CANADA IMPACT+ RESEARCH CHAIR (CI+RC)
IN SENSORY HEALTH TRANSFORMATION

Posted on: *March 2, 2026*
Closing date: *April 1, 2026*

Université Laval, the first French-language university in North America, invites applications for a *Canada Impact+ Research Chair* (CI+RC) *in Sensory Health Transformation*. Located in the heart of Québec City, Université Laval is a comprehensive research-intensive university recognized for its culture of excellence in teaching and research. The position is housed within the Department of Ophthalmology and Otorhinolaryngology – Neck and facial surgery in the Faculty of Medicine. This department has a diversified team composed of 38 ophthalmologists, 25 otorhinolaryngologists, 11 research professors, and 36 graduate students. It receives more than $2.2 million annually in contracts and grants, supporting research activities that cover hearing, cochlear implants, tinnitus, balance and vestibular function, rhinosinusology, and applications of new technologies. It includes a specialized five-year medical training program (residency) with 10 positions in ORL and neck and facial surgery and a complementary subspecialty training program in otology and auditory implants. It also stands out due to its close collaboration with the clinical and research teams at the *CHU de Québec – Université Laval* and especially with the *Centre québécois d'expertise en implant cochléaire* and the *Centre d'excellence en rhinosinusologie,* thereby promoting innovative translational projects ranging from basic sensory mechanisms to clinical interventions. In view of the rehabilitation possibilities addressed by this CI+RC, along with those in neuroscience, the incumbent will also be required to work closely with professors at the School of Rehabilitation Science and the Department of Psychiatry and Neuroscience, both of which are part of the Faculty of Medicine, where many faculty members conduct work related to the Chair's theme. The collaboration with the School of Rehabilitation Science will be particularly strategic, because in 2021 Université Laval set up a new professional master's program in audiology, which capitalizes on the growing expertise in hearing, human communication and social interactions. This program, which is supported by a team of professors engaged in work in the fields of auditory neuroscience, physiology, neurobiology of communication, and sensory rehabilitation, constitutes fertile ground for enhancing translational approaches, ranging from basic research to concrete improvement of clinical practices.

The successful candidate will be a regular member of the Center for Interdisciplinary Research in Rehabilitation and Social Integration (Cirris) and the CERVO Brain Research Centre of the *Centre intégré universitaire de santé et de services sociaux (CIUSSS) de la Capitale-Nationale*, a health and social services institution formally affiliated with Université Laval. Cirris is distinguished by its strong interdisciplinary approach, its profound integration within the CIUSSS's clinical, community, and decision-making environments, and its nationally and internationally recognized leadership in disability, social participation, accessibility, and inclusive public policies. With 93 researchers from eight faculties at Université Laval, as well as approximately 250 graduate students and postdoctoral fellows, Cirris offers a unique research environment that fosters partnership-based approaches, co-construction of knowledge, and knowledge mobilization *by, for, and with* people living with disabilities. The CERVO Brain Research Centre, one of Canada's leading neuroscience and

mental health centres, focuses on the root causes of brain diseases. It brings together more than 80 researchers in charge of research teams with more than 500 people offering multidisciplinary expertise, ranging from membrane biophysics to social intervention, and the psychology of cognition. The Chair's integration into this research ecosystem will foster the joint development of innovative projects designed to better understand, prevent and treat hearing disorders, while improving the social participation of people affected by these disorders.

The *CI+RC in Sensory Health Transformation* seeks to recruit an internationally recognized researcher whose work focuses on the neurobiological, genetic, and functional bases of hearing disorders (including hearing loss and tinnitus) and neurosensory disorders, along with their impacts on daily living activities, social participation, and quality of life. Based on an integrated vision linking basic neuroscience, clinical research and rehabilitation science, the Chair will help to transform our understanding of sensory disorders, not only as biomedical issues but also as major determinants of disability and social inclusion. The Chairholder will develop an interdisciplinary translational research program combining neuroscience, human genomics, multi-omic approaches, artificial intelligence, and analyses of population and clinical data, leading to the emergence of precision medicine. By mobilizing longitudinal cohorts, big data infrastructure, and international collaborations, the Chair will seek to identify objective biomarkers and validate them with preclinical models, to better characterize heterogeneous trajectories and develop new diagnostic paradigms. Integrating the complementary expertise of Cirris and the CERVO Brain Research Centre, the Chair will contribute to linking brain mechanisms with the functional and social impacts of hearing and sensory disorders, in order to speed up the development of personalized approaches fostering the autonomy, social participation, and inclusion of people living with hearing and sensory limitations.

