



How you want to be treated.

PHC Palliative Care Research Scholarship (Contract Position)

Primary Location: St. Paul's Hospital

Additional Work Locations: across Providence Health Care (PHC) locations in Vancouver, BC

Organization: Providence Health Care

Department: Division of Palliative Care

Contract Details:

- **Scholarship amount:** up to \$100,000 annually in salary support
- **Percentage of Time:** dependent on experience, although we anticipate a minimum of 3-4 days per week
- **Benefits:** none
- **Contract Term:** 3 years

This contract role is intended to support salary time for a researcher to lead the Division's research initiatives as detailed below. The time commitment is dependent on experience (eg the annual \$100,000 would support less time for a senior researcher and more time for a junior researcher). There is potential to renew this contract at the end of the contract term.

Seeking a Leader for New Research Program

Providence Health Care (PHC) is seeking a scientist or clinician scientist to lead PHC's Division of Palliative Care in research program development and execution. In particular, goals of the program will focus on improved understanding of clinical needs, gaps in care delivery models, and best strategies in understanding how social (and other) determinants of health intersect with palliative care service delivery and outcomes that align with the Division's interests.

PHC has the unique privilege and experience of caring for one of the largest populations of patients in Canada who experience structural vulnerabilities – namely, the Downtown Eastside (DTES). Our goal is to develop a research program to study the palliative care needs of patients with advanced disease who also experience structural vulnerabilities. This person holding this research scholarship will help define PHC's Division of Palliative Medicine's research trajectory in this area, and will proceed to develop, implement and evaluate innovations in the field of palliative care that will contribute to future advances and improvements in patient-centred care for this unique patient population.

The Future of Palliative Care at PHC

Our vision for the future is to establish PHC as a leader in Canada in palliative care by integrating care delivery and research, which includes a goal to create a Professorship of Palliative Care that will significantly contribute to an emerging body of research in the area of palliative care for people inclusive of those with unique vulnerabilities. The person holding the PHC Palliative Care Research Scholarship will play a key role in producing foundational research that will help shape the goals and objectives of the future Professorship. Our goal is to establish funding for the Professorship by the end of year 2025.

About PHC

Providence Health Care (PHC) operates 16 health care sites in Greater Vancouver. We are committed to treating both patients and each other with compassion and respect. While it started with very humble roots, the Providence of today has grown to nearly 9,000 people working at across 16 sites made up of 6,000 staff, 1,000 medical staff/physicians, 200 researchers and 1,600 volunteers. Driven by compassion and social justice, PHC is at the forefront of exceptional care and innovation and is committed to embedding truth and reconciliation in everything we do.



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Providence operates one (of two) adult academic health science centers in the province – St. Paul's Hospital, located in the heart of downtown Vancouver – that performs cutting-edge research in more than 30 clinical specialties and a reputation for excellence across many departments. Today, the hospital provides compassionate care to 174,000 unique patients who account for over 500,000 visits annually and conducts research and teaching initiatives that benefit patients locally, nationally and internationally.

The **PHC Division of Palliative Medicine**, which is an Interdepartmental Division in the Department of Family Medicine and the Department of Medicine, is a highly collegial group contributing to education and clinical care. Our clinical program cares for patients with advanced disease including both malignant and non-malignant diseases, and includes in-hospital (tertiary care and community hospital), hospice care, out-patient clinic, and residential care.

Principal Duties and Responsibilities

The person holding the PHC Palliative Care Research Scholarship will receive a scholarship up to \$100,000/year for three years with an additional \$100,000 of start-up research funds (supporting additional expenses such as operating costs, admin support, equipment, etc) to be used across the three-year term. This will be a PHC, hospital-based scholarship.

The successful applicant will:

1. Identify current gaps in PHC's delivery of palliative care, as well as gaps in current research, in providing palliative care to patients experiencing structural vulnerabilities through techniques that include, but are not limited to: conducting an environmental scan; undertaking interviews with key stakeholders; and reviewing the current research literature, among others.
2. Begin to develop an interdisciplinary team-based program (including patient partners) of research focused on understanding palliative care for patients experiencing structural vulnerabilities.
3. Exhibit leadership and expertise and conduct team-based research in at least one of the following areas using quantitative and/or qualitative methodology:
 - a. Patient experience
 - b. Outcomes research
 - c. Health services delivery
 - d. Clinical intervention research
4. Contribute to advancing palliative care practice across PHC's services to improve outcomes, experiences and health service delivery for patients and families experiencing structural vulnerabilities.
5. Establish peer-reviewed and grant-funded research programs that will advance our understanding of palliative care for patients experiencing structural vulnerabilities.
6. Work with colleagues across PHC and beyond to ensure that advances developed through their research will be applied to medicine, nursing and interdisciplinary practices relevant to palliative care throughout Providence sites.

Position Deliverables

At the end of year 1, the successful applicant will have identified key gaps in PHC's clinical care and identified key research questions that address providing palliative care to patients with advanced disease who also experience structural vulnerabilities.

At the end of year 2, the successful applicant will have:

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1. Initiated work with colleagues across PHC to address identified care gaps, grounding this work in best-evidence and/or in developing new evidence to support innovations; and
2. Applied for peer-reviewed funding to begin a program of research focused on the question(s) identified in Year 1; and
3. Established an interdisciplinary research team, including patient partners.

Qualifications Required

The successful candidate will be a researcher in the first 10 years of their career with prior experience in palliative medicine health services research.

Successful applicants will either:

- a) Have practical experience in a health profession focussed on palliative medicine and have an MSc (in a discipline including, but not limited to: nursing, social work, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, spiritual care, pharmacy) or PhD with experience in health services research; or
- b) Have a PhD with experience in health services research and a focus on palliative medicine or closely related disciplines.

Successful applicants must have demonstrated excellence in leading a team-based approach to research. The applicant's program of research should be sustainable, innovative, and relevant to current health practice and policy and the future of Canadian health care.

Due to the specific population we intend this position to work with, applicants must be based in Vancouver's Lower Mainland in BC.

Diversity, equity, and inclusion are essential to creating a great workplace. At Providence Health Care, we are fully committed to building a strong and representative team. To that end, we especially encourage applications from members of all communities who are disadvantaged on any grounds, including people of colour, people of all genders and sexualities, people with disabilities, and Indigenous Peoples, who, as a result of colonization, are under-represented in positions of economic, social, and political influence and leadership.

How to Apply

To apply for this role, please submit an Expression of Interest that includes a Cover Letter (two pages maximum) and CV.

Expressions of Interest should be submitted by **October 31st, 2022** to Chantel Dhillon at cdhillon@providencehealth.bc.ca.