

Clinical Trials BC Activities Report

As a provincial organization, our work extends across many Indigenous lands and territories throughout British Columbia. We acknowledge with respect and humility that our Vancouver offices are located on the traditional and unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷáy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and sə́lilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.



Michael Smith
**Health
Research BC**
CLINICAL TRIALS BC

Sep 2020 - August 2021

»» www.clinicaltrialsbc.ca

A Joint Message From Our Leaders



Each year, we formally report to our stakeholders to reflect on the activities and programs that we implemented the past year. This time, the reflection feels more profound to us as we are now officially a part of the newly formed Michael Smith Health Research BC. It expects to create a more dynamic and integrated health research organization to support the growth and evolution of health research system and life sciences sector in British Columbia.

The COVID-19 pandemic has posed tremendous challenges to our activities and transformed our work settings. However, we have continued to gain remarkable growth and progress across our initiatives and programs in strengthening clinical trials capacity across BC, building and supporting clinical research infrastructure, and developing the talent that BC needs for the future.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation and profound gratitude to our advisory council members, stakeholders, funders, patient partners, clinical research and trial professionals, and our colleagues for their continued support and hard work during this challenging time.

Alison Orth, BBA, CCRC
Unit Director
Clinical Trials BC

Stirling Bryan, PHD, FCAHS
Chief Scientific Officer
Michael Smith Health Research BC

Who We Are

We support clinical trial investigators, sites, and institutions to ensure a world-class destination for clinical trials. Focusing on infrastructure and capacity building with a collaborative approach, we enable clinical trial excellence in the province of British Columbia.

Mission

Clinical Trials BC's mission is to maximize the health, educational, and economic benefits of clinical trials to the citizens of BC.

Vision

We advance British Columbia's development as a world-class destination for clinical trials across our province's hospitals, research institutions and communities.

What We Do

We contribute to national & international clinical research communities, and connect with governing bodies and forums.

- Clinical Research Navigation
- Talent Development & Training
- Regulation & Quality Assurance
- Improve Participant Experience
- Program Development & Support



About Michael Smith Health Research BC

The Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research (MSFHR) and the British Columbia Academic Health Science Network (BC AHSN) have joined forces to create a dynamic and integrated health research organization, Michael Smith Health Research BC, to support the growth and evolution of BC’s vibrant health research system and life sciences sector.

The new organization was officially announced on the 28th anniversary of Dr. Michael Smith’s Nobel Prize in chemistry for creating one of the foundational tools of genetic engineering, which has helped develop new diagnostic tests and treatments for genetic diseases.

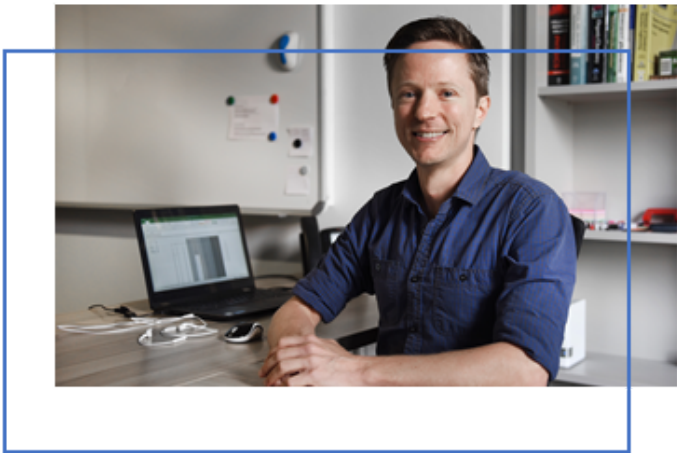
As one organization — and embracing a dual role of “doing” and “influencing” — Michael Smith Health Research BC is in a much stronger position to work with partners and stakeholders to strengthen research capacity across the province, support evidence-informed decision making in health care, increase the competitiveness of our life sciences sector, and maximize the social and economic benefits of health research in BC.

Michael Smith Health Research BC comprises: the BC SUPPORT Unit, Clinical Trials BC, Research Ethics BC, and funding programs that attract, develop and retain BC’s health research talent. Our purpose is to strengthen BC’s health research system by supporting the people, institutions and activities that generate and use research-based knowledge to promote, restore and maintain the health of British Columbians.



What the Consolidation Means To Clinical Trials BC

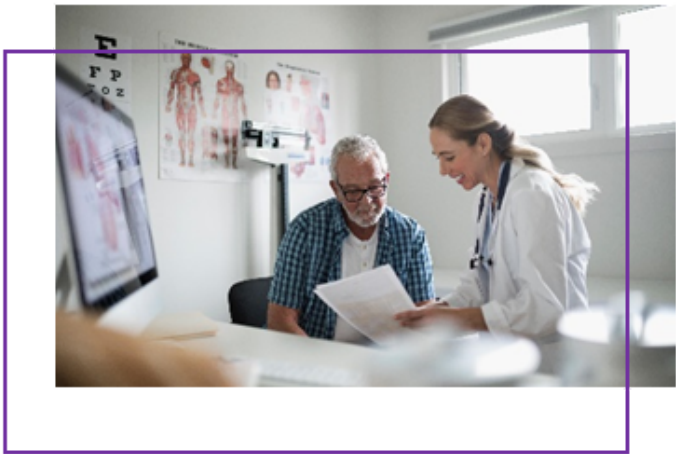
Synergy was the impetus for the consolidation of the BC Academic Health Science Network and the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research. Moving forward, British Columbians will benefit from our combined strength. With the new organization's name, structure, and support, Clinical Trials BC continues pursuing our mission/vision, working with other Units and Michael Smith Health Research BC to obtain more achievements in attaining our common objectives which include:



Developing the clinical trial talent BC needs for the future



Strengthening clinical trial capacity across BC



Building and Supporting clinical research infrastructure

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Advisory Council

The primary purpose of our Advisory Council is to be a source of expert advice to support the successful achievement of Clinical Trials BC's strategic priorities. Council members represent a range of expertise including academia, the health system, health research-related organizations and patients.

We are very grateful to the members of 2020 - 2021 Advisory Council for their support and contribution to the Unit's success. Especially, we would like to extend great gratitude to our outgoing inaugural Chair this year – Dr. Robert McMaster and incoming Chair - Dr. Gavin Stuart.



*Dr. Gavin Stuart
(Chair)
Clinical Trials BC
Advisory Council*



*Dr. Robert McMaster
(Past Chair)
Clinical Trials BC
Advisory Council*

We did an interview with our Past Chair - Dr. Robert McMaster to chat about his role in creating Clinical Trials BC and its predecessor - BCCRIN, and the vital role that he played in leading the Unit's advisory council.



Clinical Trials BC is really a continuation of about 10 years of work across the province of having a real involvement of those involved in clinical trials and health authorities across BC - **Dr. Robert McMaster, Past Chair, Clinical Trials BC Advisory Council**



Read the full interview:

[Click here](#)

Name	Organization	Name	Organization
Gavin Stuart (Chair)	VGH/BC Cancer/ UBC	Robert McMaster (Past Chair)	VCHRI/UBC
Stephania Manusha	VCHRI/UBC	Cindy Trytten	Island Health
Kendall Ho	VGH/UBC	Margaret MacDonald	Public/Patient Member
Melanie Reid	Public/Patient Member	Robert Olson	BC Cancer North/UBC/ UNBC NMP
Scott Garrison	University of Alberta	Srinivas Murthy	BC Children Hospital/UBC
Tania Bubela	Simon Fraser University	Wendy Hurlburt	Life Sciences BC
Harvey Howse	Ministry of Health	Anne Babineau	Innovative Medicines Canada
Alison Orth (Ex-Officio)	Clinical Trials BC	Danielle Lavallee (Ex-Officio)	BC SUPPORT Unit/ BC AHSN
Jean Smart (Ex-Officio)	Clinical Trials BC	Terri Fleming (Ex-Officio)	Research Ethics BC

Continuing Education & Talent Development

Conference – The Modernization of Clinical Trials (Jan 26 - 28, 2021)

Clinical Trials BC virtually held its first ever provincial conference - The Modernization of Clinical Trials 2021 highlighting a new era as we embark upon the renovation of Clinical Trials at both the international and national levels. The Conference showcased regulatory renewal, new innovations in trial approaches and design, diversity of populations and teams, current topics, and leadership. The event offered keynote lectures, exhibition hall and forums designed to stimulate engagement and planning through moderated panel discussions.

Special thanks to Cindy Trytten, Director of Research and Capacity Building at Island Health, who kindly provided the conference artwork.

