Clinical Trials Ontario

CTO 2026 Clinical Trials Conference

November 4–5, 2026 | Toronto, Ontario

HOUSEKEEPING

Welcome to the CTO 2026 Clinical Trials Conference

Thank you for joining us at **#CTOConf2026**, Canada's leading forum for driving innovation in clinical trials. Network with a diverse group of peers from across the clinical trials community and share best practices and emerging trends in clinical trials.

FREE WI-FI

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ENGAGE USING #CTOCONF2026

Find us on LinkedIn and join the conversation with the hashtag #CTOConf2026.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photos taken throughout the conference may be used for CTO communications purposes.

QUESTIONS?

Event staff and members of the CTO team are available should you have any questions or concerns. Find them at registration or around the conference.

WE APPRECIATE YOUR FEEDBACK

We are committed to continually improving the CTO conference experience. Be sure to complete the brief survey that all delegates will receive via email shortly after the conference or contact us any time at info@ctontario.ca.

View the full agenda online

Session descriptions, speaker biographies and more at ctoconference.ca.

Save the date: #CTOConf2027

CTO's 2027 Clinical Trials Conference will be held November 2nd & 3rd at the Hilton Toronto.

See you next year!

DAY 1 Wednesday, November 4

7:30 am — *Registration, Breakfast & Exhibition Hall*

8:55 am

Welcome Remarks

- **Raphael Hofstein**, Chair, Clinical Trials Ontario Board of Directors
- **Susan Marlin**, President and CEO, Clinical Trials Ontario

9:00 am

Opening Address

The Honourable Nolan Quinn, Minister of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence, and Security

9:10 am

KEYNOTE Research as Care: Why Canada Needs to be More Competitive

Christine Elliott, Former Ontario Minister of Health and Deputy Premier

9:45 am

PANEL The Bridge: Strategies to Connect Research to Care Across Canada

- Moderator **Christine Elliott**, Former Ontario Minister of Health and Deputy Premier
- **Dr. Geoff Payne**, President & CEO, Michael Smith Health Research BC
- **Dr. Braden Manns**, Associate Vice-President, Health Research, University of Calgary; Senior Associate Dean, Health Research, Cumming School of Medicine; and Nephrologist and Professor of Medicine
- **Dr. Ryan Zarychanski**, Professor of Medicine (Hematology and Critical Care), Pharmacy, and Community Health Sciences, and Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Clinical Trials, Max Rady College of Medicine, University of Manitoba; Hematologist and Senior Scientist, CancerCare Manitoba and Research Institute; Scientific Director, George and Fay Yee Centre for Healthcare Innovation and Aurora Clinical Research
- **Christine Lennon**, President and CEO, CATALIS Québec
- **Dr. Aristotle Voineskos**, Senior Vice President, Research and Science; Director, Campbell Family Mental Health Research Institute; Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH)

10:30 am — *Break, Networking & Exhibition Hall | Coffee & Snacks Sponsored by Sciteline*

11:00 am

How Canada is Modernizing Clinical Trials Regulations to Compete Globally

Dr. Supriya Sharma, Chief Medical Advisor to the Deputy Minister and Senior Medical Advisor, Health Products and Food Branch, Health Canada

11:20 am

ACT 2: Accelerating Trials and Expanding Equitable Access

Dr. Emilie Belley-Côté, Scientist, Population Health Research Institute; Accelerating Clinical Trials Consortium

11:40 am

Keep Trials Moving: CanReview Report

Susan Marlin, Nominated Principal Applicant, CanReview; President & CEO, Clinical Trials Ontario

12:00 pm — *Lunch, Networking & Exhibition Hall*

DAY 1 Wednesday, November 4

1:10 pm — **Advancing AI to Strengthen Clinical Trials**

Dr. Shurjeel Choudhri, Senior Vice President and Head, Medical and Scientific Affairs, Bayer

1:30 pm — **Expanding Access to Clinical Trials: Insights from Nova Scotia Health**

Dr. Ashley Hilchie, Senior Director of Research, Nova Scotia Health; Adjunct Professor, Acadia University

1:50 pm — PANEL **Getting to 45 Days: Lessons from QuickSTART's First Studies**

- Moderator **Eleana Rodriguez**, Director of Research Legal — Clinical Trial Agreements
- **Erika Basile**, Director, Research Ethics and Compliance, Western University
- **Jocelyn Edwards**, Director, Grants Development & Research Administration, London Health Sciences Centre Research Institute and Lawson Research Institute
- **Leandro Jankowski**, Senior Country Head – Clinical Operations, AstraZeneca Canada
- **Gail Klein**, Director of Operations, Centre for Clinical Trial Support, Sunnybrook Research Institute
- **Sarah Best**, Manager, Research Operations, Lawson Research Institute

2:25 pm — *Break, Networking & Exhibition Hall*

2:45 pm — PANEL **Psilocybin and the Past and Future of Care**

- Moderator **Justin Jennings**, Senior Curator, Archaeology of the Americas, Royal Ontario Museum
- **Dr. Claudio Soares**, Professor of Psychiatry, Queen's University; Director, Centre for Psychedelics Health and Research at Providence Care Hospital & Queen's University
- **Dr. Ishrat Husain**, Department Head, UHN's Centre for Mental Health and Program Medical Director, UHN-CAMH Partnership

