

CDF Policy & Procedure:

Skin Innovation Prize

Approved March 2024 by Executive Board of CDF

Vision

Healthier skin,
better life.

Mission

Promote skin
research.

Advance
dermatology.

Strategic Goals

A governing-
type board
in place with
appropriate,
scheduled
turnover of
members.

Growth of the
restricted fund
to \$10 million.

Increased
targeting of
funding to CDF
high-priority
applications.

Strategic Focus

Grow and
support
Canadian
dermatologist
researchers to:

1. Discover
and enhance
knowledge
in the field of
Dermatology;
2. Raise the
profile of
dermatology;
3. Improve
societal
outcomes
and influence
health policy.

1. Purpose and Overview

The Skin Innovation Prize is the highest lifetime achievement honour bestowed by the Canadian Dermatology Foundation (CDF). It recognizes Canadian dermatologists, clinician-scientists, and skin research scientists whose work has produced a transformative and enduring impact on skin medicine, patient care, and human health.

The Prize honours individuals who have achieved national or international distinction through exceptional contributions in paradigm-shifting scientific discovery, therapeutic or technological innovation, and sustained translational leadership.

Eligible achievements must extend beyond academic productivity alone. They must demonstrate that the nominee has converted original scientific, clinical, or technological insight into real-world advances that have changed practice, improved patient outcomes, addressed major unmet needs, or reduced the burden of skin disease.

Because the Skin Innovation Prize represents the pinnacle of tangible achievement in Canadian dermatology and skin science, it is granted with strict selectivity. It is not expected to be conferred every year and should be awarded only when a nominee demonstrates an exceptional, career-defining contribution to skin medicine.

The selected honouree will be designated the Skin Innovation Prize Laureate.

2. Eligibility

Criterion	Requirement
Professional status	The nominee must be a Canadian dermatologist, clinician-scientist, physician-scientist, skin research scientist, or innovator whose principal contribution is in dermatology, skin biology, skin disease, or skin-related therapeutic or technological development.
Canadian affiliation	The core body of work must have been conducted substantially while the nominee held an active or senior role at a Canadian academic institution, health care institution, research institute, biotechnology company, pharmaceutical company, or other recognized Canadian innovation organization.
Leadership role	The nominee must have served as a primary inventor, principal investigator, senior clinical or scientific leader, central translational strategist, or visionary leader

	responsible for advancing the nominated achievement through a meaningful portion of its development.
Demonstrable impact	The contribution must have produced measurable and durable benefit, such as regulatory approval, broad clinical adoption, creation of a new standard of care, establishment of a new scientific paradigm, implementation of a widely used diagnostic or technological platform, or sustained improvement in patient outcomes.

3. Core Pillars of Qualification

Nominees must demonstrate exceptional achievement in at least one of the following pillars. The strongest nominations will show integrated excellence across more than one pillar.

Pillar 1: Therapeutic or Technological Innovation: Recognition of a first-in-class, best-in-class, or otherwise novel therapeutic molecule, biologic, device, diagnostic, digital tool, platform technology, or medical procedure that has advanced beyond concept or early promise into meaningful clinical or practical use. Evidence may include regulatory approval, commercialization, adoption into practice, guideline influence, international uptake, or measurable improvement in patient care.

Pillar 2: Paradigm-Shifting Scientific Discovery: Recognition of a foundational discovery in skin biology, immunology, genetics, pathology, microbiology, oncology, pigmentation, wound healing, barrier biology, or related areas that has changed understanding of human skin disease. The discovery should have enduring influence, such as opening new research directions, enabling therapeutic or diagnostic development, informing clinical practice, or establishing a new disease mechanism or therapeutic target.

Pillar 3: Sustained Translational Leadership: Recognition of long-term leadership in bridging discovery, development, regulation, implementation, and patient care. Qualifying achievements may include leading a discovery from laboratory or early clinical observation to real-world use; guiding multidisciplinary or international teams; designing clinical studies; navigating regulatory pathways; building translational infrastructure; or enabling broad clinical implementation.

4. Standard of Evidence

Nominations must be supported by clear evidence of originality, leadership, and real-world impact. Evidence may include:

- Foundational or pivotal peer-reviewed publications and clinical trial results;
- Regulatory approvals, product monographs, patents, licensing, commercialization, or implementation records;
- Evidence of clinical adoption in Canada or internationally, including patient-use, prescription, adoption, or implementation metrics;

- Citation impact, field-building influence, guideline inclusion, or influence on standards of care;
- Independent letters attesting to the nominee's role and impact.

The nomination should clearly distinguish the nominee's individual contribution from the work of collaborators, sponsors, companies, or broader development teams.

