



Canada Foundation for Innovation Grant to CAMH - Overview

Five of the 10 leading causes of disability in Canada are Mental Health and Addictions (Kirby, 2002), yet less than half of those suffering from MHA illnesses seek care. When they do, only half receive effective treatment, resulting in a massive burden on our health care system, billions of dollars in lost productivity and untold suffering for patients and families.

The CFI grant announced today allows CAMH to embark on a large-scale project that will focus on transforming lives across six research themes: Schizophrenia, Mood Disorders, Addictions, Community Health & Knowledge Exchange, Neuroimaging, Pharmacogenetics and Neuroscience. This integrated and pioneering project will address key issues such as;

- Reducing the health care costs and social burdens of mental health and addiction problems, while creating commercialization opportunities and specialized employment
- Optimizing treatment across mental illness and substance use disorders, including the development of individualized treatment based on molecular genetics
- Translating discoveries into improved clinical practice, prevention and intervention strategies
- Reaching out to underserved and understudied communities such as First Nations, remote populations, the workplace, women, the elderly, and children
- Maximizing the impact of all six funded themes through effective knowledge transfer and exchange

Pharmacogenetics & Neuroscience

Molecular and genetic discoveries in this area will reduce current trial-and-error prescribing of medications (and their side effects) when treating addictions, mood disorders and schizophrenia. These discoveries will be brought into clinical care, producing: better treatment decisions; reduced death and morbidity, particularly in the elderly; and reduced health care costs.

Industry partnerships will also help CAMH develop and commercialize new, more effective antidepressants.

Neuroimaging

This grant will further enhance CAMH's pioneering use of brain imaging technology in the PET Centre, further enhancing our international leadership in understanding addictions, mood disorders and schizophrenia. It also supports a special focus on understudied populations such as women, the elderly and children. It leverages our work in new drug development with our pharmaceutical industry partners and advances our search for new radiotracers.

Addictions

The intellectual property and tobacco addiction medications that will result from the CFI grant will provide specialized employment opportunities in biotechnology as well as commercialization opportunities in collaboration with industry partners. It will improve clinical practice, and positively impact healthcare costs, workplace productivity and absenteeism.

Mood Disorders

CFI's grant to CAMH will lead to discoveries related to treatment resistance, postpartum depression, recurrence, cognitive impairment and optimize the effectiveness of antidepressants.

CAMH will translate these discoveries into novel prevention strategies and improved interventions that will enhance the functioning and well being of thousands of Canadians, reduce the mental health and addiction burden on the health care system and improve workplace productivity and absenteeism. Through our partnerships with the pharmaceutical industry, we will develop and commercialize new, more effective antidepressants.

Schizophrenia

CAMH can now realize immediate, intermediate and long-term clinical benefits in diagnosis, treatment and outcomes in its enhanced Schizophrenia Program, including a reduction of costly inpatient services and long-term institutional care for a disease that imposes a profound burden on the Canadian health care system.

Community Health & Knowledge Exchange

The grant allows CAMH to leverage its unique expertise in knowledge exchange, health systems, policy and prevention to reduce the health, economic and social burden of mental health and addiction problems.

A new **Mobile Community Lab** will allow researchers to extend their reach beyond CAMH to underserved populations such as First Nations, remote populations and the workplace.

CAMH's **Work and Well-Being Lab** will help reduce costs related to productivity and absenteeism associated with mental health and addiction problems in the workplace, and provide knowledge exchange and training for business and industry stakeholders.

Proposed **driving simulator research** will result in better public policy tools to reduce the number of deaths and injuries resulting from impaired driving associated with alcohol and drugs.

Also, research in mood disorders will lead to novel prevention strategies and improved interventions related to postpartum depression, cognitive impairment, treatment resistance, and recurrence.