Canadian Neonatal Network™

Trainee / Early Career Investigator Award
Terms of Reference

Aim:
The aim of this award is to encourage and recognize trainees and early career investigators who use CNN resources as a foundation for excellence in research.

Award Details:
1. One award per year
2. The winner will
   a. Present their findings at the CNN Annual Meeting at a special session (10 minutes presentation and 5 minutes Q&A); AND
   b. Receive the award at the CNN Annual Meeting

Eligibility:
1. The applicant must:
   a. Be a trainee (including resident, fellow and non-clinical trainee) OR
   b. Early career independent investigator (including clinical and non-clinical) who are within 5 years of first academic appointment as a faculty member at any Canadian institution; AND
   c. Have used CNN data or related initiatives (including data from CNFUN and EPIQ) in the 12 months prior to the launch date of the competition
   d. Have produced a peer-reviewed abstract and/or journal article from the project
2. The applicant is eligible to submit any given project once, either at the abstract or article stage.

Application Process:
1. The competition will open 3 months prior to the CNN Annual Meeting.
   a. Eligible trainees and early career investigators who have submitted protocols to the CNN Executive Committee for approval in the previous 12 months will be encouraged to apply.
2. The deadline for submission of applications will be 2 months before the CNN Annual Meeting.
3. The winner will be informed 3 weeks before the CNN Annual Meeting.
4. The submission should include:
   a. A description of the project including a summary, details of the hypothesis, methods, results, and impact (maximum 5 pages including references, single sided, double spaced, 12 point Times New Roman font; no appendices allowed);
   b. Details of financial and statistical support, if any; and
   c. A nomination form (see page 3) to be completed by the applicant's supervisor, mentor or senior collaborator, with information related to the applicant's role in the project.
5. The submission should be emailed, mailed or faxed to:
   Priscilla Chan
   CNN Coordinator
   Maternal Infant Care Research Center
   Mount Sinai Hospital
   700 University Avenue, Room 8-500
   Toronto, ON M5G 1X6
   Email: Priscilla.Chan@sinaihealth.ca
   T: 416-586-4800 x 3833 F: 416-586-8546

Evaluation Criteria and Process:
1. The application will be assessed according to the following criteria:
   a. Originality of the hypothesis (20%)
   b. Suitability and innovativeness of the methods (10%)
   c. Quality of the results and their interpretations (25%)
   d. Potential for impact on future research and/or practice (20%)
   e. Applicant's role in the project (25%) – based on completed nomination form
2. The applications will be assessed by a selection committee that will consist of at least four (4) judges, depending on the number of applications received.
   a. The selection committee will be comprised of members of the CNN Executive Committee and CNN members who do not sit on the Executive Committee, with a targeted ratio of 1:1.
   b. The CNN Executive Committee will nominate individuals from the CNN membership to be members of the selection committee.
   c. CNN Executive Committee members and CNN members who are authors on the abstract/paper submitted for consideration will not be eligible to review the respective application. They can review applications which they are not involved in.
   d. Additional external experts will be sought if there is a lack of judges with an adequate knowledge base to assess the submitted research projects, or if there is a lack of judges due to conflicts of interest.
   e. The CNN director will only be included in the process for breaking a tie score.
3. Each project will be assessed by at least three (3) judges and the average score will be considered.
4. If there is a tie score between candidates, the CNN director will assess the applications according to the criteria described in (1) above to determine the final award winner.

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2021 Nomination Form
To be completed by applicant's supervisor, mentor or senior collaborator

Nominee:

Project Title:

Nominator / Completed by:

Instructions:
1. Compare to the trainees or junior investigators that you have supervised or worked with in the past, please select the most appropriate category for the candidate with reference to this project.
2. Please describe the nominee's role in the project pertaining to the following criteria.

Criteria	Top 5% Excellent	6-25% Very good	26-50% Good	>51% Average	Describe nominee's role in the project
	Please select by placing a check mark "✓"				
Idea Generation					
Protocol Development					
Analyses					
Interpretations					
Write-up					

Submission Deadline: February 26, 2021
Questions? Contact CNN Coordinator, Priscilla Chan, 416-586-4800 ext 3833