



WOMEN'S HEALTH
RESEARCH INSTITUTE
AT BC WOMEN'S



ANNUAL REPORT

2017-2018

2017-2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

WHRI ESTABLISHES TWO PATIENT ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEES TO PROMOTE PATIENT-ORIENTED RESEARCH

Research groups within the WHRI have established two separate patient engagement committees in order to inform the development and progress of research projects from two BC Women's Hospital clinical programs. These patient committees not only inform the development of research projects but serve as key facilitators for end of project knowledge translation back to their respective patient groups.

This past year, the BC Women's Centre for Pelvic Pain and Endometriosis Research Program established their own Patient Research Advisory Board in order to help inform and guide the program's research mandate. The patients who serve on this board will be active partners in setting research priorities, writing grant applications, undertaking appropriate research tasks and translating research findings in way that is accessible for patients and their families. Similarly, BC Women's Complex Chronic Disease Program has an established community group of patients. The Program's research committee routinely seeks input from the patient community group regarding current and upcoming research projects.

WHRI NOW STEWARDS ALL DATA ACCESS REQUESTS FOR UNLINKED DATA WITH THE PERINATAL DATA REGISTRY

The WHRI has taken on the role of providing investigators in British Columbia with access to unlinked data from the Perinatal Data Registry for research purposes. This past year, the responsibility for managing and providing researcher access to unlinked data from the Perinatal Data Registry was transferred to a PHSA Data Analyst within the WHRI. This change was initiated in order to ensure that researchers in the province will be able to have timely access to data from the Perinatal Registry via streamlined request processes and expedited data export procedures.

Our Data Analyst is currently leading the development of standardized PHSA forms and tools to support data access/release from the Registry within PHSA for research purposes. To further facilitate use of Perinatal Data Registry data while minimizing the administrative burden of preparing data for release, our Data Analyst will work with PHSA Research and Academic Services to develop pre-approved datasets that can be made available within a secure research environment to researchers, trainees and clinician scientists.

OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

In 2017 - 2018, our investigators advanced knowledge through a substantial increase in scientific publications and trainee supervision. The excellent calibre of research at the institute continues to attract competitive external funding and our provincial network of women's health research grew significantly this past year.



585 PUBLICATIONS

23% increase in research publications over the year



220 INVESTIGATORS

27% increase in our provincial network of researchers over the year



\$19.5 MILLION IN FUNDING

27% increase in external research funding over the year



448 RESEARCH TRAINEES

12% increase in learners supervised by our investigators over the year

2017-2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

WHRI LEADS THE CREATION OF THE INAUGURAL BC WOMEN'S HEALTH RESEARCH AGENDA

At the request of the BC Ministry of Health, this past year, the WHRI lead the creation of British Columbia's Women's Health Research Agenda. The Women's Health Research Agenda is meant to serve as a guiding document for those engaged in the women's health research enterprise. This document identifies key challenges, drivers, and enablers to women's health research and implementation efforts in BC and presents strategies for enabling, facilitating, and accelerating growth and excellence in women's health research and implementation. It is intended to direct the work of women's health researchers forward with strength and cohesion, focus and vision, to advance the field of women's health research in British Columbia.

The need for a Women's Health Research Agenda emerged alongside the development of a revitalized provincial Women's Health Strategy to improve the health and well-being of girls and women across British Columbia. Hand-in-hand with a women's health strategy is the need for a research agenda: a chance to review the landscape of women's health research in BC and chart the priorities, challenges, and opportunities for women's health research, knowledge translation and implementation across the province. This also presents an opportunity to consider women's health research at the population and public health level. Now the agenda has been released, the WHRI is working with women's research institutes in Edmonton and Toronto to improve federal coordination of women's health research.



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The Women's Health Research Agenda is available for download at whri.org/about-us/reports.

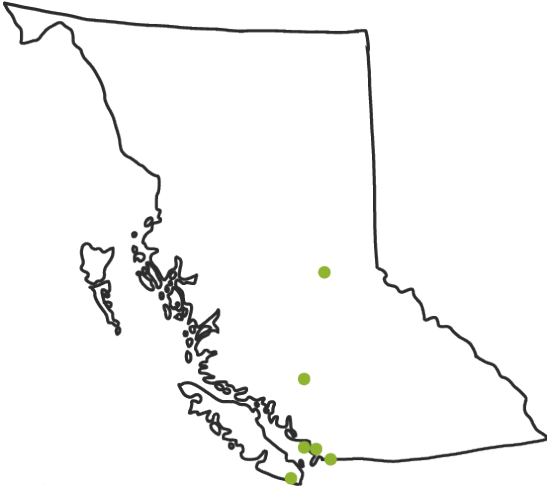


WHRI AND BCCHRI TO CREATE A CENTRALIZED OFFICE AT THE OAK STREET CAMPUS FOR STANDARDIZED PATIENT RECRUITMENT

In conjunction with BCCHRI, the WHRI is in the process of establishing a centralized recruitment office on the Children's and Women's Hospital (C&W) site that will allow PHSA investigators to contact patients for the purposes of research in a standardized fashion. This initiative arose out of an identified need at C&W for a streamlined approach to patient contact regarding research opportunities which follows appropriate data privacy and security practices.

The purpose of the centralized C&W recruitment office is to serve as the point of contact between PHSA researchers and C&W patients for the purposes of recruitment (i.e., sending out recruitment letters, tracking who has been approached for recruitment). The main responsibility of the manager of this office will be to create procedures, oversee engagement and messaging to academic and clinical stakeholders, and collect metrics during the trial period. The WHRI and BCCHRI have confirmed the feasibility of establishing this office and are proceeding with hiring an individual to lead the initiative campus-wide.

ABOUT WHRI



OUR 220 INVESTIGATORS REPRESENT

Five universities in British Columbia

20 departments at the University of British Columbia

11 universities across Canada and the United States

The Women's Health Research Institute is devoted to improving the health and health care of girls and women through knowledge generation, serving as a catalyst for research in women's health and supporting an expanding provincial and national network of women's health researchers, policy makers and healthcare providers.

Our investigators make significant contributions to improving the health and health care of girls and women in British Columbia and around the world through knowledge generation. The Women's Health Research Institute is one of only a few research institutes worldwide (and one of only two in Canada) to focus exclusively on women's health.

We aim to underscore the importance of advancing research that examines the unique health needs of women throughout the lifespan and spotlight the world-class research that is currently being conducted in the province.

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