



## PARTNERS MONTHLY BULLETIN

### **CELEBRATING THE NEW PARTNERSHIPS**

**The CANadian Consortium for Clinical Trials TRAINing (CANTRAIN) is pleased to announce the Partnering organizations onboarded at the end of 2024 and the beginning of 2025.**

These collaborations will facilitate the exchange of knowledge, resources, and best practices between our teams, creating a dynamic learning environment that empowers individuals at all stages of their careers.



**Prof. Jean Bourbeau,  
CANTRAIN Nominated Principal Investigator, and National Lead,**

is pleased to welcome additional partners into our national clinical trials training multi-program and platform: *"We continue to welcome new partners, including academic health sciences centers, research institutions, and health authorities from coast to coast across the country. CANTRAIN revolutionizes clinical trial training by blending real-world and hands-on experience with a knowledge-based curriculum tailored to diverse learner streams. This approach is further enhanced by mentorship opportunities, awards programs, and internship funding initiatives."*



**Medicine Hat Regional Hospital**

[Medicine Hat Regional Hospital](#) (MHRH) delivers comprehensive, patient-centered care in southeastern Alberta. The hospital offers a wide range of healthcare services, including a 24/7 emergency department, acute care, intensive care, neonatal intensive care, a kidney care clinic, cardio-respiratory services, and more. MHRH is also home to the [Margery E. Yuill Cancer Centre](#). Additionally, MHRH supports specialized clinics such as the Stroke Prevention Clinic and the Neurology Pain Clinic. The South Zone Movement Disorders Clinic operates off-site at the Carry Drive Clinic, further enhancing access to specialized care for the community.



Surrounded by pristine natural landscape, vibrant culture, and welcoming communities, [Cape Breton University](#) (CBU) is home to nearly 8,000 students from more than 80 countries around the world. CBU is committed to the future of Cape Breton Island, innovative economic development and sustainability programs, and Indigenous learning

leadership. CBU offers a comprehensive set of liberal arts, science, business, health, and professional programs. As a university that is dedicated to excellence in teaching and learning, CBU provides students with the advantage of outstanding experiential learning and undergraduate research opportunities in a supportive academic environment. Their programs, in diverse fields of study, consistently rank well above the national averages in faculty-student interaction and service learning. People, their cultures, and a strong sense of community make Cape Breton University a special place.



The [Integrated University Health and Social Services Centre \(CIUSSS\) of Estrie - Centre hospitalier universitaire de Sherbrooke \(CHUS\)](#) is the Santé Québec establishment in Estrie. It is a vast network that includes, among other things, three research institutions, including the Sherbrooke University Hospital Research Centre (CRCHUS), the Research Centre on Aging (CdRV) and the University Institute for Primary Care in Health and Social Services (IUPLSSS). Each of these institutions is structured around several research axes. The CRCHUS directs its research activities around six thematic axes: 1) cancer; 2) inflammation-pain; 3) medical imaging; 4) diabetes, obesity and cardiovascular complications; 5) mother-child and 6) population health and organization of practices. The CRCHUS has a complete clinical research infrastructure and has over a thousand active projects. Among this infrastructure, we can cite among others the clinical expertise platform (PEC), the clinical and epidemiological research unit (URCE) and the functional testing platform in clinical research. The research activities of the CdRV are mainly structured around two thematic axes: 1) empowerment and 2) geroscience. It is distinguished among other things by its expertise (biotechnology, bioengineering and innovation laboratory by and for seniors) and a clinical and biopharmaceutical research unit. The IUPLSSS articulates its research around three thematic axes: 1) child development in his family and community; 2) from practice to governance of social and health services and 3) community development.



The [CIUSSS du Nord-de-l'Île-de-Montréal](#), affiliated with the Université de Montréal, is part of Santé Québec and manages a network of healthcare facilities, including hospitals, CLSCs, and long-term care centers in northern Montreal. The organization focuses on improving community health, delivering quality care, and supporting social initiatives for the well-being of the population. The CIUSSS NIM research center, with more than 250 researchers and 500 postgraduate students, conducts approximately 600 projects in the fields of trauma, mental health, social research, and the prevention of chronic diseases.



