The CCTCC 2014-2017 Report to Stakeholders
CCTCC
Canadian Clinical Trials Coordinating Centre

Canadian Clinical Trials Coordinating Centre

STRENGTHENING CLINICAL TRIALS FOR CANADIANS
RENFORCEMENT DES ESSAI CLINIQUES POUR LES CANADIENS

Catalyzing and Facilitating Pan-Canadian Collaborations

- Advisory Group
- Provincial collaborations
- BCCRCIN’s pan-Canadian survey on clinical trial participation

Speeding Up Clinical Trials Start-Up Times

- A world-class Canadian clinical research inventory – the CCTAM
- Listing of patient registries to assist with recruitment
- model Clinical Trial Agreement
- Fair Market Value project

Promoting Canada as a Leading Destination for Clinical Trials

- Advantages and advances – Highlighting Canada’s clinical trial strengths
- Raising Canada’s profile internationally

Environmental Pulse Check

- How is Canada performing?
- Research Ethics Boards Report

The future of the CCTCC
In the past three years, the CCTCC has worked with provincial and other clinical trial stakeholders on initiatives stemming from a 2012 Action Plan, aimed at strengthening and improving the clinical trials environment in Canada, as well as addressing more recent needs in the Canadian clinical trials field.
Catalyzing and Facilitating Pan-Canadian Collaborations
The CCTCC Advisory Group provides the CCTCC with input on projects and initiatives. The group is comprised of experts in the clinical trial field from across Canada who offer timely advice and support in a fast-changing field. The Advisory Group was instrumental in providing feedback to key CCTCC projects, including the CCTAM and the REB report.
CCTCC facilitated the first joint meeting of provincial clinical trial organizations in 2015 to discuss trends and opportunities within the Canadian clinical trials field. Since then, three meetings have been hosted by the CCTCC, with the goals of:

- Fostering collaboration and project engagement
- Helping to identify emerging issues and challenges in the Canadian clinical trials field, as well as helping to prevent duplication of efforts

Recommendation #1 of the Action Plan: Establish implementation and coordination headquarters and resources

Visit our website for more information
BCCRN’s Pan-Canadian Survey on Clinical Trial Participation

The pan-Canadian expansion of the BC Clinical Trials Participation Survey is one of the key collaboration accomplishments of the CCTCC. Led by the British Columbia Clinical Infrastructure Network (BCCRN), this is the first survey in Canada asking patients about their experiences with clinical trials and what motivates their decisions whether to join a trial or not. This survey is an opportunity to gather insight and information from patients who agreed to join a trial and those who declined. Funding from the CCTCC and outreach efforts by provincial clinical trial organizations and N2 have catalyzed the survey’s reach across the country.

The results, expected in 2017, will inform Canadian clinical trial practices on patient communication, engagement, outreach and study protocol design.

Consistent with Recommendation #5 of the Action Plan
Develop a database of registries and consider a national patient recruitment strategy

View our website for more information
Speeding Up Clinical Trial Start-Up Times
In June 2015, the CCTCC launched the Canadian Clinical Trials Asset Map (CCTAM), the first searchable database in Canada showcasing our country’s clinical trials capabilities.

To learn more about CCTAM’s history and development please visit: www.cctam.ca
This bilingual, free database communicates Canada’s clinical-research strengths to industries, governments, academics, investigators and clinical-research sites around the world.

Benefits include:

- Marketing opportunities for clinical-research organizations and investigators
- Facilitating investigator initiated research
- Showcasing talent and expertise in Canadian research institutions that conduct cutting-edge clinical trials
- Efficient placement of clinical trials and reduced clinical trial start-up times
- Speeding Up Clinical Trial Start-Up Times

Since June 2015, the site has seen a 50 per cent increase in assets (to over 1100 entries). The search function is the most popular tool on the site, with an average of 50% return visitors. Users include the pharmaceutical industry and federal government agencies, including Canada’s trade commissioners in Europe and the U.S., Global Affairs Canada and Innovation Science Economic Development Canada.
The CCTAM functionality and design are motivated by feedback provided by the users—sponsors, sites and investigators. The CCTCC is committed to maintaining, growing and developing the CCTAM, so it continues to meet the evolving needs of the clinical trial community.

Webinars are available upon request.

The CCTAM’s success has been enhanced by a number of partnerships with organizations across the country.

