Rising Stars:
Awards and other opportunities for Early Career Researchers
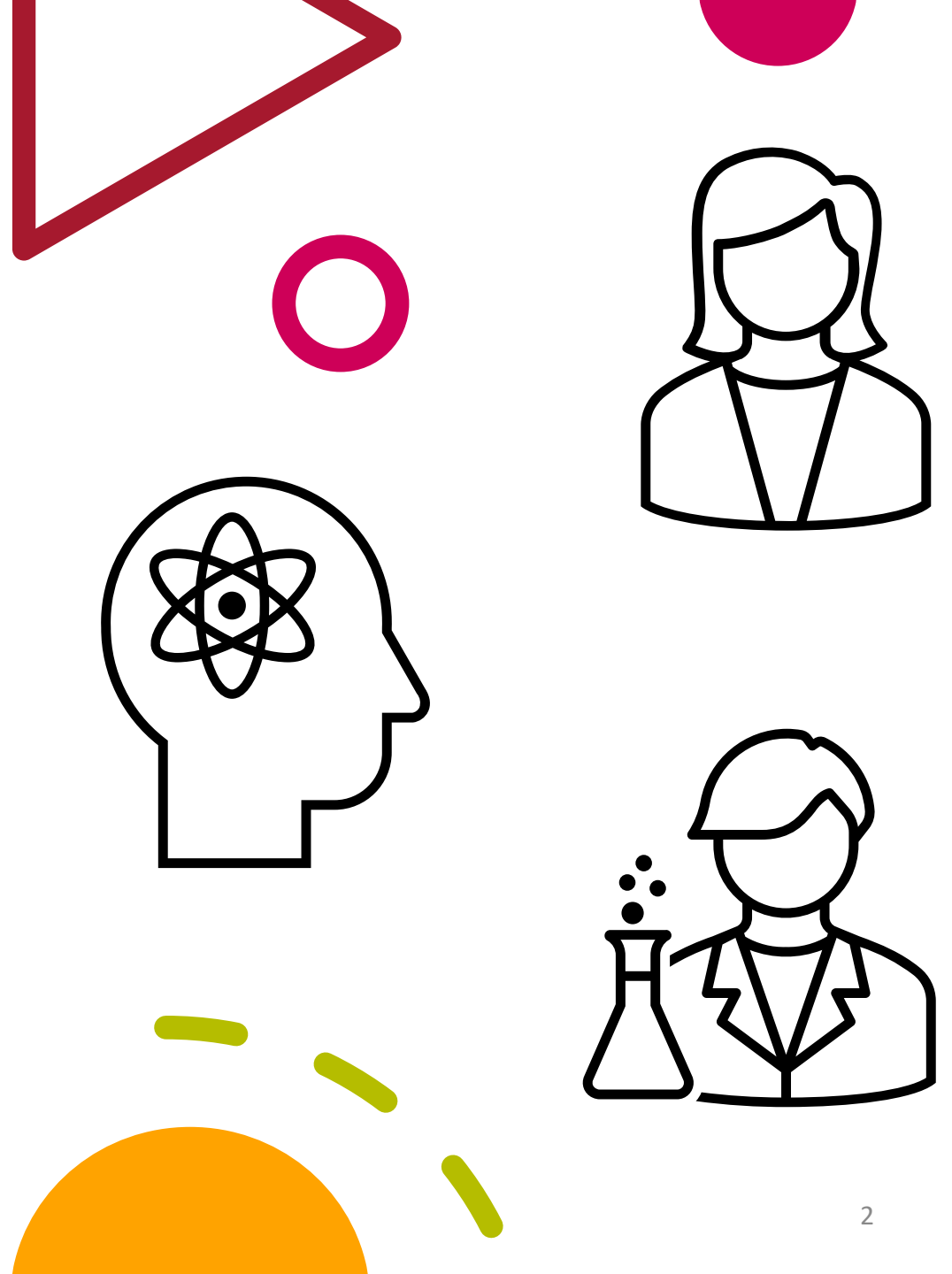
