

There is a significant gap in scientific knowledge and clinical care, along with a lack of awareness, research, diagnosis, and treatment that poses a significant risk to women's cardiovascular health. The Libin Cardiovascular Institute (LCI)'s Women's Cardiovascular Health Initiative (WCHI) aims to transform heart health and health care delivery for women through groundbreaking research and innovation.

The WCHI supports the development of collaborative research projects within identified research priority areas in women's cardiovascular health. The primary purpose of the WCHI Catalyst Grant aims to drive collaborative, innovative, and multi-disciplinary projects, by encouraging applicants to forge new partnerships and enhance existing collaborations within the LCI, fostering an integrated network that leverages diverse expertise and resources in women's cardiovascular health research and care. Collaborative approaches with other institutes, faculties and institutions will also be supported.

Eligible research projects will focus on women's cardiovascular disease across the lifespan, or at specific stages in life (e.g., pregnancy, menopause, etc.).

The purpose of this funding is to support multi-investigator teams proposing new, collaborative translational projects that will advance research and care in the area of women's cardiovascular disease. Each project should address biological (sex) and/or sociocultural (gender and other identity factors) differences, as well as incorporate a social determinants of health framework for data collection and analysis, as appropriate. Additionally, projects should also consider strategies to include and mitigate risks for the following populations in their research:

- First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities
- Racialized Canadians
- Individuals within the LGBTQ2S+ community

For research involving Indigenous communities, please ensure you are familiar with [TCPS2 Chapter 9, OCAP](#) and the ethical requirements to work with Indigenous communities. [The Indigenous Research Support Team](#) at the University of Calgary has training resources and provides consultations for proper processes and wise practices for engagement with Indigenous communities.

Award Terms:

Principal applicants must be a [member of the LCI](#) and hold a faculty appointment at the University of Calgary.

This award will be adjudicated by a panel including researchers, clinicians, and a lay reviewer. The application deadline will be **Friday, March 28, 2025**, with the Notice of Award (NOA) expected at the end of April 2025. As a condition of support, there is an expectation that each supported project will culminate in a submission for a major external award (i.e., CIHR, Heart & Stroke, etc.) within 18 months of the NOA. In addition, successful applicants must submit progress reports (1-year intervals), and a final report at the end of the funding period. Failure to submit report or meet goals will result in loss of eligibility for future awards/support. In addition, funds may be taken back by the WCHI if these award terms are breached including failure to demonstrate reasonable progress, or inappropriate use of funds.

Adjudication:

The award committee will broadly follow CIHR review guidelines, with specific instructions on alignment with the WCHI mission and vision.

- Appropriate incorporation of women’s cardiovascular health, and/or sex and gender throughout the application, including addressing biological (sex) and sociocultural (gender and other identity factors) differences.
- Alignment of the project with the WCHI mission and vision in the prevention and treatment of cardiovascular disease across the lifespan, or at specific stages in life (e.g., pregnancy, menopause).
- Focus on collaborative, translational, multi-investigator research.
- Strength of research team (including trainee involvement) and infrastructure.
- Potential to secure external funding after catalyst support.

Available funds and period of support:

Teams may request up to \$50,000, which can be used across a 24-month period following the NOA. Teams may apply for one 12-month, no-cost extension; however, success will be contingent on study progress and/or challenges.

Eligible and Ineligible Expenses:

Catalyst funding may be used to support direct research costs including minor research equipment (\$5,000 or less), materials and supplies, collaboration development, and study personnel (including trainee salary support). Funds may also be used to support knowledge translation and mobilization activities, including open access fees for publication. Funds may not be used for infrastructure support (i.e. construction/renovation), large office furniture (>\$5,000), or large lab equipment (>\$5,000).

Application:

Applicants will submit an application which includes a project summary (lay summary, aims, background, methods, research strategy, etc.), a statement summarizing the role of each team member (including involvement from at least one trainee), budget, and applicant CCV Biosketches. In addition, all applicants must submit proof of completion of one of the [CIHR Sex & Gender Modules](#). Detailed requirements can be found on the application form.

We encourage you to participate in the LCI grant review process, including [Test Your Concept and Internal Peer Review](#). If you have any questions about this process or would like to engage in the planning or administration of project development, please contact libin@ucalgary.ca.