

OHS Research Bulletin, June 2026

Hello friend of the Ontario Health Study,

It's been a while! Here's an update on what the Study has been up to.

Overview of recent data collection activities

The OHS has launched several data collection activities since 2025, starting with Follow-Up Questionnaire 2, the first questionnaire since 2020 to give participants the opportunity to update their personal and family medical histories, as well as provide information on:

- Access to cancer screening
- Lifestyle behaviours such as alcohol consumption and use of tobacco and marijuana
- Several scales to collect information about participants' social and emotional health and well-being.

Follow-Up Questionnaire 2 wrapped up in April 2026 and these data are anticipated to be available for access in 2027.

Alongside the other CanPath cohorts, data collection is also underway for the HEAL Study, an ancillary study of diet and physical activity supported by a CIHR grant. Enhancing the limited data the OHS currently holds in these areas, the HEAL Study is a [multi-questionnaire protocol](#) spaced over the span of 12 months collecting detailed data on participants' dietary intake and exercise habits, including:

- The Canadian dietary screener
- Food-timing
- The long-form IPAQ
- Socioeconomic factors that affect diet and physical activity such as financial stress, food security and experiences of discrimination.

HEAL Study data collection is scheduled to complete in March 2028.

In addition to new data collection, the OHS began collecting a second blood sample from eligible participants in August 2025, aiming to collect a total of

3,000 samples. These serial blood samples will support longitudinal research in healthy aging as well as identifying blood-based biomarkers for disease. Once collected, blood samples are fractionated into serum, plasma, buffy coat, and isolated lymphocytes.

CAHHM recontact protocol

The OHS has been recontacting participants who also enrolled in the [Canadian Alliance for Healthy Hearts and Minds \(CAHHM\)](#) for a second phase of data collection. This new phase will collect updated questionnaire data and cognitive assessments from all participants who had an MRI in phase 1. A subset of participants will be invited to a repeat assessment, undergoing physical measurements and an MRI. These data will be released to the OHS one year after data collection concludes and will then be made available to researchers.

Interested in the [CAHHM data from phase 1](#)? The OHS has questionnaire data, cognitive assessment data (MoCA and DST), and MRI data of the brain, carotid, heart and abdomen available for ~3,000 of its participants. Questionnaire data cover cardiovascular health, access to health services, contextual factors for health, and immigration and acculturation. More than 10 studies using OHS/CAHHM data have been published to date.

For more information on what data and biosamples the OHS currently has available for access, please visit: <https://www.ontariohealthstudy.ca/for-researchers/whats-available/>

Imputed genotyping data available

Imputed genotyping data are now available for all ~20,000 participants who have been genotyped.

Access Policy update

The OHS recently released its updated Access Policy. There are many changes in this latest version that will affect ***both current and future approved users***.

[View a summary of changes to the OHS Access Policy](#)

Upcoming events

Register for the CanPath [Visiting Professor Talk with Prof. Allan Balmain](#) on June 18th at 10 AM ET (online or in-person), which will explore new insights into cancer development, highlighting how tumour-promoting factors, rather than

genetic mutations, may be the key drivers in activating dormant cancer cells, based on recent landmark research.

Upcoming grant opportunities

In addition to OHS updates, we would like to highlight several funding opportunities.

- CIHR is hosting another Operating Grant competition for [Data Analysis Using Existing CDN Databases and Cohorts](#). This funding is specifically to support analyses using data from existing cohorts, databases, cohort catalogues and data platforms in Canada. Separate funding pools are available for several priority research areas. The maximum amount per grant is \$75,000 for up to one year. The registration deadline is September 2, 2026.
 - Need a LoS or cost estimate? Contact the Access Office at access@ontariohealthstudy.ca – The sooner, the better.
- OICR is inviting [concept submissions for Window-of-Opportunity \(WOO\) trials](#) for pre-surgical trials. Successful WOO trials will be funded to a maximum of \$500,000 CAD over 2.5 years. Concept submissions are due July 8, 2026.
- OICR is also inviting applications for [Clinical Translation's Clinical Acceleration Team Awards](#). This funding is to support prospective clinical trials in which Molecular (Minimal) Residual Disease (MRD) assessment is a prespecified and integral component of the study design, and in which MRD results are explicitly linked to defined clinical decision points, management strategies or treatment adaptations. A total of ~\$6 million CAD is available to support up to four clinical trials. Concept submissions are due July 30, 2026.
- Know a Master's student studying cancer? The abstract deadline for the Canadian Cancer Society's [Research Training Award for Master's Level](#) is June 30, 2026.
- Diabetes Canada's [2026 End Diabetes Awards](#) is offering funding for projects supporting a vision of a world free of the effects of diabetes. Applicants can request up to \$150,000 a year for three years; applicants to the separate Early Career Researcher pool may request up to \$50,000 a year for two years. Applications are due by July 10, 2026.
- The Burrough Wellcome Fund [Climate Change and Human Health Seed Grants](#) competition is closing soon. These seed grants of \$2,500 - \$50,000 USD are for interdisciplinary projects that address existing or emerging issues intersecting human health or health-centered activities and the impacts of climate change. The deadline for the final funding cycle is July 23, 2026.

While not specifically for accessing data, we also wanted to share some award opportunities to recognize exceptional Canadian researchers:

- The [Peter Gilgan Canada Gairdner Momentum Award](#) recognizes mid-career researchers with exceptional scientific research contributions in health research. Nominations for the 2027 awards are due July 15, 2026.
- The Health Research Foundation is seeking nominations for its [Diversity & Equity in Research Award](#) to recognize individuals “whose work advances equitable participation in health research and access to health care in Canada, improving the well-being of all Canadians, particularly those deserving equity.” Nominations are due July 14, 2026.

Thank you for allowing the OHS to contact you. If you would no longer like to receive these, please reply to let us know.

Regards,

Kelly McDonald
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Ontario Health Study

P.S. Do you know someone who would be interested in the work of the OHS? Share our [sign-up form](#) so they can receive this occasional email.



OHS Access Office

Hours: Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Email: access@ontariohealthstudy.ca

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