



Queen's  
UNIVERSITY

**CLINICIAN  
INVESTIGATOR  
PROGRAM**

# Queen's Clinician Investigator Program: Developing the next

## Overview

The Queen's University Clinician Investigator Program (CIP) is an intensive, research-based postgraduate medical education program accredited by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC). It aims to develop the next generation of Clinician Scientist research leaders who will have the skill sets to achieve broad-based excellence not only in research but also as clinicians, supervisors/mentors, teachers and academics in general. The CIP involves a minimum of two years of structured, rigorous research training in addition to the existing specialty residency program requirements. This provides residents with the opportunity to fully integrate research with their clinical training, leading to specialty/subspecialty certification in addition to a graduate degree and RCPSC certification in research training.

## Research at Queen's

Queen's is one of Canada's most research-intensive universities whose faculty and students continue to make significant contributions to society. A dedicated focus on research is a priority for the School of Medicine, with strong support coming from the University's affiliated teaching hospitals, basic science and clinical researchers, and department heads. The School receives approximately \$85 million each year for research funding and has been successful in establishing CIHR (SITHR) and NSERC (CREATE) funded training programs in the areas of cancer, gastrointestinal diseases and musculoskeletal diseases that are open to a wide range of trainees. CIP trainees at Queen's are also undertaking research in education and public administration to advance teaching and management in health services.

There are also over 80 well-funded laboratories within active multidisciplinary research groups that include:

- Cancer
- Cardiac, Circulatory and Respiratory Health
- Community Health and Epidemiology
- Emergency Medicine and Injury
- Gastrointestinal Diseases
- Health Services and Policy
- Human Mobility
- Mental Health
- Neurosciences
- Obesity and Research Education
- Protein Function Discovery
- Reproductive and Developmental Origins of Health, Disability, and Disease

# generation of Clinician Scientist research leaders

## Eligibility

Residents enrolled in any RCPSC-accredited specialty/ subspecialty program at Queen's University are eligible to enroll in the Clinician Investigator Program. All CIP trainees commence their research training while registered in a postgraduate training program.

## Application Process

Eligible residents should complete the online CIP Registration Form. Supporting documentation, along with the CIP Registration Form, must be completed and submitted by early November of the year prior to the July 1st start date for the CIP. Candidates must also identify a supervisor through one of the participating graduate programs. The candidate and supervisor are then required to submit their request to the Selection Subcommittee which will report its recommendation back to the CIP Faculty Committee. Full application details are available on the CIP website.

*"The Clinician Investigator Program at Queen's University will help develop the next generation of Clinician Scientist research leaders in Canada."*

**Dr. Graeme Smith, MD, PhD, FRCSC**  
Director, Clinician Investigator Program



## Funding

Full funding for the duration of the CIP is provided through the Ministry of Health and fellowship awards. Candidates will be encouraged to apply for internal and/or external peer-reviewed salary research awards during their training period.

*“One of our missions at Queen's is to train academic clinicians. Academic clinicians need to be equipped in two fundamental ways; for their job in looking after patients, and for their job in producing scholarship. The CIP program enables residents to dedicate concentrated periods of study to preparing them for their job as scholars, in the rich environment of our university and hospitals.”*

**Dr. Richard K. Reznick, MD, MEd, FRCSC, FACS**  
Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences,  
Queen's University

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What graduate programs are involved?**

Within the Department of Biomedical and Molecular Sciences, graduate programs are open to CIP trainees in Biochemistry and Cell Biology; Experimental Medicine; Microbes, Immunity, and Inflammation; Reproduction and Developmental Sciences; and Therapeutics, Drug Development, and Human Toxicology.

Programs within Queen's University's Faculty of Education, School of Policy Studies, School of Business, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science (Biomedical Engineering), Department of Public Health Sciences, and the School of Kinesiology and Health Studies are also open to CIP trainees. Other programs will be considered at the trainee's request.

### **What are the course requirements?**

In addition to the course requirements of the individual graduate programs, residents follow an established CIP curriculum. This includes the Course on Research Ethics; Course in Human Research Participant Protection; the CITI-Canada Good Clinical Practices (CGP) Education Program; WHMIS training; the Essentials of Classroom and Clinical Teaching; and the CMA online self-led Leadership Course. A Core Curriculum with faculty is also required.



### **How are research and clinical education experiences integrated?**

During their research block, residents spend at least 80% of their time completing graduate course work and research activities. Up to 20% of their time is spent doing clinical work, providing valuable experience with integrating research and clinical activities. Following completion of their graduate degree, residents remain under the CIP umbrella. During their remaining clinical training, they will be invited to join the CIP curriculum sessions and the annual Research Day to interact and provide follow up.

Clinician Scientists in the Faculty act as mentors to residents in the CIP. The presence of mentors has been repeatedly identified as the key factor in becoming a successful clinician scientist. Mentors continue to help identify and facilitate ongoing research interests after the completion of the graduate degree and demonstrate how research and clinical activity are integrated on a day-to-day basis.



