

2011 Manitoba Research Chair in Primary Prevention Program Guidelines

1. Purpose

The Manitoba Research Chair in Primary Prevention supports an internationally recognized mid-career researcher who works as an independent investigator in primary prevention in heart and stroke research. The Chair is a five year award intended to increase the competitiveness of the individual investigator within this program of research.

The objectives of the Manitoba Research Chair in Primary Prevention are to:

- Champion research in the area of primary prevention
- Facilitate or lead multidisciplinary approaches to study critical primary prevention issues
- Stimulate research excellence in primary prevention
- Advance the availability of best practices for all Manitobans

The objectives of the Manitoba Research Chair in Primary Prevention will be achieved by:

- expanding our **understanding** of primary prevention through research at the individual and population level, for example, related to physical inactivity, obesity, smoking and healthy eating.
- promoting **communication** and interaction among researchers in Manitoba whose research is related to primary prevention
- contributing to the **training** of highly qualified personnel, specifically graduate students and postdoctoral trainees, interested in primary prevention research;
- contributing to the **continuing education and engagement** of individuals, organizations and government with respect to policies and programs in primary prevention;
- **informing** the media and the general public on topics related to primary prevention.

2. Eligibility

To be eligible, the principal applicant:

- Must hold an academic appointment at the rank of Assistant Professor (or equivalent) **or above** in Manitoba when the award commences;
- Must, as of the application deadline, have between 5-15 years of independent research experience. The applicant is considered to be **independent** from the time that s/he received funding for a research project in which s/he was a principal investigator on a funded peer-review grant.
- Must devote at least 75% of their time to research following the start date of this award;
- Must have a doctorate and postdoctoral research experience, or equivalent research experience, or a professional degree with research training and expertise equivalent to that of a PhD with postdoctoral research experience;
- Must hold peer-reviewed operating funds as a principal investigator at the time of application;
- Must be a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident by start of award;

- Must be recommended by the appropriate Department Head/Director and Dean; and
- Must not simultaneously hold a Canada Research Chair or any other major salary award (greater than \$60,000/year).

3. Scope

Definition of primary prevention:

Primary prevention, as defined by the WHO, is “directed towards preventing the initial occurrence of a disorder/disease. Disease prevention is considered to be an action dealing with individuals and populations identified as exhibiting identifiable risk factors, often associated with different risk behaviours.”

Making the Case for Primary Prevention:

In September, 2010, the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Manitoba co-released a report called *Making the Case for Primary Prevention: An Economic Analysis of Risk Factors in Manitoba*, which clearly demonstrated the need to reduce the prevalence of risk factors for chronic disease which will reduce health care cost. Details on the report are available at:

www.heartandstroke.mb.ca/primaryprevention

MHRC and HSFM welcome researchers applying quantitative and/or qualitative research programs that must:

- Demonstrate a link to the HSFM mission
- Demonstrate creativity and unique contribution and advancement to knowledge base
- Utilize an integrated knowledge translation process through innovative approaches to engaging researchers and policy makers throughout research process

Examples of research proposals that fit the call:

- Research programs that have policy interventions within Manitoba contexts (communities, schools, provincial), for example, the reduction of overweight/obesity, physical inactivity, smoking (including smoking cessation), nutrition, oral/dental hygiene, healthy living (environment/communities)
- Innovative programs in communities, schools, or workplaces in Manitoba contexts regarding the reduction of overweight/obesity, physical inactivity, and/or smoking (including smoking cessation)
- Research on innovative approaches to knowledge exchange to improve population health
- Epidemiological studies of risk factors and outcomes as they relate to healthy behaviors
- Research on environmental factors, for example, related to smoking, physical inactivity or overweight/obesity (for example, decreased availability of unhealthy foods, increased availability of healthy foods such as fresh vegetables and fruit, and opportunities for physical activity)
- Research on influencing public opinion for primary prevention

The following are provided to illustrate the types of programs that would NOT be eligible:

- Activities focused at early disease detection (for example screening tools)
- Reducing the negative impact of an already established disease by restoring function and reducing disease related complications (for example, rehabilitation, interventions)
- Research using animal models and/or reduced tissue or organ preparations.

4. Funding

The award provides support up to \$100,000 per year for five years, inclusive of benefits. The award is non-renewable.

The administration of the Manitoba Research Chair in Primary Prevention will be based on a submitted budget, developed by the researcher and signed off by the appropriate Department Head/Dean/Institutional equivalent, and is subject to compliance with the Institution's existing research funding policies.

Eligible costs under Manitoba Research Chair in Primary Prevention are aligned with those of Canada Research Chairs. A listing can be found on the MHRC Manitoba Research Chair webpage, as well as on the Canada Research Chairs website.

The Award must be taken up within twelve (12) months of the date of offer in March 1, 2012.

5. Application

Applications are to be made on the 2011 Manitoba Health Research Council Manitoba Research Chair in Primary Prevention **electronic application form and includes the submission of a Common CV**. Instructions for completing the application can be found on the MHRC website and in the MHRC eGMS User Guide. The Manitoba Research Chair in Primary Prevention application includes a section to be completed by the Head of the sponsoring department or Director of the host institution. A signed hardcopy of the application must also be submitted to the MHRC (dropped off at the office or postmarked by the application deadline date).

The application should include the correct number of hardcopies of the applicant's Common CV as an attachment to each application.

Applications must be submitted on or before December 1, 2011.

Candidates must arrange to have four supporting letters sent directly to Council:

- Letter from the Dean or Director of the Institute about the applicant's ability to contribute to the research priorities of the faculty/research institute, the use of funds that will be freed up due to the Manitoba Research Chair in Primary Prevention and confirming

- commitment of additional five years of salary support after the completion of the award.
- Three letters of reference from the following:
 - an individual outside the applicant's current department and outside the department where the award will be held
 - an individual with whom the applicant has never collaborated but is familiar with the applicant's research expertise
 - an individual outside Canada who can endorse the applicant's international stature

Supporting letters must be received at the MHRC office (address on cover page) by **December 15, 2011**.

6. Review

Applications are evaluated in a competitive, peer-review process that considers the following criteria:

- The applicant's education, research training and experience, productivity/ publications and funding support.
- The awards and prizes received by the applicant and their scientific outreach including committee membership and leadership for recognized funding organizations
- The applicants training and mentoring skills and experience.
- The interest in and support of applicant by host institution.
- Proposed research project – clarity, originality, feasibility and promise, scientific value of methodology, validity of instruments and procedures.

7. Decisions

Funding decisions will be announced by March 1, 2012. All decisions are final.