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Date: April 10, 2024

To: Department Chairs, Associate/Vice Deans (Research)

From: Award Services, Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (GPS)

Re: **2024 Alberta Innovates Postdoctoral Fellowships in Health Innovation (AI PFHI) and Enhancement Fellowships (AI EF)**

GPS is pleased to announce the Alberta Innovates Postdoctoral Fellowships in Health Innovation (AI PFHI) and the Alberta Innovates Enhancement Fellowships (AI EF), in health-related priorities, of the 2024 Alberta Innovates Postdoctoral Fellowships (AI PDF) Program. Alberta Innovates (AI) is the innovation engine of the province, working with researchers, industry, and entrepreneurs to forge a healthy, sustainable, and prosperous future for Albertans. With the province-wide launch of the AI PDF program, Alberta is taking the lead in transforming postdoctoral supports and opportunities to reflect a changing research and innovation landscape. This includes offering more prestigious awards to attract top talent to the province, as well as supporting a broader range of applied work related to developing, testing, and scaling up use of digital and data-driven technologies in the health sector.

This is a direct application whereby potential postdoctoral fellow applicants are to submit their completed application directly to GPS. Faculties/Departments are not required to review applications and submit eligible nominees to GPS; however to assist in the promotion of this fellowship, we request Faculties and Departments disseminate this year's competition details to faculty members and their potential postdoctoral trainees.

AI's investment in the AI PDF Program enhances Alberta's knowledge workforce in areas with high potential to diversify the economy and improve the health and well-being of citizens. To ensure the Program builds capacity in areas of strategic importance to the province, the following areas are prioritized:

**Priority 1 - Digital & Data-Enabled (D&DE) Health Research:** leveraging advances in connected devices, computational intensity, and data generation to enhance health research.

**Priority 2 - Advancing D&DE Tools and Methods:** developing advanced approaches to unlock greater value from health information.

**Priority 3 - Health Technology Acceleration:** activities to increase the rate at which discoveries and promising academic outputs (e.g., IP, data assets, processes) are transformed into commercially viable health products or services.

**Priority 4 - Technology & Data-Enabled Health System Transformation:** Advancing the use of health technologies to enhance health and wellness outcomes, health system sustainability, or health care.

### **Fellowship Values**

Supervisors/Departments are to note that the annual stipend does not cover the cost of benefits for postdoctoral fellows, and it is their responsibility to cover these costs from a department account. Refer to the university's [PDF Collective Agreement](#) and [Benefits website](#) for information on postdoctoral fellow appointments.

Alberta Innovates encourages Trainees to apply for and accept awards from other national or international agencies. Trainees and their host Institution must inform Alberta Innovates of receipt of any other major comparable awards secured during the tenure of the Fellowship award from Alberta Innovates. If a Trainee receives another major comparable award, they will not be eligible to receive the full value of the Alberta Innovates Fellowship award at the same time. Instead, they may be eligible to receive a Stipend Incentive, which is structured to enable receipt of funding from both sources, while ensuring the combined total is equal to or greater than the value of the original award offered by Alberta Innovates (subject to any maximums allowed by the other funding agency). Stipends may be subject to the Income Tax Act and Regulations of the Government of Canada. Trainees should note that Stipend Incentives are still considered Fellowship Awards.

### **AI PFHI**

\$55,000 CAD per year for up to **two years**. Funding cannot be provided beyond a Trainee's fifth year in a postdoctoral appointment at the same institution.

Stipend Incentive: \$15,000 - For Trainees in receipt of any other major comparable award (i.e. Killam, Notley, Tri-Council fellowships, etc.). The Stipend Incentive may be increased as necessary to ensure the combined value of the awards does not fall below \$55,000 CAD per year.

### **AI EF**

\$55,000 CAD per year for up to **one year**. Funding cannot be provided beyond a Trainee's fifth year in a postdoctoral appointment at the same institution.

Stipend Incentive: For Trainees in receipt of any other major comparable award (i.e. Killam, Notley, Tri-Council fellowships, etc.). These Fellowships function as bridge funding to help increase the competitiveness of Trainees in other future fellowship/salary award competitions. If Trainees are successful in other future competitions, they are encouraged to accept the new salary award. If the value of this new salary award is less than \$55,000 CAD per year during the term of the Enhancement Fellowship, a Stipend Incentive will be provided to ensure the combined total equals \$55,000 CAD per year. A Stipend Incentive cannot be offered to exceed the combined total of \$55,000 per year.

