

SPECIALIST RECRUITMENT & RETENTION COMMITTEE

SPECIALIST PHYSICIAN ENHANCEMENT TRAINING PROGRAM

A. PROGRAM SUMMARY

The goal of the program is to provide funding to allow practising specialists; (either Canadian certified or foreign-certified) the opportunity to obtain additional training and professional development.

There is a full time and a part time stream:

- I. **Full-time clinical training** - Clinical training may be sought as a professional sabbatical to obtain post subspecialty training.
Grants of up to \$110,000/year are available to specialists practising 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. Two years of service will be required for each year of funding received. Length of return-in-service will be prorated according to the number of months funding was received.
- II. **Part-time advanced education** - Advanced education can be sought as professional development to obtain further training in areas that promote an applicant's ability; examples such as (but not limited to) medical research and teaching.
Grants of up to \$25,000/year toward administration costs are available to specialists practising in Saskatchewan. Funding is available for six-month training to a maximum of two years per applicant depending upon the length of training. All recipients will be required to fulfill a return-in-service commitment. One year of service will be required for each year of funding received. Length of return-in-service will be prorated according to the number of months funding was received.

B. PROGRAM DETAILS

I. Program Parameters:

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



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- have practised 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

Clinical - 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 time basis.

Advanced Education - The Committee will consider administration funding for up to two years of part-time continuing education.

III. Funding and Disbursement of Grants:

Clinical - Recipients will receive income replacement funding up to \$110,000 per annum. This will be paid in 12 equal monthly 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.

Advanced education - The SPET program will pay the administration fees up to \$25,000. Recipients are responsible to pay for their own CMPA and licensure fees.

III.I Restrictions:

Funding received under either the clinical or advanced education program cannot be used to cover living expenses or any travel associated with the education program.

IV. Service Commitment:



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

Advanced Education - Upon completion of their training, the recipient will be required to provide a return-in-service to a Saskatchewan community. If less than one year, length of return-in-service will be prorated according to the number of months funding was received.

V. Application Process:

Grants are available to specialists practising in Saskatchewan.

Applicants for funding under this program should submit:

- Application form
- Curriculum Vitae
- Letter from Program Director/Preceptor indicating that they would be/are accepted into the training program
- Breakdown of administration costs
- Clinical Applications - Letter from the organization or agency supporting the application

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

It is advised that applications be submitted well in advance as training programs may also have application deadlines. Please contact the Program Director for further information.

This program is not an entitlement. Applications will be adjudicated and reviewed for merit by the Specialist Recruitment & Retention Committee. Applicants may be required to submit to a personal interview.

Preference will be given to applicants based on:

- having signed a service agreement with an organization or agency 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 practise 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



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- 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 the Ministry of Health.

VI. Special Circumstances:

Clinical – 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.

Return-in-service Clinical and Advanced Education - 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. 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 program information or to apply, 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: rsprograms@sma.sk.ca

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i A specialist is someone who is in active clinical practice in their primary specialty.



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