Mission: Develop a unique early career investigator competition highlighting cardiovascular research, health/wellness, and service in the state of Vermont.

Early Career Investigator Challenge in Cardiovascular Disease:

- Merit-based scientific abstract competition to highlight the best cardiovascular research conducted by early career scientists at the University of Vermont and UVM Health Network.
- Applicants should represent the breadth of cardiovascular research, including basic science, clinical and epidemiological research. Interdisciplinary group of Finalists determined upon a merit-based review of abstracts, with the competition winner determined based upon a composite score reflecting the communication of science, impact of their work, individual/professional commitment to cardiovascular wellness/service, and abstract score.
- Applicants are encouraged to demonstrate individual and professional commitments to cardiovascular health/wellness and service.

Timeline:

Abstract due date: December 1, 2021
Finalists announced: December 20, 2021
Competition: February 2, 2022

Competitor Eligibility:

- Applicants must be early career investigators. Eligible candidates include: PhD and Master’s graduate students; postdoctoral fellows; residents and clinical fellows; medical students; faculty and staff within 5 years of first appointment.
- Applicants and primary mentor(s) must be affiliated with the University of Vermont and/or the UVM Health network.
- The applicant must be the first author.
- Previously presented and/or published scientific work is eligible for submission if the final publication occurred within 1 year of the Investigator Challenge (after January 1, 2021). Abstracts must be formatted per Viridis Montis guidelines, with special attention toward communication of findings to a broad cardiovascular audience. If using a previously published abstract, consider revising as needed to meet competition guidelines.
- Abstracts not meeting basic formatting criteria will not be reviewed.
- Former Viridis Montis participants are eligible and encouraged to apply, but the research must be distinctly different from a prior entry.
- Only complete applications (Appendix I) with attestations (Appendix II) will be considered.
- Demonstration of personal and professional commitments to cardiovascular health/wellness and service is encouraged but not required (Form D; Appendix III). For Finalists, this component may count for up to 5% of the final competition score.

General Format: Scientific Abstract - Oral Presentation

- 5 Finalists selected by panel of abstract reviewers consisting of CVRI Early Career Advisory Committee members, CVRI Board of Directors and CVRI Distinguished Investigators
- Oral Presentations: 7 minutes (Applicant) + 4 minutes questions (Judges)
- Judges: Panel of 5 Faculty Research Experts
- 1 Overall Winner
- 2 Hour Event: Competition (5:30-7:00pm), Award Announcement (7:30pm)
**Awards:**  
- **Winner:** $2,500 award (CVRI funding) and Winner’s Mentor: $1,000 award (CVRI funding)  
- **Second Place:** $1,500 (CVRI funding)  
- **Third Place:** $500 (CVRI funding)  
- **Recognition plaques:** Winner, 4 Finalists, and Winner’s Mentoring Lab/Clinical division

**Application:**  
The formal application is due by 5:00 p.m. on December 1, 2021. Please refer to the full application instructions on CVRI’s website: [www.cvri-vt.org](http://www.cvri-vt.org).