[Fraser Health Authority](#) is the largest regional health authority in British Columbia, serving over two million people from Burnaby to Boston Bar, serving 1 in 3 British Columbians. It provides a wide range of health services, including primary care, mental health, and acute medical services, through 13 hospitals and numerous community facilities. Fraser Health is dedicated to serving diverse populations, including 32 First Nations and 5 Métis communities. The region encompasses rapidly growing areas like Surrey, Abbotsford, and Maple Ridge, ensuring comprehensive healthcare for a diverse and expanding population.



[Health Sciences North](#) (HSN), located in Greater Sudbury, serves as the regional hospital for Northeastern Ontario. The mission of Health Sciences North and the [Health Sciences North Research Institute](#) (HSNRI) is to deliver high-quality health services, support learning, and generate research to improve health outcomes for the people of Northeastern Ontario.



**IWK Health**

[IWK Health](#) is dedicated to providing quality care to women, children, youth, and families in the Maritime provinces and beyond. Services are delivered through their Children's Health program, Mental Health and Addictions program, and Women's and Newborn Health. Across all three their approach is rooted in a collaborative model that integrates talented people with new technologies, research, training, and clinical excellence. They're proud to provide the most complex levels of care in the region; they're a strong advocate for the health of families and a global leader in research and knowledge sharing.

*"IWK Health is always working to improve our performance on clinical trials. As such, we are excited to see how CANTRAIN builds on our in-house expertise, especially in providing critical training for new scientists and their teams. This partnership will help drive research and innovation forward at our institution and beyond,"* stated **Dr. Frank MacMaster**, the IWK's Vice President, Research and Innovation; Professor of Psychiatry at the Dalhousie School of Medicine.



Nestled in the heart of East Toronto, [Michael Garron Hospital](#) (MGH), a division of Toronto East Health Network, is a vibrant community teaching hospital serving one of Canada's most diverse communities. For more than 90 years, MGH has delivered high-quality, patient-centered healthcare services to nearly 400,000 people in their catchment area and beyond. This includes 22 distinct neighborhoods from Midland Avenue in the east to Bayview Avenue in the west and north from Lake Ontario to Eglinton Avenue. From welcoming a new life to supporting those facing end-of-life, the hospital has continually renewed its commitment to the East Toronto community by adapting its programs and services to meet the evolving needs of the diverse population it serves. MGH is proud of its strong community, clinical, research, and academic partnerships, including the University of Toronto, Sunnybrook Hospital, The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids), Centennial College, George Brown College, the Michener Institute of Education, Toronto Metropolitan University and York University.



*"At Michael Garron Hospital, we are thrilled to join CANTRAIN as we build a research program dedicated to advancing high-quality patient care through evidence-driven practice. This partnership provides a unique opportunity to deepen our clinical trial expertise and share our insights on making research accessible to underserved communities. Together, we look forward to building clinical trials capacity across Canada to ensure innovative care is available to all,"* stated **Kristen Currie**, Director of Research Operations and Business Development at Michael Garron Hospital.



[Northern Health](#) is the health authority responsible for delivering healthcare services in Northern British Columbia. Northern Health serves 32 communities and 55 First Nation communities across six regional districts, focusing on promoting health and delivering healthcare services to urban, rural, and Indigenous communities. Northern Health offers a comprehensive range of services, including acute care, primary care, public health, mental health, and substance use services. Specialized services such as cancer care, cardiac care, and surgical services are also available. Northern Health incorporates research, evaluation, and evidence into daily practice to ensure excellence in healthcare services. To promote research development in Northern British Columbia, Northern Health has partnered with UBC and UNBC to establish the Northern Centre for Clinical Research (NCCR). The NCCR is dedicated to advancing health equity by enhancing capacity and access to clinical research in Northern BC. As a research center, the NCCR provides excellence in clinical research, facilitates knowledge translation and exchange that are innovative and collaborative, and leverages its partnerships to address the unique contexts and needs of northern, rural, remote, and Indigenous populations across the province and country.