Event Highlights



600+
Registrants



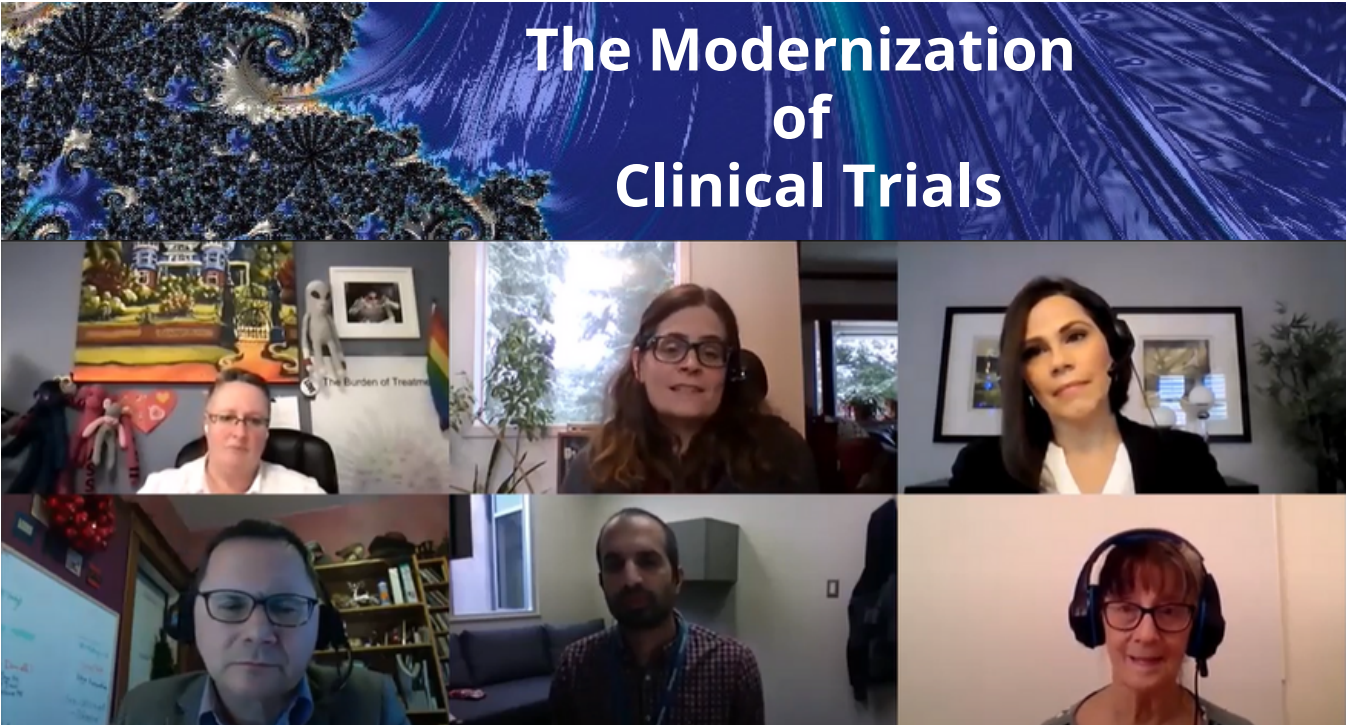
54
Speakers



25
Virtual Booths



250-400+
Attendees/session



A detailed program was developed by the scientific and education committees led by Jean Smart, Gavin Stuart, Robert McMaster, Alison Orth and Danielle Lavallee, in consultation with the entire Clinical Trials BC Advisory Council who acted as moderators and hosts.

Program Forums included:

- Day 1:** Part 1 and 2 Innovations in Clinical Trials Forum and a Diversity in Clinical Trials Forum.
- Day 2:** Pragmatic Clinical Trials Forum Part 1 Pragmatic Clinical Trials Forum Part 2 and Part 3 PCT and Learning Health Systems and the popular Feature Forum: Vaccine Development.
- Day 3:** Regulatory Leadership Forum Part 1, Regulatory and Leadership Forum Part 2, Showcase of BC Lunch Bite Panel: Patient Engagement in Clinical Trials Presentation Clinical Trials BC Awards, and the Finale Leadership Panel: Change for the Modernization of Clinical Trials.

Opening Ceremony



Indigenous Welcome
from Elder Syexwaliya
Ann Whonnock

The conference was opened by Jean Smart, Conference Chair, followed by welcomes from Elder Syexwaliya Ann Whonnock of the Squamish Nation, Mary Ackenhusen, Ministry of Health, Stirling Bryan, BC AHSN and Alison Orth, Clinical Trials BC.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the 54 speakers, patient partners, moderators, coordinating centre (Venue West) and the registrants. The conference has been a clinical trials community success thanks to you!

Feedback from Attendees:

“ A big thank you to everyone -- speakers, organizers, attendees (learned a lot through Chat sessions.) Such relevant topics. A very well spent 3 days! - **Event Participant**

Please continue this conference. There are very little opportunities for PIs and coordinators to learn about the design and inner workings of clinical trials. This conference fills a massive void! Many thanks for organizing it. Well done! - **Event Participant** ”

Keynote Session: "Modernization of Clinical Trials"



Dr. Allan Hackshaw
University College London

Keynote speaker Allan Hackshaw is Professor of Epidemiology & Medical Statistics at University College London, and Deputy Director of the Cancer Research UK & UCL Cancer Trials Centre. Allan has also published 150 articles in journals and book chapters, plus sole or first author of four textbooks, including ‘A Concise Guide to Clinical Trials’ (Wiley/Blackwells). He is involved in postgraduate courses (on evidence-based medicine) at UCL, London School of Economics and Harvard.

Watch the Opening Ceremony:

[Click here](#)

Watch the Keynote Session:

[Click here](#)

View the Conference's recordings:

[Click here](#)

View the Conference's page:

[Click here](#)

IN PROFILE



Jean Smart

Regulatory Affairs & Quality Officer, Clinical Trials BC
Privacy Officer, Michael Smith Health Research BC

Jean Smart is a certified regulatory affairs professional with more than 30 years of clinical, regulatory quality, and research management experience. She has participated in numerous provincial and global regulatory initiatives. She is currently active on national and international project committees, teams and boards. Her education and

specialization are in regulatory policy and governance, research program development, and quality training. As Quality & Regulatory Affairs Officer for Clinical Trials BC, Jean is responsible for the regulatory leadership of provincial and external cooperative initiatives.

Acting as a resource to internal and external stakeholders, she focuses on regulatory and quality management program training and development to enhance compliance, regulatory awareness and develop expertise to build clinical research capacity in British Columbia.

As Regulatory Affairs and Quality Officer, Jean builds on this passion. She leads the Clinical Trials BC team in numerous strategic projects, including developing and implementing a Quality Management System Program and Investigators Only Program for the province, regulatory and compliance consulting and assessment, leadership training and mentoring burgeoning clinical researchers, compliance education (research education and resource bank) and more.

“

*My passion is in quality education and helpful resources as a means to implement policy and achieve compliance. I believe in a ground-up approach with top support - **Jean Smart***

”

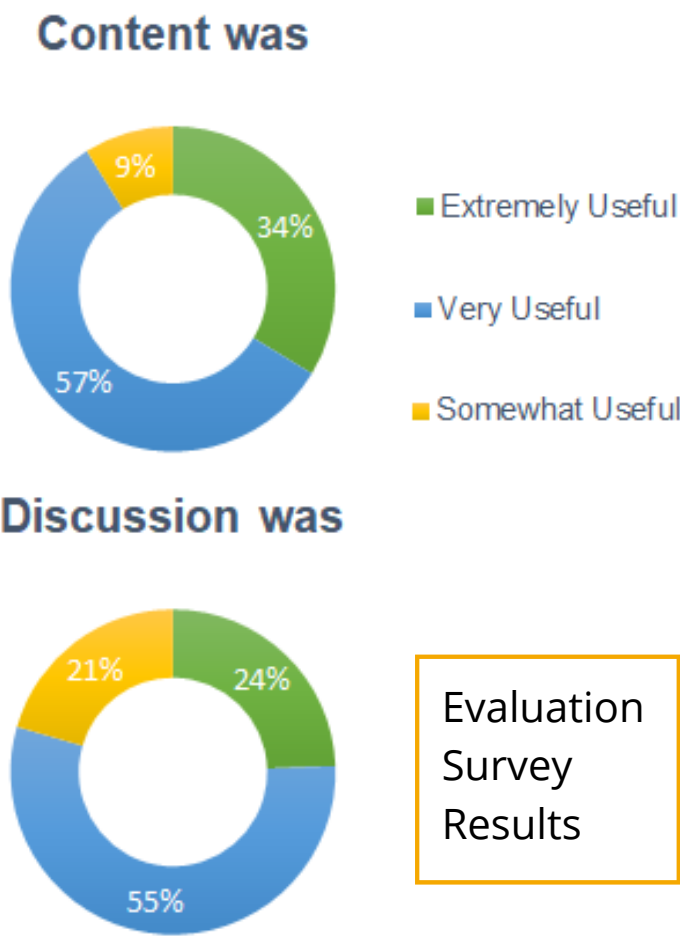


Special thanks to Jean Smart for being the Chair of the "Modernization of Clinical Trials". With the hard work from Jean, we were able to successfully hold our very first conference and it was deemed a clinical trials community success.

ASK US Series

ASK US Series is a webcast in webinar format that Clinical Trials BC runs seasonally each year with a summer hiatus. For every “episode”, we present on a hot topic question that has come from the clinical trials research community in British Columbia. We invite speakers who are experts and in senior positions to help answer the questions raised and encourage further discussion on the related topics.

2020/2021 was the very first season of ASK US Series in webcast format. We produced **5** episodes with a total participation of **6** speakers and **383** registrants to our webinars.



Comments from attendees:

“
I really appreciate 30 to 60 minutes education sessions that are easy to slot into a busy schedule.
A timely review of my existing knowledge.
Great job doing this! Loved the panel's expertise and insight to this topic. Was great having a patient partner and participant on to speak about lived their lived experience!
The webinar was very well run. I look forward to attending future webinars.
”

Season 1's Episodes

- » November 2020 - Check Your Blind Spot
Speaker: **Karen McGillivray**
- » December 2020 - Clinical Trial in a Box
Speaker: **Peter Subrt**
- » March 2021 - The Road Less Travelled
Speaker: **Tracy Wong**
- » April 2021 - Best-Practice Recommendations for Communicating Results with Clinical Trials Participants
Speakers: **Anita David & Marc Saunders**
- » May 2021 - REDCap for Clinical Trials
Speaker: **Elodie Portales-Casamar**

[Watch the recordings](#)

For the 2021/2022 season starting from September 2021, ASK US Series will come back with more speakers, useful topics, and formats such as presentations, interviews, and Q&A sessions.

ASK US SERIES
Michael Smith Health Research BC
CLINICAL TRIALS BC

Anita David

Marc Saunders

Best Practice Recommendations
for Communicating Results with Clinical Trial Participants

Date: Thursday April 22, 2021
Time: 12:00pm – 1:00pm Pacific Time
Location: Zoom Webinar

Workshops & Training

We maintained and added to our educational programs with a selection of over **30** workshops, lectures and training sessions.

These are delivered by Clinical Trials BC to BC's researchers and their teams in-person or virtually with a focus on regulatory compliance.

54 education events were delivered across the province which include:



45 Lectures



3 Workshops



5 Webcasts



1 3-day Conference



Speaking Engagement



Women's Health Research Institute (WHRI) Conference - March 3, 2021

Jean Smart and Alison Orth were invited to speak on "Representation and Engagement of Women in Clinical Trials," Moderated by Lisa Galea. This event was well attended with over **60** participants and a very engaged discussion following their presentation. More events related to this topic are planned for 2022.



