BrainsCAN Trainee and Research Staff Committee

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1.0 BrainsCAN Trainee and Research Staff Committee Mandate:
Training the next generation of researchers and research staff is one of the most important aims of BrainsCAN. BrainsCAN programs attract and retain the world’s most promising early career neuroscientists and neuroimagers to Canada, and to Western. BrainsCAN's trainee and research staff opportunities develop and support graduate students and postdoctoral scholars, as they establish themselves in this field.

2.0 The Trainee and Research Staff Committee:

2.1 Composition
The Trainee and Research Staff Committee, including the Chair, is appointed by the BrainsCAN Executive Committee (EC). The Committee members will serve a one-year term with an option for a single year extension to be confirmed by the EC. This committee will follow the Western fiscal year (May 1 to Apr 30). If a member becomes unable to meet the commitment then an alternate member will be appointed by the EC. Regardless of duration, this will count as a full year of service on the Committee. The committee membership will include 2 Masters, 2 PhD, 2 Postdoctoral students and 2 research staff from which the Committee Chair will be allocated. The trainee representative on the EDIC will also be a member of the Committee.

2.2 Duties / Responsibilities
• Engage with BrainsCAN funded trainees and research staff within the undergraduate, graduate student and postdoctoral programs and Research and Innovation Cores
• Provide progress reports on strategic priorities and objectives to the EC.
• Organize an annual BrainsCAN Research day
• Seek out and arrange for relevant training opportunities in the form of seminars, workshops or events for fellow BrainsCAN trainees and research staff and more broadly.

2.3 Decision-making structure
The Committee will strive for all decisions to be reached through consensus; however, in the event that a consensus cannot be reached a simple majority vote will be used. It is at the discretion of the committee chair to determine when a consensus cannot be achieved. As with all BrainsCAN Committees, final approval remains with the EC.

3.0 Strategic Priorities of the Trainee and Research Staff Committee
The central priority of BrainsCAN is to attract and retain the best early career researchers at the forefront of cognitive neuroscience, while increasing Western’s global reputation. This committee will provide training opportunities to prepare BrainsCAN HQP for life within, and outside of, academia.

3.1 *Trainee and Research Staff Engagement and Development*

The Committee will oversee activities that develop trainees and research staff at BrainsCAN. Funding is available for these activities through an application to the Executive Committee on the basis of an approved annual plan.

3.2 *Change Management Process*

Any changes to the use of BrainsCAN funds or committee structure must be petitioned to the EC. In that request, the committee will provide justification on how the change aligns with the Committee’s and BrainsCAN’s strategic priorities.

4.0 *Reporting to BrainsCAN*

On an annual basis (approximately May), the Committee will submit a report to the EC outlining the summary of events provided, attendees and feedback from colleagues on these training opportunities.

5.0 *Equity and Diversity:*

As part of the BrainsCAN EDI Action Plan, the EC is committed to ensuring that all BrainsCAN activities are, as a minimum, compliant with university policy and aligned with the Action Plan. This will be achieved by monitoring all aspects of EDI in relation to event design/delivery, and the presence of the EDIC Trainee Representative to provide recommendations to the committee, who will bring forward items to the BrainsCAN EDIC for review when appropriate.