"CANTRAIN initiative allows us to harmonize and enhance training, mentoring, and networking for our clinical professionals. This collaboration is crucial for improving the design and execution of clinical trials, ultimately benefiting the health and well-being of our communities, and promoting equity, diversity, and inclusion in clinical research. Northern Health is delighted to join CANTRAIN as this collaboration aligns with our commitment to serving diverse communities," stated **Tatiana Barcelos Pontes**, the Regional Research Manager at Northern Center for Clinical Research (NCCR).



**Oak Valley  
Health**

[Oak Valley Health](#) is one of Ontario's leading community healthcare organizations. Across our two hospitals, [Markham Stouffville Hospital](#) and [Uxbridge Hospital](#), as well as our [Reactivation Care Centre](#), we deliver safe, high-quality care to more than 441,000 patients annually through diagnostic and emergency care services, clinical programs in acute care medicine and surgery, addictions and mental health, and childbirth and children's services. Oak Valley Health is proud to be part of the [Eastern York Region North Durham Ontario Health Team](#). With over 600 professional staff, over 3,300 dedicated staff, and more than 900 active volunteers, we are committed to celebrating our people, fostering connections, and driving innovative growth. We provide integrated care for healthier communities and deliver an extraordinary patient experience through our *honoured to care* culture to residents of Markham, Whitchurch-Stouffville, Uxbridge, and beyond.



"Oak Valley Health is excited to join CANTRAIN and offer education and mentorship opportunities to our researchers. As a community hospital with a rapidly expanding research program, CANTRAIN helps provide continued education and foundational research training to our staff, students and physicians - a service that many community research hospitals struggle to develop. The training platforms will help us build more experienced and knowledgeable researchers who feel confident in their research skills," stated **Michelle Dimas**, Manager of the Office of Research at Oak Valley Health.



[The Pan-Canadian Palliative Care Research Collaborative](#) (PCPCRC) is a national network of early, established, and future researchers and clinicians with an interest in palliative care. Since its inception in 2017, the PCPCRC has grown into a network encompassing 25 active programs of research with over 100 investigators, healthcare providers, trainees, community and policy stakeholders, and patient and caregiver partners. With a mission to develop a pan-Canadian network of practice-focused research groups producing high-quality palliative care research, we envision the PCPCRC as the go-to network for trusted, evidence-based guidance to improve people's experience of palliative care. In April 2023, PCPCRC became one of the 28 networks working with the Accelerating Clinical Trials (ACT) Canada Consortium to promote high-quality, high-impact, randomized controlled trials to improve health in Canada and worldwide.



*"There are several challenges to improving palliative and end-of-life care in Canada, with one major issue being the lack of high-quality evidence to support clinical practices. At the Pan-Canadian Palliative Care Research Collaborative (PCPCRC), we are committed to developing a strong research infrastructure. Our partnership with CANTRAIN has made this goal more achievable and tangible by providing standardized, high-quality training on clinical trials to all our members across Canada,"* stated **Dr. James Downar**, Founder & Co-Chair of PCPCRC, Head and Professor of the Division of Palliative Care, Department of Medicine, University of Ottawa.



[The Provincial Health Services Authority](#) of British Columbia (PHSA) is one of Canada's largest academic health science organizations with an integrated mandate to provide high-quality specialized health-care services, conduct world-class research, and deliver excellence in education and training. PHSA encompasses Provincial Clinical Programs, Health Improvement Networks, and five research institutes leading clinical trials across British Columbia: BC Cancer, BC Children's Hospital, BC Women's Hospital, BC Centre for Disease Control, and BC Mental Health & Substance Use Services. PHSA works in partnership with the province's health authorities and the Ministry of Health to bring health

care closer to where B.C. residents live, promote health, manage chronic conditions and reduce the burden of illness.

