RETREAT PROGRAMME

Network of Networks

Strengthening Connections in Neurodevelopmental Research

Wendake, Québec
February 15 - 17, 2026

Canadian Neurodevelopmental Research Training Platform
CanNRT

Powered by
Fondation Azrieli Foundation

cannrt.ca

The Canadian Neurodevelopmental Research Training (CanNRT) Platform, in collaboration with other Canadian research networks, are pleased to host the Network of Networks Retreat as part of an emerging effort to strengthen connections across networks involved in neurodevelopmental research, both in Canada and internationally.

As the field becomes increasingly collaborative and interdisciplinary, this gathering offers a timely opportunity to align strategies, share knowledge, and explore collective priorities to enhance our impact.

The retreat will bring together leaders from Canadian and international networks focused on neurodevelopmental conditions, offering a unique forum to exchange perspectives, build synergies, and foster deeper collaboration.

Discussions will explore emerging priorities in research, knowledge mobilization, training, and capacity building for the next generation of leaders in the field.

Questions? Contact us at cannrt@mcgill.ca

Contents

RETREAT DETAILS

Dates	Sunday, February 15, 2026 Monday, February 16, 2026 Tuesday, February 17, 2026
Location and accommodation	Hôtel-Musée Premières Nations 5 Place de la Rencontre Wendake, Québec, Canada G0A 4V0
Directions	**View Google Maps** *Note: A 20-minute drive time from Québec City Jean Lesage International Airport or a 3-hour drive-time from Montréal-Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport*
Check-in/out	Check-in: 4:00 p.m. ET Check-out: 11:00 a.m. ET *Note: Earlier or later times cannot be guaranteed*
Inclusions	Retreat guests staying at the Hôtel-Musée Premières Nations receive complementary access to: • Parking • Wi-Fi • Heated indoor pool, every day from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. • Fitness Centre, every day from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. • Indoor dry sauna, accessible via spa • Outdoor garden for walks along the Akiawenrahk River *Note: Charging stations are available for your electric vehicle ($)*
Credit card	A credit card will be required for checking in and out of the hotel. *Note: Any extra charges incurred during your stay will be charged to your card.*
Hotel and surrounding area activities	• Discover indigenous-inspired gastronomy at Restaurant La Traite • Make yourself comfortable at the Lobby Bar • Immerse yourself in Wendat traditions by visiting the museum within the hotel • Discover products from local artisans in the hotel lobby boutiques • Sports massage therapy and kinesitherapy services from L'éveil du Loup - Massothérapie • The Québec Winter Carnival (February 6-15, 2026) • Sightseeing: 25-min drive to Old Quebec • Ski and snowboarding: Centre de ski Le Relais (18 min), Stoneham Mountain Resort (25 min), Mont Ste-Anne (50 min) and Le Massif de Charlevoix (75 min) *Visit the Hôtel-Musée Premières Nations website for more information on on-site and nearby paid activities.*

AGENDA

Time	Activity
Sunday, February 15, 2026	
Beginning at 4:00 p.m.	**Hotel Check-In** *Hôtel-Musée Premières Nations*
6:00 – 9:30 p.m.	**Cocktail and Welcome Dinner** *Yatsenha' (Lobby-bar) & Restaurant La Traite, Hôtel-Musée Premières Nations*
Monday, February 16, 2026	
7:00 – 8:30 a.m.	**Breakfast** *Restaurant La Traite*
8:30 – 9:00 a.m.	**Registration** *Wendake A Lobby*
9:00 – 9:45 a.m.	**Welcome and Introductions** *Wendake A* **Opening remarks** **Meeting goals and expected outcomes** **Brief participant introductions** Andicha Sondakwa, Mayada Elsabbagh
9:45 – 11:15 a.m.	**Session 1** *Wendake A* **The Power of Networks: Celebrating Canadian Excellence** Mayada Elsabbagh, Keiko Shikako **Aim:** To showcase leading Canadian network science relevant to neurodevelopmental conditions and highlight methodological, organizational, and impact-oriented innovations. **Featured:** • Evdokia Anagnostou, Province of Ontario Neurodevelopmental Disorders Network (POND) and Kids and Beyond Neurodevelopmental Trials Network (KINDTrials) • Andrea Cross, CanCHILD • Mayada Elsabbagh, Transforming Autism Care Consortium • Keiko Shikako, CHILD-BRIGHT

Roundtable Discussion:

1. How have Canadian networks accelerated discovery beyond what individual labs or programs can achieve?
2. How have Canadian networks successfully bridged disciplines, sectors, or regions?
3. What design features make networks resilient, productive, innovative, and impactful?

11:15 – 11:30 a.m.

Break and Refreshments

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Session 2

Wendake A

Emerging Themes and Intersections in Research on Neurodevelopmental Conditions

Mélanie Couture

Aim: To identify cross-cutting scientific and intersectional themes where established and emerging networks could generate new insights and accelerate impact.

Featured:

- Sara Ahmed, Digital Health Network (RSN)
- Lauren Kelly, Increasing capacity for Maternal and Paediatric Clinical Trials (IMPaCT), and The Canadian Collaborative for Childhood Cannabinoid Therapeutics (C4T)
- Stephen Scherer, Canadian Precision Health Network (CPHI)

Roundtable Discussion:

1. What gaps does Canada need to fill in current research networks (e.g., AI, clinical trials, policy impact)?
2. How can networks better integrate biological, clinical, social, and lived-experience data and perspectives?
3. Should networks organize by target population or by transversal themes?

1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Lunch

Restaurant La Traite

Interactive Activity: Reflection Collection Wall

Participants are invited to write reflections, comments, or questions from the roundtable discussions on the sticky notes provided and place them on the session's Reflection Collection Wall to help map shared themes, connections, and ideas for future collaboration and action.

2:30 – 4:00 p.m.

Session 3
Wendake A

The Role of Networks in Training and Capacity Building

Melanie Penner

Aim: To explore how networks support the next generation of researchers, clinicians, and knowledge users, and how capacity building can be conceptualized beyond academia.

Featured:
- Mélanie Couture, ENRICH
- Caroline Jose, CANTRAIN
- Melanie Penner, ECHO Initiatives, CanNRT
- Rebecca Pillai Riddell, DIVERT Mental Health
- **Fellows & Trainees:**
    - Mishel Alexandrovsky, CanNRT Fellow
    - Danielle Baribeau, IMPaCT-CanNRT Fellow
    - Noémie Cusson, CanNRT Alumni and Steering Committee Member, TACC Trainee Member
    - Kelly D'Souza, TACC Trainee Co-Lead, CanNRT Trainee Member
    - Fatima Karim, CanNRT Trainee
    - Jessica Overby, C4T trainee

Special International Perspective:
- Paul Olivier, GIS Autisme et TND (France)

Roundtable Discussion:
1. What kinds of capacity are most urgently needed in neurodevelopmental research?
2. How do networks enable training that single institutions cannot?
3. How can networks support community-based and practice-oriented capacity while remaining research-focused?

4:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Free Time

4:30 – 6:00 p.m.

