

Why bring clinical trials to British Columbia

British Columbia (BC) is a prime destination for clinical trials. We have the expertise, research capabilities, infrastructure, collaborative environment and experience to conduct high-quality clinical trials across the province.

BC'S CLINICAL TRIALS AT A GLANCE



1,400
active trials

20%

of trials conducted
in Canada



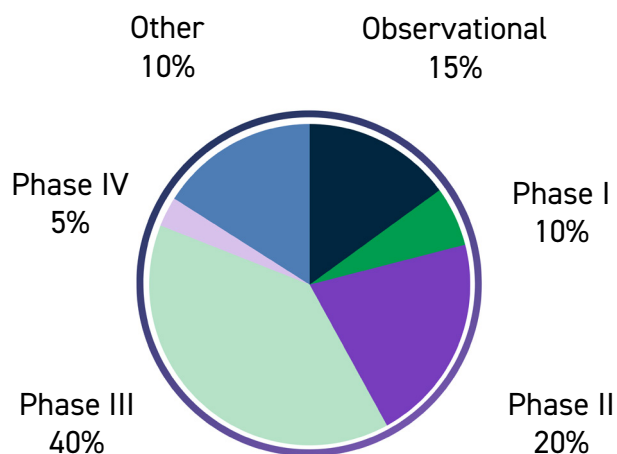
>100
sites



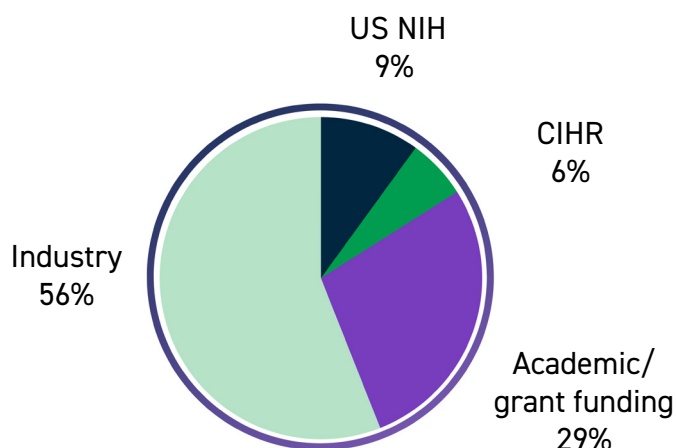
>600
investigators



Top therapeutic
areas:
oncology, neurology,
cardiology and
infectious diseases



Study phase



Funder type

Figures as of June 2025



Learn more

BC'S VISION FOR CLINICAL TRIALS

BC is known for its synergetic approach to trial conduct. We have a shared vision for the clinical trials community to work together towards a common goal:

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

BC'S STRENGTHS



Clinical trial expertise

BC is home to world-class clinical trial investigators and globally certified coordinators. Our researchers are internationally known for their expertise in oncology, cardiology, neurology, infectious disease, pediatric clinical trials and more.



Leading research institutions

BC has multiple research-focused post-secondary institutions located across the province. The University of British Columbia is ranked in the top 50 world-wide for translational research. UBC's Research Excellence Program provides support and funding to clusters led by researchers at the institution and aims to build networks with high-achieving goals.



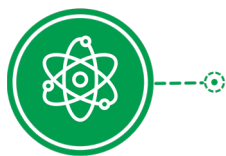
Networked infrastructure

BC has an extensive network of clinical research hubs embedded within our health care system to provide infrastructure and support for trials across the province in both hospital and community settings.



Diverse population

BC is home to ~5.6 million people and the most ethnically diverse province in Canada with substantial South Asian, East Asian, European and Indigenous communities. Almost 30 percent of the population are immigrants.



Strong and growing life sciences sector

BC is home to the fastest-growing life sciences sector in Canada. There are over 2,000 life sciences companies which employ more than 28,500 people.

