AMS
advancing innovative healthcare
with compassion at its core

> **NOTICE**
> The content of this funding opportunity has been changed as of December 15, 2021. The changes are noted in red font.

**FUNDING OPPORTUNITY**

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| **Funding Organization:** | AMS Healthcare |
| **Program Name:** | Compassion and Artificial Intelligence Fellowship |
| **Partner:** | Ontario SPOR SUPPORT Unit |
| **Program Launch Date:** | November 18, 2021 |

**KEY DATES**

|  | Letter of intent stage | Full application stage |
|---|---|---|
| **Information webinar:** | December 8, 2021 | --- |
| **Submission deadline:** | January 20, 2022 | April 12, 2022 |
| **Notification date:** | February 28, 2022 | June 2022 |
| **Funding start date:** | --- | September 2022 |
| **Workshop:** | --- | November 2022 |

**PARTNERS**

With a vision of *Compassionate, quality healthcare for all Canadians, in a system advanced by technology, innovation, and a rich understanding of our medical history*, **AMS Healthcare** strives to improve care for all Canadians.  We achieve this by convening networks, developing leaders, and funding crucial activities in healthcare research, education, and clinical practice. In recent years, AMS Healthcare has provided funding for activities that address two key components of quality care: Compassion[1] as a central feature of the patient-centred model of the provider-patient relationship; and the emergence of artificial intelligence and digital health solutions as disruptive technologies. The Compassionate Care in a Technological World strategic priority focusses on promoting the integration of digital technology and compassionate care in the delivery of health care services, education of health

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[1] *Compassion includes empathy, respect, a recognition of the uniqueness of another individual, and the willingness to enter into a relationship in which not only the knowledge but the intuitions, strengths, and emotions of both the patient and the provider can be fully engaged.*

professionals as well as facilitating the leadership needed to realize the promise of technology. Click here to learn more about compassionate care in a technological world.

The **Ontario SPOR SUPPORT Unit** is the catalyst for patient-oriented research in Ontario. OSSU provides supports such as expertise, infrastructure, training and resources to people conducting patient-oriented research. OSSU also funds projects that demonstrate the value of patient-oriented research and how it can leverage OSSU supports to achieve greater impacts. These awards support translational patient-oriented research that are Innovative, Measurable, Patient-oriented, Appropriate, Collaborative and Transformative – IMPACT Awards.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

Technology will transform healthcare in ways we are only beginning to understand and healthcare's readiness to embrace this transformation – and ability to translate technology opportunities into sustainable solutions to the most pressing issues in healthcare – will be the central challenge for practitioners, providers and policymakers alike.  Expectations about compassionate care will also evolve as patients increasingly look for empathy, as well as connectedness, responsiveness, and empowerment to act together to improve health and address illness.  AMS Healthcare is inviting health professionals, educators, academics and clinicians of all disciplines to seize the opportunity to explore and lead this transformation by deepening our understanding of the various aspects of compassion in the light of emerging disruptive healthcare technologies in order to better enable healthcare's compassionate purpose.

The AMS Healthcare Fellowship in Compassion and Artificial Intelligence provides highly qualified individuals (prepared with either a PhD or Master's degree) a unique opportunity to apply their research and analytic talents to the critical challenge of the impact of DT/AI on the delivery of compassionate healthcare.  This innovative 12-month fellowship program is intended to build capacity in the healthcare research and academic community to take advantage of emerging DT/AI approaches and the intersection with compassionate care.  To achieve this goal, AMS Healthcare's efforts are focused on early and mid-career interdisciplinary professionals, seeking experiential learning and research opportunities in compassionate care and DT/AI approaches.  The focus of the fellowships will be on practice, education and/or research in health systems and related fields to improve patient care and enhance the education of students and practicing health professionals.

Core criteria for the fellowships include:

(1) the fellowship explores specific attribute(s) of compassion (i.e., provider-patient relationship, equity, trust, patient safety, suffering, provider burnout, etc.) in relation to digital technology/AI;
(2) Compassion is clearly conceptualized and defined in the proposal; and
(3) the exploration of compassion in relation to digital technology/AI is core to the proposal.

