

A Vision for Clinical Trials in British Columbia

Realizing a future in which clinical trial benefits are maximized for British Columbians

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

BC's comparative advantages include clinical trial expertise, leading research institutions and networked infrastructure, a diverse population, and a strong and growing life sciences sector. These advantages position the province to build a unique and highly successful clinical trials ecosystem, delivering health and economic benefits.

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 shared vision for clinical trials in BC. The vision is endorsed by the Ministry of Health.

BC's Vision for Clinical Trials

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

Desired Outcomes

The unique and highly successful clinical trials ecosystem will:

Build greater connections between research and care.

Create more high-skilled jobs in the conduct and delivery of clinical trials.

Increase early adoption of new and promising innovations to further improve health outcomes for British Columbians.

Attract more economic investment that supports growth and development of the provincial life sciences sector.

Increase capacity for clinical trials to attract more trials to the province.

Enhance BC's research profile on the international stage.

How to Realize the Vision

A collaborative and multi-partner approach with engagement across BC's health research system and broader life sciences sector is required to realize this vision. 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 health-care system.

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

Demonstrate and capitalize on our **comparative advantages** for clinical trials, including our population (diversity and location), data assets, research capacity, and research facilities, so BC 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 BC.

Support **collaboration** among academia, health care, 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 BC 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.

Together, we can realize this vision.

Engage with us and share your thoughts to advance the vision into action.
Scan the QR code.

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