

A. PROGRAM SUMMARY

The goal of the program is to provide funding to allow practicing specialists (either Canadian certified or foreign-certified) the opportunity to obtain additional full-time clinical training. Clinical training may be sought as a professional sabbatical to obtain post sub-specialty training or to meet the requirements of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons to sit the Canadian certification exam.

Six annual grants of up to \$110,000/year are available to specialists practicing in Saskatchewan. Funding is available for a maximum of two years per applicant depending upon the length of training. Applicants are encouraged to pursue studies at the University of Saskatchewan or another accredited North American teaching program. Approval will be at the discretion of the Committee.

All recipients will be required to fulfill a return-in-service commitment. Two years of service will be required for each year of funding received. Length of return-of-service will be prorated according to the number of months funding was received.

B. PROGRAM DETAILS

I. Program Parameters:

Description: The Specialist Recruitment & Retention Committee will provide funding for six in-service specialists to complete up to two years of full-time clinical training to enhance their skills. Recipients of these grants will be required to sign a commitment to provide service in a Saskatchewan community.

Funding under the SPET Program will be available to in-service specialists¹ who:

- have practiced in a Saskatchewan community for a minimum of two years at the time of application; and
- hold either Regular, Provisional or Ministerial licensure under the Regulatory Bylaws of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan; and
- provide confirmation from the program director indicating that:
 - the applicant meets the entrance requirements established for the training program to be pursued, and
 - the training program is willing to accept the candidate to their program.

II. Definition of Training

The Committee will consider funding up to two years of full-time enhanced clinical training. Consideration may be given to applicants who are seeking training on a part-

¹ Specialist is defined as having either Canadian or foreign certification.

time basis.

III. Funding and Disbursement of Grants:

Recipients will receive income replacement funding up to \$110,000 per annum. This will be paid in 12 equal month installments beginning with the month they start their program. If the training period is less than one year, the prorated replacement funding would be provided.

In addition, the SPET program will pay the administration fees of the chosen College of Medicine at the equivalent rate to those charged by the College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan. Recipients are responsible to pay for their own CMPA and licensure fees.

IV. Service Commitment:

Prior to submitting the application, candidates will be required to secure a practice arrangement with a health region and/or physician practice which is acceptable to the Specialist Recruitment & Retention Committee. Support for the application must be provided by the Regional Health Authority through completing and signing the RHA portion of the application form.

Upon completion of their training, the recipient will be required to provide two years of service for each year of funding received (in the community from which the applicant originated). Should the training be less than one year, service will be prorated according to the number of months funding was received.

V. Application Process:

Applicants for funding under this program should submit:

- Application form
- Curriculum Vitae
- Letter from Program Director/Preceptor indicating that they would be accepted into the training program

All information should be sent to: Specialist Recruitment & Retention Committee
Saskatchewan Medical Association
201 – 2174 Airport Drive
Saskatoon, SK S7L 6M6

Applications will be considered twice yearly with deadlines of **March 31** and **September 30**. Applicants may apply for training to commence up to 18 months subsequent to the application deadline.

Six annual grants of up to \$110,000/year are available to specialists practicing in Saskatchewan. Grants may not be available for the September deadline.

Training programs may also have application deadlines. Please contact the Program Director for further information.

Applications will be adjudicated by the Specialist Recruitment & Retention Committee and applicants may be required to submit to a personal interview.

Preference will be given to applicants based on:

- having signed a service agreement with a health region and physician group that currently has the resources and facilities to support the specialized service for which specialized training is sought;
- demonstrating a strong commitment/interest to practice in Saskatchewan;
- pursuing training which is viewed to be 'in need' for the community and province;
- length of service in Saskatchewan;
- availability of sabbatical or paid leave opportunities through employment arrangements;
- completion of their medical training (undergraduate &/or post-graduate) at the University of Saskatchewan.

Successful applicants will be required to sign a return-in-service agreement with Saskatchewan Health.

VI. Special Circumstances:

Should the enhanced clinical training that the applicant wishes to obtain not be available from the College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan, it may be sought at another accredited North American university, provided that the enhanced training program meets the approval of the Specialist Recruitment & Retention Committee. Funding for training outside of North America may also be considered. Approvals will be made at the discretion of the Committee.

The service commitment for this program cannot be served concurrently with any other service commitment made to the Minister of Health or the Specialist Recruitment & Retention Committee.

VII. Relocation Appeals Mechanism:

Physicians who have a valid reason for moving to a new community while fulfilling their return-in-service commitment, may request consideration from the Specialist Recruitment & Retention Committee. A supporting letter from the physician outlining the reasons for the transfer is required. Approvals will be made at the discretion of the Committee.

VIII. Unsuccessful completion of training:

Recipients who do not complete their training as arranged will be required to repay all monies advanced to them plus interest.

For more information, please contact:

Saskatchewan Medical Association
201 – 2174 Airport Drive
Saskatoon, SK S7L 6M6
Phone: 306-244-2196 or 1-800-667-3781
Fax: 306-653-1631
Email: sma@sma.sk.ca