Free Time

Or

Visit of the First Nations Museum & Longhouse (Registration Required)
Hôtel-Musée Premières Nations

6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Free Time

7:00 – 9:30 p.m.	**Dinner** *Sagamité* 10, boulevard Bastien, Wendake, QC G0A 4V0 5-min walk from the hotel

Tuesday, February 17, 2026

7:00 – 8:30 a.m.	**Breakfast** *Restaurant La Traite*
8:30 – 11:00 a.m.	**Session 4** *Wendake A* **Envisioning a Sustainable Pan-Canadian Research Community on Neurodevelopment** Evdokia Anagnostou **Aim**: To move from reflection to action by imagining long-term structures, principles, and priorities for a pan-Canadian Network of Networks. **Featured**: • Bryce Pickard, Ontario Brain Institute (OBI) • Viviane Poupon, Brain Canada • Gabrielle Wilson, Fonds de recherche du Québec (FRQ) • Joanne Wincentak, Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) – Institute of Human Development, Child and Youth Health (IHDCYH) **Roundtable Discussion**: 1. What would success look like in 5–10 years for a pan-Canadian neurodevelopment research ecosystem? 2. Beyond individual grants or funding cycles, what governance, infrastructure, and coordination mechanisms are needed? 3. How can networks collectively influence policy, funding priorities, and public understanding?
11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	**Networking Activity**
12:15 – 2:00 p.m.	**Lunch** (Optional) *Restaurant La Traite*

NETWORK PROFILES

This section profiles the networks participating in the retreat, outlining their focus areas, key contacts, and representatives to support connection and collaboration.

Accelerating Clinical Trials (ACT)

Primary Contact	Guy Rouleau
Website	www.act-aec.ca
In Attendance	Guy Rouleau *(Regrets)*

Mission

ACT-AEC (Accelerating Clinical Trials – *Accélérer les Essais Cliniques*) Canada was established to facilitate, optimize, and accelerate the conduct, implementation, and result translation from high-quality, high-impact randomized controlled trials to improve health in Canada and around the world.

- Connecting hundreds of researchers from 34 networks, 11 trial units, 20 portfolio hospitals, patient-partners, the biotechnology industry, government, and experts in research ethics review processes, contracts, insurance, regulatory processes, patient engagement, clinical trials training, communications, knowledge mobilization – from Nova Scotia to British Columbia and Nunavut.
- Maximizing research impact and knowledge mobilization – following best practices in patient-oriented research and integrated knowledge translation, leveraging national and international contacts.
- Advancing equitable access to trials for all Canadians – no matter where they live, inclusive of gender, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status – following the principles of equity, diversity, and inclusion in clinical trials such that the knowledge gained is applicable to all those affected.
- Building clinical trial capacity – providing trial units with the knowledge, skills, and experience to conduct large-scale trials. We will streamline administrative processes (for example, ethics reviews, contracts, and protocols) to accelerate timelines and reduce costs.

What we do

We advance equitable access to trials for all Canadians – no matter where they live, inclusive of gender, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status – following the principles of equity, diversity, and inclusion in clinical trials such that the knowledge gained is applicable to all those affected.

Canadian Collaborative for Childhood Cannabinoid Therapeutics (C4T)

Primary Contact	Lauren Kelly
Email	c4t.canada@gmail.com
Website	www.medcannkids.ca
In Attendance	Lauren Kelly, Jessica Overby

The Canadian Collaborative for Childhood Cannabinoid Therapeutics (C4T) is an academic research team of over 130 youth, parents, healthcare practitioners, scientists and policy makers who study medical cannabis in children. Our goal is to move cannabis use from the era of anecdote to evidence. We collaborate globally to study if and when medical cannabis can provide a safe and effective therapy for children.

Goals

1. Design research to improve outcomes – we aim to design studies that answer important questions about medical cannabis for patients, families, and their healthcare teams.
2. Share knowledge – we aim to raise awareness and mobilize new knowledge about the use of cannabinoid therapeutics in children globally.
3. Create community – we aim to build and grow an interdisciplinary collaborative network committed to improving the understanding of cannabinoid therapeutics in children.

Canadian Consortium for Clinical Trials TRAINing (CANTRAIN)

Primary Contact	Sarah Ibrahim
Email	sarah.ibrahim@wecantrain.ca
Website	www.wecantrain.ca
In Attendance	Caroline Jose

At CANTRAIN (The CANadian Consortium of Clinical Trial TRAINing Platform), we believe the future of clinical trials in Canada depends on how we train, connect and prepare people to engage in clinical trials research—across disciplines, across sectors, and across communities. Born from a national wake-up call during the COVID-19 pandemic, CANTRAIN is Canada's most expansive and innovative response to the urgent need for a stronger, more coordinated clinical trials system.

Purpose
Improve health and wellbeing through clinical trial research for the Canadian population and beyond.

Vision
A Canada where everyone — patients, researchers, professionals and communities — is better prepared to develop, conduct, engage in and benefit from clinical trials.

Mission
Develop clinical research competency through an efficient training environment delivering cutting-edge, inclusive educational curricula.

Raising the bar on what clinical trials training looks like:

- Engaging, Personalized Learning
- Collaboration at the Core
- Elevating Patient and Community Voices
- Training the Next Generation

Strategy
Funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), we are proudly housed at the Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre (RI-MUHC). Our 2025-2026 strategy is focused on bringing to life our slogan: Better prepared. Better care. Together.

Canadian Neurodevelopmental Research Training (CanNRT) Platform

Primary Contact	Mayada Elsabbagh
Email	cannrt@mcgill.ca
Website	www.cannrt.ca
In Attendance	Mishel Alexandrovsky, Evdokia Anagnostou, Danielle Baribeau, Mélanie Couture, Noémie Cusson, Kelly D'Souza, Mayada Elsabbagh, Martine Habra, Fatima Karim, Ellie-Anna Minogianis, Kara Murias, Melanie Penner, Guy Rouleau, Julie Scorah, Keiko Shikako, Vanessa Tamburro

The Canadian Neurodevelopmental Research Training (CanNRT) Platform is a national, collaborative training initiative focused on strengthening research capacity in neurodevelopmental conditions, including autism. It brings together researchers, trainees, community partners, and people with lived and living experience to support the next generation of leaders across disciplines and sectors.

CanNRT was developed in response to identified gaps in training across Canada and builds on the strengths of earlier regional and national initiatives. The platform recognizes that effective training goes beyond technical and academic skills. It prioritizes mentorship, collaboration, and real-world engagement to prepare early-career researchers to contribute meaningfully within research, policy, practice, and community settings.

Mission
CanNRT is a collaborative training platform that supports research excellence and builds sustainable and equitable pathways for early career researchers in neurodevelopment and associated conditions across Canada. Through multidisciplinary cross-sector learning, mentorship, and connectivity, CanNRT equips trainees to become the next generation of leaders.