*"Provincial Health Services Authority is pleased to partner with CANTRAIN. This collaboration will bring valuable training resources and educational support to our research teams, enhancing our ability to conduct clinical research. We look forward to utilizing these resources to improve our research infrastructure and anticipate a productive partnership that will benefit both PHSa and CANTRAIN. We are excited about contributing to CANTRAIN's growth and the advancement of clinical trials in Canada,"* stated **Mr. Andrew Poznikoff**, Quality Lead in Clinical Trials, PHSa.



[The Saskatchewan Health Authority](#) (SHA) is the largest organization in Saskatchewan, employing more than 40,000 employees and physicians. Together, they are responsible for the delivery of safe, high-quality health care for the entire province. SHA is driven by the commitment to improve health care for Saskatchewan people. SHA is working together to better coordinate health services across the province to ensure everyone in the province receives the right care, in the right place, at the right time, and by the right provider, wherever a person lives in Saskatchewan. One provincial approach to planning and delivering healthcare services provides everyone with a more consistent experience overall. This is a multi-year journey, requiring the support and involvement of patients, healthcare providers, and partners across the health system.



*"Growing the internal systems and research expertise required to expand access to clinical trials in Saskatchewan is a priority for the Health Authority. We are excited to be partnering with CANTRAIN and to being able to access the exceptional training resources being developed,"* stated **Dr. Elan Paluck**, Director of Research at Saskatchewan Health Authority.



Thunder Bay Regional  
Health Sciences  
Centre

Thunder Bay Regional  
Health Research  
Institute

[Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre](#) (TBRHSC) is a 425-bed academic specialized acute care facility, is a national leader in Patient and Family Centred Care. As the only tertiary care provider in Northwestern Ontario, we provide comprehensive services to a population of over 250,000 residents in a region the size of France.

As an academic health sciences centre, we teach the next generation of health care providers and advance medical research. Patients benefit from interprofessional teams of dedicated health care providers and access to leading-edge medical technology and clinical trials. To fulfill its teaching and research strategic goals, TBRHSC is supported by [Thunder Bay Regional Health Research Institute \(TBRHRI\)](#), a not-for-profit and independent research corporation. TBRHRI is the research arm of TBRHSC, and seeks to lead research to improve the health outcome of the people of Northwestern Ontario and beyond. Scientists collaborate with clinicians, medical professionals, academic and industry partners to improve health care through innovation in various fields, including Indigenous health, cancer, cardiac disease, stroke, lung disease, social accountability and learning health systems. TBRHRI also supports clinical trials at the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre; and with the discovery and development of new technologies and systems, advances health care through excellence in patient-centred research.

TBRHSC and TBRHRI operate on the traditional lands of the people of Fort William First Nation. It is the territory of the Anishinabek Nation and is home to the Robinson Superior Treaty of 1850. Today, Thunder Bay is the home to many Indigenous Peoples from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work together in this community and on this territory.

*"As a smaller academic health sciences centre distanced from large metropolitan centres and research hubs, it is important for us to find opportunities to develop and support our teams in continuous learning. We're excited to partner with CANTRAIN to deliver high-quality experiential training and mentorship,"* stated **Mr. Daniel Horne**, Manager of Clinical Research Services Department at Thunder Bay Regional Health Research Institute.





[Vancouver Coastal Health Authority](#) (VCH) serves over 1.25 million people in the Southern Coast of British Columbia. VCH provides comprehensive health services, including acute, primary, and community care, to diverse populations in areas such as Vancouver, Richmond, North Shore, Sea-to-Sky Corridor, Sunshine Coast, Powell River, Bella Bella, and Bella Coola. The region encompasses the traditional territories of several Indigenous communities, including the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations. Additionally, they operate the VCH Research Institute, one of Canada's top-funded research institutes, with over 2,400 employees.

**CANTRAIN is delighted to welcome these Canadian health and research organizations as new partners in our mission to support and enhance the quality and capacity of the clinical trials workforce.**



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