Check out our current Educational Programing:

[Click here](#)



**CLINICAL TRIALS BC
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING**

Updated November 2021

Clinical Research Professional (CRP) Certification Program

We offer clinical research professionals at BC academic-based or health authority-affiliated research sites financial and resource support to become certified by the Society of Clinical Research Associates (SoCRA) or the Association of Clinical Research Professionals (ACRP).

Achieving certification demonstrates that you have met or exceeded the quality standards required in the industry and have validated your competence. Certification also demonstrates a level of professionalism and indicates a commitment to quality that is internationally recognized.

This past year we supported **10** applicants become certified, and to date, Clinical Trials BC has helped over **90** professionals to certify in British Columbia.

Feedback from the program's valued participants:

“

I highly recommend every research professional consider taking the next step to obtain certification through Clinical Trials BC certification program. The resources provided definitely made studying much easier and the partial reimbursement was motivating. Certification was most validating, but also intrinsically rewarding and a boost to my professional self-confidence. There's no better time to certify than the present. - Tara Martin

Thanks to Clinical Trials BC, I was able to take and pass the SOCRA examination in May 2021. Because of the financial support I received, I had less worry about the cost. The resources and materials available on ECoP helped a lot during my exam preparation. I especially liked the question bank. Since being certified, it helps boost my confidence in my current role as a clinical research coordinator at Fraser Health. - Siti Rahmaputri

”

“

I am grateful for the support offered by Clinical Trials BC. This program demonstrates their willingness to support research staff in professional development endeavours and facilitates training and certification in the field. - Vanessa Dizonno

Being able to participate in the Clinical Research Professional Development Exam Preparation Sessions which was hosted by Clinical Trials BC was a life changer! The learnings derived from the extensive clinical research and trials experience, and the best practices that Alison Orth and the entire team at Clinical Trials BC have imparted me have helped tremendously when I finally took and passed my SOCRA CCRP certification. Everyone at Clinical Trials BC are amazingly wonderful! I have nothing but awe and gratitude for all their kindness, dedication and support all throughout my professional research journey. Thank you all, very very much! - Program Participant

”

Congratulations to our successful participants:

Name	Designation	Name	Designation
Vanessa Dizonno	ACRP	Lovelyn Charles	ACRP
Siti Rahmaputri	SOCRA	Tracy Wong	ACRP
Tara Martin	ACRP	Barbara Allan	ACRP
Carolina Novoa	SOCRA	Evvie Fikeris	SOCRA
Michelle Mony	SOCRA	Sheena Sibug	SOCRA

Provincial Clinical Research/ Clinical Trials Job Board



Since its establishment in September 2019, our Provincial Job Board has promoted over **128** job openings to the clinical research/clinical trials community across British Columbia. A total of **36** organizations have used our job posting platform to date.

Key Highlights 2020 - 2021

			
61 Job Postings	22 Organization	6 Health Regions	over 300 Pageviews/month

From September 2020 to August 2021, 61 job openings from 22 organizations in all 5 health authority regions were posted on our website and further promoted to our networks on social media. On average, our Job Board was viewed over 300 times every month.

Most popular positions posted were: Clinical Research Coordinator, Clinical Research Associate, Data Coordinator, and Research Assistant.

Our top job posters include: UBC, BC Cancer, CHÉOS & CTN, and Fraser Health.

Check out our Job Board:

[Click here](#)



Open Opportunities

Search

Search

Island Health: Research Nurse Coordinator

Type: Part time
Location: Vancouver Island Health Region

VCHRI: Clinical Research Systems and Process Improvement Specialist

Type: Full time
Location: Vancouver Coastal Health Region

Infrastructure & Capacity Building Programs

Provincial Clinical Trial Management System (CTMS) Program

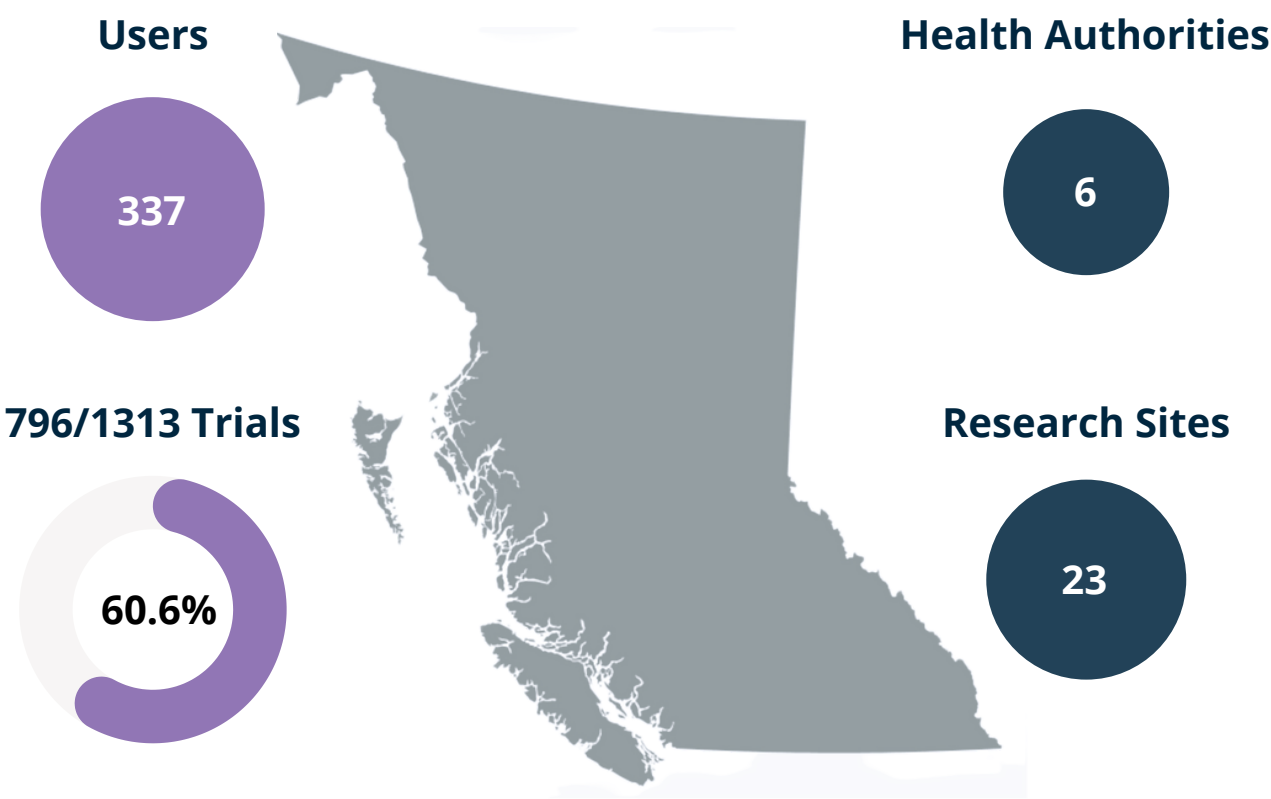
Clinical Trials BC is now one year into its commitment to provide provincial research organizations and their investigators with access to the CTMS program, which incorporates both provincially harmonized processes and cloud-based software to plan, manage, and maintain clinical trials. Over the past year we have seen excellent growth in site uptake, as well increased collaboration among the health authorities.

As we continue to expand and transition from implementation to operation, we have also begun assessing further modules to be added to the list of available tools within the CTMS program.

Additional upcoming features include automated text messaging to participants, an innovative payment system for clinical trial participants, and website integration for better connectivity between the CTMS software and our participating organizations front-facing web presence. We are currently working alongside subject-matter experts to assess the privacy, security, and legal impacts of these additional modules.

For more information on the program:

[Click here](#)



On July 22nd, we hosted our first stakeholder meeting and were delighted to find our research community already noticing the benefits of the CTMS.

Watch the recording:

[Click here](#)

Feedback from participants:

“

This is a welcomed tool for tracking revenues and expenses related to studies in the Health Authority that has been long coming, and I am very pleased to endorse it – **Health Authority VP**

Bridges the gap between clinical trials and operations. There are many wonderful advantages – **Site Manager**

Very functional. It reduces administrative burden, streamlines operations, and improves efficiency – **CTMS end-user**

”

IN PROFILE



Marc Saunders
Project Manager
Clinical Trials BC

Marc's focus as Project Manager is to manage the implementation of British Columbia's CTMS. He is responsible for driving alignment around new processes and best practices for clinical trials, and will help support sites with their implementations.

Marc previously worked with the Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute (VCHRI) where he spent several years as Community Outreach Coordinator for clinical and research education. At VCHRI, Marc became an active member of Clinical Trials BC's Clinical Trials Management System Program working group and became familiar with the program, and with the members of the team.

Marc holds a Bachelor of Science from the University of Victoria and a Masters of Biomedical Technology from the University of Calgary.



Robyn Tkatch
Project Coordinator
Clinical Trials BC

Robyn's primary role is supporting the REACH BC and CTMS Programs until March 31, 2023 and works closely with Marc Saunders - CTMS's Project Manager and Stef Cheah - REACH BC's Manager.

Robyn Tkatch spent eight years as a Clinical Research Coordinator in the fields of Cardiology and Addiction Medicine.

Prior to this, she worked as a laboratory technician, travel agent, and adventure tourism guide (kayaking, canyoning, and horseback riding).

Robyn holds a Bachelor of Science from the University of British Columbia.



REACH BC addresses a significant challenge for many clinical trials and health research projects in British Columbia, namely: patient and participant recruitment.

The platform (originally a multi-partner demonstration project of the BC SUPPORT Unit, with additional funding from BC AHSN) was developed with support from the Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute (VCHRI). This online platform bridges the gap between the province-wide patient and research communities. **The platform connects British Columbians with opportunities to participate in research and provides support for researchers in recruiting participants.**

On April 1st, REACH BC joined Health Research BC as part of the Clinical Trials BC operational unit, which allows for opportunities for complementary and strategic collaborations across the broader organization.



Dr. Robert McMaster, Executive Lead of REACH BC and Vice Dean of Research, UBC Faculty of Medicine.

“

REACH BC addressed a need that had been apparent for quite some time, and I am proud of the achievements fostered by our team.

REACH BC will continue to thrive; the platform makes the urgent connections needed between patients and researchers and is inclusive of all health research.