The successful candidate will play a leading role in enhancing the scientific visibility of Université Laval, Cirris, and the CERVO Brain Research Centre, will contribute actively to graduate and postdoctoral training, and will support the development of strategic partnerships with clinical, governmental, private-sector, and international stakeholders. The Chairholder will also contribute to the societal impact mission of Université Laval, Cirris, and the CERVO Brain Research Centre through knowledge mobilization activities and engagement with decision-makers.

The person selected by the Nomination Committee must successfully pass an internal selection process at Université Laval as well as national selection as part of the CI+RC competition. This posting could also be used to select applications for the Canada Excellence Research Chairs or Tier 1 Canada Research Chairs competitions. For more information on the program and eligibility criteria, please visit the Canada Impact+ Research Chairs website.

The successful candidate will receive:

- a tenured Full Professor position in the Department of Ophthalmology and Otorhinolaryngology – Neck and facial surgery, Faculty of Medecine, or an Associate Professor position with the possibility of promotion to Full Professor within two years of appointment;

- $8 million in funding over 8 years (i.e., $1 million per year) from the CI+RC Program including Chairholder's salary and overhead;
- possibility to apply for an equipment grant from the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) to equip its laboratory;
- competitive and attractive start-up funds;
- a competitive salary package, including base salary and employee benefits.

The Chair's research program will also be able to leverage major investments made by Université Laval in the deployment of large-scale data analytics and artificial intelligence infrastructure, as well as its data valorization centre (VALERIA and the associated PULSAR initiative).

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Statement

Université Laval rejects all forms of discrimination, promotes excellence in research and research training, and guarantees equal opportunity for all candidates. We support the principle that excellence and equity are compatible and complementary. We welcome and encourage applications from racialized people, visible minorities, women, Indigenous Peoples (in Canada), people with disabilities, ethnic minorities, 2SLGBTQ+ communities, and all qualified individuals with the skills and knowledge to engage productively with diverse communities.

By choosing Université Laval, you will benefit from the following integration measures:

- welcome days for new professors;
- peer mentoring;
- free French courses for you and your spouse;
- support for settling in Quebec City and job search assistance for your spouse.

Career Interruption and Special Circumstances

Respecting the values of diversity and equity, Université Laval acknowledges that career interruption and special circumstances (e.g., maternity or parental leave, leave for prolonged illness, clinical training, care for a family member, the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as a disability) may influence productivity and contributions in research. Applicants are invited to explain, as appropriate and if they wish so, these effects, so that they are considered in the assessment of their applications.

Accommodation

In complete confidentiality, accommodation can be offered to candidates according to their needs in this competition, including accessibility. If you need accommodation, we invite you to contact the equity officer using the contact information below.

Marie-José Naud

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Job Description

The Chairholder of the *CI+RC in Sensory Health Transformation* will lead a transformational research program designed to redefine the understanding, diagnosis, and treatment of hearing and sensory disorders with an integrated perspective ranging from brain mechanisms to functional and social impacts. Based on a translational approach that connects basic neurosciences, precision medicine, and rehabilitation sciences, the Chair will contribute to the development of innovative models favouring better inclusion and social participation by people living with hearing problems. Among other things, the Chair's work will focus on:

- elucidating the neurobiological and genetic mechanisms underlying hearing and sensory disorders by applying multi-omic approaches and advanced neuroimaging techniques to preclinical and human models;
- developing objective biomarkers and innovative diagnostic tools supported by preclinical validation, thereby enabling the fine-grained stratification of patients and a transition to precision medicine models;
- integrating neurophysiological, functional, and psychosocial models to better understand the links between sensory alterations, cognition, mental health, and social participation;
- promoting the speedy transfer of discoveries toward clinical, technological, and organizational innovations, for example in innovative clinical trials, to improve care trajectories and inclusive environments.

Jointly sponsored by Cirris and the CERVO Brain Research Centre, the Chair will have a structuring leverage effect, bringing together neurosciences, digital health, biomedical technologies, rehabilitation, and social participation sciences. The Chairholder will exercise strong scientific leadership in the development of intersectoral and international collaborations, knowledge mobilization in the clinical and decision-making communities, and training highly qualified personnel within an interdisciplinary, impact-oriented environment.

Requirements

Applicants must meet the CI+RC eligibility requirements. Candidates must normally be Full Professors or Associate Professors who will be promoted to Full Professor within one or two years following nomination. Candidates coming from sectors other than postsecondary education must hold the qualifications required to be appointed to equivalent academic positions.

