



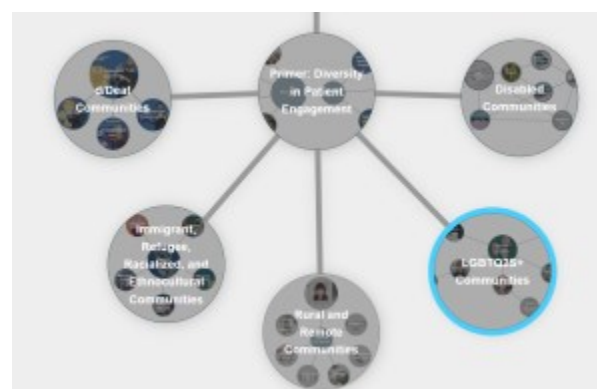
Research & Knowledge Translation Newsletter - April 2025

Newsletter outline:

- Article: NH joins CANTRAIN
 - Article: Diversity Tapestry project
 - Article: Indigenous ways of knowing in neuroscience (republished with permission from UBC)
 - New research studies in the North
 - NH Library corner
 - Events and opportunities
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[NH joins CANTRAIN to enhance clinical trial training in the North](#)



[Do you know how to engage](#)

On November 26, 2024, Northern Health proudly became a member of the CANTRAIN platform. This partnership was formalized through an agreement signed by Northern Health Executive Director of Research, Innovation & Evaluation, Dr. Julia Bickford, and CANTRAIN National Lead, Dr. Jean Bourbeau. By joining CANTRAIN, Northern Health aligns with numerous organizations across Canada to support staff in obtaining essential training for conducting clinical trials.

[Read more](#)

[with diverse patient partners? Check out the Diversity Tapestry project](#)

Article written by: Sahil Kanani and Kristine Ho, BC SUPPORT Unit – Health Research BC The Diversity Tapestry (1) is a set of online educational modules on equity, diversity and inclusion in patient-oriented research. Each module was uniquely co-created by a team of researchers and patient partners from hard-to-reach communities. Topics include engaging with rural and remote patients, disabled community members, and d/Deaf populations.

[Read more](#)

[How can we bring Indigenous ways of knowing into neuroscience?](#)



From left to right: Louise Harding, Dr. Melissa Perreault and Dr. Judy Illes

Dr. Judy Illes, professor of neurology in UBC's Faculty of Medicine and director of Neuroethics Canada, and her research collaborator Dr. Melissa Perreault, a member of the Métis Nation and an associate professor in the Department of Biomedical Sciences at the University of Guelph, are working with research partners and Indigenous scholars and communities to bring Indigenous knowledge and understandings into brain science.

They recently co-authored a [seminal paper on integrating Indigenous perspectives](#) with Western approaches in neuroscience. The paper was informed, in part, by the work of Dr. Illes's former graduate student, Louise Harding, on [engaging with Indigenous communities in brain science](#).

We caught up with Dr. Perreault, Dr. Illes and Louise Harding now at the University of Sydney School of Medicine, to learn about how — and why — brain researchers are integrating Indigenous ways of knowing into their work.

Re-published with permission from: Pathways - UBC Faculty of Medicine's digital magazine.

[Read the full article.](#)



[New research studies in the North](#)

NH continues to expand its research supports that contribute to relevant research and scientific discoveries strengthening Northern and provincial research capacity. The following list includes the latest authorized research studies from January to ...

[Read more](#)

NH Library corner

The library has recently added several books on human factors to its collection. The study of human factors in health care includes examining the relationship between people, processes, and systems, and how they influence workflows and patient safety. Check out these three new books in NH's library catalogue:

- [Human factors for healthcare: a guide for nurses and allied health professionals](#)

- [*Human factors and patient safety: a primer for doctors and medical students*](#)
- [*Humanizing healthcare: human factors for medical device design*](#)

Print books can be mailed across the region at no cost to NH staff and include a return shipping label. To sign up for a library account and borrow one of these new titles, email library@northernhealth.ca.

Events

KT Canada Seminar Series

KT Canada Seminar presents: Shared Voices, Shared Results: Community-Engaged Methods in Health Equity Research by Dr. Emma Kay.

Date: April 30, 2025

Time: 12:00 pm to 2 pm (EDT)

Format: Online. [Register](#)

For more information, [visit the website](#).

Indigenous Speakers Series

Organized by the Faculty of Medicine, University of British Columbia, the Indigenous Speakers Series is an original and important platform to begin, continue, and advance the conversation about telling the truth and reconciling for the future. Everyone is welcome to join in a spirit of integrity and understanding in this original new series.