”

REACH BC Team

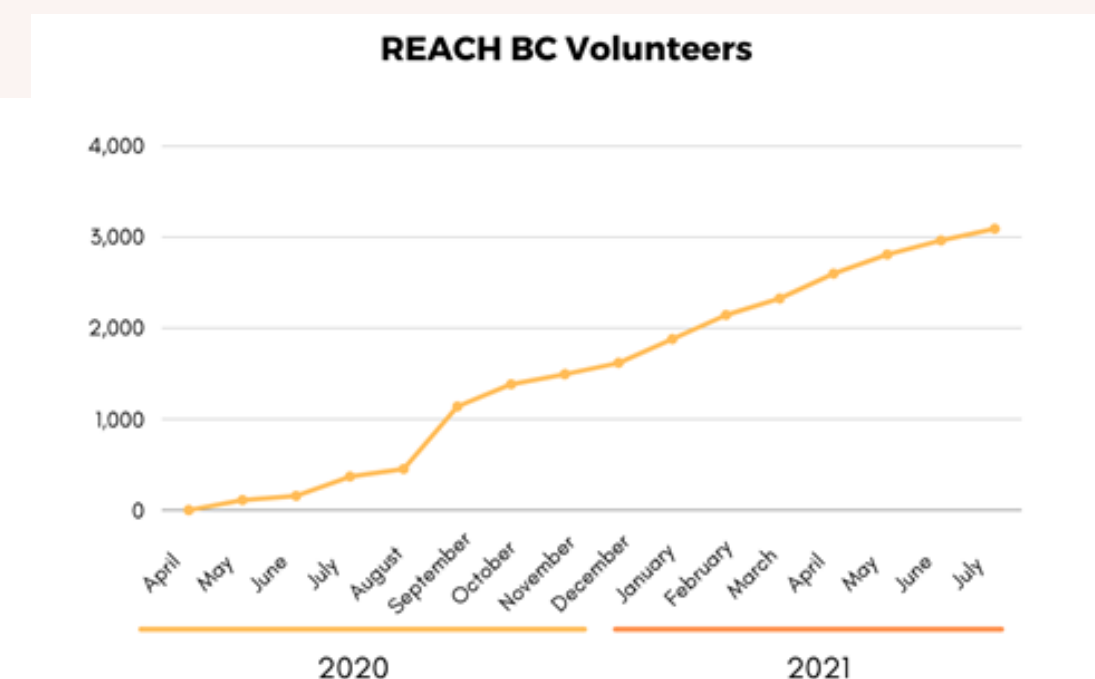
Robert McMaster serves as the Executive Lead, Alison Orth as REACH BC Director and Stefanie Cheah as REACH BC Manager. The team has been growing rapidly, with a new Project Coordinator, Robyn Tkatch, and Marketing and Communications Specialist, Aisling Quigley - who will be leading the marketing and communication activities. A REACH BC provincial advisory committee was formed, with members from the health authorities, universities, patient partners, along with other key stakeholders.

View more information about our team & Advisory Committee members

[Click here](#)

Key Highlights

There are over **3,000** Volunteers signed up in REACH BC and over **1,400** connections have already been made between researchers and volunteers interested in their research projects.



REACHBC & COVID-19

The BC Centre for Disease Control and REACH BC co-developed the 'BCCDC COVID-19 Consent to Contact Registry' with over **50,000** individuals with COVID-19. REACH BC is part of the provincial COVID-19 Clinical Research Coordination Initiative, supporting communication of COVID-19 health research projects and has focused on creating awareness of COVID-19 research through posters at COVID-19 vaccine and test sites across the province.

REACH BC has also partnered with the BC SUPPORT Unit to develop the Patient-Oriented Research (POR) Registry that will be housed on REACH BC. The POR Registry is a patient partner-initiated project aimed at showcasing POR projects as well as the organizations who conduct and support the projects in BC.

Learn more about REACH BC:

[Click here](#)

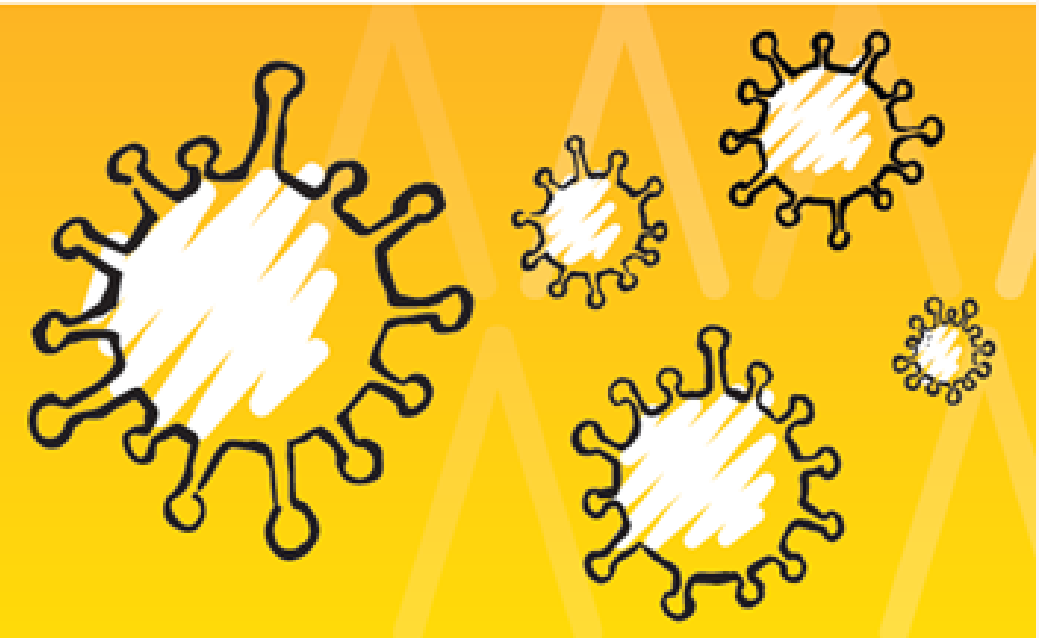
“

Being able to take part in some of these studies has been one of the best 'antidotes' for COVID-19 anxiety I've found yet, and it is wonderful to have a chance to contribute in ways that hopefully will end up making things better for some people. - REACH BC Volunteer, Nanaimo, BC

”

Help fight COVID-19

Participate in COVID-19 research



You can be the key to the next discovery in COVID-19 treatments and vaccines.

REACHBC
An online platform connecting you to health research in BC.

Volunteer and sign up today!
www.REACHBC.ca
info@reachbc.ca

IN PROFILE



Stef Cheah
Manager
REACH BC

Stefanie is part of the Clinical Trials BC in a part time role as the manager of the REACH BC, the recently launched online platform that connects British Columbians with health research projects such as clinical trials and patient partner research opportunities.

In her previous role, Stefanie was at the Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute, where as project manager, she led the BC Health Research Connection demonstration project team that designed and developed the REACH BC platform.

As REACH BC Manager, she oversees REACH BC operations, outcomes and evaluation activities,

and further engage provincial stakeholders to support recruitment into health research studies and trials, and engagement of patient partners in patient-oriented research.

Stefanie is a MSc graduate from University of British Columbia and designated Project Management Professional bringing over 10 years' experience in project management, specializing in health research and education-related projects.



Aisling Quigley
Marketing &
Communications
Specialist, REACH BC

Aisling is REACH BC's Marketing and Communications Specialist. She's responsible for REACH BC's marketing and communications activities, and will work with key partners and stakeholders on opportunities to increase engagement and promote the online platform.

Aisling was born and raised in Ireland and has lived in Vancouver since 2015. She has over 15 years of experience working in Marketing and Communications across a broad sector of industries including Television and Radio Media, the Arts, International Charities, and not for profits.

Aisling believes in the power of storytelling as the most effective Marketing tool a company can use in connecting with its audience. She brings with her a wealth of experience in building brand profiles, in a simple, concise, and effective way.

Quality Development Program

Clinical Trials BC offers a Quality Management Leadership Program and Quality Management System Program in its Overall Quality Portfolio. These two programs focus not only on quality, but also the way to achieve it. Quality management uses quality assurance and quality processes to direct, control, and coordinate quality to achieve consistency and compliance with the regulations. These activities include: formulating policy, setting the objectives, planning quality development, implementing quality systems, and conducting quality assurance evaluations. Quality is implemented and maintained using a quality management system or systems which are closely tied to Risk Management.

Our quality program is focused on building a culture of quality and community in clinical research. Quality has long been a mandatory requirement in the lifecycle of all therapeutic products and is incorporated into regulations and law within all health authorities globally. Quality in clinical trials and surveillance has recently been reinforced in the Good Clinical Practice Modernization initiatives.

Locally, the provincial and regional health authorities and universities are involved in our Quality program. Support provided by Clinical Trials BC included quality management leadership training, institutional/program/center assessment, development planning, implementation training and a support of an informal quality community forum which meets monthly.

Learn more about our Quality Development & Regulation Program:

[Click here](#)



We also provide open hours for general consultation on Wednesday mornings. This open forum has been popular. Programs or centers in the earlier development phase met with Clinical Trials BC two to three times monthly for detailed training in alignment with their quality development plans. We met with the advancing groups monthly for ongoing development and mentorship meetings.

QMS program was updated in 2021 in readiness for a January 2022 launch and release.

QMS Leadership Course (QLC) is in final preparations for a planned January to April 2022 Series launch.



Audit & Inspection Preparedness Program (AIPP)

The Audit and Inspection Preparedness Program is now in its 8th year. It promotes regulatory compliance through education from the lens of inspection. It promotes early planning and readiness to research teams for sponsor audits and both domestic and foreign inspections. The AIPP which includes a baseline 6 module-12 session course and resources was updated this year to version 8. This year, we conducted **7** full audit preparation sessions and consults.

A new 7th module, The AIPP Refresher was added to the program this year. The new module includes virtual and hybrid inspection processes. The new module was piloted in April 2021 and launched in the Fall 2021.

