Award Specification: IHSPR-CAHSPR 2027 Article of the Year Award

Important Dates

Application Deadline:	**JANUARY 15, 2027**
Anticipated Notice of Decision:	**APRIL 7, 2027**
Anticipated Funding Start Date:	**JUNE 1, 2027**

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Award Description

In continued partnership, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research - Institute of Health Services and Policy Research (IHSPR) and Canadian Association for Health Services and Policy Research (CAHSPR) are pleased to launch the annual **Article of the Year** competition.

The Article of the Year competition **recognizes ground-breaking health services and policy research (HSPR) published in a peer-reviewed journal during the previous year that has significantly contributed to the field of HSPR.**

The recipient is honored with an award of $10,000, a Certificate of Excellence presented at the annual CAHSPR conference and a CAHSPR *HSPR Talks* webinar following the conference. Learn more about previous Article of the Year Award recipients here.

As of 2026, the Article of the Year Award is complemented by the IHSPR-CAHSPR Health Services and Policy Research Impact Award, which aims to recognize HSPR that has demonstrably

contributed to transforming the health care system, people's lives, and/or promoted social or economic benefit.

Please Note: The Article of the Year Award and Health Services and Policy Research Impact Award are distinct awards in their objectives, eligibility and assessment criteria. **Applicants are encouraged to review the criteria for both and apply to the appropriate competition.**

Funds Available

The total amount available for this funding opportunity is **$10,000**, enough to fund one (1) award that will consist of:

- A research allowance of **$10,000** to be used toward research and/or knowledge mobilization related activities.

The award recipient(s) will also receive:

- Promotion of the author(s) and award-winning article through various IHSPR and CAHSPR channels (e.g., websites, newsletters, social media)
- Certificate of Excellence from IHSPR and CAHSPR
- Complimentary conference registration to the CAHSPR 2027 conference
- Potential opportunity to present at the CAHSPR 2027 conference
- Opportunity to orally present the article at a CAHSPR *HSPR Talks* webinar

CIHR and partner(s) financial contributions for this initiative are subject to availability of funds. Should CIHR or partner(s) funding levels not be available or are decreased due to unforeseen circumstances, CIHR and partner(s) reserve the right to reduce, defer or suspend financial contributions to awards received as a result of this funding opportunity.

Award Objectives

This award is intended to recognize the best and most relevant **published research** in a **peer-reviewed journal** that has **significantly contributed** to the **advancement of the field of HSPR in Canada**. The research article must report on **original HSPR conducted by the author** (commentaries and editorials will not be considered).

Articles will be considered related to:

- Research that demonstrates a **clear or potential impact on policy, practice, health outcomes, and/or equity** (e.g., inform the design or implementation of health services policies or interventions, change management for improved practice, equity-centred health policy);

AND/OR

- Research that **breaks ground in the way HSPR is conducted** (e.g., advancing the theories, methods and/or approaches that underpin the science of HSPR, including innovations in methodology, measurement tool development and/or validation, novel theory or

application of theory, new approaches to existing problems, new methods for engaging equity-deserving populations, etc.);

AND/OR

- Research that provides new insights on timely, important, and relevant health services and policy issue(s), through innovation, novelty or building upon / synthesizing an existing body of knowledge.

Eligibility Requirements

For an application to be eligible:

1. The award will be granted to the **lead author(s)**.
    a. In the case where lead authorship is shared, the award will be shared equally between the authors.
2. Lead author(s) of the article must have an affiliation with a CIHR eligible institution or a Canadian institution (including Canadian postsecondary institutions, hospitals, research institutes, governmental or non-profit organizations with a mandate for health research and/or knowledge translation).
    a. If the lead author is not affiliated with an institution authorized to administer CIHR funds, the institution must become authorized to administer CIHR funds by the funding start date or the lead author may designate a co-author (at a CIHR eligible institution) to be the institution paid.
3. The article must be original research or original research synthesis and must have been published (i.e., published and accessible online, not accepted to be published at a future date) in a peer-reviewed journal in the prior year (i.e., between January 1, 2026, and December 31, 2026).
4. Applicants may only submit one article per competition year. This article must not have been submitted in the previous competition cycle.
5. Applicants cannot have previously received the Article of the Year award.
6. Articles involving the CAHSPR Executive Director, CAHSPR President, IHSPR Scientific Director, or IHSPR staff as lead or senior author (first or last) are ineligible for this award.

Guidelines

General CIHR Policies

Successful applicants funded through this funding opportunity and any other persons working on the project must fully comply with the applicable CIHR Funding Policies.