Our government has a strategy to accelerate BC's development as a worldwide life sciences hub by nurturing new talent, developing new lab space, expanding clinical trial capacity, and leveraging research capacity. Canada's Immuno-Engineering and Biomanufacturing Hub (CIEBH) is also based in BC and creates a rich environment for biomedical innovation.



INCREASING CAPACITY IN BC



Pediatric clinical trials super hub

BC Children's Hospital supports access to clinical trials for children. When this super hub eventually expands, those same clinical trials can be delivered to children throughout the province and the Yukon. While many children with leukemia and cancer already receive treatment through clinical trials, the goal is to expand access to clinical trials for other rare pediatric diseases and conditions.



Early-phase research

BC has two new Phase I facilities aimed to accelerate early-stage research and a third in development. Highlights include:

A dedicated inpatient clinical trials unit for early-phase therapies

Located at Vancouver General Hospital, the new Hematology Research Unit will deliver revolutionary therapies — including first-in-human treatments such as advanced immunotherapies like CAR-T cell therapy — to patients with relapsed or treatment-resistant hematological diseases.

It was launched by Vancouver Coastal Health, in collaboration with BC Cancer physicians and scientists.

A new Phase I unit for healthy volunteer trials

In summer 2025, a six-bed unit at Mount Saint Joseph Hospital in Vancouver will open. This Phase I unit will support both first-in-human healthy volunteer trials along with treatment-focused trials.



Northern Centre for Clinical Research (NCCR)

The new NCCR is focused on enabling clinical trials and research relevant to northern, remote and Indigenous populations to improve health care. The NCCR supports rural populations and remote communities to have access to more clinical research opportunities.

ACCELERATING BC'S CLINICAL TRIALS

As part of Michael Smith Health Research BC, Clinical Trials BC strengthens the clinical trials ecosystem by increasing capacity and capability to conduct clinical trials across the province.

Together with provincial agencies, health organizations, research institutes and pan-Canadian initiatives, we are implementing strategies to accelerate clinical trials.



Improving efficiency and streamlining

There are several initiatives underway to reduce duplication and improve the timeliness of clinical trials in British Columbia and Canada. Two examples of these are:

A harmonized system for research ethics review processes of clinical trials conducted across multiple jurisdictions. More recently, the Research Approvals Processes Project (RAPP) — a joint initiative with BC's government and health authorities — aims to improve operational approvals, ethics reviews, contracts and agreements, data access, and privacy reviews.

A provincially harmonized Clinical Trial Management System (CTMS) with centralized program management. The CTMS has over 1,000 users at 74 trial sites across six institutions, encompassing more than 730 active trials.



Advancing the workforce

Clinical Trials BC supports the growth of a quality-focused clinical trials workforce across the province. Trial personnel are provided with fit-for-purpose resources, tools, financial support, internship, and mentorship for their professional development and training needs.

We also support professional certification through globally recognized programs such as ACRP, SOCRA and SQA. More than 120 clinical research professionals have been certified through this program.



