

Practice-based research and innovation

Engaging all our health professionals in inventing the future of health care

Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, with 1.2 million patient visits each year, is the largest single-site research-intensive teaching hospital in Canada. Fully affiliated with the University of Toronto, donor support is enhancing Sunnybrook’s ability to provide outstanding quality clinical care, offer expert training to today’s and tomorrow’s health care professionals and conduct groundbreaking research that changes the way patients are treated locally and around the world.

Aligned to its vision of inventing the future of healthcare, Sunnybrook has launched a **Practice-Based Research and Innovation Strategy** under the leadership of Lisa Di Prospero. Lisa has a clinical background in radiation therapy and an MSc in molecular radiation biology.



Lisa Di Prospero,
Interim Director, Practice
Based-Research and
Innovation

“The focus is on engaging health professionals to critically examine and improve their practice to advance high quality and evidence-based patient-centred care,” she says. “The strategy is founded on the belief that those who directly care for patients and families know what needs to be improved and how best to improve it.”

Supported by donors, Sunnybrook is engaging health professionals to participate in research and critically examine and improve their practice through a variety of ways including:

Innovation fellowships – Innovation fellowships offer clinicians the opportunity to develop and implement innovative quality improvement projects to improve patient and family care at Sunnybrook. Health professionals are given two days weekly over six months away from their regular positions to work on these projects. Fellows engage in weekly seminars where they learn with peers about leading change in a complex academic health organization. All funds are used to ensure that patient care needs on the unit are fully covered for the duration of the fellowship.

One fellowship: 1 year limited term (\$22,500) | 5 year limited term (\$125,000) | endowed (\$500,000)

Practice-based research seed grants – The seed grant program provides clinicians education, mentoring and small seed funds to perform high quality research focused on advancing practice for high quality patient care. Seed grants come with no protected research time but recipients can use the funds to buy the time of a research assistant to recruit participants and collect data, to cover the costs of transcription or poster printing. Study results are shared through internal presentations and externally through conference presentations and publication.

One seed grant: 1 year limited term (\$11,250) | 5 year limited term (\$56,250) | endowed (\$250,000)

Research Chairs – Research Chairs, Professorships and Clinician Scientist roles allow PhD-prepared health professionals to develop and sustain a new, innovative and productive program of research in a defined clinical area. These positions are affiliated with the Sunnybrook Research Institute and the relevant faculty or department at one of our partner academic institutions and provide local, national and international leadership in the generation and translation of knowledge to support innovations in and improvements to care. Aligned to Sunnybrook’s leadership in this area, a Nursing Chair in Trauma, Emergency and Critical Care (TECC) Research has been identified as a priority.

One research chair: 5 year limited term (\$1M) | 10 year limited term (\$2M) | endowed (\$4M)

“We are building our own future leaders and scientists.”

- Lisa Di Prospero