What we do
CanNRT advances neurodevelopmental research and training by:

1. Building a dynamic learning community
2. Strengthening member engagement
3. Co-designing high-quality accessible curriculum focused on key priority areas
4. Connecting research and community partners
5. Promoting equity, diversity, and inclusion

Canadian Precision Health Initiative (CPHI)

Website(s)	https://genomecanada.ca/project/precision-health-network-for-neurodevelopment-mental-health-and-brain-injury/ https://genomecanada.ca/challenge-areas/canadian-precision-health-initiative/
In Attendance	Evdokia Anagnostou, Jennifer Crosbie, Stephen Scherer

The landmark Canadian Precision Health Initiative (CPHI), announced in March 2025, will help make this future a reality by building Canada's largest-ever collection of human genomic data—more than 100,000 genomes. The initiative will:

- **Enhance health care options for all Canadians:** Enabling more precise, personalized, predictive, preventative and cost-effective healthcare options ("precision health") for Canadians.
- **Drive economic growth:** Empowering Canadian scientists and companies to accelerate development of world-leading, next-generation health solutions and clean economic growth.
- **Strengthen health security and data sovereignty:** Increasing access to Canadian genomic data needed to combat major public health threats, including pandemics.

Among the various projects included in this initiative, it is important to highlight the Precision Health Network for Neurodevelopment, Mental Health, and Brain Injury.

Project Description
This sequencing project will help us better understand the genetic factors impacting children and youth with brain development conditions, such as neurodevelopmental conditions and acquired brain injury.

Conditions impacting brain development in children and youth, such as neurodevelopmental conditions (NDDs) and acquired brain injury (ABI) are prevalent, impairing and costly. NDDs and related mental conditions impact at least one in five individuals, persist across the lifespan and cost up to two million dollars in lifetime cost per individual in Canada. ABI further impacts brain development, affecting 4.4 per cent of children 1-17 years, (with up to a third of such injuries leading to persistent post-concussive symptoms. Despite recent advances in our understanding of the biology of these conditions, our ability to change long term outcomes remains limited. Accumulating data from sequencing studies highlights significant biological heterogeneity in NDDs, and emerging studies in ABI also suggest significant genomic heterogeneity. There is an urgent need to understand such heterogeneity, provide tailored anticipatory guidance, discover biomarkers that will allow patient stratification and ultimately develop precision health interventions. In this effort, we have brought together nine research cohorts across NDDs, mental health and ABI, collecting rich phenotyping data, and assembled a highly accomplished multidisciplinary team of genomic scientists, clinicians, engineers and other stakeholders, to whole genome sequence 10,000 samples, using both short and long read sequencing, link genomic data to environmental exposures and phenotypes, and use advanced computational approaches to facilitate precision health solutions.

CanChild Centre for Childhood-Onset Disability Research (CanChild)

Primary Contact	Dayle McCauley
Email	canchild@mcmaster.ca
Website	www.canchild.ca
In Attendance	Andrea Cross

CanChild is a research center dedicated to generating knowledge and transforming the lives of children and youth with developmental conditions and their families.

CanChild's Five Pillars of Excellence

- Leadership in Emerging Issues: Take a leadership role in identifying emerging issues in research, practice, policy, and education.
- Innovative Research: Conduct high-quality, innovative research that gives children and youth increased opportunities to thrive at home, at school, and in the community.
- Knowledge Transfer and Implementation: Effectively transfer the knowledge generated by our evidence-based research into practice at the clinical and health systems levels.
- Knowledge Sharing & Education: Educate families and health care providers and share research findings to those who need it the most.
- Mentorship and Capacity Building: Mentor students, post-doctoral fellows, junior researchers, and experts to build capacity for future researchers around the world.

Research

The overarching goal of CanChild is to maximize the quality of life and participation of children and youth with a variety of developmental conditions, along with their families, through evidence-based clinical and health services research.

CanChild’s research is about how children with a variety of developmental conditions develop, how to identify children and families at risk based on their needs, and how to best support these children over the life course, in particular during health services transition points such as from hospital to home, from preschool to school and from child health services to adult services.
At CanChild, our research measures and evaluates the processes of novel ways of health care delivery and its outcomes to ensure best health outcomes and health care experiences for children and families.

CHILD-BRIGHT Network

Email	admin@child-bright.ca
Website	www.child-bright.ca
In Attendance	Stephanie Glegg, Keiko Shikako

In Canada, as many as 850,000 children are living with a brain-based developmental disability and face life-long challenges with mobility, language, learning, socialization, and/or self-care that impact the quality of their lives.

At CHILD-BRIGHT, partners with lived and living experience (PWLEs), researchers, clinicians, policymakers, and other key groups work together to build capacity in patient-oriented child health research in Canada. We strive to foster a movement for change: moving PWLEs into research teams, moving research into improved practice and policy, and moving children and families to brighter futures.

How?

- We are a patient-oriented implementation science research network geared towards improving outcomes for children with brain-based developmental disabilities.
- We facilitate the movement of network-driven evidence for rapid uptake.
- We train our members in patient-oriented research, knowledge mobilization, implementation science, and equity, diversity and inclusion, decolonization and indigenization.
- We integrate PWLEs in all our projects and activities as active team members to ensure their authentic engagement in our work.
- We establish and maintain equitable, accessible and inclusive research and network environments.

Réseau Santé Numérique (Digital Health Network; RSN)

Contact principal	Sara Ahmed
Courriel	RSNQuebec@rimuhc.ca
Site Web	www.rsn.quebec
Présence confirmée	Sara Ahmed

Au cœur de notre mission se trouve l'engagement de révolutionner les soins de santé grâce au pouvoir de l'innovation numérique. Le Réseau santé numérique est une communauté dynamique de chercheurs universitaires unis dans notre quête pour exploiter les méthodes numériques et quantitatives. Si la technologie est au cœur de cette définition, elle n'est pas le seul domaine d'innovation ; la recherche en santé numérique aborde des questions relevant des sciences humaines et sociales, y compris les sciences de la mise en œuvre, les sciences de la gestion, le droit, l'éthique et les politiques publiques. Cette perspective intersectorielle est au cœur de la vision du réseau, qui consiste à mobiliser le potentiel de la technologie numérique pour améliorer la santé. La vision longitudinale et pluridisciplinaire facilitée par le numérique permet également de déterminer ce qui caractérise la santé durable et de mettre en œuvre les leviers d'action pour la promouvoir et la maintenir.

Pionnier de l'excellence en matière de santé numérique

Le RSN incarne l'esprit de découverte et la volonté de rendre accessibles à tous les progrès significatifs en matière de santé. Notre réseau rassemble les esprits les plus brillants du monde universitaire, de la recherche et de l'industrie pour ouvrir des voies innovantes, durables et efficaces dans le domaine de la santé numérique. Ensemble, nous transformons le paysage des soins de santé, une avancée à la fois.