“The AIPP promotes an ALWAYS AUDIT READY preparedness status - **Jean Smart**”

Briefs & Guidance Documents

ASK JEAN

- [Fall 2020](#) - Clinical Trial Application Default Period Order
- [Winter 2021](#) - What is the ICH Innovation?
- [Spring 2021](#) - Pharmacy Records in Clinical Trials - Drug Accountability Records

Formal Regulatory Consulting & Guidance Program

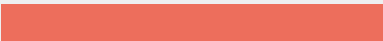
Consults

We conducted **110** formal regulatory consultations for sites, qualified investigators and sponsors involved in or planning for trials in BC. Consults cover trials in strategic planning, development, in progress or archiving stages across all therapeutic areas: radiopharmaceuticals, pharmaceuticals, biologics, medical device, NNHP's, and combination or advanced therapeutic products.

We are focused on Phase 1- 4 domestic, international, coordinating centers or Multi-regional Clinical Trials involving BC and these are generally more complex in nature. This past year, the largest users are academic centers/programs and the health authorities although there is increasing interest from the community. There was a notable shift in consults during the early months of the year where many trials were restarted or resumed development after COVID-19 related pauses or closures.

Regulatory & Quality Articles

- [Fall 2020](#) – Clinical Trials Storyboards
- [Winter 2021](#) – Critical to Quality Factors
- [Spring 2021](#) – Quality & Risk Management in Clinical Trials: The Next Wave



Building Capacity & Promoting BC



Why BC

To better promote British Columbia to clinical trial sponsors, contract research organizations, and clinical trial networks looking to place new trials, we refreshed our “BC Showcase” Website which was launched in 2015.

This site has been refreshed and rebranded with a new name and URL.

www.clinicaltrialsbc.ca/whybc/

This new and improved site launched in early January 2021 and includes the following updated features:

- News stories of BC based investigator, sites, or trial successes
- Rotating featured profiles
- Link to the BC assets filtered from the Canadian Clinical Trial Asset Map
- Up to date search of current clinical trials in British Columbia

And much more...

Please contact Marc Saunders - our Project Manager to talk about how we can showcase your group.

Why Bring Your Clinical Trial to British Columbia?

British Columbia offers a world-class collaborative network for conducting clinical trials.

Our population diversity and clinical trial expertise make BC a premier location for your next trial.

LEARN MORE

Our vision is to create a robust, self-sustaining health research community on and around Vancouver Island, playing an essential role in the delivery of health services, and improving health status and care for the populations we serve.

LEARN MORE

Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute
Healthier lives through discovery.

LEARN MORE

Department of Evaluation and Research Services – Fraser Health
Fostering a culture of curiosity in a climate of spirited scientific inquiry.

LEARN MORE

Providence Research
We're all in.

LEARN MORE

Why BC?

PATIENTS

A provincial recruitment system (REACH BC) and established provincial-wide patient-oriented research infrastructure help you support meaningful patient engagement, reach recruitment goals and enable your patient-centric trial (BC SUPPORT Unit).

ETHICS

Harmonized research ethics reviews of studies conducted in multiple geographic areas involving the resources, people, patients or data from more than one BC research institution (Research Ethics BC), internationally recognized guidance (TCPS2).

CLINICAL TRIAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Provincial CTMS infrastructure allows sites to manage complex studies effectively, support Multi-Regional Clinical Trials (MRCTs) and house electronic essential documents (TMF/ISF) for regulatory compliance.

EXPERTISE

World-class clinical trial investigators and globally certified coordinators who conduct over 1300 trials every year.

QUALITY

Provincial QMS and risk management programs support continuous quality improvement, promote regulatory compliance and foster a quality culture.

SUPPORT

Clinical research hubs within each health region or research institute provide clinical trial infrastructure and support at the local level. They are connected and coordinated across the province.

Navigation & Liaison

Clinical Trials BC has always worked hard to connect the various stakeholders within the BC clinical trials landscape. Recently, we have increased our efforts to expand this network to better support both our research teams and the greater clinical trial community.

By working directly with research teams at both health authorities and academic institutions, as well as clinical trial sponsors and clinical research organizations, we strive to better understand their unique sets of needs and capacities.

This also helps us develop more meaningful relationships and paired with the use of various tools like the Canadian Clinical Trials Asset Map, allows for a more targeted approach to facilitate highly impactful connections.

Our efforts included:

11

Clinical Trial Conduct
Consults & Requests for Support

22

Navigation of BC landscape and resources,
including government requests for information

49

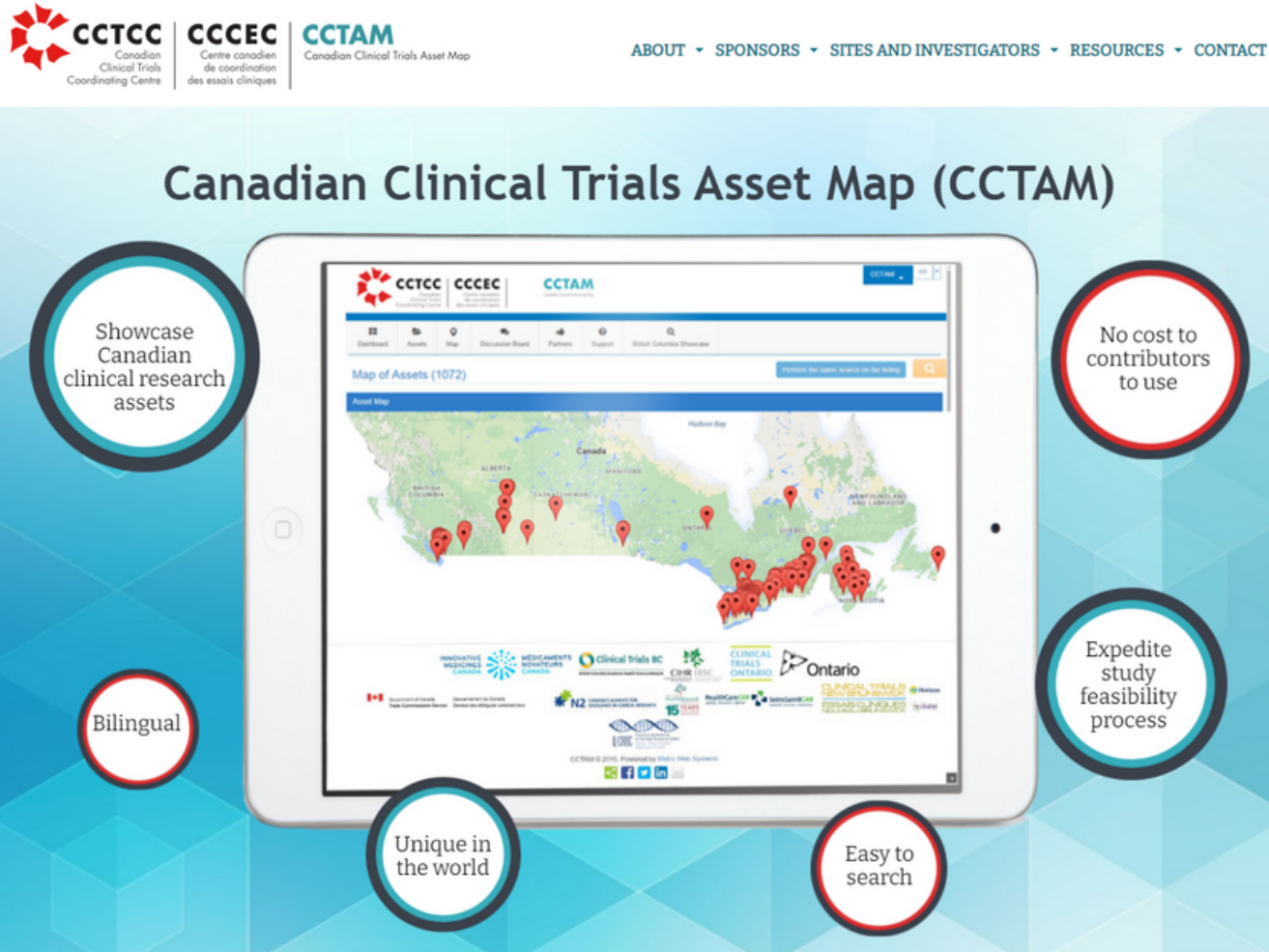
Industry/Site/Investigator Liaison (including identification of sites and QIs
for funded trials and meeting with clinical trial service providers)

15

Patient Engagement and Participant
Recruitment in Clinical Trials

45

Mentoring/Career Development/Staff
Recruitment



Visit the Canadian Clinical Trials Asset Map:

[Click here](#)



Life Sciences BC Showcase Series



The LSBC Showcase Series presents a unique opportunity for attendees to learn more about the cutting-edge research and development in regional health science and innovation hubs outside of Vancouver. Each year Clinical Trials BC invites guests to speak about their clinical trial or program as part of the virtual talks.

This year's attendees for the Showcase Series were from diverse stakeholders, including academics, life sciences organizations and companies, government, and health care professionals. The series attracted **369** attendees in total to the events. We received great feedback from all attendees who enjoyed listening to the presentations and participating in the Q and A sessions.

Clinical Trials BC supported speakers were:

Prince George



October 29, 2020
"Research Capacity & Infrastructure Building in Northern BC"

Dr. Julia Bickford, Regional Director, Research Evaluation and Analytics - Northern Health

Kelowna



November 19, 2020
"From Fringe to Focal: The impact of Clinical Research at Interior Health"

Dr. Devin Harris, Executive Medical Director, Quality and Patient Safety – Interior Health

Surrey



December 8, 2020
"Research in the time of COVID-19: Trials, tribulations and silver linings at a tertiary care site"

Dr. Christopher Condin, Leader, Clinical Research – Fraser Health

Vancouver Island



March 11, 2021
"Critical Care Medicine Research Program at Island Health"

Dr. Gordon Wood, Anesthesiologist & Critical Care Medicine Specialist - Island Health



Supported Provincial Resources & Memberships

Network of Networks (N2)



Since 2017 Clinical Trials BC has managed and funded a provincial membership to the national clinical research organization Network of Networks (N2). With financial support from the BC SUPPORT Unit and Research Ethics BC, we facilitated membership for 20 academic and health authority research institutions and 12 community investigators across BC this year.

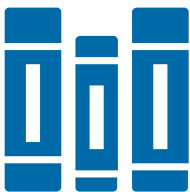
Tools and resources available through N2 membership include education via CITI-Canada, including Good Clinical Practice, Responsible Conduct of Research, Transportation of Dangerous Goods, and Health Canada Division 5. The membership also provides each group with Standard Operating Procedures to support clinical trial regulatory compliance, quality tools, resources to educate patients and the public about clinical research and more.