These awards provide fellows with the opportunity to dedicate a portion of their time (to be specified in the application) to become immersed in this topic area and benefit from mentorship by leaders, collaborating across disciplines, while also making it possible to protect a portion of time for academic research.  Flexibility in the time commitment will enhance the learning experience.  Fellows require a sponsoring institution that will provide support and resources to the applicant, an appropriate supervisor, as well as oversight of the financial aspects of the award. Fellows must also identify a

suitably qualified mentor who will enrich this learning experience, provide advice and encourage the Fellow throughout the term of the award.

**FUNDS AVAILABLE**

AMS Healthcare's financial contributions for this initiative are subject to availability of funds. Should AMS Healthcare funding levels not be available or are decreased due to unforeseen circumstances, AMS Healthcare reserves the right to reduce, defer or suspend financial contributions to awards received as a result of this funding opportunity.

- The total amount available for this funding opportunity is $900,000; enough to fund up to twelve (12) one-year fellowship awards of up to $75,000 on compassion and technology. At least four (4) of these awards will have an additional focus on the wellbeing and mental health of healthcare providers, patients and caregivers to address the challenges of living and working through the COVID-19 pandemic. Applicants will be expected to declare if they wished to be considered for the wellbeing/mental health and compassionate care stream.
- In recognition of their critical role in the fellowship program, AMS Healthcare will provide a small honorarium to the mentor and/or supervisor.

**ELIGIBILITY**

To be eligible for this award, the applicant must be either:

- an early or mid-career academic health investigator working in a CIHR eligible institution. CIHR defines a new/early career investigator as someone who has assumed his/her first independent academic position (e.g., faculty appointment) within the last 7 years (0-84 months). Mid-career is an individual within 5-10 years from the date of their first research-related appointment, minus eligible delays in research.
- a regulated healthcare professional with graduate school training or an academic in a field related to/focussed on healthcare (i.e., health ethics, health law, computer scientist with an interest in health applications) in a health care organization, provincial government, academic setting or a provincial/national health professional organization.

Preference will be given to applicants who reside in Ontario and are a Canadian citizen or permanent resident.

Activities proposed in the application must occur at an organization located in Canada.

Successful applicants must also be:

- supervised by an individual who has an academic appointment with a university-based graduate program and who conducts research in health services and/or technology.
- mentored by an individual (not the supervisor) who has an academic appointment with a university-based graduate program and who conducts research in health services and/or technology.

**GUIDELINES**

The Fellowship award may be combined with or supplemented by another fellowship award where there is no overlap in funded activities (i.e. one fellowship provides salary support and the other supports a specific research project or other activities). Funding may be used to cover reasonable expenses related to the Fellowship (i.e. salary replacement, travel and registration expenses, etc. Questions regarding the eligibility of expenses will be: addressed at the webinar; in the FAQ document; and, can be directed to OSSU. Fellowship funding can not be used to support organizational administrative or infrastructure expenses.

**REVIEW PROCESS and EVALUATION**

**Objectives**
The AMS Healthcare Fellowship award program is expected to support the development of:
- scholars and researchers to lead in DT/AI and compassionate care by supporting experiential learning opportunities and competency development; and,
- cross discipline networks of scholars and researchers (i.e. health disciplines and technology)

Award funds may be used to fund career development & projects aligned with AMS's strategic foci.

**Criteria for The Fellowship**
To support the objectives of the fellowship award program, the following criteria will be used.
- Mandatory criteria for an application to be considered for funding:
  o The fellowship proposes to explore a specific attribute(s) of compassion (i.e., provider-patient relationship, equity, trust, patient safety, suffering, provider burnout, etc.).
  o Compassion is clearly conceptualized and defined in the proposal[2].
  o The exploration and integration of compassion in relation to digital technology/AI is core to the proposal.
  o To strengthen the application, consideration may be given to one or more of the following:
    - The proposal explores the positive and/or negative impact technology can have on compassion on patient, family, caregiver and/or provider outcomes.
    - The fellowship addresses a key patient or provider outcome (i.e., provider burnout, patient falls, etc.) and explores how improving the outcome relates to the provision of quality compassionate healthcare.
    - The applicant proposes to explore the risks and benefits of technology to compassion.
    - The proposal includes a description/strategy for knowledge translation activities.

