

A Vision for Clinical Trials in British Columbia

Clinical trials generate robust and rigorous evidence for the safety, effectiveness and outcomes of lifesaving and health-promoting interventions such as vaccines, drugs, devices and clinical practice changes. Significant health benefits flow from clinical trials, primarily from evidence-informed care delivery, health policy, and associated population health improvements.

British Columbia's comparative advantages position the province to house a unique and highly successful clinical trial ecosystem, delivering health and economic benefits. Clinical trial activity in BC offers:

- ▼ Early adoption of new and promising innovations by BC patients.
- ▼ Improved health outcomes for BC patients (typically, patients receiving care at facilities that conduct clinical trials experience improved outcomes).
- ▼ High-skilled jobs in support of the conduct and delivery of clinical trials.
- ▼ Support for growth and development of the provincial life sciences sector.
- ▼ Enhanced profile for British Columbia on the international research stage.

Clinical Trials BC, part of Michael Smith Health Research BC, consulted with investigators, trial participants, funders, life sciences companies, health system policymakers and more to create a vision for such an ecosystem.

The vision — bold, aspirational and achievable — reflects a future in which clinical trials investments are maximized for the benefit of all British Columbians.



A robust, innovative, coordinated, and person-centred clinical trials ecosystem improving health and economic outcomes for British Columbians.

A collaborative and multi-partner approach with engagement across BC's entire health research system is required to realize this vision. Below are some priorities for our collective attention.

Build a **universally embraced research-positive environment** that values, supports and actively promotes health research, including clinical trials.

Value clinical trials as an approach to responding to questions in a learning health system context when embedded into **the clinical care continuum** in our healthcare system.

Build **provincial and diverse governance structures** for clinical trials to support the successful implementation of the vision for clinical trials in British Columbia.

Demonstrate and capitalize on our **comparative advantages** for clinical trials, including our population (diversity and location), data assets, research capacity and research facilities, so British Columbia is seen as a prime location for clinical trials.

Maximize the **economic contribution** of clinical trials and their ability to create high-value employment, investment and growth for British Columbia.

Support **collaboration** among academia, healthcare, government, patients, communities, clinical trial organizations, funders and life science companies at the provincial, national and international levels.

Advance **person-centred approaches and designs** to create a clinical trial experience that is culturally safe, trauma-informed, inclusive, accessible and available to all who want to participate.

Support the **full scope of activities within the clinical trial lifecycle** from discovery to first-in-human trials to regulatory approval. Value and enable BC-based investigator-led, Indigenous-led and institutionally sponsored clinical trials.

Fund and support **sustainable clinical trial infrastructure**. Ensure that clinical trial research has timely access to data, biobanks, technology, clinical services, digital tools and resources and is enabled by leading-edge technology, methodology, dedicated spaces and specialized research facilities.

Develop and support a **skilled and viable clinical trial workforce** across the province, including urban, rural, and remote settings.

Ensure that clinical trials in British Columbia are **quality focused and fully compliant** with national and international regulations and ethical guidance.

Enable research **ethics review to be meaningful, streamlined, timely, effective**, and supported by transparent performance metrics.

Create and sustain **agile and efficient business services** and operations to support clinical trials (contract negotiation, privacy and security reviews, finance, and legal reviews). Develop accountable and transparent performance metrics focusing on fast, efficient approvals and service.

More details on our website