9,537 registered users in BC completed a total of 3,052 courses this year under our provincial membership. An increase of 2,207 learners over the previous year.

95% of organization administrators in BC found this membership extremely or very valuable in supporting their clinical researchers.



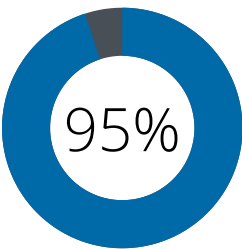
9,537
Registered Users



3,502
Courses Completed



20
Institutions



Found this extremely
or very valuable

The top five users this year were:



Stephania Manusha, Director, Clinical Research at Vancouver Coastal

- 1. University of British Columbia
- 2. BC Cancer Research
- 3. BC Children's Hospital Research
- 4. Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute
- 5. Island Health



The educational resources from N2 are invaluable. Also, over the years, VCHRI team members have had the opportunity to join N2 Committees. Currently, our Clinical Research Quality Assurance Specialist is part of the N2 Quality Committee and finds it of tremendous value to relate to research quality professionals across Canada.



ACRP Learning Management System (LMS)



We continued to maintain an organizational license to the ACRP (Association of Clinical Research Professionals) learning management system.

This program offers learners working at clinical research sites in BC a suite of e-learning courses developed by ACRP. The lessons include a wide variety of training topics on essential components of quality clinical research with varying intensity levels appropriate for the topics being addressed. Our Education Coordinator makes this collection of 24 courses available quickly and efficiently to ensure clinical research teams have the training they need to conduct responsible Research, minimize risk, and increase efficiency and effectiveness. All courses were developed using modern adult learning principles proven to be effective in enhancing performance.

New courses this year include:

- Introduction to Clinical Trials
- eResearch: Managing Clinical Trials in a Tech-Driven Environment
- Informed Consent Simulation

Whether you are new to clinical trials or have been conducting them for years, there are topics of interest to everyone to support continued professional development and education.

107 courses were completed by **21** active users this year. To date, we have supported over 320 users.

ACRP Partner in Workforce Advancement (PWA)



Clinical Trials BC is a partner with ACRP in Workforce Advancement. We continued to support and participate in the PWA Initiative this year. The goal of the PWA is to expand, enhance, and gain industry alignment on the growth, quality, professionalism, diversity, and sustainability of the clinical research workforce.

Today, the demand for clinical research professionals remains, and is heightened by a need for increased diversity in clinical research—both in study staff and trial participants. To grow and diversify the workforce, ACRP’s Partners in Workforce Advancement™ has launched ‘Find Your Element’—a digital advertising campaign to raise awareness of the clinical research profession among a diverse population of college students.

ACRP Partners in Workforce Advancement: Grow & Diversify the Workforce

[Read the article](#)

The PWA has developed workforce standards to improve quality and respond to changes occurring in the clinical research enterprise. There are several Competency Guidelines & Resources that are now offered free of charge.

ACRP Partners in Workforce Advancement: Define, Align & Validate Competence Standards

[Read the article](#)

Clinical Trials BC Awards 2021

Clinical Trials BC has two awards: the Leadership in Clinical Trials Award, and the Clinical Trials BC Service/Support Award. In 2021, Clinical Trials BC presented two significant awards in the second category of Support/Service for notable achievements.



The Clinical Trials BC Support Award

The Support Award recognizes the community-based, volunteer commitment of an individual, organization, company or agency to improve the research and clinical trials community. The qualifications for this award include criteria associated with Achievement, Support and Leadership of Research and the clinical trials Community. The recipient of this award has shown: significant positive impact in the research and clinical trials community through their support activities, exemplary leadership, an active and impactful participation in or to foster the research community through volunteerism or support contributions that have benefited the research community.

FASKEN



The recipient made a notable contribution to the professional development and ongoing education of research team professionals in this province and in many forums, in many areas. They have provided a forum for clinical research professionals to meet, share ideas, develop partnerships, and keep abreast of the changing regulatory and legal environment. This was noted as being exceptionally significant as Canada and the world embark upon the modernization and renovation of the clinical trial platform.

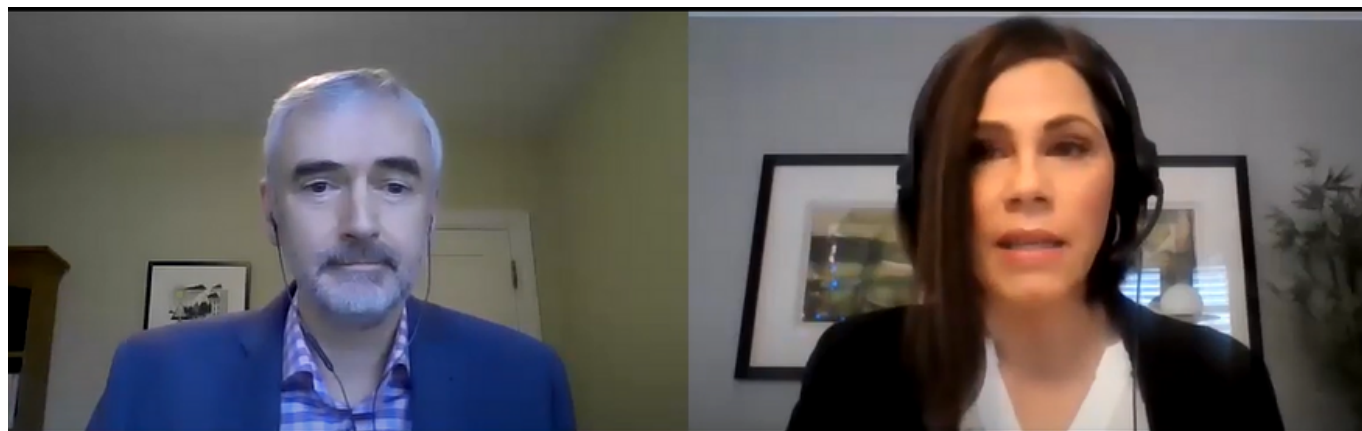
The award went to **FASKEN**. Will Westeringh, QC - Managing Partner, Fasken and Roger Kuypers - Senior Partner, Life Sciences Group, Fasken accepted the award on behalf of the law firm.

Clinical Trials BC Awards 2021

The Clinical Trials BC Service Award

Clinical Trials BC Service Award recognizes the community-based, volunteer commitment of an individual, organization, company, or agency to improve the research and clinical trials community.

The qualifications for this award include similar criteria associated with the support award with a notable Achievement and Service to the Clinical trials and Research Community. The recipient of this award made a significant contribution to the advancement of the clinical trials through activities that addressed challenges within the area and have inspired and mentored the next generation of clinical research teams and professionals. The Service award went to an organization and marked 25 years of Service to the Research and Clinical Trials Community.



View the recording of the Awards

[Click here](#)

CRPBC

Clinical Research Professionals of BC



We were exceptionally pleased to present the award to: The Clinical Research Professionals of British Columbia, known more commonly as 'CRPBC'. Judy Needham, Aleksandra Kuzmanovic, and Marija Bucevska of the CRPBC Executive Committee accepted the award on behalf of the organization.

“

We are very proud to have bestowed these awards on two very deserving groups. Both organizations have made such an impact on the clinical trials and research community over the past 25 years. - **Stirling Bryan, Chief Scientific Officer, Michael Smith Health Research BC**

The awards recognize two organizations that have been exceptional as British Columbia and more widely, Canada, embarks upon the modernization and renovation of the clinical trial platform. - **Alison Orth, Unit Director, Clinical Trials BC**

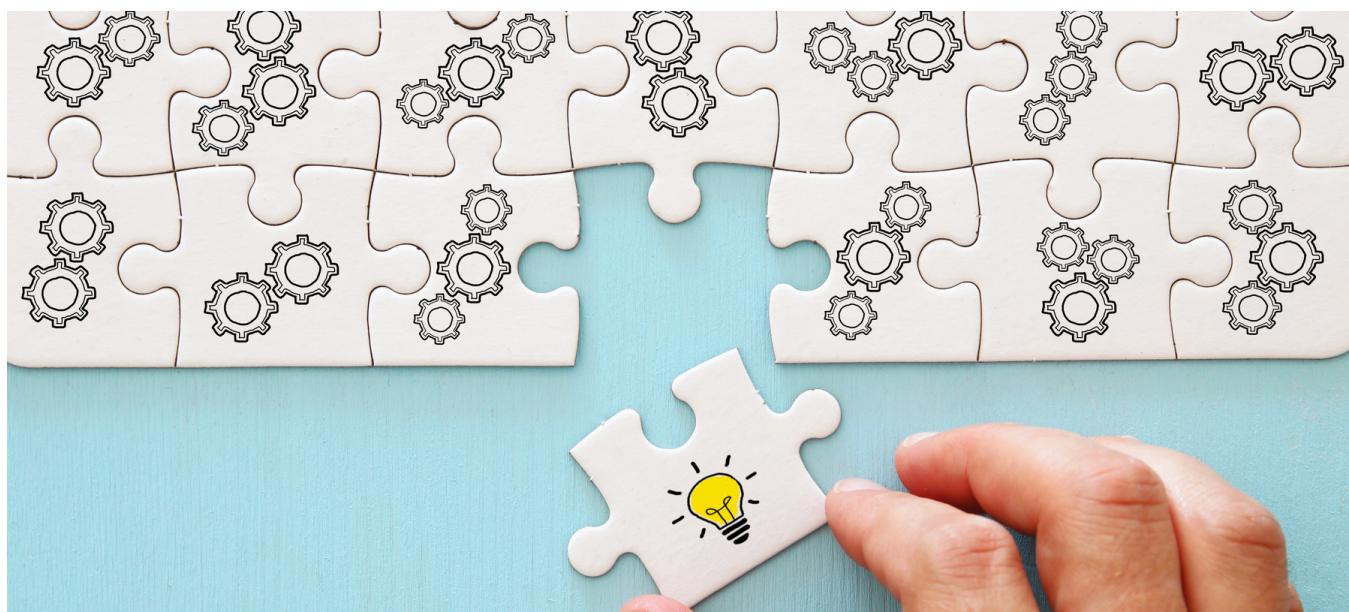
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External Regulatory & Leadership Participation

Clinical Trials BC is involved in national and international regulatory leadership activities and is representative of the province within the global regulatory environment.