5. Prize Components

The Skin Innovation Prize Laureate will receive:

- Official recognition: a distinguished ceremonial plaque presented at a major national dermatology or skin research event;
- Financial honour: a cash prize of \$5,000 CAD;
- Travel support: reimbursement of reasonable travel and accommodation expenses to attend the prize presentation;
- Public recognition through appropriate CDF and Canadian Dermatology Association (CDA) communications and platforms.

6. Nomination and Selection Procedure

All nominations must be submitted to the CDF Awards and Nominations Committee. The annual deadline for receipt of complete nomination packages is January 31. Nominations received after this date may be held for consideration in the following cycle. Any active member of the Canadian Dermatology Foundation or the Canadian Dermatology Association may submit a nomination. Self-nominations are not permitted.

The nomination package should include:

- Nomination letter describing the achievement, its significance, the nominee's leadership role, the relevant Core Pillars of Qualification, and a clear timeline of discovery, development, validation, implementation, and impact where applicable;
- Executive curriculum vitae highlighting relevant achievements, leadership roles, publications, patents, clinical trials, commercialization activities, honours, mentorship, and service;
- Supporting evidence documenting real-world impact, such as key publications, regulatory documents, patents, licensing records, implementation metrics, clinical adoption evidence, guideline citations, or independent assessments;
- Letters of support from independent Canadian or international experts, where appropriate.

7. Selection Principles

In selecting a Laureate, the Committee should consider:

- Originality and significance of the contribution;
- Degree of nominee leadership and personal responsibility;

- Evidence of translation into real-world patient benefit;
- Magnitude and durability of national or international impact;
- Contribution to Canadian leadership in dermatology, skin science, or skin-related innovation;
- Alignment with the mission of the Canadian Dermatology Foundation.

The Prize should be reserved for candidates whose accomplishments stand clearly above conventional academic productivity and represent a defining contribution to skin medicine.

8. Frequency of Prize

The Skin Innovation Prize is not required to be conferred annually. In years when no nominee meets the exceptional threshold, the Prize should not be conferred. This principle is essential to preserving the prestige, credibility, and lifetime-achievement stature of the honour.

Canadian Dermatology Foundation Skin Innovation Prize

Public Citation Templates for the Skin Innovation Prize Laureate

1. Public Citation Template

Dr. [Full Name] is named the **[Year] Canadian Dermatology Foundation Skin Innovation Prize Laureate** in recognition of [his/her/their] transformative contributions to skin medicine and patient care.

Through [brief description of the discovery, therapeutic innovation, technology, diagnostic advance, or translational achievement], Dr. [Last Name] has advanced the understanding, prevention, diagnosis, or treatment of [disease area/skin condition]. [His/Her/Their] work has moved beyond scientific discovery to produce meaningful real-world impact, including [regulatory approval / broad clinical adoption / creation of a new therapeutic class / implementation of a diagnostic platform / international guideline influence / improved patient outcomes].

Dr. [Last Name]'s achievement exemplifies the purpose of the Skin Innovation Prize: to recognize exceptional Canadian leadership in transforming original scientific, clinical, or technological insight into durable advances that reduce the burden of skin disease. [His/Her/Their] contributions have demonstrated originality, translational excellence, and sustained impact, benefiting patients in Canada and internationally.

The Canadian Dermatology Foundation is proud to honour Dr. [Full Name] as the **[Year] Skin Innovation Prize Laureate**.

2. Ceremonial Citation Template

The Canadian Dermatology Foundation is honoured to name **Dr. [Full Name]** as the **[Year] Skin Innovation Prize Laureate**.

Dr. [Last Name] is recognized for [his/her/their] career-defining contribution to [skin medicine / dermatology / skin science], most notably [briefly name the major achievement]. This work has transformed [understanding / diagnosis / treatment / prevention] of [disease area] and has translated into tangible benefit for patients through [clinical adoption / regulatory approval / improved outcomes / new standards of care / international implementation].

The Skin Innovation Prize recognizes the highest level of achievement in Canadian dermatology and skin science: innovation that begins with original insight and culminates in real-world impact. Dr. [Last Name]'s work embodies this standard. [His/Her/Their] leadership, scientific vision, and sustained commitment to translation have helped change the landscape of skin medicine and have improved the lives of patients in Canada and around the world.

On behalf of the Canadian Dermatology Foundation, we are proud to recognize **Dr. [Full Name]**, the **[Year] Skin Innovation Prize Laureate**.

3. Concise Plaque Citation Template

Canadian Dermatology Foundation

Skin Innovation Prize

Presented to

Dr. [Full Name]

[Year] Skin Innovation Prize Laureate

In recognition of [his/her/their] transformative contribution to skin medicine through [brief description of achievement], and for converting scientific, clinical, or technological innovation into enduring advances that have improved patient care in Canada and internationally.