



Strategic Training in Transdisciplinary Radiation Science for the 21st Century (STARS21)

PROGRAM INFORMATION

The overarching goal of STARS21 is to build research capacity in Canada in the realm of radiation science. We aim to address an unmet need for education in translational and transdisciplinary research in fields relevant to radiation medicine, as well as leadership, communication and collaboration proficiencies necessary to develop trainees into the future leaders of Canada's scientific community. We aim to create a learning community that resembles the multidisciplinary nature of today's team-based science.

The STARS21 program consists of biweekly 1.5-hour workshops, 2 group projects, a career development day and a research day. Trainees from outside Toronto can participate by videoconferencing. Approximately 25 trainees participate in the program yearly. Evaluations show that 100% of STARS21 alumni would recommend the program to colleagues and believe the program has been invaluable to their learning; "I think the program offers an important and very interesting 360 degree overview of cancer treatment, focusing on radiation science...The opportunity to learn about transdisciplinary research and work with scientists from a wide variety of fields was invaluable." – STARS21 trainee 2016.

The STARS21 program is co-Directed by Drs. C. Anne Koch (Radiation Oncologist and Affiliate Scientist, Princess Margaret Cancer Centre) and Marianne Koritzinsky (Scientist, Princess Margaret Cancer Centre). Invited experts lead workshops. Co-funded by the Terry Fox Research Institute (TFRI), Princess Margaret Research (PMR) and Radiation Medicine Program (RMP), STARS21 provides stipend support to accepted trainees for 1 year. Trainees not affiliated with sponsoring institutions (PMR and RMP) will be offered 50% funding.

Funding levels are:

MSc	\$25,000 towards stipend
PhD	\$30,000 towards stipend
Postdoctoral Fellow	\$40,000 towards stipend
Clinical Fellow	\$30,000 towards stipend
Residents	\$3,000 towards conferences costs when presenting research

Trainees participating in the program may also apply for travel awards of up to \$1,000.

Applicants meeting specific eligibility criteria may be offered funding through the endowed Gifford fund administered at the Department of Radiation Oncology, University of Toronto.

Candidates are selected based on the following criteria:

- Academic Excellence
- Research Excellence
- Scientific merit of research proposal
- Leadership potential
- Relevance of research to Radiation Medicine
- Transdisciplinary aspect of research
- Excellence of the research environment and its contribution to training in radiation medicine/science

Supervisors of accepted trainees will be granted status as Mentors for 3 years. Mentors are expected to contribute to the STARS21 program through invited presentations and review panels.