Date: April 23, 2025

Time: 12 pm to 1:30 pm

Format: Online. More information and programming on the [Indigenous Speakers Series webpage](#)

Five Days in May 2025

BC's health research month (May) is designed to educate, inform, inspire, stimulate, and transform. FDIM brings together researchers and students, patients and health care providers, decision-makers and members of the public to learn, share ideas and spark innovation.

Events are open to everyone.

The 2025 edition will host virtual and in-person events, stay tuned! More information on the [FDIM webpage](#).

NH Research Seminar Series

The NH Research Seminar Series is an opportunity to share and learn about health research or enablers of health research and or improvement projects or approaches that can inform Northern Health priorities. Next seminar: Learning Health Systems Tools and Resources, presented by John Ward, PhD.

Date: May 22, 2025

Time: 12:30 pm to 2 pm

Format: Online. [Register](#).

For past seminar recordings, visit the [NH Research](#) page.

Northern BC Research and Quality Conference 2025. Save the date: October 23, 2025

Bridging Research and Action

Building on the calls to action established through UBC Health-hosted dialogue events ([2021-2024](#)), Bridging Research and Action forum will connect partners from across BC's health system to explore how research insights can be translated into actionable strategies to improve health across the province. This event will bring together diverse perspectives and sectors to catalyze the integration of research and innovation into practice and develop shared aims for implementation.

Date: May 15-16, 2025

Time: 8:30 am to 5.30 pm (Thursday), 8:30 am to 1:30 pm (Friday)

Format: In person in Vancouver and Kelowna & online.

[More information and registration](#).

BC Rural Health Conference

Join rural health providers at the BC Rural Health Conference, on June 6-8, 2025, in Prince George. Connect with peers and stay current on the latest emerging trends in rural and family medicine through hands-on workshops & rapid-fire lectures.

Date: June 6 - 8, 2025

Time: Varied depending on the day, please review [event webpage](#).

Format: In person in Prince George.

More information and [registration](#).

WHO launches new clinical trials guidance - What do I need to know? Recording available.

This upcoming conference is a forum enhanced with resources and skill development workshops to share health and health services research, evaluation, evidence-based practice and quality improvement initiatives in the North. It has been designed to profile Northern BC research, evaluation, and quality initiatives and will provide formal learning as well as informal opportunities for participants to learn from each other. The conference is organized in partnership between Northern Health and UNBC. Upcoming information on the [Health Research Institute website](#).

Date: October 23, 2025

Time: All day

Format: Hybrid (In person in Prince George and online)

Join WHO and the Global Health Network for an in-depth look at the groundbreaking WHO guidance on clinical trials aimed at sustained capacities, integrating research into health systems, and fostering diverse, active research networks worldwide. This session offered valuable insights directly from WHO leaders on how the new framework can enable patient-centric, ethical research. [Watch the recording](#).

Opportunities



Applications open! Collaboration for Health Research Project Grant Program

Applications are now open for the Collaboration for Health Research in Northern BC Project Grant Program! This grant is a part of the Provincial Health Services Authority, Northern Health and University of Northern BC partnership and the focus of this call reflects the funders priorities. There will be a seed grant competition next year with a focus on emerging priorities.

Read more

KT Canada Summer Institute 2025

The Knowledge Translation (KT) Canada Summer Institute will be held in Vancouver, June 17-19, 2025. The theme for this Summer Institute will be “KT and Learning Health Systems”.

With the theme of KT and LHS, the summer institute will feature specialized training, networking opportunities, and a career panel that includes KT/implementation scientists working in LHS environments. They will share how their KT training has shaped their work.

The Summer Institute provides participants with the opportunity to increase their understanding of knowledge translation research as well as opportunities and challenges in this field. Find costs and registration information [on the website](#).

Call for abstracts on chronic disease management

[Healthcare Management Forum](#) is planning a special edition on Chronic Disease Management (from a leadership lens) for January 2027. Chronic diseases are a significant public health issue in Canada and health leaders play a pivotal role in making lasting systemic and patient-centred improvements.

Authors are invited to submit a 200-word **abstract** to lwilson@cchl-ccls.ca by **May 1, 2025**. Abstracts should include a short overview of the proposed manuscript, the intended audience, and key messages for readers. **Full articles are due for peer review by May 1, 2026.**

Authors' guidelines can be found on the [Healthcare Management Forum webpage](#).

