

# AWHF & WCHRI 101



2020 WCHRI Postdoctoral Fellows

*The Alberta Women's Health Foundation (AWHF) and the Women and Children's Health Research Institute (WCHRI) is a partnership in women's health research.*

## What is WCHRI:

- Canada's only research institute dedicated to women's, children's and perinatal health
- Support over 500 U of A-based researchers by:

**F**acilitating   **A**dvocating   **C**ommunicating   **T**raining   **T**ranslating   **S**ustaining

- Target three strategic themes—children's health and well-being, pregnancy and developmental trajectories, lifelong women's health

## What WCHRI does:

### Research grants

- Operating funds
- Studentships
- Travel and hosting awards

### Research catalysts

- Recruitment and start-up awards
- Leveraged/matched funding
- Strategic alliances

### Research platforms

- Clinical trials
- Biostatistics
- Study management
- Qualitative research



## WCHRI's vision & mission:

### Vision

To harness the power of research innovation for a healthy future for children and women

### Mission

To foster the brightest minds to discover, innovate and ultimately transform the health of children and women through supporting research excellence



## Our impact in women's health so far:

- Targeted therapies to treat ovarian cancer.
- Dedicated research space in the Lois Hole Hospital for Women.
- Mental health app developed for pregnant and postpartum women.
- New national guidelines for exercise during pregnancy.
- Growth of a placenta in a dish to examine treatments for pregnancy complications.
- Removing barriers for immigrant women affected by pelvic floor disorders.

Since 2006, the AWHF and its supporters have given

**\$27m**

in support of women's health research.

Over **85** media mentions since 2016

Supported over **570** research trainees.

Over **140** women's health researchers

# Research 101

## Trainee

A trainee is an umbrella term that refers to a student who registered at an academic institution, like the University of Alberta. They must be completing studies as:

- an undergraduate student, such as [WCHRI summer students](#)
- a graduate student (including masters and doctoral)
- a postdoctoral fellow
- a clinical fellow
- a resident (e.g. obstetrics and gynecology)
- a sub-specialty resident (e.g. gynecologic oncology)

## Resident

A resident is a medical school graduate (MD) and doctor in training who's taking part in a graduate medical education program. Health care facilities commonly refer to resident doctors as "residents" and first-year residents as "interns".

Residents work at hospitals or doctors' offices to continue their education and training in a specialized field of medicine. A resident may work like this for three to seven years, a period known as residency.

During their residency, doctors provide direct care. This includes diagnosing, managing, and treating health conditions. Doctors, as well as senior residents, in a medical facility supervise each resident. Junior residents generally start with more supervision and less complicated tasks. Responsibilities increase as residents gain education and experience.

## Postdoctoral Fellow

A postdoctoral fellow or "postdoc" is a person professionally conducting research after the completion of their doctoral studies. In many fields, this is the next step on the academic career path after earning a PhD.

It is a temporary position of usually two to three years that allows a PhD to continue their training as a researcher and gain skills and experience that will prepare them for their academic career.

They are primarily researchers who work under the supervision of a mentor as part of a larger research group and conduct research, either on a pre-specified project or one of their own design and publish that research. At the same time, a postdoctoral fellow is meant to prepare young researchers to become principal investigators or junior faculty members, so they also take on senior responsibilities like mentoring, grant writing and teaching.

For example: [Linn Moore](#) is a postdoctoral fellow supervised by Maria Ospina in the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology.

## Clinical Fellow

A clinical fellow is a medical doctor (MD) who has completed their residency and elects to complete further training in a specialty. The clinical fellow is a fully credentialed physician who chooses to pursue advanced training and/or to acquire more specialized expertise that complements their residency training.

The clinical fellowship is optional and is not required to practice medicine, but is necessary for training in a subspecialty.

## Research Chair

Research chairs are world-class faculty members who have been externally recognized for the exceptional excellence and impact of their research programs.

They are also outstanding mentors and collaborators who establish world-leading partnerships with other scholars, community organizations and industry to maximize the reach of their knowledge advances.

Chair positions are used to attract and retain the best research talent from around the world.

For example: Sandra Davidge holds the Canada Research Chair in Maternal and Perinatal Cardiovascular Health.

A full listing of WCHRI members who have received Canadian Research Chairs is available on our [member awards webpage](#).

## Endowed Chair

Endowed chairs are established through the generosity of benefactors, like the Alberta Women's Health Foundation, who understand the need to support research excellence while providing programs and special initiatives that promote enlightened inquiry and discourse with students.

Endowed positions attract distinguished scholars of international calibre and bring distinction to the individual holding the chair, the University of Alberta and the benefactor.

For example: Sue Ross holds the Cavarzan Chair in Women's Health Research.

A full listing of WCHRI's endowed chairs is available on WCHRI's [recruitment webpage](#).