

## 2024/2025 Better Breathing Rapid-Fire Thesis Competition Guidelines

### GENERAL INFORMATION

(Please see the Full Eligibility table on page 2 for detailed eligibility criteria)

Purpose of Competition	No. of Presenters	Travel Support Available (\$)
To support professional development among graduate students conducting lung health research. This competition challenges student researchers to communicate a compelling story about the impact of their research project to an interdisciplinary audience.	15	Up to \$1300.00* per presenter

*\*Note: Travel support is available in the form of reimbursement after participating in the thesis competition. The total \$1300.00 assumes economy level travel or gas mileage at \$0.59/km up to \$600.00, two nights' accommodation in Toronto at \$300.00/night, and \$100.00 towards meals taken during transit to and from the conference, but not during the conference itself as meals will be provided.*

### Application Schedule

Application Deadline	Notification of Decision	Presentations at Better Breathing Week 2025
October 6, 2024	October 31, 2024	January 24, 2025

### COMPETITION DESCRIPTION

#### Better Breathing Rapid-Fire Thesis Competition

##### Purpose

The Lung Health Foundation (LHF) Better Breathing Rapid-Fire Thesis Competition aims to support professional development, communication, and knowledge translation among graduate students conducting lung health research. This competition challenges student researchers to communicate a compelling story about the impact of their research projects to an interdisciplinary audience without using jargon in three (3) minutes. Presenters will be funded to participate in a thesis competition at LHF's Better Breathing Week Conference in-person in Toronto. Presenters will also have access to a student mentorship session and all other sessions at the conference.

##### Description:

Master's (thesis based) and PhD students working on research related to lung health will submit abstracts for consideration towards presenting at the Better Breathing Week 2025 in-person in Toronto on Friday January 24, 2025. Note: Special consideration will be provided to students conducting research related to LHF's current topical areas of focus:

- Asthma
- COPD
- Lung Cancer
- Infectious Respiratory Disease, specifically in the area of health promotion and prevention around

Pneumococcal pneumonia, influenza, Covid-19, and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)

- Nicotine Smoking/Vaping in youth, specifically in the area of prevention, cessation and/or examining the effects of nicotine use on lung health

Up to fifteen applicants will be accepted to present at the thesis competition. Each applicant will be eligible to reimburse up to \$1300.00 towards travel and accommodation expenses (subject to the terms and conditions) as well as free registration to the conference. At the conference, the 15 presenters will participate in a 3-minute Rapid-Fire Thesis Competition where they will be evaluated on set criteria. Each presenter will be allowed one PowerPoint slide to use as a visual aid for their presentation. Please note that the presentation will be recorded.

Following the competition and announcement of the third, second, and first place winners, there will be a mentoring and networking event involving veteran researchers.

### Eligibility

At the time of application, the applicant must:

1	<p>Be a full-time PhD or master's student researcher attending an eligible institution as listed on one of the following webpages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) eligible institutions</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) eligible institutions or</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) eligible institutions</a></li> </ul>
2	<p>Apply with an abstract for a research project directly related to lung health. The research project must have at least preliminary data at the time of application.</p> <p>Note: Special consideration will be provided to students conducting research related to LHF's current topical areas of focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asthma</li> <li>• COPD</li> <li>• Lung Cancer</li> <li>• Infectious Respiratory Disease, specifically in the area of health promotion and prevention around Pneumococcal pneumonia, influenza, Covid-19, and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)</li> <li>• Nicotine Smoking/Vaping in youth, specifically in the area of prevention, cessation and/or examining the effects of nicotine use on lung health</li> </ul>
3	<p>Understand that if they are accepted as a presenter, they will make all reasonable effort to attend Better Breathing Week 2024 on Friday January 19, 2024 in-person in Toronto and that presenting at the thesis competition is required to reimburse travel funds.</p>
4	<p>Applicants may only present findings from a thesis once at a Better Breathing Thesis Competition (e.g., a student who has previously presented their master's thesis are eligible to present their PhD dissertation in the future. However, they cannot present on their master's/PhD work a second time).</p>
5	<p>Not hold funding from the tobacco industry.</p>

## Travel Support Value and Terms

Upon conclusion of Better Breathing Week 2025 and the submission of receipts to LHF, all presenters<sup>1</sup> will be eligible to be refunded up to \$1,300.00 for economy-level travel tickets or gas mileage at \$0.59/km, two (2) nights' accommodation of equal to or less than \$300.00/night, and meals taken in transit. Meals during the conference will be provided; therefore, meals sourced from outside the venue during the conference will not be reimbursed.

## Timelines

<b>Sunday October 6, 2024 by 4:00pm ET</b>	Application deadline
<b>Thursday October 31, 2024 by 4:00pm ET</b>	Notification of decision
<b>Friday January 10, 2025</b>	Presentation slide submission deadline
<b>Friday January 24, 2025</b>	Rapid-Fire Thesis Competition at Better Breathing Week 2024
<b>Monday February 24, 2025</b>	Deadline for presenters to submit receipts for travel, accommodation, and in-transit meal expenses

## Application Evaluation Consideration

- 1) Clarity
- 2) Rigor
- 3) Impact on the lung health community
- 4) Appeal to an inter-disciplinary audience
- 5) Alignment with the Lung Health Foundation's five (5) topical areas of focus

## Application Instructions and Requirements

- 1) The application form and copies of all supporting documentation must be submitted to LHF via this SurveyMonkey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BBW2025ThesisComp>
- 2) The application link will close at 4pm ET on Sunday October 6, 2024.
- 3) Applications or supporting documentation received via email or post will not be accepted.
- 4) The application will ask for the following:
  - a) Basic contact information of the applicant
  - b) Institutional Information (e.g., institution name, department, thesis supervisor, year of study for master's or PhD, research area, etc.)
  - c) Supporting documentation to prove you are currently enrolled at an eligible institution (e.g., letter from supervisor, screenshot of student portal page, photo of student card if it includes dates, confirmation of enrollment letter, etc.)
  - d) Lay abstract of 500 words or less using language that is comprehensible to a general audience not familiar with scientific terminology (i.e., at a Grade 6 level) that addresses the following:
    - i) Research Question
    - ii) Background
    - iii) Approach/Methodology
    - iv) Findings

<sup>1</sup> Only presenters who compete in the Better Breathing Rapid-Fire thesis competition on January 24, 2025 will be eligible to receive travel support.

- v) Impact of research on lung health and how knowledge will be shared
- vi) EDI considerations within the research project

## **Use of Travel Support**

### Excess Expenditures

Any expenditure incurred by a travel support recipient in excess of the travel support amount or beyond the term of the travel support are the responsibility of the recipient.

### Promotional Content

LHF reserves the right to retain a copy of the PowerPoint slide presented during the 3-minute Rapid-Fire Thesis Competition, as well as the recording of the presentation, and may share these on LHF websites, social media, newsletters, and interactive online platforms.

To facilitate communication of research funded by LHF, scientific abstracts and lay summaries submitted during the application process for the Better Breathing Rapid-Fire Thesis Competition may be released for print and other media. Thesis Competition information will be posted on the LHF website, social media, newsletters and interactive online platforms.

The applicant is expected to be available, as mutually negotiated, for fundraising and awareness campaigns (in videos, photos, and text articles) related to the benefits of receiving research funding through LHF. Additionally, they should agree that LHF will thereafter reserve the right to use the applicant's likeness to promote the benefits of receiving research funding through LHF.

## **Indemnification**

The LHF, its directors, officers, employees, volunteers, and affiliated committee members shall not be responsible for any claims or other matters arising from receipt of this travel support.