APPLICATION FORM – POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS:

Pragmatic clinical trials are often embedded in routine care and involve the analysis of routinely collected data (e.g., health registries, electronic medical records, and administrative data). Done well, pragmatic trials yield valid generalizable results faster than explanatory ("traditional") clinical trials and can be completed at a fraction of the cost.

The **HDRN Canada Pragmatic Trials Training Program** is a Clinical Trials Training Platform funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). Coordinated by the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry at Western University and embedded within HDRN Canada, this two-year virtual pan-Canadian program will provide training to advanced learners across three streams: (1) future trial leaders, (2) postdoctoral fellows, and (3) highly qualified personnel.

Eligibility: By the time the program begins, applicants must be involved in a postdoctoral program at a Canadian institution that is eligible to receive top-up salary award funding from CIHR. Fellows from various backgrounds (e.g., epidemiology, biostatistics, research ethics, and implementation science) that have a demonstrable connection to pragmatic trial design, implementation, and/or management are encouraged to apply.

Application deadline: Applications will be accepted until Friday, December 22, 2023 (5:00 PM Eastern time). Results will be announced via e-mail in February 2024.

Program duration: April 15, 2024 – March 31, 2026 (2 years).

Description: Acknowledging postdoctoral fellows are advanced learners with various obligations, this training program is entirely virtual and largely asynchronous in nature. At minimum, fellows must be able to engage with tasks related to the program on a bi-weekly basis (10 hours over a two-week period, ~5 hours per week).

To facilitate project-based learning, fellows will collaborate with a future trial leader (i.e., a faculty-level trainee in the program) through the development of a pragmatic trial protocol. Throughout the program, fellows and trial leaders will reflect and present on obstacles and solutions encountered during the development of their protocol. (If a fellow's primary supervisor is not a trial leader in the program, it must be understood that the fellow will be collaborating with a secondary mentor, within the program, through the development of a trial protocol.)

With the goal of creating a community of learners, attendance at monthly, one-hour virtual meetings will be required as well as routine asynchronous engagement (e.g., reflections on educational content) within a learning management system.

For the benefit of all trainees, postdoctoral fellows will support the creation of relevant educational materials (e.g., lecture slides, recorded presentations) for the training program.

Funding: Postdoctoral fellows will receive up to $32,500 (transferred to their host institution) as a top-up salary award (year one) during their involvement in the training program. The award will be renewed for a second year upon meeting year-one requirements.

Given that fellows must have a primary supervisor and be involved in a fellowship program at a Canadian institution during their involvement in this program, it is also expected that the fellow's primary supervisor will ensure their trainee meets the minimum funding requirements of their host institution. Specifically, this top-up salary award should be combined with other awards, up to a combined maximum allowed by the host institution and/or the allowed maximum within the funding conditions of other salary awards currently held by the applicant.

Program offerings:

- Participants will have access to a learning management system with educational materials focused on pragmatic clinical trials (e.g., trials examining interventions that can be evaluated in routine care settings, with large diverse samples of patients, which produce generalizable evidence that informs real-world decision making).
- As a first time offering, the program will seek routine feedback from participants and adapt to help meet their learning objectives. Acknowledging the various obligations of participants, this largely asynchronous virtual program will facilitate experiential project-based learning opportunities and foster the development of a vibrant community of learners.
- Participants will have access to a pan-Canadian network of HDRN Canada member organizations that have committed to providing further training and career advancement opportunities.
- Participants will have access to the Wabishki Bizhiko Skaanj Learning Pathway, and other related training, to enhance their knowledge and awareness of racial biases, Indigenous voices and stories, the impact of colonization on Indigenous health, and culturally safe health research practices.

Intended outcomes: At the conclusion of this two-year virtual training program, postdoctoral fellows will have expanded their understanding of pragmatism in clinical trials and contributed to a large-scale pragmatic trial protocol. Fellows will have strengthened their networks through engagement with other fellows, future trial leaders, and highly qualified personnel in the program, enhancing their career prospects. A certificate will be provided upon successful completion of the program.

Applicant evaluation criteria: With the goal of training postdoctoral fellows who are committed to experiential learning, a pan-Canadian selection committee will assess the following: the applicants (1) research training and experience, (2) desire and capacity to receive within-program mentorship, (3) need for specific training in pragmatic trials, (4) postdoctoral research and related activities outside of the program.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact the Program Manager
(Taylor McLinden) at taylor.mclinden@hdrn.ca.

Health Data Research Network Canada
Pragmatic Trials Training Program

Coordinated by the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry
Western University, Ontario, Canada

Réseau de recherche sur les données de santé du Canada
Health Data Research Network Canada

Schulich
MEDICINE & DENTISTRY   Western

Applicants must review the program overview document prior to submitting their application.