Would you like to write and publish a short health research article?

The Research & Knowledge Translation Newsletter is accepting articles for future editions. We are open to all areas of health research and knowledge translation as well as evaluation, data analytics, quality improvement or innovation projects.

If interested to include an article or to share information about an upcoming event, email: research@northernhealth.ca

The Research & Knowledge Translation Newsletter is prepared by NH Research, Innovation, and Evaluation Office, contact us: research@northernhealth.ca.

Find earlier editions of the newsletter on the [NH website](#).



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Northern Health joins CANTRAIN to enhance clinical trial training in the North

Article written by: Tatiana Barcelos Pontes, Regional Manager, Northern Centre for Clinical Research

On November 26, 2024, Northern Health proudly became a member of the [CANTRAIN](#) platform. This partnership was formalized through an agreement signed by Northern Health Executive Director of Research, Innovation & Evaluation, Dr. Julia Bickford, and CANTRAIN National Lead, Dr. Jean Bourbeau. By joining CANTRAIN, Northern Health aligns with numerous organizations across Canada to support staff in obtaining essential training for conducting clinical trials.

About CANTRAIN

CANTRAIN is an innovative online training platform dedicated to improving the quality and efficiency of clinical trials in Canada. It offers comprehensive training programs for professionals interested in clinical trial research, focusing on preparing health professionals to deliver enhanced patient care through well-conducted trials.

Innovative features of CANTRAIN

CANTRAIN distinguishes itself through several innovative aspects:

- **Modular online training:** It integrates modular online training with experiential learning opportunities and expert mentorship while providing flexible and tailored learning experiences for coordinators, project managers, and patient partners.
- **Experiential learning:** It emphasizes hands-on practice and real-world internships in both public and private sectors, ensuring trainees gain practical experience alongside theoretical knowledge.
- **Expert mentorship:** It includes guidance from experienced mentors who actively participate in the training process, skill development and professional competency.
- **Inclusivity and collaboration:** CANTRAIN collaborates with multiple institutions and incorporates perspectives from diverse communities, including marginalized and underrepresented groups, and aims to elevate the overall effectiveness and inclusivity of clinical research.
- **Accredited programs:** It offers accredited training programs designed to harmonize and enhance the quality and capacity of the Canadian clinical trials workforce.

Training streams

CANTRAIN provides distinct training streams tailored to various roles and levels of experience in clinical trials:

- Graduate & Postdoctoral Trainees (GPT)
- Clinical Research Professionals (CRP)
- Trialists
- Community partners

These streams cater to a wide range of participants, from early-career researchers to experienced professionals, and community partners.

Course offerings

CANTRAIN offers a variety of courses to build competencies in clinical trial research. some examples:

- Common core foundation: Eleven modules providing a strong baseline of key concepts in conducting clinical trials involving human participants.
- Orientation and navigation: Helps learners understand the CANTRAIN educational program and navigate the Learning Management System (LMS).
- Clinical trial design and methodology: Covers principles of designing and conducting clinical trials, including statistical methods and ethical considerations.
- Regulatory affairs and quality assurance: Focuses on the regulatory environment and quality assurance practices, ensuring compliance with national and international standards.
- Data management and analysis: Teaches essentials of managing and analyzing clinical trial data, including data integrity and statistical analysis.
- Patient engagement and community involvement: Emphasizes the importance of patient and community engagement, covering strategies for inclusive and effective participation in clinical trials.

Getting started

Accessing CANTRAIN courses is straightforward. Northern Health employees or affiliated staff members can fill out the registration form on the CANTRAIN website ([Registration CTPP - Cantrain](#)). For any questions or issues, contact Tatiana Barcelos Pontes, CANTRAIN Partner Member at Northern Health, at infoNCCR@northernhealth.ca.

By joining CANTRAIN, Northern Health is committed to advancing clinical trial training and improving patient care through high-quality health research.

Do you know how to engage with diverse patient partners? Are you interested in learning practical ways to foster diversity and inclusion in health research? Check out the Diversity Tapestry project



Screenshot of different educational modules from the Diversity Tapestry.

Article written by: Sahil Kanani, EDI Consultant, BC Support Unit & Kristine Ho, Communications, BC SUPPORT Unit, Health Research BC

The [Diversity Tapestry](#) (1) is a set of online educational modules on equity, diversity and inclusion in patient-oriented research. Each module was uniquely co-created by a team of researchers, trainees, and patient partners from hard to reach communities. Topics include engaging with rural and remote patients, disabled community members, and d/Deaf populations, among other communities.