Construire l'avenir : Les compétences et les liens qui nous animent

Au cœur de notre réseau de santé numérique se trouve une équipe qui se distingue non seulement par son excellence académique et ses prouesses techniques, mais aussi par son engagement profond à favoriser des liens significatifs au sein de la communauté des soins de santé. Notre expertise collective s'étend à des domaines interdisciplinaires, ce qui nous permet de mettre au point des solutions innovantes pour relever des défis complexes en matière de santé. Cette synergie de compétences, d'expériences et de réseaux a été déterminante pour propulser nos projets du concept à la mise en œuvre, garantissant ainsi que nos contributions auront un impact durable sur les soins de santé numériques.

Digital, Inclusive, Virtual, and Equitable Research Training in Mental Health Platform (DIVERT Mental Health)

Primary Contact	Rebecca Pillai Riddell
Email	divert@yorku.ca
Website	www.divertmentalhealth.ca
In Attendance	Rebecca Pillai Riddell

The Digital, Inclusive, Virtual, and Equitable Research Training in Mental Health Platform (DIVERT Mental Health) is a national, transdisciplinary initiative designed to advance the quality and impact of mental health research and practice with children, youth, and families in Canada. Funded by a multi-million-dollar investment from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and further enabled by IBM Canada's substantial contributions in digital infrastructure and expertise, the platform integrates academic, clinical, community, industry, and lived-experience perspectives into a cohesive community.

DIVERT delivers comprehensive online training, national mentorship groups, collaborative research opportunities, and annual in-person engagements, and is developing a formal certificate program to strengthen Canada's mental health research workforce.

The platform's objectives include promoting cultural inclusivity by disseminating diverse cultural knowledges and socio-historical contexts about mental health in children, youth, and their families, and enhancing accessibility through the dissemination of technologies that can facilitate mental health care and the cultivation of cross-sector research partnerships that extend beyond traditional academic environments.

Project ECHO Autism Diagnosis and Integrated care Opportunities (ECHO AuDIO)

Primary Contact	Melanie Penner
Email	lkanigsberg@hollandbloorview.ca
Website	www.hollandbloorview.ca/project-echo-autism-diagnosis-and-integrated-care-opportunities-echo-audio
In Attendance	Evdokia Anagnostou, Melanie Penner, Julie Scorah

This study aims to improve the healthy futures of autistic children by helping their community health care providers (HCPs) provide them with integrated, community-based care.

During the first phase of the study, we will conduct focus groups with HCPs about their experiences with performing diagnostic assessments for autism and providing ongoing integrated care for their autistic patients.

The information that we gather will be used to create resources (such as toolkits) and ECHO Autism content for both autism diagnosis and ongoing integrated care that we can share across Canada.

Empowering Next-Generation Researchers in Perinatal and Child Health (ENRICH)

Primary Contact	Susan Samuel
Email	enrich.admin@bcchr.ca
Website	www.enrichyourscience.ca
In Attendance	Mélanie Couture

Mission

Focused on perinatal and child health research impact, ENRICH will:

- Increase capacity for research, by training researchers using an equitable, open and accessible training model.
- Provide cross-sectoral, interdisciplinary training and mentorship networks for researchers.
- Create a seamless pathway from learner to leader in a cross sectoral career.

How we do it

Our platform provides a series of training paths and awards for learners to engage in advanced training in perinatal and child health research, including:

- The RISE LMS
- Enrichment Program Awards
- Illumination Program

These training environments are supported by a curriculum that is embedded in a network of mentorship and progress review.

Groupement d’Intérêt Scientifique Autisme et Troubles du Neuro-Développement (GIS Autisme et TND ; France)

Contact principal	Paul Olivier
Courriel	paul.olivier@inserm.fr
Site Web	www.autisme-neurodev.org
Présence confirmée	Charlotte Madore-Delpeche, Paul Olivier

Soutenu par la stratégie nationale pour les troubles du neuro-développement, le Groupement d’Intérêt Scientifique Autisme et Troubles du Neuro-Développement (GIS Autisme et TND) s’inscrit dans la volonté de placer la science au cœur des pratiques, par le renforcement et la structuration de la recherche. Le GIS Autisme et TND constitue un réseau de recherche, tous champs disciplinaires confondus, fédérant plus de 140 équipes labellisées sur l’ensemble du territoire national. Ce réseau qui intègre les acteurs de terrain, les personnes concernées et les familles, est largement connecté au niveau international.

Qu'est-ce que le GIS ?
Le GIS Autisme et TND constitue un véritable consortium interdisciplinaire, regroupant plus de 140 équipes de recherche labellisées représentant plus de 800 chercheurs et cliniciens, sur l’ensemble du territoire national français. Incluant les représentants d’associations dans la finalisation et la mise en place des actions scientifiques menées, le GIS a pour ambition de concrétiser une recherche participative respectueuse de chacun, à la hauteur des enjeux et des besoins des personnes et des familles.

Le GIS Autisme et TND constitue une plateforme fédératrice au service de l’ensemble des parties prenantes de la recherche sur les troubles du neurodéveloppement. Il soutient le développement de projets interdisciplinaires en accompagnant la structuration et le renforcement de consortiums, du fondamental à la recherche translationnelle. Le GIS déploie également un programme ambitieux d’animation scientifique, en France et à l’international, à travers colloques, séminaires et ateliers favorisant les échanges entre communautés. Il joue un rôle moteur dans le déploiement de la recherche participative sur les TND, en associant étroitement personnes concernées, familles et acteurs de terrain à la construction des projets. Enfin, il accorde une attention particulière au soutien des jeunes chercheurs, en encourageant leur ouverture vers l’international et vers des approches translationnelles innovantes.

Increasing capacity for Maternal and Paediatric Clinical Trials (IMPaCT)

Primary Contact(s)	Lauren Kelly, Nancy Butcher
Email	impactrials@gmail.com
Website	www.impactrials.ca
In Attendance	Lauren Kelly

Increasing capacity for Maternal and Paediatric Clinical Trials (IMPaCT) is a Clinical Trials Training Platform funded by the Canadian Institutes for Health Research. IMPaCT is for clinicians and researchers in any discipline who work with children (neonates to adolescents), and pregnant people and want to learn more about designing, operating and communicating about clinical trials.

We are a group of mentors and partner organizations who came together to train PhD students, Postdoctoral Fellows, and Early Career Researchers on how to design, conduct, and communicate about clinical trials.

What is IMPACT?
IMPaCT training awards facilitate participation in a 1-year immersive learning experience with assigned mentors and deliverables. The program is designed to give you the skills and network to design, conduct, and communicate about clinical trials with pregnant people and children (neonates through adolescents).

IMPaCT consists of 3 main components

1. Open and accessible online learning in perinatal and child health clinical trials to build knowledge
2. Immersive one-year fellowships to turn ideas into clinical trial grants alongside youth, parent and academic mentors
3. Cross-sectoral summit and group-based mentorship to expand innovative methods and build capacity

Mission
Our mission is to build a sustainable network with the next generation of perinatal and child health researchers to support career development, demystify the process of clinical trials and increase capacity for perinatal and pediatric clinical trials in Canada.

Core Competencies
All IMPaCT learners will develop skills and competencies in 4 core areas: design, engagement, conduct and communications. IMPaCT curriculum also includes extended and advanced topics relevant to clinical trials with children and pregnant people.