A focus on quality and compliance

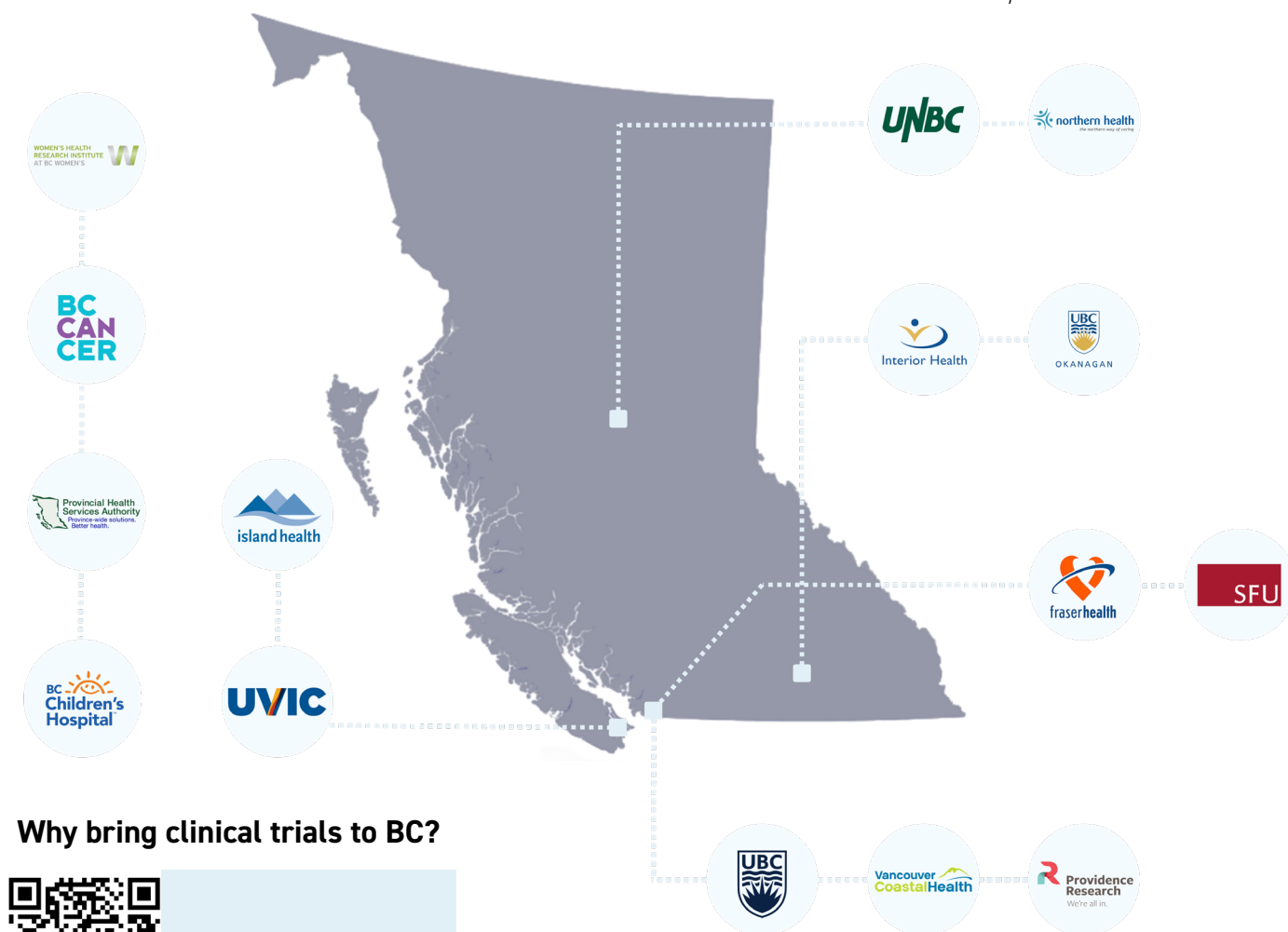
Our quality management system (QMS) program enables adherence to regulations and best practices. This program includes development and implementation planning, tools and resources, mentorship, communities of practice, training and a quality leadership course.



Enhanced engagement with patients, communities and the public

REACH BC is a provincial digital platform that supports researchers with their recruitment activity and results sharing for clinical trials. With its unique matching algorithm, it enables equitable participation in trials and meaningful patient and public involvement.

Close to 10,000 volunteers and over 1,500 researchers have signed up. There are currently 130 actively recruiting projects with 470 completed since its launch.



Why bring clinical trials to BC?



Learn more

CONTACT US

We have the knowledge and expertises to help you navigate BC's clinical trials environment and facilitate collaboration and partnership opportunities across the province.

Email: clinicaltrialsbc@healthresearchbc.ca

About Clinical Trials BC: We strengthen the clinical trials ecosystem by increasing capacity and capability to conduct clinical trials across the province. We lead and partner on various initiatives to maximize the health, educational and economic benefits of clinical trials. Our leadership at the national and international levels supports collaborative efforts to build talent and catalyze change to advance clinical trials in BC.



healthresearchbc.ca/clinical-trials-bc