Why was the Diversity Tapestry created?

Engaging with diverse patients improves health research and care while enabling cultural safety from the beginning of research activities to point-of-care practices. However, the type of patient partners who usually engage in research are not very diverse (2). Patient partners are often privileged, well-educated people who live near major research centres, and have the time to volunteer. Their experiences may not reflect those of the wider population.

Many researchers recognize that diversity is important but may not know how to engage with diverse patient partners. Inclusion – the process of creating environments where people feel valued, respected, and are able to participate authentically – is vital to fostering and sustaining diversity.

This is why the Diversity Tapestry was created: to provide practical tools, resources and learning for researchers, helping them understand how to nurture inclusion, embrace diversity, and work towards equity in patient-oriented research.



Screenshot from the Diversity Tapestry video ["Power and positioning."](#)

How can the Diversity Tapestry content help me?

Each module in the Diversity Tapestry will take you on a unique leaning journey. Through interactive elements like videos, documents, graphics, and external links you will:

- Expand your knowledge as you learn from diverse thinkers in the patient-oriented research space
- Learn best practices for engagement and ways to encourage long-term diversity in your projects
- Begin to understand the needs of different diverse communities, the challenges they face, and ways to help foster their inclusion in patient-oriented research



Screenshot from the Diversity Tapestry video ["Your first meeting."](#)

Where do I start?

Start by exploring the [primer module on ways to support diverse patient engagement](#).

This module brings you through the basics of patient engagement in a diverse world. It covers where we are now in diversity and patient-oriented research, as well as what we can do to overcome barriers to diverse patient engagement.

Some recommended videos in the primer module include:

- [Why increase diversity?](#) (6 min.)
Explore why diversity is important for health research, and challenges facing diverse populations.
- [Power and positioning in patient engagement](#) (4 min.)

Learn how power structures can impact the way patients view research and how to move forward collaboratively.

- [Your first meeting with a patient partner](#) (4 min.)

Consider how you could structure a meeting with a patient partner to encourage feelings of safety.

The Diversity Tapestry was funded by the [BC SUPPORT Unit](#), part of [Michael Smith Health Research BC](#).

[Access and explore additional Patient-Oriented Research Tools.](#)

References:

i: BC SUPPORT Unit, 2022. *Methods for Supporting Diverse Patient Engagement in a Diverse World*. The BC SUPPORT Unit Tapestry Project. Available at: <https://diversity-tapestry.com/>

ii: Michalak, E. E., Cheung, I. W., Willis, E., Hole, R., Pomeroy, B., Morton, E., Kanani, S. S., & Barnes, S. J. (2023). *Engaging diverse patients in a diverse world: The development and preliminary evaluation of educational modules to support diversity in patient engagement research*. *Research Involvement and Engagement*, 9(1), 47-47. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40900-023-00455-0>

New research studies in the North

NH continues to expand its research supports that contribute to relevant research and scientific discoveries strengthening Northern and provincial research capacity.

The following list includes the latest authorized research studies from January to March 2025.

Note: Interested to know more details about any of these studies for Knowledge Translation purposes? Contact marcelo.bravo@northernhealth.ca.

#	Principal Investigator	Institution	NH Affiliated Team Member	Study Title	HDSA/ Area	Facilities
1	Amanda Kathleen Slaunwhite	University of British Columbia	N/A	Understanding the geography of overdose: a mixed methods study	Northern Interior	University Hospital of Northern British Columbia
2	Alexis Crabtree	University of British Columbia	N/A	Toxic drug and health alert evacuation	Northern Interior	All NH facilities in Prince George
3	Aleisha Enemark	University of British Columbia	Gordon Ling Makayla Nelson	Pharmacy residents' self-reflection skills: a quantitative and qualitative analysis	Northern Interior	University Hospital of Northern British Columbia
4	Jeffrey R. Brubacher	University of British Columbia	Celia Belamour	National drug driving study	Northern Interior	University Hospital of Northern British Columbia
5	Gurpreet Palak	University of British Columbia	N/A	UBC family practice resident research project: primary care provider attitudes towards prescribing opioids for chronic non-cancer pain (CNPC) in British Columbia	Northern Interior	University Hospital of Northern British Columbia