Kids and Beyond Neurodevelopmental Trials Network (KINDtrials)

Primary Contact(s)	Evdokia Anagnostou (NPI), Faiza Khawaja (Research Manager)
Email	fkhawaja@hollandbloorview.ca
Website	www.kindtrials.ca
In Attendance	Evdokia Anagnostou, Danielle Baribeau, Jennifer Crosbie, Mayada Elsabbagh, Lauren Kelly, Kara Murias, Melanie Penner, Julie Scorah

KINDtrials is a national clinical trials network focused on improving health outcomes and quality of life for individuals with neurodevelopmental conditions, adverse neurodevelopmental experiences and onset disabilities.

Vision
Improved outcomes and quality of life for Canadians with neurodevelopmental differences and disabilities.

Mission
Expand Canadian clinical trials capacity for children, youth and adults with neurodevelopmental conditions, adverse neurodevelopmental experiences and onset disabilities.

Research
The network represents a 14-site expansion across Canada, from the original POND network, that runs both regulated and unregulated, investigator-initiated as well as industry-sponsored trials, expanding Canadian capacity in experimental therapeutics in neurodevelopment.

Kids Brain Health Network (KBHN)

Primary Contact	Jennifer Zwicker
Email	communications@kidsbrainhealth.ca
Website	www.kidsbrainhealth.ca
In Attendance	Jennifer Zwicker *(Regrets)*

Kids Brain Health Network (KBHN) is a Canada-wide network that invests in and supports the spread, scale, implementation and expansion of access to proven solutions for children with neurodevelopmental disabilities and their families.

About Kids Brain Health Network (KBHN)
Approximately 10% of children and youth in Canada live with a neurodevelopmental disability – such as autism, cerebral palsy, and fetal alcohol spectrum disorder – making up about 75% of all childhood disability cases. While there continue to be significant advancements in the science and support for children with neurodevelopmental disabilities and their families, these discoveries often do not reach those who need them. Kids Brain Health Network (KBHN) exists to change this.

Improving outcomes for children and families
We connect Canada's leading experts with children who can benefit most from their work. We help projects scale and spread, enabling early identification of neurodevelopmental disabilities, improving access to effective interventions, and advancing better ways to support families.

Together we are changing lives!
Kids Brain Health Network (KBHN) and Kids Brain Health Foundation (KBHF) have invested over $100 million into projects and initiatives that make a real difference. KBHN's accomplishments have been possible through collaboration with more than 800 partners, funders, and supporters dedicated to our shared vision of improving the lives of children with NDDs.

Kids Brain Health (KBH+)
KBHN's innovative and evidence-informed work made us the first national network in Canada dedicated to children's neurodevelopmental disabilities.
Since 2009, Kids Brain Health Network (KBHN) has led transformative projects and real-world solutions that improve outcomes for children and families. In 2016, the Kids Brain Health Foundation (KBHF) was established to mobilize philanthropy, partnerships, and public support, amplifying the reach and impact of our work. Kids Brain Health Innovation Fund (KBH-IF) further strengthens our ability to accelerate the growth, scale, and spread of tested and effective innovations emerging from the KBHN and KBHF portfolios.

Together, KBHN, KBHF, and KBH-IF form KBH+, a national platform delivering impact for children with neurodevelopmental disabilities. Through coordinated efforts in government funding, philanthropy, and impact investing, KBH+ advances early identification, effective interventions, and access to family supports.

MSSNG

Primary Contact	Stephen Scherer
Email	asgenetics@autismspeaks.org
Website	www.research.mss.ng
In Attendance	Stephen Scherer

MSSNG (pronounced “missing”) is a groundbreaking collaboration between Autism Speaks, Verily, DNAstack, Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids), and the research community to create the world’s largest whole genome sequencing database on autism with deep phenotyping.

MSSNG’s goal is to provide the best resources to enable the identification of many subtypes of autism, which may lead to better diagnostics, as well as personalized and more accurate treatments.

Through an online application process (Genetics System Application), MSSNG provides whole genome sequencing of blood DNA (minimum 30x high-quality coverage) of 13,801 individuals from families (Trios and Multiplex – See Overview PDF) from the Autism Genetic Research Exchange (AGRE) repository, or from other well-phenotyped cohorts entering into this study.

The MSSNG database, built using the Google Cloud Platform and Google Genomics, intends to make its data as useful and widely accessible to researchers as possible, including access to local compute and storage resources, and providing genomic exploration tools for standard and custom analyses.

Whole genome sequences and their annotations and phenotype data are being continually added and/or modified with different levels and portals of access to researchers. MSSNG’s philosophy is to promote and enable open science research with responsible sharing to lead to a better understanding of autism. We welcome you to join us.

McGill University Health Centre (MUHC) ECHO Superhub

Primary Contact	Julie Scorah
Email	trainingndd@mcgill.ca
Website	www.rtsa-tacc.com/expanding-access-to-specialized-healthcare-across-quebec-echo-superhub
In Attendance	Julie Scorah

As a designated ECHO Superhub, our core mission is to improve access to neurodevelopmental care. We offer ECHO-Autism workshops on diverse topics year-round, using a hub-and-spoke model that brings specialists together with local providers, educators, and community partners to share knowledge, discuss real cases, and strengthen support for autistic individuals and others with neurodevelopmental conditions across the lifespan.

Our ECHO Superhub, led by Dr. Julie Scorah, is organized under the Neurodevelopment Learning Community and supported by a team of clinicians, other professionals in the neurodevelopmental field, and their Program Coordinator. The network brings together Quebec-based professionals involved in autism diagnosis and care to build a connected community of practice that bridges research, training, and real-world care. To support researchers, trainees, and community partners, the Superhub offers virtual case-based ECHO sessions, professional development opportunities, and resource platforms for knowledge sharing. In addition, it facilitates community engagement through collaboration with researchers, trainees, and partners to translate evidence into practice. This multidisciplinary structure supports coordination, best practices, and capacity building in neurodevelopmental care.

We achieved Superhub status in early 2025 after many years of offering ECHO-Autism programs in Quebec, strengthening diagnosis and care for individuals with neurodevelopmental conditions. This milestone reflects our network’s growing impact, including expanded access to expertise, increased collaboration among providers, and improved confidence in addressing complex cases. Guided by our commitment to building a connected community of practice that bridges research, training, and real-world care for people with neurodevelopmental conditions and their families, our priority is now to support the launch of new ECHO hubs for those interested in joining the ECHO movement and to foster the development of new trainings across MUHC sites. Our priorities for the next few years focus on broadening our reach, deepening collaboration, and building a sustainable model that can support long-term growth.

National Autism Network

Primary Contact	Karen Bopp
Email	karen.bopp@nan-rna.ca; info@nan-rna.ca
Website	www.nan-rna.ca
In Attendance	Karen Bopp

The National Autism Network is a new, independent, community-led organization that brings together Autistic people, families, subject matter experts, and community partners to inform the federal government on the activities that support the implementation of Canada's Autism Strategy and the Framework for Autism in Canada.