To learn about our partners please visit our website
The CCTCC’s Patient Registries Project is complimentary to the CCTAM. A criteria for identifying active patient registries able to assist in clinical trial recruitment efforts was developed. Descriptions and contact information for active patient registries are actively being sought and inputted into the CCTAM.
Aimed for a 2017 launch, the model Clinical Trial Agreement (mCTA) is a Canada-wide initiative to standardize clinical trial agreements by providing a standard contract template. The CCTCC partnered with the CLEAR Initiative, a Transcelerate-supported project, which developed language for the five most contentious clauses in contracts.

mCTA Team Canada, in-person meeting in Toronto, October 29, 2015.

The goals of the mCTA are to:

- Reduce study start-up costs
- Accelerate clinical trial initiation times
- Reduce contract negotiation times

The overarching motivation is to increase Canada’s global competitiveness in attracting clinical trials.

Visit our website for more information
Following its mandate to help speed-up clinical trials start-up times, the CCTCC launched the Fair Market Value project, aimed at addressing another critical bottleneck in the initiation of clinical trials in Canada – the budget negotiation process. Representatives from sponsors and sites have come together to develop more effective and efficient budget-negotiation processes. This initiative is not directed at controlling cost but at providing tools and resources for a more streamlined and efficient process for finalizing clinical trial budgets, especially taking into account provincial and institutional differences.
Promoting Canada as a Leading Destination for Clinical Trials
The CCTCC investment case titled “Clinical Trials: The Canadian Advantage,” provides an in-depth, concise narrative that communicates Canada’s clinical trial strengths. Canada’s advantages as a clinical trial destination in terms of speed, quality, and incentives, as well as its unique characteristics, such as an ethnically-varied population with access to universal health care, are showcased. The investment case is already being used by many key stakeholders – pharmaceutical companies, provincial governments, Canada’s trade commissioners and federal government agencies, such as Global Affairs Canada and Innovation Science Economic Development Canada.

Visit our website for more information
The CCTCC organized a clinical trials panel at the BIO International Convention in 2016. Senior leaders from industry, government, and health care organizations gathered to discuss the strengths of the clinical trials environment and some recently introduced operational efficiencies. The audience, which consisted of representatives from pharmaceutical companies, biotechnology firms, government agencies and Canada’s trade commissions, provided feedback on how Canada can further improve its competitiveness as a destination for clinical trials.

Panel presenters and CCTAM partners with members of the CCTCC team.

Representatives from the CCTCC funders and the CCTCC director.

Visit our website for more information
The CCTCC is currently gathering clinical trials metrics, due later in 2017. This initiative will provide an updated pulse check of Canada's clinical trials performance. Metrics that could be vital for the future of clinical trials in Canada include:

- **Operational metrics**, such as timelines for contract and budgets negotiations, research ethics boards
- **Quantitative metrics** attesting to the high quality of clinical trial data in Canada
- **Investment metrics**, in particular total investment in clinical trials in Canada, which will provide a snapshot of how Canada compares to its global competitors
- **Quantitative metrics** providing a reference for the numbers of new trials, newly opened sites and patient recruitment

Visit our website for more information
Research Ethics Boards Report

Recommendation #4 of the Action Plan
Improve efficiencies of ethics reviews and advance strategic issues (like accreditation)

The CCTCC Research Ethics Board (REB) Accreditation Working Group released its final recommendations based on the Canadian experience of REB centralization and harmonization.

The CCTCC collaborated with Health Canada to release a joint response to the final recommendations, outlining next steps for the two organizations. The key final recommendation involves establishing a National Strategic Leadership Forum to champion, shape and direct the development of research ethics on a pan-Canadian level. This recommendation underpins all other final recommendations which include, the development of a registry of REBs that review clinical trials, and exploration of regulatory options for standards equivalency of REBs.

In 2017, CCTCC and Health Canada will work on approaches to establishing the National Leadership Forum.

Visit our website for more information
The Future of the CCTCC

The CCTCC is utilizing its funding extension for 2017 to look boldly into the future. The Canadian clinical trial landscape continues to change and develop. In order to respond adequately to the environmental conditions, a strategic consultation and related activities are being undertaken to determine the role a pan-Canadian clinical trial coordinating organization could play.

CCTCC IS:

- Taking proactive measures to evaluate and manage clinical trial performance improvements
- Contributing to policy development, accreditation and common national standards
- Actively driving the promotion of Canada's research capabilities and expertise
- Applying a pragmatic approach to standardized clinical trial processes
- Uniting people from all stakeholder groups for collaborative success