6	Katie M. Bellefeuille	University of British Columbia	Indraj Uppal	Characterizing antipsychotic use among hospitalized patients awaiting long term care placement at the University Hospital of Northern British Columbia	Northern Interior	University Hospital of Northern British Columbia
7	Alice Jane Schabas	University of British Columbia	N/A	Comparative efficacy of Rituximab versus Ocrelizumab in a real-world multiple sclerosis setting	Northern Interior	University Hospital of Northern British Columbia
8	Elisha Williams	University of British Columbia	N/A	Experiences and perceptions of occupational therapists providing virtual care to clients living in rural and remote communities in BC	All	All NHA facilities
9	Jacky Siu	University of British Columbia	Shelby McGraw	PharMind – Improving pharmacists' care of people who use alcohol	All	Northern Health-Primary Care Network pharmacists
10	Khumbo Kalua	University of British Columbia	N/A	Investigation of the use of virtual health tools in northern British Columbia for visually impaired clients	All	Lakes District Hospital and Health Centre, Fort St. James - Stuart Lake Hospital, McBride and District Hospital, Fraser Lake Community Health Centre, McBride Health Unit, University Hospital of Northern British Columbia, Valemound

						Community Health, Mackenzie and District Hospital and Health Centre
11	Elisha Williams	University of British Columbia	N/A	Who let the dogs in?	All	Bulkley Lodge, Wrinch Memorial Hospital - Acute and Long term care, Carrier Sekani Family Services – Vanderhoof
12	Janessa Laskin	BC Cancer	N/A	Personalized OncoGenomics (POG) program of British Columbia: Connecting cancer genomics to cancer care	All	Fort St. John Hospital, Ksyen Regional Hospital, University Hospital of Northern British Columbia
13	Matt Swankhuizen	University of British Columbia	N/A	Identifying the current pain and sedation management and protocols in British Columbia ICUs	All	All NH hospitals with ICUs
14	Ruby Gidda	University of British Columbia	N/A	Examining the work experiences of women leaders in healthcare positions in British Columbia, Canada: An explanatory mixed methods study	All	All NHA facilities

Collaboration for Health Research in Northern BC Project Grant Program



This grant is a part of the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA), Northern Health (NH) and University of Northern BC (UNBC) partnership and the focus of this call reflects the funders priorities. There will be a seed grant competition next year with a focus on emerging priorities.

The goal of this program is to enable 3 or more collaborators from UNBC, NH, and PHSA to work in partnership and initiate new research projects that focus on improving:

- i. the quality of health services and
- ii. the health of the population in northern BC.

The 2025 intake will fund up to 2 research teams. The maximum amount for each award is \$45,000 for a 24-month period starting August 1, 2025. These funds can be matched through MITACS.

Key Competition Dates

The request for applications (RFA) timeline is summarized as follows:

Action	Target Date
Proposal submission deadline	June 1, 2025
anticipated Notice of Funding decision	July 4, 2025
Funding Term	August 1, 2025 – July 30, 2027 (24-months)

The proposed team and research activity/plan must address a health challenge identified in northern BC. The focus of this call for proposals is on research relating to the following areas:

1. Create connections across NH Service Networks and PHSA Health Improvement Networks to enhance planning and delivery of services.

2. Strengthen human health resource planning and workforce development. The need to grow, retain and support the health and wellness of a skilled workforce.

Applicants will be asked to identify which area they are applying to.

The Project Grant Program is sponsored by The University of Northern BC (UNBC), Northern Health (NH) and the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA). These three organizations entered a Memorandum of Understanding on November 12, 2013, to collaborate in establishing a mutually beneficial research partnership for northern BC. This Project Grant is guided by the following principles:

- Addresses the needs and realities of northern BC in the overall context of BC through respectful engagement and attending to issues of equity, diversity, and inclusion.
- A research-based collaborative relationship for the purposes of improving the quality of health services and improving the health of the population.
- Mutual respect and acknowledgement of the skills and expertise each organization brings to the partnership.
- Builds capacity for partnered research and leaves a legacy of capacity across all three organizations.
- Builds sustained research capacity in the North for the North.
- Creates a culture of learning.
- Open and transparent communication between the Partners.
- **All researchers who have received this grant or the Collaboration for Health in Northern BC Seed Grant must have completed all past project/seed grant activities, including final reports in order to be eligible to receive new funding.**

Applications must be submitted by **noon on June 1, 2025**, via email as single PDF attachment to hri@unbc.ca.

For further information contact:

Health Research Institute

University of Northern BC

3333 University Way, Prince George, BC V2N 4Z9

Email: hri@unbc.ca; Tel: 250.960-5501

Or visit the [Project Grant](#) website.