attending WIP sessions in-person are strongly preferred
- 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.

CRTP Curriculum Components:

| Component | Type | Purpose | Examples & Details |
|---|-----------|---|---|
| <i>Integrated Learning Sessions</i> | Mandatory | Facilitate active discussion and articulation of ideas, broadened by diverse perspectives. | Topics include patient perspectives, knowledge translation, ethics, long- term treatment impacts, EDI, and more |
| <i>Work-in-Progress Sessions</i> | Mandatory | Present research findings to peers. Practice developing a clear and concise presentation style. Obtain constructive feedback from peers and colleagues. | Trainees present ongoing work and may meet with mentors to prepare or debrief |
| <i>Conference</i> | Mandatory | Utilize a platform for research presentation, peer exchange, and connection with national experts, fostering visibility and constructive dialogue. | Annual BHCRI Cancer Research Conference, alternating with the Canadian Cancer Research Alliance event |
| <i>Experiential Learning Opportunity</i> | Mandatory | Engage with organizations that support cancer care or research. | Examples include participating in the Terry Fox Run, joining a BHCRI committee, or other approved ties |
| <i>Seminar Series</i> | Optional | Expand awareness of emerging cancer research developments and methodologies through expert-led talks and lectures. | Includes BHCRI events, Terry Fox Research Institute seminars, grand rounds, departmental sessions |

Core Competencies Gained Through CRTP Participation:

| Competency | Related CRTP Activity | Skills & Attributes Developed |
|------------------------------------|--|---|
| Champions Diversity | Overarching | Seeks involvement in diverse interests, articulates advantages and challenges of diversity, challenges stereotypes |
| Effective Communication | Work-in-Progress Sessions | Expresses ideas, presents, listens actively |
| Enhanced Self Awareness | Overarching | Reflects on self, beliefs, and behavior |
| Healthy Behavior | Experiential | Links wellness with life goals, promotes healthy community behaviors, sets and pursues goals |
| Intentional Learning | Overarching | Uses goals to guide decisions, reflects on values, skills, interests |
| Intellectual Growth | Integrated Learning Sessions | Connects academic and experiential learning, applies critical thinking, makes decisions using personal experience, reinforces knowledge by teaching others |
| Leadership Development | Committee Membership & Experiential Learning | Displays effective leadership styles, visualizes group purpose and outcomes, empowers others |
| Interpersonal Relationships | Overarching | Models positive behavior, builds rewarding relationships, supports respectful community culture, aligns actions with personal values |
| Personal Values | Overarching | Reflects critically on beliefs, completes tasks efficiently |
| Professionalism | Overarching | Maintains boundaries and discretion, resolves conflict respectfully |
| Social Responsibility | Experiential Learning | Functions well in teams, challenges unjust behavior, engages in service or volunteering, understands norms and standards, participates in institutional systems |