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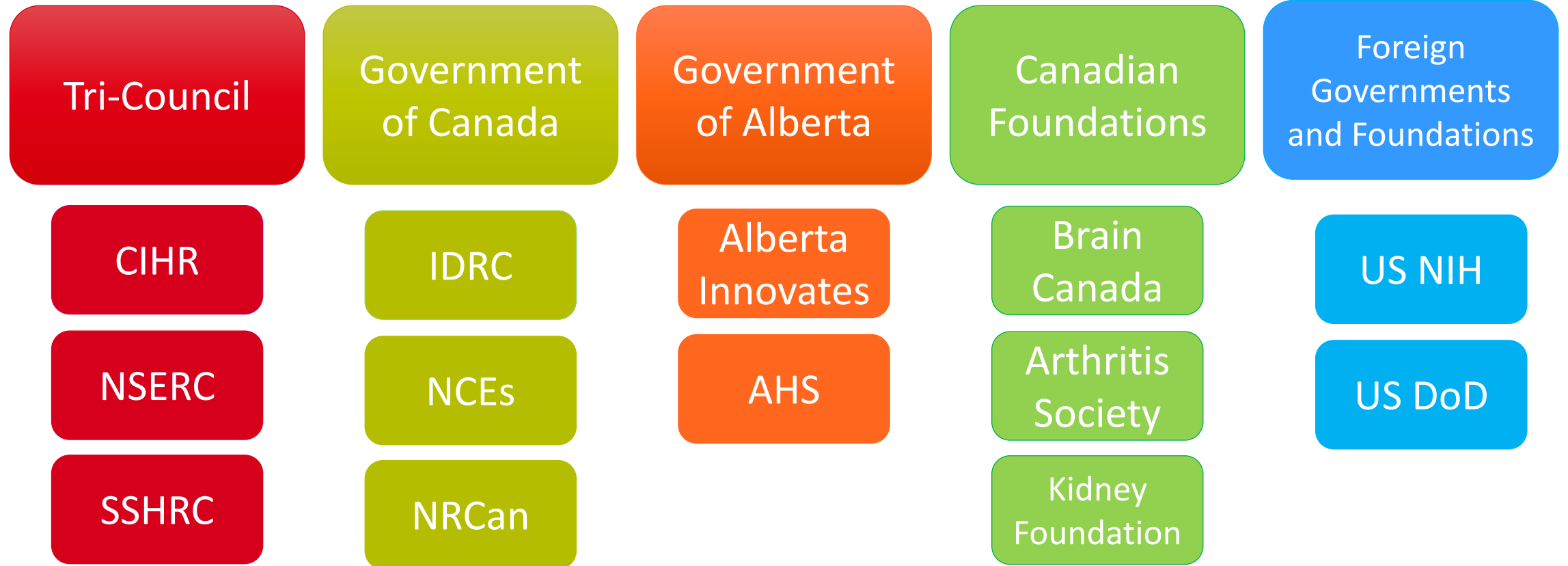CALGARY