### **Eligibility**

Initial appointments must occur within five years from the completion of a doctoral degree or 10 years from the completion of a MD, DDS or equivalent. Appointments are for a limited period of time, from a minimum of three months to a maximum of five years. Refer to the [Postdoctoral Fellows Policy and Appointment Procedure](#) for complete details.

To be eligible for these awards, trainees must:

- Have completed a PhD at the time of award implementation;
- Have accepted or started a postdoctoral appointment at the University of Alberta;
- Be less than five years into a postdoctoral appointment at the University of Alberta;



- Have applied no more than once before for a Fellowship from Alberta Innovates (i.e. can apply two times in total to the University of Alberta's competitions);
- Proposed projects must:
  - Involve health-related R&I activities that are strongly aligned to at least one [strategic priority](#);
  - Be performed at the University of Alberta; and
  - Be approved for funding by Alberta Innovates.

Applications received from the Recruitment Fellowships competition may be considered in this review cycle over the period for which the fellow remains eligible. The Postdoctoral Review Committee will determine if candidates will receive a PFHI or EF. There are no citizenship restrictions on this fellowship.

Refer to [GPS's website](#) for complete information regarding eligibility criteria and descriptions of the priority areas.

### **Restrictions**

Award recipients may not receive simultaneous support from another Alberta Innovates Trainee program.

### **Application Process**

Applicants and their potential supervisors are to review GPS's website for the complete application process, information, and timelines. Should Faculties/Departments want a copy of the potential fellow's application for advisement purposes, they may request this directly from them prior to June 30.

A complete application includes:

1. [AI PFHI\\_EF Application Form](#)
2. Project proposal with statement on relevancy to AI priority areas (1 page maximum)
3. Summary of career goals (1 page maximum)
4. Applicant CV
5. Supervisor statement of support (on institution letterhead and signed by the supervisor; can be included in the application by the applicant)
6. If applicable, copy of results letter(s) from any competitions that the applicant has applied to previously for the same project (e.g., CIHR competition results)
7. Certified true copy of PhD. Scanned documents are acceptable:
  - all documents submitted must be in English, as well as the original language in which they were written. A certified translator, not yourself, must prepare the English version of any documents not originally in English
  - applicants who have not fulfilled all requirements for their degree at the time of application must do so prior to commencing Fellowship. A transcript is not required.
8. **Three Letters of Reference.** As these letters are confidential, they must be submitted directly by the referees via email to [grad.awards@ualberta.ca](mailto:grad.awards@ualberta.ca). Letters submitted by the applicant will not be accepted:
  - Three references are in addition to the Supervisor Statement of Support; reference letters should not be from the proposed supervisor (or co-supervisor), as the Supervisor Statement of Support is already provided
  - Applicants are responsible for supplying their referees with the documents necessary for them to write their respective letters.
  - Applicants should contact their referees well in advance of the application deadline date.
  - Applicants are to instruct referees to request Award Services to confirm receipt of their letters upon email submission. GPS will not follow up regarding missing reference letters.

- It is the applicant's responsibility to follow up with referees to ensure the assessments are submitted in sufficient time prior to GPS's deadline.

The GPS may leverage internal review processes for other competitions (e.g., Banting, Killam, tri-council) to triage applications for further consideration by AI for an AI Fellowship. Fellowship applicants identified in this way may be required to submit additional documents to assist in assessing relevancy to AI priorities.

**June 25, 2024:** Deadline for applicants to submit their complete application (points 1-7 noted above) as one PDF via email to [grad.awards@ualberta.ca](mailto:grad.awards@ualberta.ca). The three letters of reference (point 8 noted below) are also to be sent directly to GPS by applicants referees by June 25. To avoid lost/spammed emails, applicants are to request Award Services to confirm receipt of their application upon email submission. Applicants who do not receive an email reply from [grad.awards@ualberta.ca](mailto:grad.awards@ualberta.ca) confirming receipt of their application within 2-3 business days are responsible for following up with GPS.

We wish all applicants success in the upcoming competition!

Sincerely,

GPS Award Services