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[2] Compassion is conceived as a state of concern for the suffering or unmet need of another, coupled with the desire to alleviate that suffering [Goetz at al, 2010]. An experience of compassion is defined in this way involves several distinct components:
  1. Awareness of the suffering or needs in another individual,
  2. Feeling moved, and recognizing this as a response to others need,
  3. Appraisal of one's own feelings, social roles, and abilities within the context of another's suffering,
  4. Judgement that the other person is suffering,
  5. Engagement in behaviours that drive social affiliation and caregiving and motivate helping and behaviours to alleviate suffering
(NB This definition is meant to guide applicants and reviewers, not serve as a "checklist" for inclusions into the LOI).
From: Seppälä, E.M., Simon-Thomas, E., Brown, S.L., Worline,M.C., Cameron, C.D., and Doty, J.R. (2017). *The Oxford Handbook of Compassion Science*. Oxford Press. DOI: 10.1093/oxfordhb/9780190464684.001.0001 (p.3)

- Applicants are strongly encouraged to include patients and caregivers, community and or service end users as advisors to the fellowship.
- Professional and academic achievements and potential of the applicant (mid and long term).
- Quality of the sponsoring organization's and academic institution's support including the commitment to provide release time to the applicant to complete the Fellowship.
- Quality and commitment of the mentor to guide and support the development of the Fellow during the course of this award.
- Quality, potential impact and feasibility of the applicant's project or work proposal.

**Expectations**

The AMS Healthcare Fellow is expected to use broad and innovative approaches to learn and develop competence/expertise in ways to embrace DT/AI in compassionate care. In addition to the usual methods of knowledge dissemination such as publications and social media, the AMS Healthcare Fellow is expected to:

- Prepare a summary report of this opportunity to AMS Healthcare;
- Share learnings and experiences in their community and at the annual AMS Healthcare Conference; and,
- Establish and participate in a community of practice regarding DT/AI and compassionate care.

**HOW TO APPLY**

Applications for this funding opportunity will undergo a two-stage process starting with a Letter of Intent stage (LOI Stage) and concluding with a Full Application Stage (FA Stage). Templates and application templates for this award can be found at www.ossu.ca/resources/ams-healthcare.

**LOI Stage**

Applicants are required to submit a complete LOI Submission (Calibri, 11pt, single spaced) in DPF format to OSSU, at ossu@ossu.ca, by **5:00 pm (eastern time), Thursday, January 20, 2022**.

Following administrative review (for completeness and eligibility), applications will be assessed by a panel of experts in the challenges and potential impacts of digital technology and artificial intelligence on the delivery of compassionate healthcare.

The result of the LOI Stage will be determined by AMS Healthcare. All applicants will be notified of the results on or before **Monday, February 28, 2022**.

**FA Stage**

Successful applicants will be invited to submit a full application to the competition. Applicants must submit a complete Full Application Submission (Calibri, 11pt, single spaced) as well as additional documentation (all in PDF format) requested in the call to OSSU, at ossu@ossu.ca, by **5:00 pm (eastern time), Tuesday, April 12, 2022**.

Following administrative review (for completeness and eligibility), applications will be adjudicated by a panel of experts in the challenges and potential impacts of digital technology and artificial intelligence on the delivery of compassionate healthcare.

The result of the FA Stage will be determined by the AMS Board's Review Committee. All applicants will be notified of the results in **late June 2022**.

**CONTACT INFORMATION**
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Click here to learn more.

This program is offered as a partnership between the AMS Healthcare and the Ontario SPOR SUPPORT Unit.