

# Fostering Clinical Research in the Community Hospital: Opportunities and Best Practices

Adrian Snihur, Anne Mullin, Andrew Haller, Ryan Wiley, Patrick Clifford, Katie Roposa, Paul MacPherson and Linnea Aasen-Johnston

**TABLE A1.**  
**Key resources to foster clinical research in community hospitals**

| Organization/resource  | Mandate   | Relevant services and support   | Link  |
|--|---|---|---|
| Canadian Association of Research Ethics Boards (CAREB-ACCER)   | <i>CAREB-ACCER is a grassroots national membership organization intended to represent the interests of all Canadian Research Ethics Boards (REBs) and to reflect perspectives and concerns.</i>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Standardized REB SOPs (jointly developed with N2)</li> <li>Annual Conference</li> <li>Training and Professional Development Initiatives (e.g., Virtual REB)</li> </ul> <p><i>*Annual membership fee is \$125 CAD. Eligibility for membership based on established criteria.</i></p>  | <a href="https://www.careb-accer.org/">https://www.careb-accer.org/</a>                             |
| Canadian Clinical Trials Coordinating Centre (CCTCC)           | <i>CCTCC was created to implement an action plan to strengthen and improve clinical trials in Canada and streamline processes for companies and researchers.</i>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Canadian Clinical Trials Asset Map</li> <li>Patient Registries</li> <li>Model Clinical Trials Agreement</li> <li>Provincial Clinical Trials Organizations' Meetings</li> </ul>   | <a href="http://www.cctcc.ca/">http://www.cctcc.ca/</a>   |
| Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) Program | <i>CITI Program is dedicated to promoting the public's trust in the research enterprise by providing high-quality, peer-reviewed, Web-based courses in research, ethics, regulatory oversight, conduct of research, research administration and other pertinent topics.</i>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CITI-Canada Education Program (in partnership with N2); courses include:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Good Clinical Practice (GCP)</li> <li>Human Subjects Research</li> <li>Responsible Conduct of Research</li> <li>Transportation of Dangerous Goods/International Air Transport Association</li> <li>Health Canada Division 5: Drugs for Clinical Trials Involving Humans</li> <li>Privacy</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><i>*Subscription-based access to the program/courses</i></p>  | <a href="https://about.citiprogram.org/en/homepage/">https://about.citiprogram.org/en/homepage/</a> |
| Clinical Trials Ontario (CTO)                                  | <i>CTO is a non-profit organization that collaborates with the clinical trials community to strengthen, promote and capitalize on Ontario's competitive advantages for conducting high-quality clinical trials while supporting the highest ethical and quality standards.</i>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>CTO Stream</i> is a digital platform used by over 100 Ontario hospitals to enable a single REB review for multi-site clinical trials.</li> <li><i>QuickSTART</i> is a digital platform that helps sites and sponsors establish standardized processes to improve efficiency and achieve 90-day trial start-up times.</li> <li><i>Research Ready</i> is a training and mentorship program that brings together research staff and investigators to share resources and build capacity.</li> <li><i>Industry Concierge and Trial Site Network</i> connects sponsors with academic and community hospital researchers and promotes Ontario's clinical research capabilities.</li> <li><i>Patient and public engagement tools</i>, such as the Clinical Trial Finder, help patients better understand, access and engage with clinical trials.</li> </ul> | <a href="https://www.ctontario.ca/">https://www.ctontario.ca/</a>                                   |
| Network of Networks (N2)                                       | <i>N2 is a member-based non-profit that represents over 150 organizations and more than 3,000 clinical research professionals, offering a platform for sharing best practices and educational content to support clinical research.</i>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General Clinical Trials Information</li> <li>Clinical Trials Education and Awareness Toolkits and Resources</li> <li>Professional Education and Training (e.g., CITI-Canada Education Program, GCP Course)</li> <li>SOPs</li> <li>N2/CAREB-ACCER REB SOPs</li> <li>Biospecimen SOPs</li> <li>Clinical Trials Registries</li> <li>Guidelines and Regulations</li> </ul> <p><i>*Membership fees based on the sector and size of the organization (from \$1,020 to \$5,100 CAD)</i></p>   | <a href="https://n2canada.ca/">https://n2canada.ca/</a>   |
| Shift Health   | <i>Shift Health brings a science mindset to strategy consulting for the health research and innovation ecosystem – supporting a diverse client base of industry, academic, government, care provider and not-for-profit organizations around the world – including North America, Europe, Asia and the Middle East.</i> | <p>Shift Health provides a diverse range of strategic support for community hospitals, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Corporate Strategy</li> <li>Research Strategy</li> <li>Partnership Strategy</li> <li>Program Evaluation</li> <li>Proposals and Pitches</li> </ul> <p>In partnership with University Health Network, Canada's leading academic, teaching and research hospital network, Shift Health has conducted reviews of clinical research operations for community hospitals and proposed tailored recommendations to optimize operational effectiveness and provide a strategy for growth in clinical research/clinical trials activity.</p>   | <a href="https://www.shifthealth.com/">https://www.shifthealth.com/</a>                             |