APPLICATION FORM – POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS:

Contact information

Name: _____   Preferred name (optional): _____

Position/title: _____   Organization: _____

Street address: _____   City/town: _____

Province: _____   Postal code: _____

E-mail: _____   Phone: _____

Citizenship status (check one)

☐ Canadian citizen

☐ Canadian permanent resident   Country of citizenship: _____

☐ Canadian work permit   Country of citizenship: _____

☐ Other   Specify: _____

*Self-declarations (optional)**

* Although self-declarations are encouraged, non-responses will have no consequences. This information will only be viewed by program staff and may be used in aggregate for anonymized reporting purposes.

Gender:

☐ Agender   ☐ Bi-gender/multi-gender   ☐ Gender-fluid   ☐ Gender Queer

☐ Man   ☐ Non-binary   ☐ Questioning   ☐ Transgender

☐ Two-spirit   ☐ Woman

☐ Gender not specified   Specify: _____

☐ Prefer not to answer

Do you identify as a person with a disability?

☐ Yes   ☐ No   ☐ Prefer not to answer

Do you identify as an Indigenous person (e.g., First Nations, Inuit, and/or Métis)?

☐ Yes   ☐ No   ☐ Prefer not to answer

Health Data Research Network Canada
Pragmatic Trials Training Program

Coordinated by the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry
Western University, Ontario, Canada

Réseau de recherche sur les données de santé du Canada
Health Data Research Network Canada

Schulich MEDICINE & DENTISTRY   Western

Which categories best describe you? Check all that apply.

☐ Black   ☐ East Asian   ☐ Latin American   ☐ Middle Eastern

☐ South Asian   ☐ Southeast Asian   ☐ White

☐ Other   Specify: _____

☐ Prefer not to answer

Curriculum planning

What is your primary area of expertise? Check one (the most relevant).

☐ Epidemiology   ☐ Biostatistics   ☐ Clinical research   ☐ Privacy, ethics, regulations

☐ Implementation science   ☐ Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility

☐ Indigenous rights and data sovereignty

☐ Other   Specify: _____

Which area do you wish to learn more about? Check one (the most relevant).

☐ Epidemiology   ☐ Biostatistics   ☐ Clinical research   ☐ Privacy, ethics, regulations

☐ Implementation science   ☐ Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility

☐ Indigenous rights and data sovereignty

☐ Other   Specify: _____

Have you previously completed any training modules in the Wabishki Bizhiko Skaanj Learning Pathway? Check all that apply.

☐ Supporting Each Other's Journey: Land Acknowledgment Learning Series

☐ KAIROS Blanket Exercise

☐ San'yas Indigenous Cultural Safety Training

☐ Indigenous Research Ethics and Protocols

☐ Knowledge Keepers in Research

☐ The First Nations Principles of OCAP Training

☐ Cultural Competency Knowledge Bundle

☐ Other   Specify: _____

Health Data Research Network Canada
Pragmatic Trials Training Program

Coordinated by the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry
Western University, Ontario, Canada

Réseau de recherche sur les données de santé du Canada
Health Data Research Network Canada

Schulich MEDICINE & DENTISTRY   Western

Statement of interest (maximum 3000 characters with spaces)

Applicants must outline their academic background, current research focus, and expectations regarding how this training program will support their work.

- If the applicant has not engaged in pragmatic trials research prior to this program, they should describe their interest in entering this space. If they have prior experience, it should be described along with what the applicant intends to gain from involvement in this program.

The applicant should comment on their interest and capacity to receive project-based experiential mentorship from faculty-level trainees (future trial leaders) in the program, particularly in a virtual environment.

- Fellows whose primary supervisors are not trial leaders in the program must understand that they will be collaborating with a future trial leader (i.e., a faculty-level trainee in the program) through the development of a pragmatic trial protocol. This will be confirmed by the primary postdoctoral supervisor in their letter of support.

Health Data Research Network Canada
Pragmatic Trials Training Program

Coordinated by the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry
Western University, Ontario, Canada

Réseau de recherche sur les données de santé du Canada
Health Data Research Network Canada

Schulich MEDICINE & DENTISTRY   Western

Description of funding arrangements (maximum 1500 characters with spaces)

Describe your current postdoctoral salary funding arrangements (the source, amount, and duration) and indicate, to the best of your knowledge, how much you are eligible to receive (up to $32,500 as a top-up salary award in year one) from this CIHR-funded training program.

- To determine the amount of top-up funding you are eligible to receive from this program (in year one), it is strongly recommended that the applicant contacts their host organization and/or organization(s) providing existing salary awards.

The top-up salary award can only be combined with other awards up to a maximum allowed by the fellow's host institution and/or the allowed maximum within the funding conditions of other salary awards. The fellow should not request more funding than they are eligible to receive.

☐ **If the above section is incomplete –** At the time of applying, I was unable to confirm with my host organization and/or the organization(s) providing existing salary awards the amount of top-up salary funding that I can receive. However, I will submit this information to pragmatic.training@uwo.ca as soon as possible.

