



INVEST IN: RESEARCH AWARDS

Transforming the future of women's health

Women have unique health needs and vulnerabilities, but medical research has historically prioritized men leaving immense, and sometimes dangerous, gaps in knowledge. For example, women were not included in clinical trials until the 1990's and their involvement is still not mandatory in Canada. Women's health research remains marginalized — even now it is funded less often, for shorter terms, and at lower funding amounts. This means that critical research questions are often left unanswered, and women continue to face unnecessary risks and have their suffering brushed aside as “medically unexplained symptoms.”

Ensure women's unique health needs get the attention they deserve and ignite innovation by funding research awards.

Offered through the Women's Health Research Institute (WHRI), these awards provide a launch pad for the brightest minds and most cutting-edge ideas — improving care and changing lives for decades to come.



SCHOLAR AWARD, COMPLEX CHRONIC DISEASES | \$60,000 x 2 years*

Dr. Luis Nacul, a world-renowned clinician-researcher, and his team at the BC Women's Hospital Complex Chronic Diseases Program (CCDP) are uniquely positioned to uncover the answers to mysterious diseases more frequently impacting women, including Post-COVID-19 Fatigue Syndrome (Long COVID). Investing in Dr. Nacul's Scholar Award will accelerate this research, support the creation of a self-sustaining research program, and directly improve patient care.

CATALYST GRANTS

\$28,000 each*

Too often, researchers with novel ideas on how to treat women's health issues are unable to source initial funding — stopping innovation in its tracks. BC Women's Health Foundation and WHRI Catalyst Grants, the only of their kind in BC, provide the funding needed to kick off this cutting-edge research and support emerging work for women's and newborns' health.

GRADUATE + FELLOWSHIP AWARDS FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH | \$25,000 each*

Inspire young, gifted researchers to investigate women's health issues by investing in their careers. These awards enable outstanding graduate students and post-doctoral fellows to study a women's or newborns' health research question with the mentorship of a WHRI member — activating a new generation of experts in this field.

**“Without donor-funding,
our research wouldn’t
be possible.”**

- Dr. Paul Yong, 2019 Catalyst Grant Winner

Providing support for early career and emerging research can have an astronomical impact for a relatively low cost. For example, past Catalyst Grant winners have gone on to receive over 1000% return on investment via additional funding enabled by their preliminary findings.

Dr. Paul Yong was one of these winners. He was able to leverage findings made possible by his Catalyst Grant to secure a \$283,000 Canadian Institute of Health Research Operating Grant. This has allowed him and his team to change how endometriosis, a debilitating condition impacting 1 in 10 women, is treated across the country.

Every scientific breakthrough and novel development in patient care starts with an idea and the trust of a visionary investor like you who will stand behind it.



*Dr Paul Yong, Obstetrician Gynaecologist
BC Women’s Hospital + Health Centre*

BC Women’s Health Foundation

BC Women’s Health Foundation (BCWHF) is BC’s largest non-profit organization dedicated to advancing the full spectrum of women’s health. With the support of our donors and partners, we are transforming healthcare in our province by funding state-of-the-art equipment, life-changing programs, and cutting-edge research. Together, we can ensure all women have access to the highest quality care where, when, and how they need it.

**BC WOMEN’S
HEALTH
FOUNDATION**



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Women’s Health Research Institute

The world-renowned Women’s Health Research Institute (WHRI) is a hub of over 450 researchers working to improve women’s health outcomes. The WHRI is a leading academic women’s and newborn health research centre that serves as a catalyst for research in women’s health and supports a provincial and national network of women’s health researchers, policymakers, and healthcare providers.

We acknowledge that we carry out our work on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Coast Salish peoples – xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish), Stó:lō and Səl̓ilwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

When we refer to “women”, we include women in all their diversity inclusive of the LGBTQ2SIA+ community.

*Consistent with our fiscal sustainability policy, a contribution from all designated donations will be directed to support the work of BCWHF in fulfilling its mandate to ensure women in BC have equitable access to quality healthcare.