

Alberta's Health Research and Innovation Strategy – HIGHLIGHTS

Government of Alberta



VISION: Albertans' quality of life will improve as a result of knowledge created and applied by an integrated, world-class health research and innovation system.

MISSION: To fuel health research and innovation in Alberta through well-aligned and focused investment in research discoveries and their application to improve health, social and economic outcomes for Albertans.

STRATEGIC FOCUS

Move, over time, to focus research program investments in areas of strategic priority:

Wellness at Every Age

- Child and maternal health
- Mental health and addictions
- Chronic disease
- Infectious disease
- Health promotion
- Vulnerable populations

- Injury prevention, acute care and rehabilitation
- Environmental health

Innovative Health Service Delivery

- Effectiveness and efficiency
- Innovative delivery models
- Chronic disease management support systems
- Personalized medicine

HIGHLY SKILLED PEOPLE

- Establish knowledge transfer expertise in “research-intensive” hospitals and primary care service delivery organizations.
- Enhance cross disciplinary research and innovation in areas of strategic priority through team research grants programs.
- Explore the development of an Alberta academic health sciences centre concept to increase informed health service delivery planning and to facilitate the intricate linking of education, research and clinical practice that takes place in both academic and the service delivery settings.
- Enhance research capability in emerging areas that have direct application potential to health policy, practices, services or products.
- Recruit and retain world-class health system, product design, management and research talent to Alberta.
- Participate in national and international networks that will enable Alberta to benefit from global advancements in health.

INNOVATION PLATFORMS

- Enhance Alberta's clinical trials program and address barriers by improving the process for the recruitment of patients and by developing a streamlined research ethics review process.
- Establish a provincial biobanking system with clear standards of practice for the collection, storage, labeling and accessing of biological samples.
- Develop and implement an “Alberta Genomics for Health” plan in support of the emerging field of personalized medicine/health.
- Improve Alberta's health informatics capability by:
 - > Building on existing informatics and bio-computing capability in support of health systems research and advances in personalized medicine/health.
 - > Improving the collection of and access to anonymized health care data and information to enable research into areas of strategic priority and policy issues.
 - > Linking health data with other data on education, income, and housing to support research into the social determinants of health.
 - > Building on and sustaining the Alberta Health Research Database.
- Enhance targeted technology and product development programs to support innovative preventative, diagnostic and therapeutic technologies and health products.
- Support centres of excellence and networks in critical disciplines that support the emergence of innovative health policy, practice, services and products.

KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION

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| Practice and Policy | • Establish knowledge translation programs in support of innovation and implementation of best practices within service delivery organizations, including clinical practice. |
| | • Foster strong relationships between researchers and users of health research, with particular emphasis on creating a culture of evidence-informed decision-making within the decision and policy-making processes of the health system. |
| | • Ensure use of research evidence in making policy decisions on health technologies, services and health system issues by taking actions such as expanding Alberta's health technology assessment capacity and coordination. |
| Commercialization | • Accelerate the movement of discoveries and new applications into commercial products and services by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Developing partnering opportunities among organizations committed to the development of commercially viable health products and services. > Attracting and retaining entrepreneurial talent with experience in commercializing health research. > Establishing a health innovation office to accelerate the movement of research to the marketplace. |
| | • Engage the public in discussions on health research and technology advances and challenges, bringing in talented researchers, industry leaders, ethicists, and thought leaders as a means of public awareness, engagement and debate on various health research and technology challenges. |
| | • Support strategic and operational research into factors that will result in sustained, effective behaviour change in individuals, in order to improve or maintain health status. |