

OICR Rising Stars Award – Call for Applications

APPLICATIONS DUE:	February 19, 2021
NOTIFICATION OF AWARD:	March 24, 2021
PRESENTATION OF AWARD:	March 25 and 26, 2021 at the OICR Translational Research Conference

AWARD DESCRIPTION

The Ontario Rising Stars in Cancer Research Network (Rising Stars) awards program aims to recognize world-class postdoctoral trainees and students across Ontario by highlighting those who demonstrate scientific potential and a high standard of scholarly achievement in cancer research as well as community engagement and leadership. We welcome trainees and students to apply for these landmark awards.

This year, a total of four awards will be granted:

- Two awards of \$750 for master's students;
- One award of \$1500 for a PhD student; and
- One award of \$1500 for a postdoctoral fellow.

These awards will be presented at [OICR's Translational Research Conference](#) on March 25 and 26, 2021.

ELIGIBILITY

To be considered for an OICR Rising Stars Award, applicants must:

- Be a trainee (i.e., master's student, PhD student, MD/PhD student, or a postdoctoral fellow) based primarily at an Ontario institution during the 2020-2021 academic year;
- Be engaged in cancer-related research (e.g., scientific research that applies to cancer prevention, diagnosis, treatment, or care) under the supervision of a scientist or investigator at an Ontario institution;
- Not have previously received an OICR Rising Stars Award in the same trainee category (i.e., applicants can win an award as a master's student and again as a postdoctoral fellow but not twice as a master's student or a postdoctoral fellow); and
- *For graduate students only:* Have achieved a first-class average (A-), in each of the last two years of full-time study or equivalent.

APPLICATION OVERVIEW

A complete application will include the following items:

- A one-page statement of research interests including a description of your research and the potential clinical and translational implications of your work (references not included in page length);
- A one-page personal statement;
- Two letters of recommendation;
 - At least one reference letter should be from an Ontario-based investigator
 - At least one reference letter should be from an academic reference*, and

- Applicants are encouraged to select at least one reference who can speak to the applicant's leadership skills and/or community involvement.
- References should be emailed directly to Rising.Stars@oicr.on.ca using the naming convention *ApplicantLastName_ApplicantFirstName_Reference2021.pdf*.
- References must be received by the deadline for the application to be considered complete.
- A copy of your recent CV (preferably formatted according to CIHR Academic Canadian Common CV).

Additionally:

- **Graduate students only:** A copy of your graduate-level transcripts (informal transcripts are acceptable);**
- **Postdoctoral Fellows only:** A PDF version of the paper (either published in a peer-review journal or available on a pre-print server) you believe to be your most significant contribution to cancer research.

* One reference may fulfill both the Ontario-based investigator and academic requirement.

** Official transcripts may be requested prior to granting your award.

*** Any CV format will be accepted. Applicants are encouraged to highlight relevant education, employment, funding and award history, talks and publications as well as any relevant extracurricular activities.

EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS

Applications will be reviewed by a committee of postdoctoral fellows and independent principal investigators based on:

- Excellence in cancer research and academic achievement;
- Demonstrated leadership in the cancer research community and beyond; and
- Demonstrated community engagement impacting local communities or society at large.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Applications must be submitted to rising.stars@oicr.on.ca with the subject line: **Ontario Rising Stars Awards** by February 19, 2021.

All documents should be submitted as a single PDF with the naming format *LastName_FirstName_RisingStars2021.pdf*

Any questions regarding the application process can be directed to rising.stars@oicr.on.ca.