



| Heart & Stroke Foundation of New Brunswick



Cardiovascular Research Endowment Fund
POLICY & PROCEDURES
UPDATED 2023

Background:

Health research is an integral component of our healthcare system, where the benefits include better health outcomes by employing the latest research results in clinical practice, attracting and retaining the best physicians and scientists, and growing our economy. All provinces in Canada, apart from New Brunswick, were early adopters of this philosophy, and have benefited for many years from the significant inflow of funding from the federal government, industry, corporate, and individual donors.

To facilitate the establishment of a robust health research program in New Brunswick and with consideration of the ebb and flow nature of funding, the Heart and Stroke Foundation of New Brunswick (HSFNB) established an endowment fund focused on providing stable funding, in perpetuity, to facilitate capacity building for researchers within New Brunswick conducting cardiovascular research. In April 2020, The Heart and Stroke Foundation of New Brunswick also partnered with New Brunswick Health Research Foundation (NBHRF) to collaborate on advancing knowledge in the area of cardiovascular disease. Parties agreed to equally co-fund two projects annually. The grants are typically in the amount of 40,000 for one year, \$20,000 from HSFNB and \$20,000 from NBHRF.

Funding goal:

As of September 2022, the funding goal of this endowment was 2 million dollars.

Purpose:

The objective of the endowment is to build health research capacity in New Brunswick and catalyze success in competitive grant capture by New Brunswick researchers. All four pillars of research (bio-medical, clinical, health systems and population health) are eligible.

Who is eligible:

New Brunswick-based health researchers (either university or hospital-based) eligible for institutional funding are invited to apply. A primary applicant is eligible to receive one grant per calendar year but can participate as a co-applicant or collaborator on more than one application. Preference will be given to applications that: build research capacity; align with any priority area identified by the Foundation's mission; intend to initiate new research directions in New Brunswick; include matching contributions from the primary applicants' institution; and have a high probability of acquiring additional funding, such as from national granting agencies. These grants are not intended to be renewed for the same project in consecutive years without clear justification, in exceptional cases.

Process/timelines:

Each year there will be two awards of \$40,000 (co-funded \$20,000 from each organization). The amount given may be reviewed every 5 years by the board and adjusted based on fund performance, consumer price index adjustments, and/or inflation.

November (previous year): a review of "call for proposals" materials and topics with the HSFNB Medical Advisory Committee (MAC). The Foundation may prioritize applications that address particular areas of interest in the cardiovascular field or may leave the proposal call general for any cardiovascular-related topics.

November- April: Once the topic(s) are finalized the call for proposals is publicized across the province through various health and research networks and in collaboration with NBHRF.

April: Application submission deadline.

April-May: Peer review process with medical advisory committee and NBHRF appointee.

May- June: Once successful applicants are chosen, both parties (HSFNB / NBHRF) must obtain final approval for funding from their respective research committee or board of directors, as applicable.

June: All applicants are notified of their standing. Both parties make their payments to the researcher via their standard processes. All successful grantees will be required to submit a final report, within 3 months of completion of their work, including financials.

September-November: Arrangements are made for a formal cheque presentation and picture

Review Process:

The peer review process is facilitated and managed by HSFNB (via the medical advisory committee). NBHRF provides appropriate contributions by securing an expert from outside the province to sit in on the peer review.

Grant applications will be rated and ranked by the peer review panel (medical advisory committee and NBHRF appointed reviewer) using standard processes and a scoring tool to evaluate the scientific metis, novelty and relevance to heart disease and stroke. The intent of the scoring tool is to provide structure to the process and assist with the review discussion.

Proposal criteria:

Health researchers are invited to submit the below information by email at info@hsf.nb.ca:

1. A brief summary (maximum 2 pages) of the proposed research, plus a separate page of references (1 page maximum) of the proposed research project identifying the research pillar.

2. In addition they are asked to answer the following questions (maximum 2 pages):

- a) How will the proposed research improve our understanding, prevention, treatment, or management of stroke and cardiovascular health in New Brunswick?
- b) Have you applied to, or received funding from, your health care/educational institution for this project?
- c) How has your research experience of the last 5 years prepared you to complete this research successfully?
- d) How might you leverage the proposed research into further long-term research funding?