

Beatrice Hunter Cancer Research Institute Jen Johnston Prize for Research Excellence

Jennifer Lee Chandler Johnston, daughter of Judy and BHCRI's former Scientific Director Gerry Johnston, died in January 2021 after a three-year battle with advanced breast cancer. Jen faced her diagnosis with courage, grace, good humour, and incredible optimism. She refused to be defined by her disease and, in doing so, inspired friends, family, and health-care providers with her resilience and concern for others. Jen made an impact on everyone who knew her through her infectious laugh and "just do it" attitude.

Jen was deeply committed to advancing cancer research and took every opportunity to raise awareness and support for this cause. To honour and celebrate her life, BHCRI created the Jen Johnston Prize in Research Excellence.

The Jen Johnston Prize recognizes excellence in trainee research and aims to encourage trainees to establish careers in cancer research. The award is offered annually and recognizes a published paper with a trainee as sole or co-first author. Applications from trainees at all levels and across all cancer research disciplines will be considered.

The Jen Johnston Prize is currently valued at \$1,820. The recipient will be invited to give a platform presentation highlighting their published research at a BHCRI-organized event. The award alternates each year between discovery/fundamental, applied health (including population, psychosocial, and behavioural), and clinical research.

Information about the recipient and their research will be shared on BHCRI's website and social media platforms. Information about the award will also be sent to the recipient's home institution.

2026 – Applied Health (including population, psychosocial and behavioural)

Eligibility

This competition is open to all current CRTP trainees or CRTP Alumni (within the last three years, from the deadline date). The trainee can be at any level of training including MSc, PhD, postdoctoral fellow or resident. The trainee should submit a complete copy of a paper (including any published supplementary material) that has been published or accepted for publication with no conditions in a peer-reviewed journal within the applicants' CRTP term (written and accepted for publication during CRTP term). The trainee must be co- or sole first author of the submitted paper and must have completed the work while being a CRTP trainee. The paper must acknowledge BHCRI and the trainee's funding sponsor and have as its primary focus some

aspect of cancer. This includes basic science, clinical science, health systems and epidemiology, social science and cross-cultural research endeavours. For co-first authored publications, both authors must be CRTP trainees (meeting the eligibility criteria above). Co-authors will split the award prize.

Selection Committee

The composition of the Prize Selection Committee will include current BHCRI members not in conflict with any submitted nominations and a person with lived experience. Their deliberations will be confidential, and their decision will be conveyed directly to BHCRI's Administrator who will inform the recipient.

The evaluation criteria are as follows:

- Excellence of the Science (30 points), including the design, scope, and novelty of the work. The research design can be any design that is appropriate to the research question.
- Potential Impact on the Care of Patients (30 points). This assessment is independent of whether the impact is immediate or long term.
- Innovation/Research Impact (20 points). This work may have described a new concept, approach, or methodology, exploited a novel opportunity, or shifted current paradigms of our understanding of cancer and/or care of patients. The innovation of the work should be clearly outlined in the supervisor's letter of nomination.
- Dissemination, Outreach and Knowledge Mobilization (20 points). This will include the trainee(s) engagement within BHCRI, outreach within the cancer research community, etc. This should be clearly outlined in the applicant's cover letter.

Submission Procedure

A complete application for the Jen Johnston Prize includes:

- A copy of the publication, including all published supplementary material. If in press include a letter of acceptance from the journal.
- A 1-2 page letter that addresses how the work meets the evaluation criteria and clearly outlines the applicant's role in the submitted publication. Include a brief paragraph describing how this research will be or has been disseminated. Dissemination can include the presentation of the research at scientific
- conference, engagement within BHCRI or community outreach within the cancer community. For co-authored publications, where both co-first authors are nominated, the prize will be split and both authors must be CRTP trainees. In this instance, a joint application should be submitted, clearly indicating the role of each applicant.

- A copy of the applicant(s) CV.
- A completed submission form, which includes the name, current position, and full contact information (email and mailing address, phone number) for the trainee, and a lay language summary of the work reported in the paper (maximum 500 words). This summary will be used for promotion purposes (ie: social media, website, etc).
- A letter of nomination from the trainee's supervisor(s) documenting that the submission meets all the eligibility requirements. The letter should clearly indicate the level of involvement of the applicant in the research, including a breakdown of work performed. The letter should be sent separately from the application directly to admin@bhcri.ca

Deadline for Submissions

The deadline for submission is **Monday, November 30, 2026, at 4:00 PM ADT.**

Please save all documents as one PDF and email to: admin@bhcri.ca [Subject Line: J_Johnston_nomination2025_LastName]

Applicants will receive confirmation of receipt and will be notified of the status of their application when deliberations of the committee are completed. The recipient will normally be announced in December.



BEATRICE HUNTER
Cancer Research Institute

Evolving Cancer Research in Atlantic Canada

NAME(FIRST, LAST):

CURRENT POSITION:

INSTITUTION:

SUPERVISOR'S NAME:

MAILING ADDRESS:

LAY LANGUAGE SUMMARY OF THE WORK REPORTED IN THE PAPER (max 500 words). The summary will be posted on BHCRI's website and social media platforms and may be used by the applicant's funding partner.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT:

SIGNATURE OF CO-APPLICANT: