

Canada Research Chair (Tier 1) in Fragility Prevention Across the Lifespan: Integrating Mechanisms of Skeletal Adaptation with Evidence-Based Scalable Interventions
College of Kinesiology, University of Saskatchewan Internal Competition

The College of Kinesiology at the University of Saskatchewan invites applications from eligible University of Saskatchewan faculty members for a Tier 1 Canada Research Chair (CRC) in **Fragility Prevention Across the Lifespan: Integrating Mechanisms of Skeletal Adaptation with Evidence-Based Scalable Interventions**.

This opportunity is being conducted as an internal selection and is open only to eligible faculty members currently holding academic appointments at the University of Saskatchewan.

Research Theme

The College of Kinesiology conducts research on the role of physical activity, movement, and sport in improving health and well-being across the lifespan. This opportunity aligns strongly with the College's strategic research themes of **Healthy Aging and Management of Chronic Conditions** and **Child and Youth Health and Development**, while drawing on established strengths in biomechanics, physical activity and health, musculoskeletal health, advanced imaging, and community-engaged research.

Physical activity is a primary determinant of musculoskeletal health, mobility, functional capacity, and independence throughout life. Mechanical loading generated through movement and muscular contractions contributes to the development, adaptations and maintenance of bone and muscle strength. Conversely, inactivity and suboptimal loading, particularly during growth and aging, increase the risk of fragility, fracture, mobility limitations, and reduced quality of life.

Fragility fractures represent a significant and growing public health challenge with substantial impacts on individuals, families, communities, and health systems. Despite advances in the field, important gaps remain in understanding how physical activity and mechanical loading influence musculoskeletal adaptation and how this knowledge can be translated into effective, scalable interventions that improve health outcomes across the lifespan.

The successful candidate will lead an internationally recognized research program that examines how movement, physical activity, and mechanical loading influence musculoskeletal adaptation from childhood through older adulthood and translates these discoveries into practical interventions that improve mobility, health, and quality of life.

The Chair's research program is expected to:

- Define relationships between physical activity, mechanical loading, skeletal adaptation, and fragility risk across the lifespan;
- Advance precision assessment of musculoskeletal adaptation through advanced imaging, biomechanical, and computational approaches;

- Identify biological, behavioural, and environmental determinants of bone strength, mobility, function, and fragility risk across diverse populations and life stages;
- Develop, evaluate and implement mechanism-informed exercise and mobility interventions that optimize musculoskeletal adaptation, prevent fragility, and promote quality of life across the lifespan in clinical and community settings;
- Translate research discoveries into scalable interventions and implementation strategies that inform physical activity guidelines, clinical practice, public health strategies, and policy through real-world evidence and stakeholder engagement.

The CRC will integrate mechanistic discovery, clinical translation, implementation science, and meaningful engagement with patients, families, communities, health-care providers, and decision-makers. Building on established partnerships and research networks, the program will generate evidence-based strategies that support mobility, independence, healthy aging, and quality of life across the lifespan.

This research aligns directly with the College of Kinesiology's commitment to understanding how physical activity and movement can be leveraged to improve health, prevent injury and chronic disease, support healthy development and aging, and enhance participation and quality of life for diverse populations.

Tier 1 Canada Research Chair Requirements

Tier 1 Chairs are intended for outstanding researchers acknowledged by their peers as world leaders in their fields.

Nominees for Tier 1 Chairs should:

- Be outstanding and innovative world-class researchers whose accomplishments have made a major impact in their fields;
- Be recognized internationally as leaders in their fields;
- Have superior records of attracting and supervising graduate students and postdoctoral scholars;
- Propose a research program that generates new knowledge, perspectives, approaches, or understanding; meaningfully advances the field through innovative ideas, methods, or applications; and demonstrates intellectual, methodological, and scholarly excellence, with the potential to influence practice, policy, or future scholarship.

For more information regarding eligibility requirements, please consult the Canada Research Chairs Program: [Canada Research Chairs Program Eligibility Requirements](#)

Qualifications

Applicants must:

- Hold a tenured faculty appointment at the University of Saskatchewan;
- Demonstrate a record of research excellence consistent with appointment to a Tier 1 Canada Research Chair;
- Have an established program of externally funded research;

- Demonstrate leadership and impact at national and international levels;
- Show evidence of successful training and mentorship of highly qualified personnel;
- Demonstrate the ability to contribute meaningfully to the advancement of equity, diversity, inclusion, reconciliation, and community engagement through research, training, and scholarly leadership.

Preference will be given to candidates whose research programs demonstrate strong alignment with the identified CRC theme area and the strategic priorities of the College of Kinesiology and the University of Saskatchewan.

Contribution to the College of Kinesiology

This Chair directly advances the College of Kinesiology's strategic research priorities by strengthening research at the intersection of physical activity, movement, healthy aging, and chronic disease prevention and management. The position creates important connections between the College's research themes of Healthy Aging and Management of Chronic Conditions and Child and Youth Health and Development by adopting a lifespan approach to musculoskeletal health and physical function.

Building on established leadership in physical activity and health, biomechanics, advanced imaging, and community-engaged research, the Chair will further strengthen the College's capacity to develop, evaluate, and implement evidence-based interventions that improve mobility, independence, participation, and quality of life across the lifespan. The Chair will also elevate research capacity and visibility within the College by cultivating meaningful collaboration among Kinesiology faculty and across disciplines, building partnerships that bring together complementary expertise, and stimulating innovative, rigorous, and impactful research. This leadership will contribute to a collaborative research culture grounded in respect, reciprocity, shared learning, and responsibility to the people and communities affected by the research. Through exceptional training and mentorship of graduate students and postdoctoral fellows in Kinesiology, the Chair will develop highly qualified personnel equipped to lead the next generation of research and practice.

Institutional Environment

The successful candidate will benefit from an outstanding interdisciplinary environment that includes collaboration opportunities across the College of Kinesiology, Health Sciences, Engineering, Computer Science, and other research-intensive units across USask.

The research environment is supported by extensive partnerships and infrastructure, including advanced imaging technologies, biomechanical assessment tools, clinical and community research networks, implementation science expertise, and nationally recognized research centres and collaborative initiatives.

The successful candidate will have opportunities to collaborate with health-care providers, community organizations, public health agencies, recreation and sport partners, researchers, and other knowledge holders across Saskatchewan, Canada, and internationally. Existing partnerships support research translation and implementation across clinical, community, rural, and locally responsive contexts, creating opportunities to generate meaningful impacts for individuals and communities in Saskatchewan and beyond. The Chair will be expected to approach community-

engaged research through respectful and reciprocal relationships, shared learning, appropriate engagement, and responsiveness to the priorities of the people and communities involved. Where research involves Indigenous Peoples or communities, these relationships must also respect the distinct knowledge, protocols, governance, and research expectations of the participating communities.

Advanced research infrastructure, including imaging technologies, biomechanical assessment capabilities, digital health initiatives, and collaborative research platforms, provides a strong foundation for the continued growth and impact of the CRC program.

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

The University of Saskatchewan is committed to employment equity, diversity, and inclusion in its faculty complement and is proud to support career opportunities that address the under-representation of members of the Four Designated Groups (women and gender equity seeking groups, members of a racialized minority, Indigenous persons, and persons with disabilities) defined under the Employment Equity Act among chair allocations. All qualified candidates, Canadian and other nationalities, are encouraged to apply. Recruitment will be guided by the Canada Research Chairs Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Practices and by the strong commitment of USask to diversity, inclusion, and equity. Applicants will be invited to self-identify as members of the Four Designated Groups. Self-declaration is voluntary and will be used in accordance with institutional equity, diversity, and inclusion practices.

Applicants are encouraged to describe how their research, mentoring, leadership, and engagement activities contribute to creating an equitable and inclusive research environment.

Application Materials

Applicants must submit materials to kin.recruitment@usask.ca:

1. Cover letter outlining interest and suitability for the Chair;
2. Curriculum vitae;
3. A research statement (5-10 pages) describing:
 - o Current research accomplishments;
 - o Proposed CRC research program;
 - o Alignment with the CRC theme area;
 - o Expected scholarly, societal, and health impacts;
4. A training and mentorship statement;
5. An equity, diversity, inclusion, and reconciliation statement;
6. Names and contact information of three referees.

The impact of life circumstances such as illness, disability, family and community responsibilities (e.g., maternity leave, parental leave, leaves due to illness, leaves due to caring for family members, or slowdowns due to chronic illness or disability) will be carefully considered when reviewing a candidate's record of research achievement. Candidates are encouraged to explain in their application how personal or professional circumstances may have impacted research productivity. The University of Saskatchewan is committed to supporting employees in need of accommodation in an employment context.

Internal Selection Process

Applications will be reviewed by a College of Kinesiology CRC Selection Committee using criteria aligned with Canada Research Chairs Program requirements.

The committee will evaluate:

- Candidate readiness and suitability for a Tier 1 Canada Research Chair;
- Research excellence and international standing;
- Quality, originality, and strategic strength of the proposed research program;
- Alignment with the approved CRC theme area;
- Capacity to contribute to training, mentorship, and research leadership;
- Commitment to equity, diversity, inclusion, and reconciliation.

Applications will be received until November 9, 2026.

Questions

Questions regarding this opportunity may be directed to:

Dr. Dani Brittain

Dean, College of Kinesiology
University of Saskatchewan

Posting Date: October 9, 2026
Closing Date: November 9, 2026

The University of Saskatchewan aspires to be what the world needs and embraces equity, diversity and inclusion as foundational to excellence and innovation. We actively seek to create a welcoming environment where all individuals feel empowered to thrive, contribute, and grow. Applications from equity-deserving groups are encouraged as part of our ongoing efforts to reflect the diversity of the communities we serve: [EDI Framework for Action](#).

We continue to grow our partnerships with Indigenous communities across the province, nationally, and internationally and value the unique perspective that Indigenous employees provide to strengthen these relationships. Verification of Indigenous Membership/Citizenship at the University of Saskatchewan is led and determined by the [deybwewin | taapwaywin | tapwewin: Indigenous Truth policy](#) and the Standing Committee in accordance with the processes developed to enact the policy. Successful candidates that assert Indigenous membership/citizenship will be asked to complete the verification process of Indigenous membership/citizenship with documentation.

The University of Saskatchewan provides an accessible and inclusive workplace. Should you require support through any stage of the recruitment process, please contact [Amanda Davenport](#) for assistance.