

Clinician Scientist Training Exchange Program (CSTEP)

The Clinician Scientist Training Exchange Program (CSTEP) is a one of kind program designed to inspire exceptional trainees to pursue careers as clinician scientists in the growing field of precision child and youth mental health (PCYMH).

CSTEP combines clinical and research activities to help acquire cutting-edge expertise and promote early-career research output.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

Collaborative Training: benefit from training and supervision at SickKids and/or CHEO, with a primary lead supervisor. Participate in virtual and in-person seminars and workshops.

Clinical and Research Experience: gain hands-on experience with state-of-the-art clinical practices and impactful research projects.

Research Output: contribute to peer-reviewed papers and conference presentations, enhancing career opportunities.

Inclusive Excellence: opportunity to co-design and learn how to promote equity and diversity in research and clinical practice.

Knowledge Translation: train in innovative knowledge translation to disseminate project impacts to various stakeholders.

FOCUS AREAS:



Genetics & Genomics

Expand your expertise of genetic discoveries transforming mental health insights and clinical management.



Big Data in PCYMH

Examine the complex interplay between genes, lifestyle, environment and the risk for or resilience against mental health through the analysis of large scale medical data extracted from electronic health records with the use of AI / natural language models



Innovation in Diagnosis and Treatment

Explore emerging PCYMH innovations like pharmacogenetics, biomarkers, neuromodulation strategies, and early prediction of MH trajectories. Contribute to translational research and clinical implementation.

CSTEP GUIDELINES

Term

- 1-year with potential for a maximum of a 2-year term.

Eligibility

- Medical residents (end of training) in psychiatry, neurology, neurosurgery, developmental pediatrics as well as post-graduate trainees in fields including psychology, pharmacy, and nursing.
- For applicants with an MD and/or PhD, the program is considered a clinical research fellowship.
- Applicants without an MD and/or PhD can apply to the CSTEP clinical research training program.
- CSTEP is open to applicants from within and outside of SickKids including international candidates.
- Supervisors must have a Senior Scientist, Scientist, Senior Associate Scientist, or Associate Scientist appointment at SickKids Research Institute.

Remuneration

- CSTEP provides a salary award for 0.2 to 0.6 FTE. Supervisors or the department must provide additional funding to meet the required salary of candidate.
- \$2,000 to support travel to attend conference to present work presented as part of training program.

Application Process

Applications are accepted through the Research Training Centre (RTC) Clinician Scientist Fellowship Program (CSTP) fall deadline. Visit the [RTC website](#) to review application.

Deadline to apply: October 3, 2025

Learn more about Precision Child & Youth Mental Health Initiative (PCYMH)

pcymh.ca

Vision: SickKids and CHEO will improve outcomes in child and youth mental health through groundbreaking research and clinical care. We will ensure that mental health is at the forefront as precision medicine becomes standard practice in health care.