

Canada's Health Researchers of the Year - CIHR Michael Smith Prizes in Health Research Call for Nominations

In 1993, Dr. Michael Smith shared the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for discovering and developing a crucial technique known as site-directed mutagenesis, which is used in genetic engineering. His discovery enabled researchers to gain enormous insights into the structure and function of genes and proteins.

To honour Dr. Smith, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) has established the Michael Smith Prizes in Health Research.

Terms and Conditions

Two Prizes will be awarded annually to two outstanding Canadian researchers who have demonstrated a high degree of innovation, creativity, leadership and dedication in health research. One Prize will be awarded in biomedical and/or clinical research and another in health services and/or population health research.

To be eligible for consideration, individuals must have at least 10 years of experience as an independent investigator and hold a position within a Canadian academic, hospital, not-for-profit or governmental institution or affiliated research institution. They must have worked in Canada for at least the five continuous years before the nomination deadline.

Each Prize consists of a medal and a research grant of \$100,000 per year for five years. The Prizes are intended to provide a significant boost in funding for exceptional investigators, who will continue over the next five years to produce research of exceptional merit; it is also intended to offset the direct costs of the winner's research program, including support for trainees. The winners will be selected on the recommendation of an international peer-review committee. Individuals may only hold the award once.

Nomination Procedures

Each candidate must be nominated by a member of the Canadian health research community and be endorsed by the executive head of the candidate's institution. Candidates may be nominated on more than one occasion provided that they still meet the eligibility requirements.

Nominations must include the following items:

1. A letter from the nominator providing the principal reasons for which the nominee merits consideration for the Prize. Scientific innovation, creativity, leadership and dedication should be emphasized. Reference should also be made to the nominee's role as a mentor of young researchers, and record of, or potential for, translating research findings into improved health for Canadians, more effective health services and products and a strengthened Canadian health care system (letter should not exceed four pages). Please note that only candidates who are expected to continue to produce research of exceptional merit over the next five years can be nominated. The letter must also indicate for which prize the nominee should be considered: the Prize in biomedical and /or clinical research or the Prize in health services and/or population health research.
2. A complete and signed CIHR Common CV for the nominee (the list of publications and record of supervising trainees should span the nominee's entire career). The nominee indicates that they agree to be nominated by signing the CIHR Common CV.
3. A letter from the executive head of the nominee's institution endorsing the nomination.
4. The names, addresses (including e-mail) and affiliations of six individuals whom CIHR might contact for an assessment of the nominee's suitability for the award. These individuals should be internationally recognized as experts in the nominee's field of research.

Nomination Deadline

**Nominations must be received by
December 1, 2008.**

Canadian Institutes of Health Research
160 Elgin Street, 9th floor
Address Locator 4809A
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0W9
Telephone: (613) 941-3579
Fax: (613) 954-1800
Email: nancy.masonmaclellan@cihr-irsc.gc.ca

Applicants will be notified of the results
of the competition in late July, 2009.