

2026 Holmes-McInnes Research Student Leadership Award

for Excellence and Community Building

Preamble

Drs. Beverly Holmes and Roderick McInnes dedicated their time and expertise as external reviewers of the Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute and Keenan Research Centre of Unity Health Toronto in December 2019. Both scholars generously chose to donate their honoraria to support research training at Unity Health Toronto. In recognition of this, a graduate student award has been established to acknowledge outstanding contributions by graduate students who have had significant impacts, beyond their academic and research achievements, in supporting other research trainees and/or our local research community.

[Dr. Beverly Holmes](#), MA, PhD, is the President and CEO of the Michael Smith Health Research BC, chairs and sits on various research advisory groups across Canada and internationally, serves as an associate editor at Implementation Science Communications and represents her organization in the National Alliance of Provincial Health Research Organizations. She is an adjunct professor at SFU's Faculty of Health Sciences and UBC's School of Population and Public Health, a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences, and she holds a Chartered Director designation from the Degroote School of Business Directors College at McMaster University.

[Dr. Roderick McInnes](#), CM, OOnt, MD, PhD, FRSC, FCAHS, is the Alva Chair in Human Genetics, Professor of Human Genetics and Biochemistry, and Senior Investigator at the Lady David Institute of the Jewish General Hospital, all of McGill University. Prof. McInnes was previously the Head of the Program in Developmental Biology at the Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, and a University Professor at the University of Toronto, an HHMI International Research Scholar, and the Inaugural Scientific Director of the Institute of Genetics of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR).

Award description and eligibility

The award is intended to recognize a graduate student, who demonstrates both academic and professional excellence and outstanding contribution(s) to supporting other research trainees and/or our research community within our Institute. The recipient of this yearly award will be a graduate (MSc or PhD) student engaged in thesis-related research at Unity Health during the academic year when a trainee is nominated. Awardees are to be nominated by members of the research community of St. Michael's Hospital, Unity Health Toronto. The award is in the amount of \$200 per recipient annually and it can be received only once by a given trainee while studying at UHT. To be considered for this award, the student must meet the criteria below.

Award criteria

- Excellence in research (i.e. contributions to publications, presentations, grades, coursework, awards, etc.). Special consideration will be given to those who presented and/or facilitated at local seminar series.
- Leadership with respect to the trainee community and proven record of providing support to trainees and promoting trainee well-being (i.e. nominee had leading and initiating role(s) in organizing events for students; helped students to have better access to information, resources and services; contributed

towards peer services, such as mentoring, internal peer review etc. Special consideration will be given to those who participated in the RTC and SRSA events).

- Proven record of original ideas for trainee community building.
- Participation in various aspects of SMH student life.
- Demonstration of exceptional and creative contribution toward advancing equity, diversity and/or inclusion (EDI) within the Institute (i.e. nominee helped promote a welcoming, respectful and inclusive learning environment; demonstrated the impact and advantages of fostering inclusiveness in research and training; improved research about EDI and implementation of EDI initiatives).

Nomination process

Nominations will be solicited annually by the Research Training Centre (RTC) from members of the Research Institute. All members of the Research Institute (students, staff, investigators) can nominate trainees for consideration. Self-nominations will NOT be accepted. After nominators submit their nominations, they will receive a single nomination application form. Everyone who nominates a trainee will work together on a joint single nomination application form and only a single final nomination application form will be submitted per trainee to the RTC. Nominators should consider the award criteria and describe the contributions that the trainee has made to supporting trainees and our research community using the nomination form. The nominations will be evaluated by the Holmes-McInnes Award Committee.

The process of nomination and the deadline of nomination will be announced each year. The award can be received only once by a given trainee while studying at Unity Health Toronto.

Holmes-McInnes award committee

Nominations will be considered by a committee consisting of 2 current trainees, 2 PIs, 1 research staff, and the RTC staff. Committee members should have no conflicts of interest regarding the nomination.

We are committed to recognizing that diversity is essential for a strong, vibrant research environment, and we encourage nominations of those who identify as racialized persons/persons of color, women, Indigenous, persons with disabilities, LGBTQ+ persons, and others who are underrepresented in scientific research.

Deadline for nominations:

September 25, 2026

Nominators will be contacted to fill out the award nomination application. Award nomination application must be submitted to the RTC by **October 23, 2026**

Nominees will be contacted to send in their CV to rtc@unityhealth.to by **October 23, 2026.**

Process of Evaluation:

October 26 – November 6, 2026: Award review process.

November 13, 2026: RTC informs the winner of the award. The award winner is announced by RTC and VPRI.

November 23-27, 2026: Formal award presentation at the Research Month closing ceremony.

For questions, please contact Kayla Baker (rtc@unityhealth.to)