What we do: The Network actively engages with Autistic people and their families to help shape community priorities and drive action to bring Canada's Autism Strategy to life.

Mission: Driven by Autistic people and their families, the National Autism Network informs Canada's Autism Strategy and helps shape a future where Autistic people thrive.

Vision: A Canada where the lived and living experiences of Autistic people and their families shape policies, systems, and communities to foster full inclusion, equity, and opportunity at every stage of life.

Values

- Centers Lived and Living experiences: Creates space for Autistic people, families, caregivers, researchers, and community partners across the country to share their knowledge and shape decision-making
- Supports Lifespan Needs: Promotes inclusive policies and supports from early childhood through adulthood and into older age
- Champions Authentic Community Leadership: Ensures Autistic leadership across Canada plays an active and central role in the conversations that guide policy.
- Prioritizes Inclusive Engagement: Champions equity and equal representation by ensuring that the perspectives of Indigenous Peoples (First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and Urban Indigenous), rural and remote communities, people with co-occurring conditions, non-speaking Autistic people, and racialized and historically marginalized groups are included and valued
- Strengthens Cross-Sector Collaboration: Encourages on-going collaboration to build coordinated, sustainable solutions rooted in authentic experiences
- Drives Systemic Change: Influences national priorities and policies by centering on real community input to shape decision-making

Our Job

Informs the development of the implementation plan for Canada's Autism Strategy in collaboration with the Autism Secretariat at the Public Health Agency of Canada.
Connects Communities: Links organizations, service providers, governments, and community partners to promote an inclusive and coordinated approach to Canada's Autism Strategy.

Objectives of the National Autism Network

1. REPRESENT: Represent the diverse voices and perspectives of the broad Autism community. The Network provides a formal and ongoing structure for engaging Autistic people, families, caregivers, and other interest-holders, ensuring that lived and living experience is central to the implementation of Canada's Autism Strategy.
2. INFORM: Collaborate with governments and other sectors to design, develop and support the implementation of initiatives that address the five priority areas of the Framework for Autism in Canada and Canada's Autism Strategy.
3. ENGAGE: Provide a forum for the ongoing engagement of people with lived and living experience and the broader Autism community on policies and programs that affect them. The Network's engagement structure includes three advisory councils, five strategic priority committees, and on-going membership and community engagement. This structure focuses on reviewing the proposed actions in Canada's Autism Strategy and offering community-informed, evidence-informed ideas, solutions, and opportunities to support the implementation plan and help ensure the effective advancement of the Strategy.
4. COORDINATE: The Network brings together the skills and resources of autism organizations, interest-holders and other experts to share knowledge, expertise and best practices on autism priorities, including Partnerships and Network Membership.

The Network serves as a bridge, convening perspectives from different regions, supporting cross-jurisdictional coordination, and helping adapt national measures into regional realities.

New-Brunswick Centre of Expertise in Neurodivergence (NB-CEN)

Primary Contact	Caroline Jose
Email	cjose.research@outlook.com
In Attendance	Caroline Jose

Recently founded and led by neurodivergent people and their allies, the New Brunswick Centre of Expertise in Neurodivergence (NB-CEN) aims to bring evidence-based knowledge, cross-sector collaboration, and community leadership together to transform how New Brunswick supports neurodivergent people across the lifespan. By centralizing resources, coordinating policy action, and catalyzing innovative research and services, we will ensure that every neurodivergent person in the province can access equitable, coherent, and empowering support.

Vision

A New Brunswick where every neurodivergent person — across all ages and sectors (health, education, justice, social services, economy) — has equitable access to coherent, evidence-informed supports that enable a fulfilling, self-determined, and joyful life.

Mission

To establish a provincial hub led by neurodivergent people and their allies that guides, informs, and strengthens all policies, research initiatives, and community actions that directly or indirectly affect the neurodivergent community in New Brunswick.

Value Proposition

The NB Center of Expertise on Neurodivergence will serve as the **strategic infrastructure** the province needs to:

- improve public and institutional understanding of neurodivergence,
- guide policy and investment decisions,
- accelerate innovation in research and community services,
- and ensure that neurodivergent people are **meaningfully centered** in all decisions that affect their lives.

Province of Ontario Neurodevelopmental Disorders Network (POND)

Primary Contact	Evdokia Anagnostou
Email	eanagnostou@hollandbloorview.ca
Website	www.pond-network.ca
In Attendance	Evdokia Anagnostou, Danielle Baribeau, Jennifer Crosbie, Stephen Scherer

Neurodevelopmental disorders are conditions related to differences in the growth and organization of the brain and body. In POND, we study conditions such as Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Intellectual Disability (ID), Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD), Tourette syndrome, or any genetic differences leading to developmental differences/challenges. Although there have been significant gains in our understanding of these conditions, our ability to change long-term outcomes remains limited. Although there are a few effective medications/devices, response is partial, heterogeneous, and often they have significant adverse effects, particularly in children.

Mission
The POND Network focuses on understanding the neurobiology of neurodevelopmental disorders and translating findings into personalized solutions.

Research
There is a limited understanding of the biological mechanisms underlying neurodevelopmental disorders. Some biological mechanisms are only seen in some individuals with the same diagnostic label. Other biological mechanisms are common across multiple diagnostic labels. POND researchers aim to understand what is unique and what is shared. We have built a clinical trials network embedded into a large biomarker core, from genetics to neuroimaging to phenotyping to treatment response. There are more than 4000 children, youth and young adults in the network. This research strategy aims to accelerate the development of new interventions for neurodevelopmental disorders that are more targeted to each person's specific biology, fulfilling the promise of precision health for those with neurodevelopmental conditions.

Network
The POND Network consists of a network of sites with teams of clinicians, scientists, engineers, families and persons with lived experience, with partners from the public and private sectors across Ontario.

Pathways in ASD

Primary Contact	Peter Szatmari
Email	peter.szatmari@utoronto.ca
Website	www.asdpathways.ca
In Attendance	Mayada Elsabbagh

The Pathways in ASD study examines how children with ASD grow and develop.
By identifying the child, family, community, and services factors that influence child trajectories, the study is generating evidence for more flexible, developmentally appropriate policies and practices across Canada.

The Pathways in ASD study is one of the world's largest, and longest-running longitudinal studies of the development of young children and adolescents with ASD. A national longitudinal study of ASD garnered the largest "cash investment." Funding from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), and other partners, the researchers launched the study in 2005, at five regional centres across Canada: Halifax, Nova Scotia, Montreal, Quebec, Hamilton, Ontario, Edmonton, Alberta, and Vancouver, British Columbia. Over several months, 424 children were recruited around the time of their diagnosis at these sites.

Phase I and II make up the most extensive longitudinal study of young people with ASD in the world. A significant finding was that different ASD phenotypes have distinct developmental trajectories and that the shape of some trajectories can change based on factors such as family functioning and services.

Now, researchers are continuing their efforts into Phase III of the study and will follow the adolescents with ASD into adulthood. They will focus on the metrics of "developmental health" (DH) of adolescents with ASD, such as socialization and self-determination.