This year we participated in **101** meetings to contribute to the governance and policy that is currently changing the regulatory environment and various pan-Canadian initiatives to enable clinical trials. We also participated in two formal regulatory consultations and are members of two expert working groups.

These groups include the Canadian Clinical Trials Coordinating Centre, Network of Networks' Clinical Trial Education and Awareness Committee, the Association of Clinical Research Professionals, CRINi, RCC, ICH, EWG, Health Canada.



Santé
Canada

Health
Canada

In July 2021, we contributed a response paper and completed a survey to the nation-wide consultation for the first phase of renovation of the Canadian clinical trial regulations and regulatory process currently underway.

The contributions made from all stakeholders across the country will better inform Health Canada's decision-making concerning outstanding proposed regulatory, policy, and program considerations for each applicable product line.

If you would like to catch up on this exciting Health Canada initiative, read the consultation paper - **Clinical Trials Modernization: Consultation Paper**

[Click here](#)

Clinical Trial Site Managers Community

In response to a need identified in our discussions with health authority-based clinical trial site managers across BC, in March, we began hosting a virtual monthly meeting to create a space for open dialogue, sharing and learning. Recurring topics include contracts, job descriptions, staff recruitment and training. To join, please get in touch with Alison directly.

IN PROFILE



Brianna Stowell
Administrative Assistant,
Clinical Trials BC

Brianna Stowell supports the work of Clinical Trials BC and Research Ethics BC. In one of her most recent roles, she worked for a Food Clinical Trial Company in Ireland.

In her personal time, she enjoys yoga, crafting/DIY projects and spending time with family and travelling.

Brianna is currently on leave and will be back to her role in 2023



Rishi Sahni
Administrative Assistant,
Clinical Trials BC

Rishi is a criminology and political science graduate. He's spent most of his life working in the legal sector, but given the events of the past two years, he's wanted to move into health care and research and find ways to assist people in getting the best health care services possible, and he couldn't think of a better organization to be a part of than the Michael Smith Health Research BC!

In his current role, Rishi is working within Clinical Trials BC, Research Ethics BC and the BC SUPPORT Unit. His tasks include scheduling meetings, taking minutes, agenda setting, managing Advisory Council membership, overseeing payments to council members and patient members and more. He loves working across 3 units as it allows me to learn more, diversify my tasks, and create relationships with a variety of people.

Enhancing the Clinical Research Experience

Communication of Study Results Toolkit

In 2018, Clinical Trials BC completed the Canadian Clinical Research Participation Survey, a national project that asked participants about their experiences taking part in clinical trials. The survey showed that many participants were left with unanswered questions both during and at the end of the research study. In particular, we found that many participants would have liked to know the results of their study and what was learned.

In response, Clinical Trials BC formed a provincial working group of trial participants, researchers, ethics administrators, and decision makers. This working group held monthly meetings to develop recommendations for communication practices to improve the experiences of participants taking part in clinical trials. These recommendations formed the foundation of the Study Results Resource Toolkit, which is now available to the public as well as the research community.

Some of the resources found in the Toolkit include:

- A promotional video explaining the importance of our findings
- A one-pager about the toolkit for circulation around various networks
- The Best Practice Recommendation document in full
- Various templates, including a thank you card, information postcard, and slide deck for education and awareness

This year, **Clinical Trials BC** and the working group members created a resource page to host the toolkit, added more tools and increased promotion to improvement awareness in the research community. We also partnered with **Clinical Trials Ontario** to co-develop a lay summary template and thank you template for inclusion in our toolkit and their participant experience toolkit. This work included creating and participating in joint key stakeholder events and working groups to inform the template development, publication, and promotion.

To further promote the new toolkit, working group members patient partner Anita David and Clinical Trials BC Project Manager Marc Saunders presented the Best Practice Recommendations for Communicating Results with Clinical Trials Participants webinar.



View the Webinar's recording:

[Click here](#)

Featured as part of the Clinical Trials BC Ask Us series and hosted by Unit Director Alison Orth, the webinar attracted **124** attendees. In a post-event survey, approximately **85%** of attendees found that the content was extremely or very useful. Here are what some of them had to say:

I learned about new and interesting ways to engage participants and how to best share information with them. I never knew there was such a substantial gap when disseminating study results to individuals. - Event Participant

I really enjoyed the presentation and it provided me with very practical ideas for how to improve my communication with study participants. The toolkit is great and should make implementation of new communications simple. - Event Participant

Other attendees noted that the webinar content was valuable, and addressed a topic that is growing in importance. Our dedicated webpage, which includes links to the webinar recording and study results toolkit materials, has been viewed more than **500** times.

Learn more about the toolkit:

[Click here](#)

Patient Engagement in Clinical Trials Community of Practice

At the Clinical Trials BC Conference's Patient Engagement Lunch Bite session, Alison Orth committed to form a community of practice (COP) to continue learnings, dialogue and exploration focusing on patients and the public engaging in a clinical trial as partners rather than participants.

Starting in February, the COP held their first meeting and have continued them every second Tuesday of the month. There are currently **18** members from across BC, including investigators, patients, research coordinators, patient engagement specialists and research institute leaders. With a rotating volunteer Chair model, we welcome anyone to join this informal group to explore and learn from shared real-world practices, publications, or guest speakers.



Webinar: Co-Designing Clinical Trials with Patients



The group kicked off with a fantastic talk by COP member and Co-lead of the BC SUPPORT Unit Health Economics and Simulation Methods Cluster, Nick Bansback, and his colleague Mark Harrison. They spoke to us about their work in methods to co-design clinical trials with patients.

View the recording of this session:

[Click here](#)

IN PROFILE



Alison Orth

Unit Director, Clinical Trials BC
Program Director, REACH BC

Alison is a health research leader committed to quality, integrity, patient engagement and continuous improvement. She has over 25 years of experience leading health research teams at community, academic and hospital sites in public and private organizations.

Since her early days as a research assistant at BC Children's Hospital, Alison has facilitated over 80 industry and grant-funded research and evaluation studies. Prior to Clinical Trials BC, Alison's previous roles include vice president of TASC Research Services and clinical research leader at Fraser Health.

Recently Alison led a national initiative to engage research participants about their clinical research experience to enhance patient and public participation in trials and improve their overall experience as a participant.

Alison holds a business degree from Simon Fraser University and is an ACRP certified clinical research professional. She currently serves on several provincial and national committees dedicated to supporting the advancement of and engagement in clinical trials. She is a board director of the Canadian Clinical Trials Coordinating Centre and the Peace Arch Hospice Society.

SPORcast - Stronger Together

SPORcast, which is a patient-oriented research focused podcast, and the BC SUPPORT Unit partnered up to produce a podcast series to address questions related to COVID-19, shape opportunities, and discuss the impacts of the pandemic on our work and lives. The podcast series featured conversations with Stirling Bryan, Danielle Lavallee, Terri Fleming, and Alison Orth from the former BC AHSN, André Picard from the Globe and Mail, Stefanie Cheah from Reach BC, and more.

In episode 16, Alison shared the impact of COVID on clinical trials and where patients can play stewardship roles in patient-oriented research within the Clinical Trial environment.

Stronger Together:

Adapting Patient-Oriented Research during COVID-19

Episode # 16:

**Alison Orth of
Clinical Trials BC**



[View the recording](#)

International Clinical Trials Day 2021

Clinical Trials BC Celebrates International Clinical Trials Day on May 20 every year to celebrate to mark James Lind's first controlled clinical trial using citrus fruit on a group of sailors suffering from scurvy.

This year, Clinical Trials BC gave recognition to what were the Largest Clinical Trials Ever Conducted. A feature article/special news release which spotlighted the development of the polio vaccine that led to the largest Phase III and Phase IV clinical trials ever conducted. These trials set the stage for successful global immunization programs and influenced our modern-day vaccine successes. Canada played a huge part in the development and conduct of these trials and the related research which is now supported by Rotary International and the World Health Organization



Happy International Clinical Trials Day 2021

[Read the article](#)



Nurse with a Toronto Telegram newspaper reporting the April 12, 1955 results of the Salk polio vaccine field trial; the man affected by polio is using a portable respirator. Photo credit: March of Dimes Canada Archives via the Canadian Encyclopedia.

“

Clinical Trials BC would like to thank and celebrate the success of clinical trials and the vaccination programs with the researchers, lab personnel, research techs, regulatory personnel and reviewers, qualified investigators, clinical trials research teams, pharmaceutical companies, and a host of dedicated volunteers from organizations determined to immunize the world. - Clinical Trials BC Team

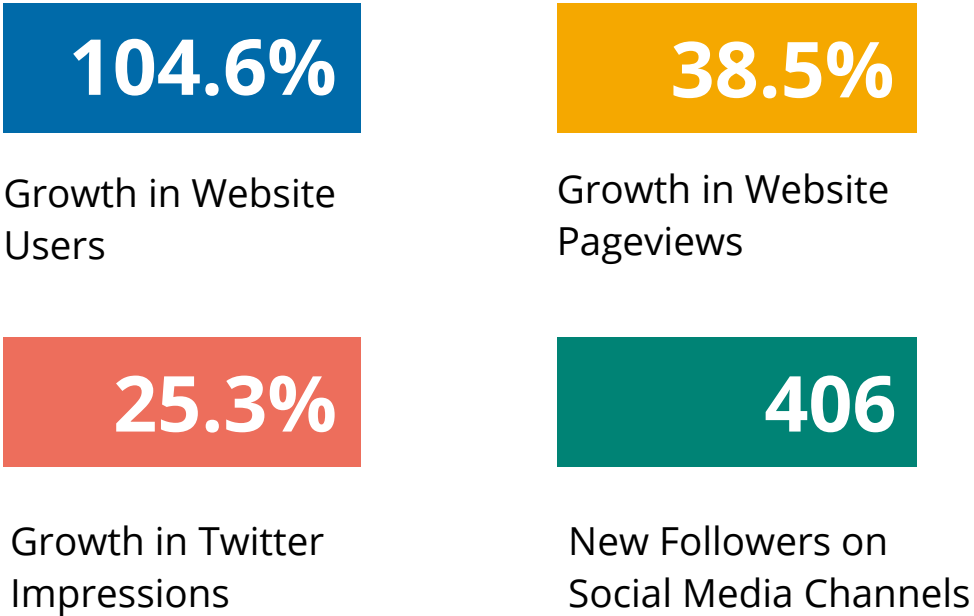
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Communications

The optimization of communications activities to our internal and external stakeholders continued to be a focus of our Unit. Last year, with our collaborative efforts, we successfully completed a major project to integrate individual websites of Clinical Trials BC, BC SUPPORT Unit, and Research Ethics BC into a single website under the BC Academic Health Science Network's domain.

