



## Short-Term Contract Position - Research Assistant

### Project background

The **research impact evaluation project** is part of a broader organizational initiative aimed at evaluating the impact of Heart & Stroke's research investments. The objectives of this initiative are to better understand the impact of Heart & Stroke's contributions to the advancement of heart and brain health, and to communicate powerful stories of our research impact. This project will involve a contribution analysis of the Foundation's research investments over the last 20-30 years in 2-3 areas of research where there has been notable progress made in the understanding, prevention, treatment, or recovery of heart disease and stroke. The proposed methodological approach will include mapping the "path to impact" for each areas of progress through rapid reviews of the literature, key informant interviews, knowledge synthesis, data mining of our funded research database, and analysis of associated epidemiological trends in health system or patient outcome indicators that may illustrate the broader impact of progress (e.g. changes in mortality rates, prevalence rates, disease burden, etc.). It will also include gathering evidence on other contributing factors to understand Heart & Stroke's specific contribution.

### Job description and responsibilities associated with research assistant role:

With guidance from the project lead and the Director, Planning, Evaluation & Impact, the research assistant will assist with mapping the "path to impact" for 2-3 areas of progress in heart and brain health and gather evidence on H&S's role in the path, by:

- Assisting with the conduction of key informant interviews of expert clinicians/researchers to gather evidence on the major milestones of the path to impact model
- Conducting a rapid literature review of the selected areas of progress in heart and brain health to identify key scientific milestones that were factors or links in the chain of scientific/clinical advancement in the selected areas of progress and refine the impact model
- Mining our funded research database over the last 20 years to identify grants that align with elements/factors in the impact model. This work will include supporting the following steps:
  - Contributing to the development of a defined coding framework for data mining
  - Performing targeted searches within the database adhering to coding framework
  - Compiling key results including the scope of investments in key factors
- Identifying and summarizing relevant epidemiological trends in health system or patient outcome indicators that illustrate the broader impact of progress in the selected areas of heart and brain health (e.g. changes in mortality rates, prevalence rates, disease burden, etc.)
- Gathering additional evidence to identify other factors that are co-contributors in the impact model
- Contributing to the development and refinement of the impact model (path to impact) and conducting a contribution analysis based on evidence gathered to understand and position the role of Heart & Stroke's funding
- Contributing to the development of knowledge translation assets to communicate the results of the initiative



### **Qualifications:**

- A strong understanding of medical and/or biological sciences and terminology through a combination of academic and professional or volunteer experiences
- Experience conducting scientific literature reviews using life sciences and biomedical literature databases and search engines (e.g. PubMed, MEDLINE, Google Scholar, etc.)
- Experience conducting a rapid review is an asset
- Strong ability to gather evidence, synthesize knowledge, and communicate complex and conceptual ideas to various groups including knowledge users.
- Experience with data mining/database searching
- Knowledge of epidemiological trends in heart and brain health
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Detail oriented, organized, and focused
- Ability to work independently and collaborate actively as part of a team to complete projects and advance thinking
- Experience with reference management software (e.g. EndNote, Zotero, Mendeley) is an asset
- Comfortable on the computer (PC environment): familiar with MS Office Suite, particularly Excel and Word. SharePoint experience is an asset
- Ability to follow written and spoken English instructions accurately.

### **Working conditions:**

- Remote/work from home with frequent virtual touchpoints for direction and collaboration

### **Contract length:**

- December 2020-May 2021 with 16 weeks (600 hours) of full-time hours or an equivalent number of hours in a part-time arrangement
- Start date: December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020

**If interested, please contact Leigh Botly and attach resume/CV ([leigh.botly@heartandstroke.ca](mailto:leigh.botly@heartandstroke.ca)). Please also indicate how you heard about this contract position (e.g. name of your research advisor/mentor/PI).**

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Heart & Stroke is a national, non-profit organization that leads the fight against heart disease, stroke and vascular cognitive impairment. Our work is driven by collaboration – with our volunteers and donors, researchers, people with lived experience, healthcare professionals, governments and others.