

# Novo Nordisk Network for Healthy Populations

## Call for Summer 2024 Research Projects for Research on Prevention and Management of Type 2 Diabetes and/or Related Chronic Conditions

**Applicable Students:** U of T Undergraduate, Medical /Health Professional, and Masters non-thesis (practicum) Graduate Students

**Deadline for Project Application:** **December 20, 2023**

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**About the Network for Healthy Populations:** The University of Toronto's Novo Nordisk Network for Healthy Populations (NHP) is a new cross-disciplinary research network aimed at reducing the burden of diabetes and related chronic conditions. In partnership with the Temerty Faculty of Medicine, Dalla Lana School of Public Health, and the University of Toronto Mississauga, the goal is to establish an integrated platform of community-based research to address root causes of the diabetes epidemic in Mississauga, Peel Region and beyond. The NHP will foster innovation and build capacity by leveraging the three University partners' wealth of academic strengths and cutting-edge methods, and by catalyzing the creation of important links across fields to integrate diverse mindsets and approaches. Please read more about the Network here: <https://healthypopulationsnetwork.utoronto.ca/>

### MISSION

Reduce social inequities in risk and burden of diabetes and other chronic conditions through better care, lower risk factors and healthier living environments

### The Objectives of the Network for Healthy Populations are to:

- Identify key priorities and areas of need for chronic disease prevention
- Enable more early detection of the disease
- Co-design and co-evaluate culturally appropriate interventions to treat and prevent T2D
- Improve risk factors such as health access barriers
- Close the gap in health outcomes for equity-deserving communities

**About the NHP Summer 2024 Research and Training Program:** The Network for Healthy Populations is dedicated to training and preparing the next generation of health leaders to address the rising risk and burden of diabetes and chronic diseases. The NHP is launching the Summer 2024 Research and Training Program for undergraduate, medical/health professional students, and graduate students currently registered at the University of Toronto. In doing so, we will support research projects that are in alignment with the NHP's core, vision, objectives and core mission.

In partnership with:



University of Toronto Mississauga  
3359 Mississauga Road, Mississauga, Ontario L5L 1C6

U of T faculty members or Network community partners wishing to supervise a summer student are invited to apply. The NHP will provide financial support for one student per supervisor to support a project over a 12 to 16 week that fulfills the following criteria:

1. The project addresses the burden of diabetes and related chronic conditions through better care, lower risk factors, or healthier living environments.
2. The project focuses on the Mississauga and Peel Region.
3. The project is feasible and appropriate for a student to conduct within a 12- to 16-week period.
4. The student will have regular supervision and mentorship from the faculty member or community partner.
5. Resources and operating support are available for the student to conduct the project.

Selected projects will be made available on NHP's website, and eligible students will apply to a project via the NHP's application process.

**The Learning Objectives of the Network's Education and Training Program are to:**

- Gain research experience, knowledge, and skills to prepare for future career goals
- Participate in education and professional development opportunities available via the Network and across the UofT campuses
- Network with mentors and experts from the field and seek guidance and mentorship on career goals
- Connect with other trainees who are interested in reducing social inequities and addressing root causes of diabetes

**Supervisors (and members of the research team) are encouraged to:**

- Participate in the application review and interview process from **March 11<sup>th</sup> -April 1<sup>st</sup> 2024**
- Provide mentorship and guidance to the student;
- Create a supportive environment;
- Set learning objectives with the student and conduct a mid-placement check-in and end-of-placement review;
- Ensure the student has regular meetings with yourself or your team throughout the placement;
- Complete a **Program Evaluation and Reflection** once the program is completed;
- Contact the NHP program lead (Ghazal Fazli: [ghazal.fazli@utoronto.ca](mailto:ghazal.fazli@utoronto.ca)), if needed to discuss any issues;
- Connect the student with colleagues or mentors who can provide advice and enhance the learning experience.

**How to apply:**

- We are seeking proposals for research projects from U of T faculty and community partners dedicated to addressing the risk, burden, and impact of type 2 diabetes and related chronic conditions
- Proposed supervisors will need to submit:
- #1: Completed Application Form (**see below**)
- #2: 1 Page Project Proposal, outlining the following:
  - Research project overview and objectives, and type of research (quantitative, qualitative, mixed methods) that will be undertaken.

- Anticipated project results
- Project tasks, roles, and responsibilities of the student
- Student skills required for the project work and anticipated development opportunities
- Networking, professional development opportunities and research environment that will be provided by the supervisor and/or their lab
- Project deliverables and anticipated deadlines

### **Instructions for Submitting your Research Project:**

- Network Faculty and community partners submit the completed Application and project proposal to [director.nvonordiskhp@utoronto.ca](mailto:director.nvonordiskhp@utoronto.ca) by **Wednesday December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 11:59PM EST**
- Please submit all documents in ONE PDF file
- Only one application will be accepted per Network Faculty or community partner
- Demographic data collection: Applicants are asked to complete an optional [EDI Survey](#) after submitting their application. The purpose of the survey is to collect data for the Network to reflect on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion practices in the studentship program. The data will only be collected and held by the Director of NHP and shared internally as de-identified, aggregated information to inform the review committee.

### **Timeline:**

- December 20<sup>th</sup>: Deadline for proposed supervisors to submit application and project proposals
- January 22<sup>nd</sup>: Projects that meet the above criteria are made available on the Network's website
- March 4<sup>th</sup>: Deadline for students to apply for specific projects
- March 11<sup>th</sup>- March 18<sup>th</sup>: Supervisors will be provided with top applications to their projects. Supervisors will be responsible for the interviewing and selection of candidates, with a NHP representative involved in the selection and interview process
- April 1: Selected students are notified
- May/June: Program launches. Program launch dates are flexible for starting in May for undergraduate and non-thesis graduate students and in June for medical school students.



Anticipated Student benefits (knowledge and skills development, networking opportunities)	
Anticipated deliverables and timeline (e.g. Abstract, poster, presentation, manuscript, etc.)	

**Student Skills and Development Opportunities**

What skills / qualifications are you looking for in a student? (Please use point form)				
Would you prefer a student from a particular discipline(s)?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	If yes, which discipline(s)?	Health promotion/public health Health services/Policy Social Work Medicine Nursing Anthropology Epidemiology Geography Sociology Psychology Other

**Networking and Professional Development Opportunities and Research Environment**

Will you be available during the course of the summer to enhance their learning experience (seminar, webinars, and other training opportunities), to enhance their research and analytical skills, and help complete their research project and present their work.	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	If no, describe the arrangements you have to ensure the student receives adequate support	
Will the student be supervised by any other member of your research staff during the placement?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	If yes, who (please provide details of their affiliation to the Network, if any, and level of qualification)	

**Disclaimer and Signature**

*I certify that my answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge.*

Signature:		Date:	
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