Université Laval requires that candidates hold a doctoral degree in a discipline relevant to the research area of the position, namely a PhD in economics or a closely related field. Candidates must demonstrate relevant scientific expertise and significant experience in

economics, social policy, and the broad spectrum of disability research (disability studies), as well as a proven record of excellence in securing research funding and publishing at the international level. Candidates must also demonstrate the ability to conduct independent, original, and transdisciplinary research, in collaboration with a wide range of partners

The complete application file must include all of the following elements:

- **A cover letter** (maximum of 3 pages in French or 2.5 pages in English) outlining the candidate's interest in the position, a summary of the proposed research program, their leadership, their vision of the Chair's added value in enriching existing expertise at Université Laval, and the Chair's positioning with respect to the strategic priority areas of the CI+RC Program.
- **A Tri-Agency CV** (maximum of 6 pages in French or 5 pages in English). Candidates must use the Tri-Agency CV template. For more information and to download the template, please consult the Tri-Agency CV instructions. The application must also include the Tri-Agency CV addendum, which is not included in the page limit.
- **A description of the proposed research program** (maximum of 3.6 pages in French or 3 pages in English, excluding references). The candidate must present an overall picture of the proposed research program for the Chair, the research area to which the Chair will contribute within the university, the value this research area will add to the Impact+ research program, and the expected results of the research program. This section will be used to assess the elements of evaluation criterion 3: quality of the research program. It is recommended that it be structured with headings that refer clearly to each element of criterion 3. Research programs should incorporate relevant collaborations and partnerships with Canadian and international entities (university, public-sector, private-sector, non-profit, and philanthropic sectors), and potentially initiatives carried out *for and with* Indigenous peoples and communities, including First Nations.
- **A statement outlining the Chair's potential contribution to excellence within Canadian and international research ecosystems** (maximum of 1.2 pages in French or 1 page in English). This document will be used to assess the potential contribution to the excellence of the Canadian and international research ecosystem (criterion 4). This assessment is not based on priority strategic domains but rather on the Chair's ability to contribute constructively to Canadian and international research ecosystems.
- **A statement describing the Chair's potential for knowledge transfer and mobilization** (maximum of 3.6 pages in French or 3 pages in English). This section will be used to assess the potential for knowledge application and mobilization. It should be written and structured with titles that clearly address each of the elements defined in evaluation criterion 5. The knowledge mobilization, application and commercialization plans must identify the users and beneficiaries targeted by the research, describe the preliminary engagement mechanisms, and restate and clarify potential partnerships among sectors, including with Indigenous communities, if applicable. Candidates must describe a general pathway from research to application, indicating how intellectual property can be identified and protected in accordance with institutional policy, what commercialization mechanisms are planned, and what types of benefits for Canada are

expected. Institutions must also describe how the Chair will prepare highly qualified personnel to acquire the necessary skills to advance knowledge mobilization, application and, if applicable, commercialization goals.

- The UL self-identification form.

Applications must be sent to vdri@fmed.ulaval.ca

Competition Stages and Evaluation Criteria

1. Competition Stages and Submission Deadlines (Intake 1 of the CI+RC competition)

Full application deadline	**April 1, 2026**
Results announcement	**April 24, 2026**
Application deadline at VPR Office	**May 15, 2026**
Final results announcement	**Before June 15, 2026**
Full application deadline at CI+RC Program	**June 29, 2026**
CI+RC Program results announcement	**September 2026**

2. Evaluation #1

A Nomination Committee will select a candidate based on the selection criteria and sub-criteria of the CI+RC Program, specifically:

- Academic and research record;
- Leadership competencies;
- Quality of the research program;
- Potential contribution to excellence within the Canadian and international research ecosystems;
- Potential for knowledge transfer and mobilization, and for the application of research results.

The Nomination Committee is composed of faculty members from Université Laval drawn from the Faculty of Medicine, Cirris and CERVO Research Center. In addition, an equity officer will take part in the committee meetings to ensure the conformity of the evaluation process. All committee members receive clear instructions on their role, the expected definition of excellence as well as the impact of career interruptions and special circumstances in the evaluation of applications. Members must also complete unconscious bias training in peer review.

3. Evaluation #2 at Vice-President Research (VPR) Office

The selected candidate's application will be sent to the VPR Office for a final internal selection step according to the selection criteria of the CI+RC Program.

Starting Date: Within 12 months of the announcement of the CI+RC Program results.

Contacts

Application call process
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Questions related to EDI principles
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