Conflict of interest declaration (maximum 1500 characters with spaces)

☐ I have an actual, perceived, or potential conflict of interest that may relate to my involvement in this training program and I have described it below.

☐ I do <u>not</u> have an actual, perceived, or potential conflict of interest that may relate to my involvement in this training program.

Health Data Research Network Canada
Pragmatic Trials Training Program

Coordinated by the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry
Western University, Ontario, Canada

Réseau de recherche sur les données de santé du Canada
Health Data Research Network Canada

Schulich MEDICINE & DENTISTRY   Western

APPLICATION CHECKLIST – POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS:

☐ Completed application form *(this document)*

☐ Curriculum Vitae (CV)

☐ Doctoral degree transcript

- Both official and unofficial transcripts (in English) are acceptable.
- **Transcripts that do not indicate doctoral degree completion:** Applicants who will complete their doctoral degree by April 15, 2024, but have not completed it at the time of applying must have the confidential reference letter (from their doctoral supervisor) describe the completion timeline of their doctoral program.

☐ Letter of support from the primary postdoctoral supervisor **(1 page maximum)**

Letters of support are <u>not</u> confidential and must be submitted in the application package. Letters must contain an official letterhead, the signature of the supervisor, and their contact information (i.e., e-mail, phone number, address).

- The letter should describe the primary postdoctoral supervisor's experience with the applicant who will soon be entering (by April 15, 2024, at the latest), or is already engaged in, a postdoctoral program.
- The letter should reflect an understanding of the training program so that the supervisor can endorse their fellow's involvement in the program.
  - Supervisors who are not involved in the program must acknowledge that they understand that their fellow will be collaborating with a future trial leader (i.e., a faculty-level trainee in the program) through the development of a pragmatic trial protocol.
- Describe the nature of the research project(s) that the fellow will work on during their fellowship outside of this training program. (If the fellows primary research project is unrelated to pragmatic trials, indicate what is anticipated to be gained from their involvement in this training program.)
- If possible, comment on the applicant's experience engaging in a virtual and largely asynchronous learning and/or working environment.

☐ Confidential reference letter from the doctoral supervisor **(1 page maximum)**

Confidential reference letters from doctoral supervisors must be submitted separately from the application package to pragmatic.training@uwo.ca by Friday, December 22, 2023 (5:00 PM Eastern time) with the subject line: *Postdoc letter for <applicant name>*.

- The letter must describe the applicant's doctoral supervisors experience with the applicant who will soon be entering (by April 15, 2024, at the latest), or is already engaged in, a postdoctoral program.
- Applicants who will complete their doctoral degree by April 15, 2024, but will have not completed it at the time of applying, must have this reference letter describe the completion timeline of their doctoral program.

- Describe the nature of the research project(s) that the applicant worked on during their doctoral studies.
    o If the applicant was involved in research related to pragmatic trials during their doctoral training, discuss the nature of their involvement. If the applicant was not involved in pragmatic trials research, describe how you think the applicant's involvement in this training program will expand upon their past training.
- If possible, comment on the applicant's experience engaging in a virtual and largely asynchronous learning and/or working environment.

Declaration

I, the applicant, certify that I have read the program overview document and that the information provided in this application is correct and complete. I understand that submission of this signed application permits the HDRN Canada Pragmatic Trials Training Program to request and/or confirm any information necessary to support my application and that submission of any false statements or documents will result in withdrawal of consideration for admission to the program.

If accepted into the program, I commit to:

☐ Engaging with tasks related to the program on a bi-weekly basis (i.e., for a minimum of 10 hours over a two-week period, ~5 hours per week).

☐ Collaborating with future trial leaders (faculty-level trainees) in the program through the development of a pragmatic trial protocol, even if that faculty mentor is not my primary supervisor outside of the program.

☐ Reflecting and presenting on obstacles and solutions encountered during the development of the trial protocol.

☐ Attending 80% of the monthly, one-hour virtual meetings and routine asynchronous engagement (e.g., reflections on educational content) within a learning management system.

☐ Supporting the creation of relevant educational materials (e.g., lecture slides, recorded presentations) for the training program.

☐ Providing any necessary financial documentation to program staff, in a timely manner, for the purposes of CIHR reporting.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

*Note that the application form may lock (preventing further editing) after it is saved with a digital signature.

Deadline: Friday, December 22, 2023 (5:00 PM Eastern time)
Submit the completed application form, CV, transcript, and letter of support as one combined package (i.e., a merged PDF) to pragmatic.training@uwo.ca with the subject line: *Postdoc application*   **The confidential reference letter from the doctoral supervisor must be submitted separately to pragmatic.training@uwo.ca with the subject line: *Postdoc letter for \<applicant name\>***