At the same time, we broadened our reach on social media channels by sharing our updates, promoting upcoming events and job opportunities, and amplifying important messages which are of interest of the clinical research and clinical trials communities.

Key achievements are:



Clinical Trials BC Chronicle - Quarterly Newsletter

In order to keep our stakeholders up to date with our Unit's activities, events, key updates on our programs and initiatives, we publish our Unit's newsletters quarterly.

We have new issues in Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter, and some special editions throughout the year. Check out our past issues below.



View our 2020 - 2021 Clinical Trials BC Chronicle's Past Issues:

Fall 2020

[Click here](#)

Winter 2021

[Click here](#)

Spring 2021

[Click here](#)

IN PROFILE



Nhan Do

Education & Communications Coordinator, Clinical Trials BC

Nhan has a combination of over 4 years' experience in Communications, Marketing, Events, and Customer Service. In his previous roles as a Communication Coordinator, Nhan took responsibilities in enhancing engagement between company's internal and external stakeholders,

improving brand's positioning, and developing international business partnerships. In addition, experience working in Customer Service also allows him to sharpen his effective communication, understanding clients' needs, and customer care skills.

Through these experiences, Nhan believes that building good communication strategies on suitable mediums is fundamental to foster effective information exchange between organization's stakeholders. Moreover, he also emphasizes the importance of communications in making the benefits of clinical trials and health science research more sensible to the public.

Nhan holds a bachelor degree in Professional Communication at Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology and a bachelor degree in Hospitality and Tourism Management at Fairleigh Dickinson University. Besides, he is also a recipient of Provost's Scholarship program and included in the Honor's List upon his graduation.

Our Social Media Channels

Clinical Trials BC is on social media channels which include: Twitter and LinkedIn. Follow us to get latest updates about our Unit, activities, upcoming events, educational programs, and career opportunities.



COVID-19 Response

BC COVID-19 Clinical Trials Network

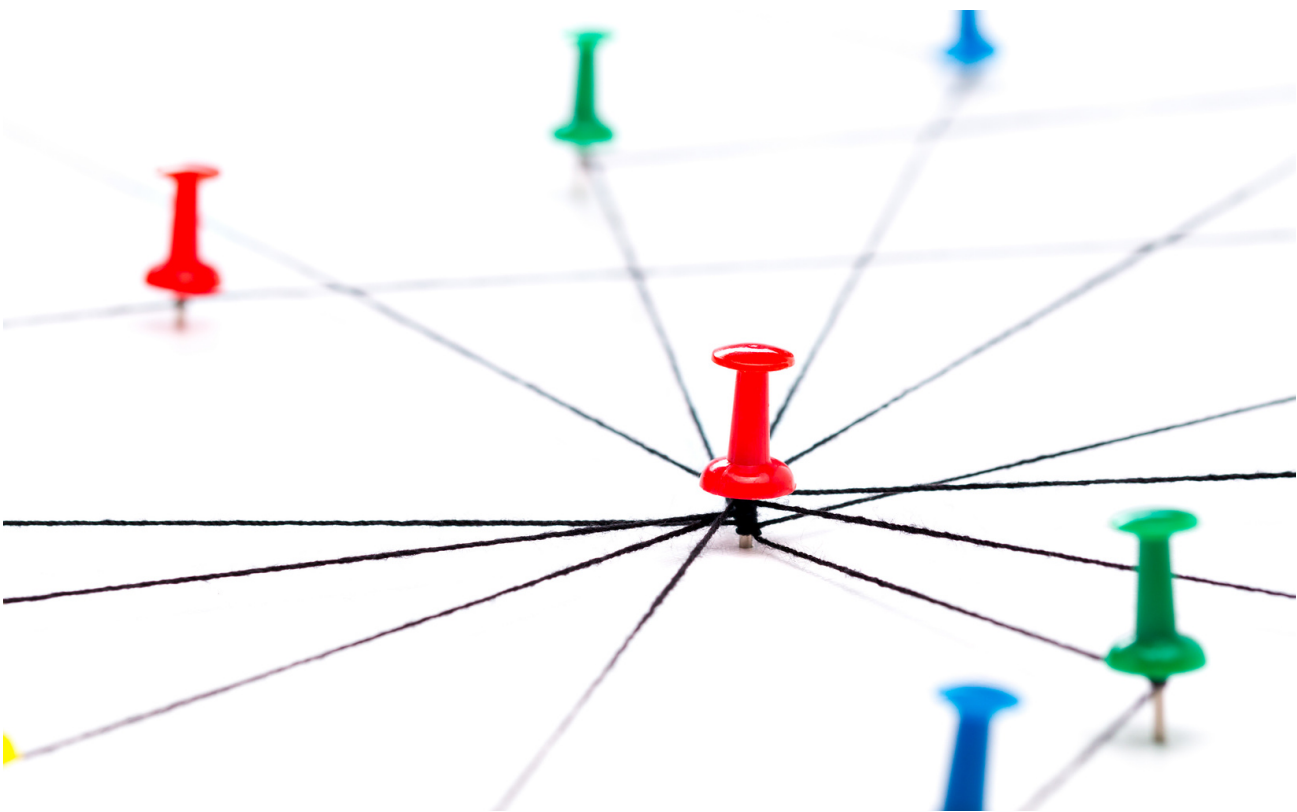
As the clinical trial community in British Columbia mobilized in anticipation of COVID-19 trials, members expressed a strong need for a mechanism to enable increased communications and learnings to support their coordinated approach. Clinical Trials BC responded in March 2020 by hosting regular meetings and distributing a variety of communications to their informal network of over **160** members.

Members include investigators, coordinators and other clinical research professionals, research pharmacists, laboratory and biobank teams, industry and contract research organization personnel, patient and public partners, research ethics administrators, communications and knowledge translation leads, research funders, other partner organizations and the Ministry of Health.

This year we saw a decrease in members' capacity to attend meetings and fewer COVID-19 trials being initiated overall. As a result, we reduced the meeting frequency to quarterly. We also saw an increase in resources for obtaining information and hearing from colleagues. In addition to rapid-fire updates from clinical trial investigators and regulatory updates from Jean Smart, Clinical Trials BC contributed to the BC COVID-19 Clinical Trials Network by inviting speakers to present on related topics this year such as:

BC COVID-19 Clinical Trials Network

- » **Embedding RCTs as part of a learning health system** - Dr. Srinivas Murthy, BC Children's/UBC
- » **Technology for COVID-19 Trials** - Dr. Bruce Forde, President & CEO, Cambian
- » **Plain Language Guide** - Amber Hui, BC SUPPORT Unit
- » **E Consent and E Signature Practices** - Andrea Cameron, Island Health
- » **COVID-19 Research Inventory** – Terri Fleming, Unit Director, Research Ethics BC
- » **REACH BC for COVID-19** – Stef Cheah



COVID-19 Regulatory Response Page

This informative page kept research teams abreast of the latest developments in treatments and vaccines and regulatory impact for compliance at the height of the changes.

COVID-19 Clinical Research Coordination Initiative (CRCI)

The COVID-19 Clinical Research Coordination Initiative (CRCI) is a province-wide program aimed at creating innovative health systems and structures capable of capturing and collating collective input and feedback to enable the prioritization and coordination of COVID-19 translational research.

A CRCI Clinical Research Working Group was formed to provide expertise and leadership in coordinating, prioritizing, and implementing COVID-19 clinical studies in BC. The working group also drives initiatives to accelerate research for COVID-19 treatments and vaccines, such as harmonizing research ethics, privacy, and contract processes for clinical trials in the province. The working group membership comprises clinicians, scientists, research directors, administrators, and patient partners from BC's regional health authorities.

Clinical Trials BC is a member of the working group and continues to attend bi-monthly meetings and support the activities, with a focus on the following:

- Contributed to the development and content of the Research is the Care document
- Identified sites with capacity and interest for COVID-19 trials and facilitated introductions between industry sponsors and investigators/sites
- Participated as an active member of the BCCDC Consent to Contact for Research Registry Review Committee, whose role is to review and approve access requests
- Initiated and facilitated the engagement of three patient/public members on the working group with the support of Island Health BC SUPPORT Unit Regional Centre
- Providing information on clinical trials being conducted across BC



Visit CRCI's Homepage:

[Click here](#)

Partners & Stakeholders We Supported This Year









Acknowledgement

To conclude our 2020/2021 Activities Report, we would like to give the most sincere thank you to our advisory council members, colleagues, partners, funders, stakeholders, and patient partners. Also, special thanks from Clinical Trials BC to Dan Enjo, Aoife Kelly, Paola Pinto Vidal, and Sarah Hanif for your support. Without all of you, we could not do our work together to continue enabling clinical trial excellence in British Columbia and advancing the province's development to be a world class destination for clinical trials.

Finally, Clinical Trials BC is looking forward to continuing and strengthening our meaningful partnerships, and achieving our common goals in the upcoming years.



Suite 420 - 1367 West Broadway
Vancouver, British Columbia | V6H 4A7
236.521.2064 | www.healthresearchbc.ca

As a provincial organization, our work extends across many Indigenous lands and territories throughout British Columbia. We acknowledge with respect and humility that our Vancouver offices are located on the traditional and unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and sə́lilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

Learn more about:

- [Our Unit](#)
- [Our Team](#)
- [Our Advisory Council](#)
- [Provincial CTMS](#)
- [REACH BC](#)

Let's connect:



www.clinicaltrialsbc.ca
clinicaltrialsbc@healthresearchbc.ca
[@clintrialsbc](https://twitter.com/clintrialsbc)
linkedin.com/company/clinical-trials-bc