

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to announce the **Alberta Clinical Research Consortium (ACRC)**. With renowned researchers and research centres of excellence, Alberta has a vibrant clinical research environment. The ACRC is focusing on strengthening these elements of success through better coordination, alignment of processes, and efficiencies to reduce barriers and improve access to clinical research.

“Our vision is high quality, integrated and efficient clinical research in Alberta”

The ACRC was formed in 2011 and involves researchers and representatives from Alberta Health Services, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Covenant Health, the University of Alberta, the University of Calgary, and Alberta Innovates – Health Solutions, who is providing project management and facilitation.

To achieve the vision, we are focusing on the following strategic priorities and enabling actions in the upcoming year.

ACRC Strategic Priorities:

1. *improve the efficiency of clinical research administrative processes across the province*
2. *standardize legal review guidelines for contracts and agreements related to clinical research*
3. *develop provincial standards and opportunities for clinical research training*

Enabling Actions:

1. Common terminology to be used across the province
2. Communication strategy that effectively engages and informs individuals
3. Information management structure that facilitates seamless exchange of information
4. Evaluation strategy that monitors implementation and assesses the impact of the initiative on clinical research

ACRC will also work closely with the Health Research Ethics Harmonization Initiative currently underway.

To find out more about the ACRC Initiative and to sign-up for updates, please visit the ACRC (<http://www.ahfmr.ab.ca/acrc/>) website.

Sincerely,

The ACRC Executive Committee:

Alberta Health Services - Robert Sheldon
College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta - Clarence Weppler
Covenant Health - Sheli Murphy
University of Alberta - Richard Fedorak
University of Calgary - Michael Hill
Alberta Innovates – Health Solutions - Jacques Magnan (Chair)