Researchers aim to identify the distinct DH trajectories and how environments can influence the DH of a child into adulthood. Phase III will continue to follow over 300 participants aged 12-13, along with their parents, with an estimated 4 to 5 assessments up to age 18. Questions will focus on critical markers of DH identified by families as having significance. The researchers will make estimates of the rate of change observed in the DH trajectories.

Réseau québécois de recherche sur le sommeil (Réseau Sommeil)

Contact principal	Nadia Gosselin, Adrien Peyrache
Courriel	info@reseausommeil.ca
Site Web	www.reseausommeil.ca
Présence confirmée	Adrien Peyrache

Mission

Le Réseau québécois de recherche sur le sommeil vise à propulser la recherche en sommeil pour en faire une science hautement innovante et intersectorielle qui a des impacts sur le bien-être physique, psychologique et social tout au long de la vie.

Vision et les principes directeurs

Le Réseau sommeil vise l'excellence scientifique et l'innovation. C'est avec une approche scientifique inclusive, consultative, partenariale et co-créée avec les milieux que le Réseau soutient et développe une communauté de recherche soucieuse de générer des savoirs durables pour l'ensemble de la société. Les enjeux liés au sommeil vont évoluer grâce aux actions du Réseau, mais aussi parce que le sommeil est sensible aux changements sociétaux (p.ex., crises, pandémies, réseaux sociaux) et climatiques. Un processus de consultation en continu permet au Réseau d'adapter sa programmation afin de répondre aux nouveaux enjeux.

Le Réseau a pour ambition de contribuer à un changement de paradigme de nature scientifique et politique afin de promouvoir le sommeil comme un levier stratégique de développement scientifique, social et économique.

Objectifs et livrables

- Faire rayonner le Québec sur la sphère provinciale, nationale et internationale par la réalisation de découvertes majeures dans la science du sommeil et des rythmes, résultant de nouvelles collaborations intersectorielles et interinstitutionnelles, de l'obtention de subventions majeures et d'une science ouverte maximisant l'accès aux outils et aux données.
- Mieux répondre aux enjeux de société grâce à des collaborations entre les équipes de recherche, les partenaires, les utilisateur.trice.s des connaissances et la communauté.
- Former et soutenir une nouvelle génération de scientifiques avec une approche enrichie par l'intersectorialité, les approches partenariales et les principes EDI.
- Développer et valider des outils technologiques pour augmenter l'accessibilité au diagnostic des troubles du sommeil et des rythmes et l'étude de grandes cohortes dans des études écologiques.
- Développer une médecine du sommeil personnalisée rendue possible par l'analyse de données de masse, de la génétique et des biomarqueurs auprès de la population dans toute sa diversité.
- Consolider et promouvoir une science ouverte via des plateformes (banques de données et de matériel biologique, et plateformes d'analyse) tout en assurant la pérennité, le partage et la sécurité des données.
- Former des médecins et des professionnel.le.s de la santé, des services sociaux, de la santé et de la sécurité du travail (SST) et de l'éducation capables de promouvoir l'importance du sommeil, de prévenir et dépister ses troubles et d'intervenir.

- Déployer le “Plan d’action provincial en mobilisation des connaissances en sommeil” pour le grand public, les utilisateur.trice.s de connaissances et les décideur.euse.s.

Le Réseau sommeil est soutenu financièrement par le Fonds de recherche du Québec — Santé (subvention 2024-2028). Des initiatives du Réseau sommes sont aussi réalisées grâce au soutien financier de partenaires académiques et non-académiques.

Réseau pour transformer les soins en autisme (RTSA)

Contact principal	Mélanie Couture, Mayada Elsabbagh
Courriel	rtsa-tacc@mcgill.ca
Site Web	www.rtsa-tacc.com
Présence confirmée	Mélanie Couture, Kelly D’Souza, Mayada Elsabbagh, Martine Habra, Ellie-Anna Minogianis, Guy Rouleau, Julie Scorah, Keiko Shikako, Vanessa Tamburro

Le Réseau pour transformer les soins en autisme (RTSA) est un réseau de recherche québécois ancré dans la communauté et reconnu par le Fonds de recherche du Québec (FRQ). Lancé en 2017, le RTSA réunit des chercheuses et chercheurs, des personnes étudiantes, des personnes ayant une expérience vécue ou actuelle, ainsi que des partenaires communautaires et philanthropiques afin de renforcer l’écosystème de recherche en autisme et en neurodéveloppement, et de répondre ensemble à des enjeux concrets. Le RTSA a été désigné Réseau thématique du FRQ en 2017, avec un financement renouvelé pour la période 2024–2032.

Mission

Le RTSA rassemble et mobilise les forces de recherche au Québec afin d’améliorer la qualité de vie des personnes autistes et des personnes ayant une condition neurodéveloppementale.

Ce que nous faisons

Le RTSA poursuit sa mission en :

- **Brisant les silos :** en créant et en renforçant des liens qui rassemblent les parties prenantes afin de définir et de mettre en œuvre des solutions innovantes.
- **Faisant avancer la recherche :** en favorisant des domaines de recherche à fort impact encore sous-représentés en autisme et en neurodéveloppement (par exemple, la science de l’implantation, les systèmes de santé apprenants, les laboratoires vivants et les méthodes de recherche inclusives).
- **Renforçant les capacités :** en consolidant et en dynamisant l’écosystème de recherche en autisme et en neurodéveloppement, tout en collaborant avec d’autres réseaux pour répondre à des priorités urgentes (notamment l’intervention précoce, la santé mentale et l’inclusion sociale).
- **Soutenant les pratiques et les politiques fondées sur les données probantes :** en produisant et en rendant accessibles les connaissances afin d’appuyer le développement de pratiques et de politiques au Québec et au Canada, et de contribuer à des sociétés plus équitables et inclusives.

Tanenbaum Open Science Institute (TOSI)

Primary Contact	Gabriel Pelletier
Email	tosi@mcgill.ca
Website	www.mcgill.ca/neuro/open-science/tanenbaum-open-science-institute-tosi
In Attendance	Guy Rouleau *(Regrets)*

The Tanenbaum Open Science Institute (TOSI) convenes a collaborative network of neuroscience and mental-health research institutes committed to embedding Open Science in everyday practice.

Anchored at The Neuro (Montreal Neurological Institute–Hospital, McGill University), which serves as a living lab to develop an institutional Open Science model, TOSI designs and shares tools, infrastructure, and best practice standards while cultivating a community of practice that sustains culture change. Through its Open Science Support and Partnership Framework, TOSI enables other research centers to implement Open Science, reduce barriers to collaboration, and enhance transparency and reproducibility. The TOSI currently brings together 10 centers, primarily in Canada and actively expanding globally, to accelerate discovery through shared knowledge and interoperable platforms and processes. Together, TOSI's network advances open, rigorous, and accessible neuroscience for the benefit of researchers, patients, and society.