Who is an Early Career Researcher?

- Definitions vary across organizations.

- Most common defined as period of 5-15 years from your first independent academic appointment.

- *Outside this time period*? If new to awards, this session can be useful.

- This session will cover award appropriate for the full ECR eligibility period, with those at the end being considered top recognitions of excellence.

Comparing research awards, salary awards and grants

		Research Award	Salary Award	Grant
	Funding	Not usually	Always	Always
	Contract	Not usually	Not usually	Sometimes
	Research Proposal	Sometimes (usually general statement about research direction, if included at all)	Almost always – specific, detailed research aims, goals, measurements identified	Almost always – specific, detailed research aims, goals, measurements identified
	Institutional commitments	Not usually	Often requires the institution to match funding	Sometimes
	Purpose	Recognition of research excellence	Usually to support early independent research, often in specific research areas	Funding to support specific research objectives
	Timeline	Recognition for previous achievements (what you have done)	Forward thinking (what you will do)	Forward thinking (what you will do)
	Mechanism of application	By nomination (other or self nominations)	Direct application	Direct application

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Granting Organizations

Tri-Council	Government of Canada	Government of Alberta	Canadian Foundations	Foreign Governments and Foundations
CIHR	IDRC	Alberta Innovates	Brain Canada	US NIH
NSERC	NCEs	AHS	Arthritis Society	US DoD
SSHRC	NRCan		Kidney Foundation	

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Canadian Awarding Organizations

Tri-Council

Canada Council for the Arts

National Research Council

Royal Society of Canada

Canadian Academy of Engineering

Canadian Academy of Health Sciences

Governor General

Lieutenant Governors

Foundations

Technology Alberta

CIFAR

Gairdner

Disciplinary Associations / Societies

Research Opportunities Database

Includes research grant, salary award and research award opportunities.

Opportunity Type
- Any -

Eligibility Type
- Any -

Keywords

[Search] [Reset]

Results for: salary ✕

Title	Opportunity Type	Award amount and duration	Sponsor	Program Application Deadline	Keywords
CRAF (CIORA)-Arthritis Society Canada Clinician Investigator Award	Grant	$60,000 per annum for a maximum of two years	Arthritis Society Canada	June 29, 2023	CRAF (CIORA)-Arthritis Society Canada Clinician Investigator Award, Salary Award
New Investigator Salary Award : Health System Impact Embedded Early Career Researcher Award - 2023	Grant	$100,000 per year for 4 years from CIHR	Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)	May 17, 2023	CIHR, New Investigator Salary Award, Health System Impact Embedded Early Career Researcher Award

https://research.ucalgary.ca/conduct-research/funding/search-funding-opportunities/database

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ECR funding and recognition programs

The Tri-agencies offer grant programs (CIHR Project, NSERC Discovery and SSHRC Insight Development Grant) with funds reserved to support ECRs.

Disciplinary associations offer grants with targeted eligibility for ECRs.

Salary award programs are often targeted to ECRs.

There are also research award programs to recognize ECRs.

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Why consider an award nomination?

Recognize talent, achievements, and leadership

Can be leveraged for:

- career progression

- trainee recruitment

- collaborations

- leadership positions

- invited presentations

Awards not only recognize established scholars, but also emerging leaders

Positive ripple-effect across campus building our reputation

UCalgary is fostering a culture of recognition that is equitable and inclusive

Research and Teaching Awards Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Plan

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What Awards to begin applying to

Internal awards - department, Faculty, research institute or other offices: Teaching Awards, Internationalization Achievement Awards and Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Awards.

Local or provincial awards: Avenue Magazine's Calgary's Top 40 under 40 awards and the City of Calgary – Calgary Awards.

"Rising Star" awards within your discipline.

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Putting together an award nomination

Recycle material discussing your track record from grant applications for your initial draft.

Talk to your mentors, Department Head, Associate Dean (Research) or Faculty Awards Advisor to learn about awards.

More information on approaching your first draft of common nomination components is available on RSO's guide: Early-Career Researcher Introduction to Award Nominations

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RSO Supports for Prize and Award Nominations

- Promote award opportunities
  - Disseminate external award opportunities
    - E.g., calls for nominations, information sessions
  - Communicate internal Killam award opportunities
  - Advise on award deadlines, criteria, nomination and selection processes

- Supporting quality nomination packages
  - Coordinate peer review, often through our *SUPPORT: Research Awards* committee
  - Offer RSO review: checks adherence to guidelines; address criteria; presentation of research impact; writing style
  - Solicit letters of reference

- Advising on specific awards
  - Profile previous award winners
  - Provide the selection committee membership

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RSO Supports for Prize and Award Nominations (cont.)

