Centre on Aging  
STUDENT AWARDS  

The Centre on Aging annually adjudicates scholarships available to students pursuing studies in aging at the University of Manitoba. In addition, the Centre also adjudicates the Alzheimer Society of Manitoba Graduate Fellowships.  

Centre Awards:  

The Jack MacDonell Scholarship for Research in Aging was established to encourage and stimulate graduate student research in aging, in recognition of the contributions and achievements to teaching, research, and service in gerontology by Dr. Jack A. MacDonell. It is awarded to a student pursuing full-time graduate studies with a focus on aging at the University of Manitoba.  

The Esther and Samuel Milmot Scholarship was established in 1987 through a bequest in honour of Esther and Samuel Milmot. It is awarded to a full-time student, undergraduate or graduate, pursuing a program which bears on gerontology, in the Faculty of Arts or in the Faculty of Graduate Studies with the field of study in a department in the Faculty of Arts at the University of Manitoba.  

In 2005 the Centre on Aging Graduate Fellowship was renamed the Centre on Aging Betty Havens Memorial Graduate Fellowship. Betty Havens was a leader in social gerontology and in health services research on aging and elderly persons. She was one of the founders of the Centre in 1982 and maintained close ties with the Centre throughout her life.  

The John B. Bond Jr. Graduate Student Award in End of Life Care was established in celebration of his retirement. In lieu of gifts, Dr. Bond established a fund to provide a fellowship to a graduate student conducting research in end of life care. During his career Dr. Bond’s teaching focused on end of life care, and he participated in research, presentations and publications on end of life care in nursing homes (personal care homes), the experiences of parents of adult children who have died from cancer, and death anxiety of adolescents.
Alzheimer Society of Manitoba Awards:

The Alzheimer Society of Manitoba offers two awards to graduate students. The purpose of these awards is to enhance knowledge into the cause, treatment, cure and effects of Alzheimer Disease and Related Disorders; to encourage graduate student interest in Alzheimer Disease and Related Disorders; and, to stimulate graduate research activity in Alzheimer Disease and Related Disorders.

Research Fellowships:

Each year, the Centre offers the Centre on Aging Research Fellowship to a faculty member at the University of Manitoba. This year, in honour of the Centre’s 25th Anniversary, two awards were presented. The intent of these fellowships is to encourage research in aging by either providing release from some teaching responsibilities in order for faculty to increase their research activities in aging for a one-year period, or to provide funding to support their research.
Hazel Rona, Master of Science student, Community Health Sciences
Focus: To determine and understand general personal care home facility policies, practices, and activities that currently or could facilitate positive quality of life experiences for residents with Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias.
Award: Centre on Aging Betty Havens Memorial Graduate Fellowship

Maria Baumgartner, Master of Interior Design, Specialization in Aging
Focus: To conduct an investigation into the creation of a model for hospice design in rural Canada. The needs of existing rural hospitals and personal care homes will be examined. Additionally, how these facilities can be renovated into hospices or can dictate design principles for new hospices will be addressed.
Award: John B. Bond, Jr. Graduate Student Award in End of Life Care

Loni Desanghere, PhD student, Department of Psychology
Focus: To examine how aging affects vision and fine motor control. Specifically, to investigate whether age related declines in hand function and fine motor coordination are linked to visual-motor integration deficits.
Award: Jack MacDonell Scholarship for Research in Aging
Esther & Samuel Milmot Scholarship

Waylon Hunt, PhD (cand.), Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics
Focus: To investigate the role of conjugated linoleic acid (CLA) in neuroprotection against glutamate toxicity and delineate the underlying mechanisms responsible for this protection. This knowledge will enable the design of more effective therapeutics to treat all age related neurodegenerative disorders.
Award: Alzheimer Society of Manitoba Graduate Fellowship

Solmaz Nafez, Master of Science student, Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics
Focus: To identify the genes that are activated by Nuclear Factor Kappa B (NF-kB) and their role in synaptic plasticity and memory. Advancements in this area could lead to the development of new therapies for transcriptional neurological and neurodegenerative disorders such as mental retardation and Alzheimer’s disease.
Award: Alzheimer Society of Manitoba Graduate Fellowship
Robert Biscontri, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Accounting and Financing, Faculty of Management

Focus: *Dr. Biscontri is investigating the cost effectiveness of antipsychotics in elderly users in Manitoba, building on research he has conducted with Dr. Alessi Severini, Faculty of Pharmacy. Dr. Biscontri will access the Manitoba Population Health Research Data Registry to use the Manitoba Health Prescription database (DPIN) which provides information on drug utilization. These records will be matched to medical information covering hospitalizations, outpatient visits, physician visits and other medical services. Dr. Biscontri will investigate characteristics of elderly users with respect to prescription and cost effectiveness while controlling for diagnosis and living arrangements. He will then further investigate the relationships in a control study format comparing elderly users to non-users.*

Award: **Centre on Aging Research Fellowship**

Shahin Shooshtari, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Family Social Sciences, Faculty of Human Ecology

Focus: *According to the World Health Organization, life expectancy for individuals with developmental disabilities (DD) has increased significantly over the past 50 years. Dr. Shooshtari’s current research, based on Manitoba’s Administrative Databases, confirms that older Manitobans with DD have a higher rate of chronic conditions, including diabetes, dementia, osteoporosis, hearing and vision loss. Despite having poorer health and higher health care needs, these individuals use fewer health services than those without DD. To develop evidence-informed policies and programs for full inclusion of these Canadians in the community, more must be known about their characteristics, which kinds of supports and services are available to them, and their unmet needs for health care and social support services. Dr. Shooshtari will use cross-sectional data from the 2001 and 2006 Participation and Activity Limitation Surveys (PALS), and 45 years of age as a cut-off point for those with DD.*

Award: **Centre on Aging Research Fellowship**