3:30 pm — KEYNOTE + CONCERT **UNPLUGGED: An Evening with Shawn Hook**

Shawn Hook, Canadian Singer, Songwriter and Cancer Survivor

4:30 pm | **CTO 2026 Reception | Sponsored by Innovative Medicines Canada**

DAY 2 Thursday, November 5

7:30 am — *Registration, Breakfast & Exhibition Hall*

9:00 am — **Welcome Remarks**

Susan Marlin, President and CEO, Clinical Trials Ontario

9:05 am — KEYNOTE **Smarter, Better, Faster: Trial Innovations from Denmark and the EU**

Dr. Tor Biering-Sørensen, Professor and Founding Head of Center for Translational Cardiology and Pragmatic Randomized Trials

DAY 2 Thursday, November 5

9:45 am — PANEL **Unlocking Trial Potential Through Data and Registries**

- Moderator **Dr. Mina Tadrous**, Associate Professor, Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Toronto, Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in Pharmaceutical Policy and Real-world Evidence; Co-Director, Pharmaceutical Policy and Pharmacy Practice, ODPRN
- **Dr. Tor Biering-Sørensen**, Professor and Founding Head of Center for Translational Cardiology and Pragmatic Randomized Trials
- **Dr. Beth Potter**, Professor, School of Epidemiology and Public Health, University of Ottawa
- **Nicole Yada**, Director, VITAL
- **Dr. Christopher J Yarnell**, Intensive Care Physician, Scarborough Health Network, University of Toronto

10:30 am — *Break, Networking & Exhibition Hall | Coffee & Snacks Sponsored by Sciteline*

11:00 am — **Advance Consent for Acute Stroke Trials: Results of a Feasibility Study**

Dr. Michel Shamy, Professor, Department of Medicine, and Faculty Research Chair in Clinical Research Ethics, University of Ottawa; Attending Neurologist, The Ottawa Hospital; Scientist, Ottawa Hospital Research Institute

11:20 am — PANEL **Hot Takes on Life Sciences Sovereignty**

- Moderator **Chris Hannay**, Health Reporter, *The Globe and Mail*
- **Rob Henderson**, President & CEO, BioTalent Canada
- **Dr. Jason Field**, President & CEO, Life Sciences Ontario
- **Cate Murray**, President & CEO, Stem Cell Network

12:00 pm — **Thanks for the Advice – Now Let's Talk Sovereignty**

Dr. Tibetha Kemble (Stonechild), Director, Indigenous Clinical Trials, University of Alberta; Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry

12:30 pm — *Lunch, Networking & Exhibition Hall*

1:30 pm — PANEL **Building a Safer and More Inclusive Clinical Trials Ecosystem**

- Moderator **Dr. Jaris Swidrovich**, Assistant Professor, Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Toronto
- **Dr. Natalie Dayan**, Assistant Professor of Medicine, McGill University; Director, McGill University Health Centre Obstetrical Medicine
- **Kim Meeking**, Co-Lead / Director, Queering Cancer
- **Kearie Daniel**, Executive Director, Founder, The Black Women's Institute for Health
- **Miranda Miller**, Research Project Manager, Canadian Collaboration for Child Health: Efficiency and Excellence in the Ethics Review of Research (CHEER), Queen's University

2:10 pm — **When Less is More: A Participant's Perspective on De-Escalation**

- **Beth Ciavaglia**, Patient Advocate and Advisor
- **Dr. Mark Clemons**, Clinician Scientist, Ottawa Hospital Research Institute; Staff Medical Oncologist, Ottawa Hospital Cancer Centre; Professor of Medicine, University of Ottawa

3:00 pm — *Closing Remarks & Conference Concludes*

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Exhibition Hall 2026

Don't miss our Exhibition Hall, available throughout the conference. Connect with emerging and innovative organizations in the clinical trials community.

Strengthen your trials with CTO

Ontario is the place for clinical trials. At Clinical Trials Ontario (CTO), we work with partners across the community to build an efficient, predictable and high-quality clinical trials environment while maintaining the highest ethical standards. Check out some of our progams and get started today!

Streamline your research ethics reviews

Stream, CTO's web-based system, enables all research sites participating in a clinical trial to undergo a single ethics review rather than separately applying to local research ethics boards, saving time and labour for research ethics approvals. Stream also supports CanReview, Canada's new pan-Canadian research ethics review system for multi-jurisdictional clinical trials and health studies. Get started with single research ethics reviews today. Contact streamline@ctontario.ca.

BY THE NUMBERS

12,000+ users

180+ sites

310+ sponsors

22 REBs

3,100+ studies

Accelerate trial start-up within 45 days

QuickSTART brings contracting, budgets and research ethics review together within a coordinated 45-day clinical trial start-up timeline. The Universal Agreement for Clinical Trials (**UACT**), a key component of QuickSTART, is reducing contracting timelines from months to days. Adopt the UACT and become QuickSTART ready today. Contact quickstart@ctontario.ca.

EARLY IMPACTS

5 QuickSTART pilot start-ups; 4 sites; 2 sponsors

All completed in < 40 days, some in < 25 days

Agreements 10x faster with UACT

30 organizations using UACT

Engage patients and the public with trials

College of Lived Experience

Investigators and sponsors, improve trials by partnering with the College and incorporating input from patients, caregivers and the public.

Participant Experience Toolkit

Ensure trial participants feel informed and valued, with guidance on participant support, reimbursement, experience surveys, result summaries, and more.

Find more resources via the QR code, or contact dawn.richards@ctontario.ca.

Learn more about Clinical Trials Ontario and our programs at ctontario.ca.

Contact Us

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