- Share resources for developing nominations
  - How to write a nomination
  - Describing research impact
  - Guidelines for referees
  - **New Guide**: Early-Career Researcher Introduction to Award Nominations
- Matching faculty members and award opportunities
  - Begin with faculty member or award
  - Advise on progression through awards

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Upcoming Grant Opportunity: AICR/WCRF Inspire Research Challenge

- Applicants are encouraged to be bold. Inspire Research challenge funding will accelerate novel research ideas that provide unique insights to challenge current conventions and longstanding dogma or take advantage of emerging themes and technologies.

- Eligibility: The Inspire Research Challenge is open to early career individuals, defined as not less than two years but not more than six years post-doctoral degree (PhD or MD research).

- Applicants must submit a Letter of Intent:

- **RSO LOI Deadline:** May 23, 2023 - 12:00 PM

- **Agency LOI deadline:** May 26, 2023 - 12:00 PM

American Institute for Cancer Research

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Upcoming Salary Awards:
Arthritis Society Canada Clinician Investigator Award

- Provides opportunity to initiate and carry out an independent research project of clear relevance to arthritis. The agency contribution to the investigator's salary is $60,000/year for 2 years.

- The institution, with other commitments, must commit 2-years of equivalent salary support upon the completion of the award.

- Eligibility: be within 5 years of their first clinical faculty appointment. See call for full criteria.

- **RSO final internal review deadline**: June 26, 2023 - 12:00 PM

- **Agency application deadline**: June 29, 2023 - 3:00 PM

Upcoming Research Grant & Salary Award:
2023 Stars Career Development Awards

- Aims to firmly establish the career of early career investigators.

- This salary and research funding represents a three (3) year commitment by Arthritis Society Canada, together with an additional three (3) year commitment by the applicant's Host Institution.

- Eligibility: be within 5 years of your first academic appointment and within 10 years of their most recent graduate or health professional degree. See call for full criteria.

- **RSO final internal review deadline**: June 26, 2023 - 12:00 PM

- **Agency application deadline**: June 29, 2023 - 3:00 PM

Top ECR Awards

- Top awards require laddering to build up a reputation of recognition to be competitive.

The Steacie Prize

- Award of $10,000 recognizes a scientist or engineer of 40 years of age or less for outstanding scientific research carried out in Canada.

Dorothy Killam Fellowships

- Given for superior, ground-breaking, best-in-class research. A Fellow is an Inclusive collaborator, Barrier breaker and/or Research leader.

- For early- to mid-career researchers (*typically have completed their PhD no more than 15 years prior, although there is no prescriptive cut-off*).

- These are release-time fellowships. The Killam funds are used by the institution to cover the cover replacement of the Killam Fellow's teaching and admin responsibilities. Institutional approval of this research leave is required.

Top ECR Awards (cont.)

NSERC Arthur B. McDonald Fellowship

- Research Grant: $25,000 (over 2 years)
- Eligibility: independent academic position for 10 years or less
- Fellow is relieved from teaching and administrative duties
- Internal selection process: institutional quota of 6 nominations

CIFAR Global Azrieli Scholar

- Award of $100,000 in unrestricted research support and 2-year term in program.
- Eligibility: hold a PhD and within the first 5 years of a full-time academic appointment. Applicant's research interests must be aligned with the themes of CIFAR's annual research program.

Alfred Sloan Foundation Fellowships

- These two-year, $75,000 fellowships are awarded yearly to early career researchers (tenure-track, though untenured).

Contacts

- **Honorific Research Awards:** researchawards@ucalgary.ca to reach:
  - Anna LeMarquand, Specialist, Research Awards & Grants
  - Erin O'Toole, Specialist, Research Awards & Chairs
- **Salary Awards:** email Anna LeMarquand directly at asamuels@ucalgary.ca
- **Research Grants**: rsogrants@ucalgary.ca or search the Funding Opportunities Database to locate the specific RSO contact.

- For more opportunities, please see Research Services' searchable Research Opportunities Database.
  - You can sign up to both the RSO Funding Opportunities Mailman List and RSO Prizes and Awards Mailman List by emailing vprcomms@ucalgary.ca.

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Questions?