

A photograph of a tree-lined path, likely on a university campus. The path is paved and runs straight into the distance, flanked by tall, mature trees with green foliage. The sky is visible through the branches. In the bottom left corner, there is white text overlaid on the image.

2023/ IALH STUDENT
2024 AWARD RECIPIENTS



Alice Lou-Poy Graduate Scholarship - \$810

Recipient: Taylor Snowden, Division of Medical Sciences

Project name: *Brain Gain: Identifying Candidate Dementia-Related Biomarkers and Early Intervention Strategies for Adults Aged 50+ with a History of Mild Traumatic Brain Injury*

Taylor's research focuses on the intersection of brain injury and aging, stemming from a close family member's traumatic brain injury (TBI) following a motorcycle accident. Witnessing the limited recovery options and long-term consequences ignited Taylor's passion to improve the lives of those affected by TBIs, especially as they age. Through her research, Taylor aims to provide hope and practical solutions for families navigating the complexities of aging with a history of TBI.

David Chuenyan Lai Scholarship - \$960

Recipient: Audrey Tung, Department of Geography

Project name: *A Room of One's Own: Holding Space for Women Who Are Underhoused*

Audrey's research focuses on achieving health equity for diverse older individuals. During her PhD program, Audrey's research has included homelessness and health in older women, and culturally appropriate supports for aging immigrants. She has also worked on projects involving media environments in long-term care and a Photovoice project for older women experiencing intimate partner violence and homelessness.



Elaine Gallagher Award - \$1290

Recipient: Tara Cooper, Department of Psychology

Project name: *Cognitive Abilities and Cortical Atrophy: Exploring Life Experiences as a Moderator*

Tara's research focuses on understanding how modifiable factors such as education, occupation, and leisure activities influence healthy cognitive aging. Her master's thesis explores the link between ADHD symptoms and cognitive decline, emphasizing the impact of symptom severity on cognitive reserves and dementia risk. Tara also has experience working and volunteering with elderly clients living with brain injuries and/or dementia. She maintains a direct connection to the population that inspires her research by volunteering with the Alzheimer Society in Victoria.

Marilynne Convey Scholarship - \$1000

Recipient: Masako Anderson, Social Dimensions of Health

Project name: *Exploring the Lived Experiences of Older Adults Living at Risk: Living Alone at Home Socially Isolated with Serious Illness and/or Frailty Without Appropriate Support in Canada and Japan*

Masako's research focuses on autonomy and personhood in end-of-life decision-making for older adults in rapidly aging societies. With a master's thesis on social workers' approaches to supporting older adults facing abuse or neglect while respecting autonomy, and 20 years in Fraser Health as a social worker/case manager working with older adults, she aims to improve experiences within current healthcare systems. Additionally, Masako volunteers to promote health literacy among Japanese communities in Vancouver through seminars and caregiver support groups focused on dementia care and related topics.





Neena Chappell Scholarship - \$1140

Recipient: Heather Kwan, Department of Psychology

Project name: *An Investigation on Grey Matter Volume and Modifiable Risk Factors in Healthy Older Women*

Heather’s master’s thesis focuses on the impact of modifiable risk factors on healthy aging, with a particular interest in promoting and supporting women’s aging. Recognizing the historical under-examination of age-associated variables in women, Heather aims to address these gaps. Her volunteer experience with the Dementia Music Therapy program, which uses music to stimulate memory and cognition, has provided valuable insights into the daily lives of individuals with dementia and inspired her future clinical interests in treating and managing neurodegenerative diseases.

UVic Retirees Association Award - \$1500

Recipient: Poonam Sehgal, School of Nursing

Project name: *From Detection to Prevention: Reducing Hospital Transfers in Long Term Care Homes Using Artificial Intelligence*

Poonam’s experience as a consulting nurse practitioner in long-term care homes has inspired her to focus on advancing preventative care through innovative solutions. Leveraging the advancement of Artificial Intelligence, she aims to develop an AI-based algorithm that will enable proactive self-care for older individuals, as well as early detection of decline. Poonam’s research aims to reduce hospitalizations and optimize healthcare resources, ultimately enhancing the well-being of individuals aged 65 and older and easing the burden on emergency departments.



UVic Retirees Association Award - \$1500

Recipient: Sanjit Roy, Social Dimensions of Health

Project name: *Elder Abuse Among Canadian Veterans: A Comprehensive Examination Using the Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging*

Sanjit’s research interests include healthy aging and the quality of life of older adults, the use of administrative databases for policy-relevant research, population health, and social dimensions of health. His PhD dissertation aims to create a comprehensive profile of elder abuse among Canadian veterans. Having completed a masters degree in Applied Statistics from the University of Dhaka in Bangladesh, Sanjit plans to leverage his expertise in applied statistical analysis and qualitative methods. After completing his PhD, Sanjit will pursue a career in research centered on the physical health, mental health, and overall well-being of older adults, including veterans.

These awards would not be possible without the generosity of donors. Thank you to all donors who support student research.