




NOVA SCOTIA

NOUVELLE-ÉCOSSE

Mitacs

Renewed Mitacs

Government of Nova Scotia
partnership connecting top
post-secondary talent with
local businesses to accelerate
innovation and growth



More on Mitacs

Mitacs is a Canada-wide not-for-profit organization with a mandate to bring innovation — and the growth, prosperity, and social impact it generates — within reach for companies from coast to coast.

Mitacs delivers programs and funding that connect highly qualified post-secondary talent with the organizations that need their specialized skills and expertise through a unique, collaborative internship model.

These work-integrated learning programs provide unparalleled opportunities for college and university students, postdoctoral fellows, and recent graduates across the province to gain invaluable real-world experience in their fields and prepare for high-impact careers.

Through Mitacs, Nova Scotia businesses, health facilities, municipalities, and not-for-profit organizations can tap into a deep network of academic researchers and top post-secondary talent, allowing them to recruit the skilled workers needed to increase productivity, design new or improved offerings, develop groundbreaking technologies, or expand to new markets.

With the support of the federal, territorial, and provincial governments, including through this investment by the Government of Nova Scotia, Mitacs builds productive partnerships — and a strong skilled talent pipeline — between academia and industry.



Featured Mitacs partners

Axem Neurotechnology is a start-up on a mission to improve stroke recovery by making neuroimaging usable in rehabilitation settings, including the home. Axem was founded by three Dalhousie University PhD graduates. Through a two-year Mitacs Accelerate Entrepreneur project, the founders designed a clinical functional near-infrared spectroscopy (fNIRS) headset to support post-stroke rehabilitation. Now, through a two-year Mitacs Accelerate cluster, the company is bringing on three additional post-secondary researchers to test and refine their wearable medical device and the algorithms used to help stroke survivors and their care teams better understand the treatment response and provide more personalized care.

Curv Health, a digital healthcare clinic founded in 2016, has developed an innovative mobile app to support allied health service providers in delivering excellent virtual care across important disciplines such as physiotherapy, mental health counselling, and dietetics. Curv's patented computer vision technology enables virtual movement-based assessment, access to vast digital therapy libraries, and several clinical features like billing and charting. Through Mitacs's Accelerate program, Curv is currently conducting research on patient and provider experience with the technology, as well as the app's impact on patient outcomes in comparison to an industry standard telehealth platform. This research will help Curv Health to continue advancing product development, helping allied healthcare practitioners build their own digital practices, and facilitating more accessible and cost-effective care for patients.

Hollo Medical, a husband-and-wife research and start-up team based at Dalhousie University, is developing a medical device that makes it easier for patients with chronic respiratory diseases to get the lifesaving medication they need quickly, reliably, and on the go. Treatment for many serious illnesses is administered via inhalers – which can be challenging for all patients, especially children, to use successfully without bulky and inconvenient “spacers”. Hollo has set out to build a compact-yet-effective solution. Through Mitacs's Accelerate Entrepreneur program, both co-founders have been able to do invaluable R&D work to advance their innovative design for a pocket-sized, reusable valved holding chamber for inhaler users. This Mitacs-supported research will help Hollo ensure the performance of their device matches or exceeds the standard of care.

Shannex's Insights Lab was established in 2021 as an internal research and analysis hub dedicated to analyzing data that will help identify opportunities to improve resident care and outcomes. During this time, Shannex has partnered with Mitacs to hire four students. Engaging highly trained post-secondary interns through Mitacs provides the flexibility to advance the work of the Lab strategically and cost effectively. For post-secondary talent working with Shannex, the Mitacs internship is a chance to experience what a career path in healthcare might look like. These passionate and committed students possess specialized skills that are contributing to work that has the potential to revolutionize the delivery of care and service in long-term care communities across Nova Scotia and beyond.