RESEARCH FUNDER PROFILES

This section provides brief profiles of key research funders supporting neurodevelopmental research, including their mandate, priorities, and retreat representatives, to help participants understand funding landscapes and identify opportunities for alignment and collaboration.

Brain Canada Foundation

Primary Contact	Viviane Poupon
Email	info@braincanada.ca
Website	www.braincanada.ca
In Attendance	Viviane Poupon

Brain Canada plays a unique and invaluable role as a national convenor of those who support and advance brain research. A greater understanding of how the brain works contributes to the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and cure of disorders of the brain, ultimately improving the health outcomes of people in Canada and around the world.

Mission: Accelerating, amplifying, and funding brain research across Canada.

Vision: Bold science for brain health

As a national convenor and enabler of the Canadian brain research community, Brain Canada is supporting efforts to reduce health inequities. This includes efforts to assess the different ways that brain diseases and disorders affect men, women, and gender diverse groups, and various stages of neurodevelopment and aging. Brain Canada's goal, in the process, is to advance sex and gender brain science and remove systemic barriers and biases to ensure that all individuals have equal access to – and will benefit from – the results of bold brain research.

Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) – Institute of Human Development, Child and Youth Health (IHDCYH)

Primary Contact	Christine Chambers
Email	IHDCYH-IDSEA@cihr-irsc.gc.ca
Website	www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/8688.html
In Attendance	Joanne Wincentak

The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) is the Government of Canada's health research investment agency, comprised of 13 institutes. The CIHR Institute of Human Development, Child and Youth Health (IHDCYH) promotes better beginnings, vibrant childhoods and empowered youth as outlined in our Strategic Plan 2022–2026. IHDCYH adopts a lifecycle approach that recognizes and values that age, life stages, and intergenerational factors impact the health of children, youth, and their families. IHDCYH's goal is for children, youth and their families to experience the best possible health and well-being, informed by high-quality research that is interdisciplinary, built on strong partnerships and integrates their needs and voices.

Vision: Better beginnings, vibrant childhoods, empowered youth.

Mission

Foster growth and equity across Canada's human development, child and youth health research community to advance science, promote knowledge and ways of knowing, and address the needs of children, youth and their families in Canada and globally.

Commitment

- We engage with and address the needs of children, youth and their families within a lifecycle context.
- We embed reconciliation, equity, diversity and inclusion across our activities.
- We ensure reliable communication and open dialogue about the work our Institute and our research community leads.

Fonds de recherche du Québec (FRQ)

Contact principal	Carole Jabet
Courriel	carole.jabet@frq.gouv.qc.ca; gabrielle.wilson@frq.gouv.qc.ca
Site Web	https://frq.gouv.qc.ca/
Présence confirmée	Gabrielle Wilson

Le Fonds de recherche du Québec (FRQ) est un organisme gouvernemental qui a pour mission de soutenir le développement stratégique et cohérent de la recherche scientifique au Québec dans les secteurs des sciences naturelles et du génie, des sciences de la santé, des sciences sociales et humaines, des arts et lettres.

Depuis le 1er juin 2024 est institué le Fonds de recherche du Québec, regroupant les trois Fonds de recherche en une seule organisation, conformément à la Loi modifiant principalement la Loi sur le ministère de l'Économie et de l'Innovation en matière de recherche.

Le scientifique en chef du Québec est président-directeur général de l'organisme.

Mission et mandats
Le Fonds a pour mission de soutenir le développement stratégique et cohérent de la recherche scientifique au Québec dans les secteurs des sciences naturelles et du génie, des sciences de la santé, des sciences sociales et humaines, des arts et lettres.

Ainsi, le secteur Nature et technologies comprend les sciences naturelles, les sciences mathématiques, les technologies, le génie et les sciences de l'environnement ; le secteur Santé comprend les sciences médicales et cliniques, l'épidémiologie, la santé publique, les services de santé et, plus globalement, la santé durable ; le secteur Société et culture comprend les sciences sociales et humaines, les sciences de l'éducation, les sciences de la gestion ainsi que les arts et les lettres.

Le Fonds a également pour mission de promouvoir la formation de la relève en recherche et l'excellence en recherche afin de contribuer à l'avancement des connaissances et à l'élaboration de solutions en réponse aux défis de société auxquels est confronté le Québec. Il concourt au développement durable de la société, en stimulant le développement d'innovations sociales et technologiques. Il favorise, à l'égard de chacun des secteurs, le rayonnement de la recherche et de ses résultats au Québec, ailleurs au Canada et à l'étranger.

Le Fonds a pour mandats :

- de promouvoir et d'aider financièrement :
    - la recherche libre, fondamentale ou appliquée dans les trois secteurs de recherche
    - la formation de chercheurs et chercheuses et le développement de carrières
    - la mobilisation des connaissances
    - les activités de recherche intersectorielle.

- de soutenir la concertation des initiatives de recherche menées au sein des ministères et organismes gouvernementaux et la gestion d'appels à projets en découlant
- d'établir tout partenariat, tant sur le plan national qu'international
- de contribuer au soutien et au rehaussement de la recherche et de la science en français.

Secteurs

1. **Secteur Nature et technologies :** Une recherche diversifiée et collaborative, catalyseur de bien-être et de prospérité durable, accélérateur d'adaptation aux crises du climat et de la biodiversité.
2. **Secteur Santé :** Une recherche qui vibre avec la société et sa diversité, pour une santé durable, ressource essentielle au développement individuel et à la prospérité socioéconomique**.**
3. **Secteur Société et culture :** Une recherche créative, transformatrice, engagée et ouverte sur le monde.

Ontario Brain Institute (OBI)

Primary Contact	Bryce Pickard
Email	bpickard@braininstitute.ca
Website	www.braininstitute.ca
In Attendance	Bryce Pickard

The Ontario Brain Institute is a provincially funded, not-for-profit organization that accelerates discovery and innovation, benefiting both patients and the economy.

Vision: Ontario as a world leader in brain research, commercialization and care.

We realize this through our collaborative ‘team science’ approach between researchers, clinicians, industry, patients, and their advocates to foster discovery and deliver innovative products and services that improve the lives of those living with brain disorders.

What we do
Our collaborative approach to research aims to:

- Enhance the neuroscience research system
- Grow the Ontario neurotechnology cluster
- Improve brain health for Ontarians

Principles

- Excellence: We have the best advisors in science, industry, advocacy, informatics analytics, and evaluation. The bar we hold ourselves to is “best in the world”.
- Integration and collaboration: We can only compete globally if we harness strengths from across the province. This means integrating talent and efforts across institutions, stakeholders, and disciplines, as well as collaboration and data sharing within and across research programs.
- Standardization and open science: We ensure that data are standardized within and across all our research programs. Our open science mentality respects the highest standards of privacy and security to maximize the use of research data, give hope to those living with disorders, and respect to those who have participated in research studies.
- Impact-driven: Everything we support either goes toward improving care or commercialization. We provide the infrastructure that allows for discovery, validation, and evaluation of impacts.
- Sustainability: Our work is built on existing investments and relies on partnership. We leverage more than 2:1 on Ontario’s investment in us.