

TRANSFORM HF's Group of Seven is Re-Imagining the Heart Failure Landscape

by TRANSFORM HF | Mar 24, 2025 | Funding Announcements, People / Profiles, Research / Technology

At TRANSFORM HF, we champion research that advances heart failure care and prevention—prioritizing translational potential, patient-centered design, and health equity.

One of the key ways we foster innovation and build connections is through our Collaboration Starter Grants. Designed to spark new partnerships, these grants provide crucial early-stage funding for research and project proposals. This support can include preliminary research and data collection, proposal development, and compensation for patient partners and Knowledge Keepers.

Each year, we invite members of our network to apply, and many of the collaborations that emerge are sparked or strengthened through TRANSFORM HF events and programs.



Collaboration Starter Grant

2025 Recipients



Development of Smart Textile Solution for Monitoring Cardiovascular Health in this Era of Changing Climate

Saiful Hoque, Baptise Garnier, Azadeh Yadollahi, Vladan Koncar, Susan Marzolini, Sophia Yue Li, Marisol Campos-Navarette, Rene Adams



This Toronto-France collaboration led by Dr. Saiful Hoque seeks to develop 'smart garments' capable of monitoring heart function *and* controlling body temperature – a novel and important feature in the face of climate change.

Exposure to extreme temperatures can exacerbate cardiovascular health problems. The high prevalence of cardiovascular conditions and vulnerability to environmental temperature is even more pronounced in those living with low socio-economic status or unstable housing. This project aims to gain a physiological understanding of how room temperature affects cardiovascular health and to develop smart garments (e.g. socks and chest band) to sense and change temperature, respectively to improve cardiovascular health outcomes in older adults with chronic conditions. With support from TRANSFORM HF, Dr. Hoque's team will develop a garment prototype informed by community focus groups.

This work at the intersection of digital health and health equity has real potential to move the needle on user-centered care while providing adaptations for changing environmental conditions.



We are thrilled to launch this project, which will drive health equity by ensuring individuals in low-resource settings benefit from innovations that enhance their well-being, regardless of socio-economic barriers. Our smart textile solution, built with community-driven insights, will make personalized, proactive healthcare more accessible to those who need it most.

– Dr. Hoque