Allowable Costs

Applicants should review the Use of Grant Funds section of the Tri-Agency (CIHR, NSERC and SSHRC) Financial Administration Guide for a complete listing and description of allowable costs and activities.

Conditions of Funding

- The applicant must consent to the use and disclosure of full application and nominative information for relevance review and funding decisions at the time of application.
- The awardee is required to attend the May 2027 CAHSPR Conference to receive the award, and present at a HSPR Talks webinar following the conference.
- Awardee will be asked to share a brief description of how funds were used and the impact of receiving the award.

Review Process and Evaluation

Stage 1: Relevance Review Process

CIHR-IHSPR and CAHSPR will perform an administrative review to ensure that applications are complete and meet the Eligibility Requirements listed above. In addition to the Eligibility Criteria, applications will be assessed for relevance:

1. The article must be substantively relevant to CIHR's definition of Pillar 3 Health Services Research
2. The article must be substantively relevant to IHSPR's mandate and one of IHSPR's four strategic priority areas:
    a. Accelerate the discovery of innovations that transform health care delivery systems to achieve the Quadruple Aim and improve health equity for all
    b. Modernize the health care system with digital health solutions and data science
    c. Integrate evidence into health services and policy decisions for improved health care system performance and outcomes
    d. Strengthen capacity for solution-oriented research and evidence-informed health care system transformation

Applications that are incomplete and/or deemed ineligible or not relevant will be withdrawn from the competition prior to peer review. Please note that applications outside Pillar 3 and IHSPR mandate, including clinical and population health research themes, will not be considered.

Stage 2: Review Process

A review committee comprised of esteemed members of the HSPR community will review the applications. The review consists of two steps, with both steps using the same evaluation criteria. First, reviewers will individually review and score the applications. Second, a conflict of interest-free subset of the original committee will meet (virtually) to discuss the top three applications (based on score) and rank order them. Members will include researchers and health system leaders and will abide by conflict-of-interest policies. Where the outcome of the first stage review and scoring process demonstrates a clear consensus regarding the highest-ranked application, the second stage of review may not be required.

Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on:

1. The extent to which the article considers a timely, important, and relevant health services and policy issue.
2. The extent to which the article contributes to the advancement of HSPR in Canada by:

    a. Showing a clear or potential impact on policy, practice, health outcomes, and/or equity;
    b. Breaking ground in the way HSPR is conducted (i.e., advances the field's ability to address an issue); and/or
    c. Proving new insights, through innovation, novelty or building upon an existing body of knowledge

3. The overall strength and clarity of the article.
4. The relevance and strength of the journal for the target audience of the article's research findings or policy implications.

Funding Decision

The top-ranked application will be awarded the IHSPR-CAHSPR Article of the Year Award. The name of the successfully funded awardee will be published on the IHSPR and CAHSPR websites.

How to Apply

Applications are invited from the author(s) or a nominator. The application for the IHSPR-CAHSPR Article of the Year Award will be accepted online using the following submission form: Article of the Year 2027

Contact Information

For all inquiries please contact:

VICKI PRICE
CAHSPR Association Manager
(c/o Face 2 Face Events Management)
vicki@f2fe.com

Sponsor Description

Institute of Health Services and Policy Research (IHSPR)
IHSPR is one of the 13 institutes that comprise the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), Canada's federal funding agency for health research. IHSPR is dedicated to positioning Canada as a global leader in optimizing health and health outcomes in the population through the provision of evidence-informed health care services. IHSPR's mandate is to support innovative research,

capacity-building and knowledge translation initiatives designed to improve the way health care services are organized, regulated, managed, financed, paid for, used and delivered, in the interest of improving the health and quality of life of all Canadians.

Canadian Association for Health Services and Policy Research (CAHSPR)

The Canadian Association for Health Services and Policy Research (CAHSPR) is a multidisciplinary association dedicated to improving health and health care by advancing the quality, relevance, and application of research on health services and health policy. As the largest and most diverse association of its kind in Canada, CAHSPR provides members with unique opportunities for networking, research collaboration, and career advancement.

Additional Information

The next Annual **Canadian Association for Health Services and Policy Research (CAHSPR) conference** will take place in Ottawa from May 17-20, 2027. The award winner is expected to attend and will receive complimentary registration, receive their award from the CIHR-IHSPR Scientific Director and CAHSPR Executive Director during the conference awards ceremony, and have an opportunity to deliver a brief oral presentation about their article at a lunchtime session. Additional details will be shared with the notice of decision.