

**Dr. Monica K. Li and Family Undergraduate Medical Student
Research Award in Women's Health**

Important Dates

Application Deadline	Friday, May 22, 2026, 11PM PDT
Anticipated Notice of Decision	Mid to late July 2026

Description

Thanks to an annual endowment by Dr. Monica K. Li and family to the BC Women's Health Foundation, the WHRI has established the **Dr. Monica K. Li and Family Undergraduate Medical Student Research Award in Women's Health**, a funding opportunity specific to our undergraduate medical student trainee community. This award is intended to provide support to WHRI-affiliated medical students who identify as a woman from racial/ethnic minority groups to pursue research in women's and/or newborn health. This award could be used to support summer research placements, [UBC FLEX research projects](#) or other types of research activities.

Funds Available

One award is available valued at \$3,400 for a one-year period. These funds must be used within one year of being awarded.

Eligibility

Only undergraduate medical students who identify as a woman from racial/ethnic minority group and who are engaged (or plan to be engaged) in research relevant to women's and/or newborn health based in-person in British Columbia are eligible for this award.

Only applicants who do not hold summer studentship awards or other types of research-related salary support at the time of award acceptance will be considered for this award. For questions about eligibility, please contact Kathryn Dewar (kdewar@cw.bc.ca).

At the time of the application:

- Applicants must be registered as an undergraduate student at an accredited [Canadian medical school](#) and must self-identify as a woman from a visible (racial/ethnic) minority, as per the [Canadian census definition](#), including Indigenous Peoples, are eligible to apply for this award.
- Applicants must be a WHRI student/trainee member or, if from outside BC, must become a WHRI member upon start of the research in BC. There is no fee to become a member and any trainee engaged in women's and/or newborn health research at a BC-based university is eligible for membership. Information on how to apply for membership, including information about WHRI membership benefits and application procedures, can be found here: <http://whri.org/become-a-member/>
- Applicants' research supervisor, or the Principal Investigator overseeing the research study that is the target of the application, must also be a member of the WHRI. Any researcher engaged in

women's and/or newborn health research at a BC-based university is eligible for membership. If the applicant and/or supervisor would like to inquire about the supervisor's current WHRI membership status, please contact Kathryn Dewar (kdewar@cw.bc.ca).

Eligible Expenses

- Salary support for the trainee applicant.
- Funding for knowledge translation activities related to the proposed research, including travel to national or international meetings to present research findings and the publication of research findings.

Project Time Period

The maximum time frame for the project is 12 months.

Communication Requirements

At the end of the one-year funding period, grant recipients are required to provide a report outlining their research efforts to the WHRI in the form of a published abstract, submitted manuscript or other written deliverable.

Grant recipients are also required to acknowledge funding from the WHRI and the **Dr. Monica K. Li and Family Undergraduate Medical Student Research Award in Women's Health** in any communication, presentation or publication arising from the research.

How to Apply

The application must include the following three components:

1. Proposal (2.5 pages maximum)

- a) A description of the research project (1.5 pages), including:
 - Project title
 - Background and rationale for the study
 - Hypothesis or research question being addressed
 - Proposed research approach (i.e., study design, methods, analysis plan)
 - Expected project outcomes and potential impact
- b) A description of why you are interested in pursuing this research opportunity (half a page).
- c) A description of what you hope to gain from your participation in this project and how this opportunity will contribute to you achieving your current and/or future educational and/or career goals (half a page).

Format: Proposals must be written in Arial font (regular) minimum 11pt. Single-spaced text with 2cm margins on letter size (8½ x 11" (21.2 x 27.5 cm) and saved as a pdf.

2. Applicant Academic Transcripts

Transcripts from all post-secondary studies. This includes the applicant's current transcript for medical school regardless of available course grades. This is used as official confirmation of current academic standing. Please note that both official transcripts (i.e., a document, electronic or printed, issued by the university registrar's office) and unofficial transcripts (i.e., prints, downloads or screen captures from any student self-serve/online account) are acceptable.

3. Letter of Support from Applicant's Supervisor (1 page)

A one-page letter from the applicant's academic supervisor, which provides the following information:

- a. A brief assessment of the applicant
- b. A description of the student's role in the project and the instruction/mentorship that will be provided.
- c. A statement from the supervisor verifying that the trainee applicant does not currently hold a summer studentship award or other types of research-specific salary support as defined above.

Submission Instructions

The application deadline is **Friday, May 22, 2026 at 11PM PDT**. It must be submitted using the following link: <https://rc.bcchr.ca/redcap/surveys/?s=Y3AF3EKCD4E9A9AH>

Please submit your entire application as a single PDF. The application file name should be the last name of the trainee applicant (e.g., 'lastname.pdf'). No late submissions will be considered for any reason.

Questions about the application process can be sent to Kathryn Dewar (kdewar@cw.bc.ca).

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SCORING GUIDELINES

Evaluation Areas	Score
<p>Academic Record</p> <p>Academic achievement based on post-secondary grades.</p>	2 points
<p>Supervisor's Letter</p> <p>The letter should provide an assessment of the applicant and a description of the student's role in the project.</p>	3 points
<p>Project Summary:</p> <p>This section should address the scientific merit and feasibility of the proposed project. Considerations when scoring this section include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clear rationale for the proposed research approach and methodology, including the context within the relevant field of research. - Clear and testable research question or hypothesis. - Feasibility of the research approach including the project timeline. - Feasibility of the analysis plan. - Appropriateness of expected project outcomes and potential impact. 	5 points
<p>Student Statement (project-specific):</p> <p>This section should address why the student wants to be involved in research and why the student wants to be involved in this particular project.</p>	5 points
<p>Student Statement (personal benefit-specific):</p> <p>This section should address what the student hopes to gain from being involved in this project, including how this research experience will benefit the student in reaching their current and/or future educational and/or career goals.</p>	5 points
Score Total	20 points