## What are the benefits of the CIP?

### EXPERIENCE

Having the initial experience of integrating research and clinical activity under the mentorship of an established clinician scientist allows residents to be well versed in this process when they start their first academic appointment.

### RECOGNITION

CIP graduates are more likely to be successful as independent investigators because they have the practical research experience and research training credentials. National granting agencies recognize CIP experience when reviewing applications for grant funding.

## How do I find out more about the CIP at Queens?

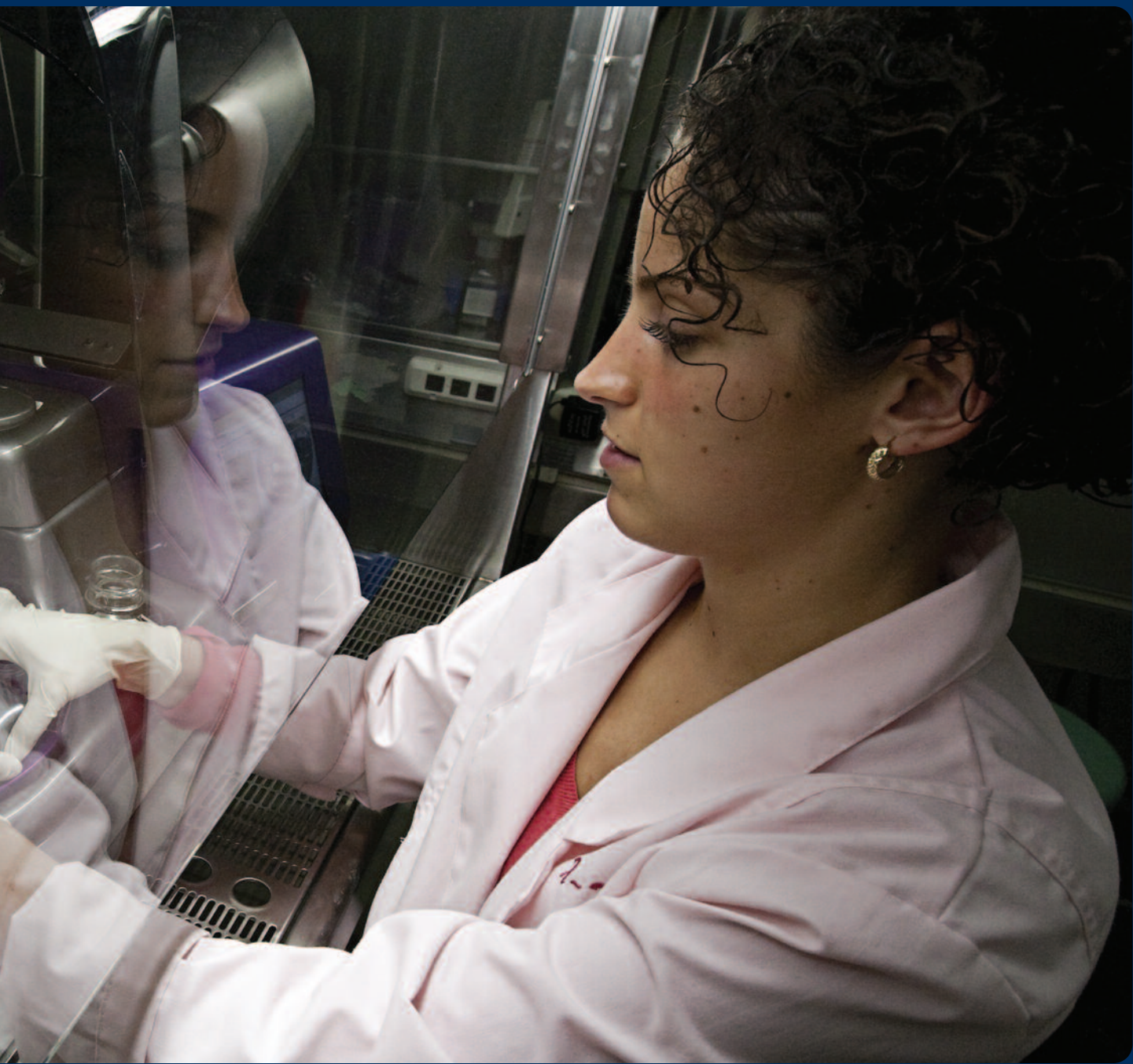
The CIP office is here to help you. Please contact us if you have any questions regarding the program. The Program Director, Dr. Graeme Smith, has an open door policy for meeting with potential trainees.

Please arrange an appointment through the CIP office.

*“As a resident, I knew that I wanted to be an academic physician. More importantly, I knew that this role would require additional training. The CIP provided a framework for me to do this in a way that was understandable to me as a clinician.”*

**Dr. Paula James, MD, FRCPC**  
Associate Professor, Department of Medicine and  
Pathology & Molecular Medicine







# Medicine

## CLINICIAN INVESTIGATOR PROGRAM

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