



Clinical Trials Ontario

CTO 2025
Clinical Trials
Conference



November 5 & 6, 2025
Toronto, Ontario

Housekeeping Notes

Welcome to the CTO 2025 Conference

Thank you for joining us at CTO 2025, 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 WIFI

Network: **Hilton Honors**

Password: **CTO25**

Engage using #CTOConf2025

Find us on LinkedIn and X at @clinicaltrialON and join the conversation with the hashtag #CTOConf2025.

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 at any time at info@ctontario.ca.



View the Full Agenda

For a full agenda with session descriptions, speaker biographies and more, visit ctontario.ca.



#CTOConf2026 Save the Date!

CTO's 2026 Clinical Trials Conference will be held November 4th & 5th at the Hilton Toronto. See you next year!

Day 1: November 5, 2025

7:30 AM	Registration, Networking & Exhibition Hall
8:55 AM	Conference Welcome Remarks • Raphael Hofstein, Chair, CTO Board of Directors • Susan Marlin, President & CEO, Clinical Trials Ontario
9:00 AM	Opening Remarks • The Honourable Nolan Quinn, Minister of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security
9:10 AM	Keynote: Gaps & Gains – A Global Look at Clinical Trials • Kenneth Getz, Executive Director & Professor, Tufts Center for the Study of Drug Development; Founder & Board Chair, CISCPR, Tufts University School of Medicine and Center For Info & Study on Clinical Research Participation • Maria Florez, Senior Consultant, Tufts Center for the Study of Drug Development, Tufts University School of Medicine
10:00 AM	Deep Dive: Research Ethics and Clinical Trials in the UK • Matt Westmore, Chief Executive, UK Health Research Authority
10:30 AM	Break, Networking & Exhibition Hall
11:00 AM	Clinical Trials at the Canadian Institutes of Health Research • Megan Bettle, Executive Director for Clinical Trials at the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)
11:15 AM	ACT Update: Impact and Horizons • Dr. PJ Devereaux, Nominated Principal Applicant, Accelerating Clinical Trials (ACT) Consortium
11:40 AM	Panel: Seizing the Canadian Opportunity • Moderator: Dr. Ryan Wiley, President, Shift Health • Megan Bettle, Executive Director for Clinical Trials, Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) • Dr. PJ Devereaux, Nominated Principal Applicant, Accelerating Clinical Trials (ACT) Consortium • Dr. Andy Smith, President & CEO, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre • Barry Stein, President & CEO, Colorectal Cancer Canada • Matt Westmore, Chief Executive, UK Health Research Authority
12:30 PM	Lunch, Networking & Exhibition Hall
1:45 PM	How to Make Change Happen (*Using Behavioural Science) • Simon Bacon, Nominated PA, Canadian Behavioural Interventions and Trials Network; Co-Lead, International Behavioural Trials Network
2:25 PM	CanReview: Collaborating Across Canada for a Single Research Ethics Review System • Susan Marlin, President & CEO, CTO; Nominated PA, CanReview

Day 1: November 5, 2025

2:45 PM Break, Networking & Exhibition Hall

3:15 PM **Canadian Health Data at a Crossroad: Navigating Health Data Sovereignty & Opportunity**

- Dr. Kumanan Wilson, Chief Executive Officer, Bruyère Health Research Institute; Clinical Research Chair, Department of Medicine, University of Ottawa

3:45 PM **Breaking Silos, Building Science: Integrating Health Data Across Ontario Health Care**

- **Moderator:** Chris Hannay, Business of Health Reporter, *The Globe and Mail*
- Fahad Razak, Provincial Clinical Lead, Ontario Health; Co-Lead GEMINI; Canada Research Chair in Data-Informed Healthcare Improvement, University of Toronto
- Charles Victor, Senior Director, Strategic Partnerships and Digital Services, ICES
- Andrew Costa, Co-Lead, OnSPARK Data Platform
- Kimberley McFadden, POPLAR Program Manager, Assistant Professor (Adjunct), Queen's University

4:30 PM CTO 2025 Reception | Sponsored by Innovative Medicines Canada

Day 2: November 6, 2025

7:30 AM Registration, Networking & Exhibition Hall

9:00 AM Welcome Remarks

- Susan Marlin, President & CEO, Clinical Trials Ontario

9:05 AM **Keynote: AI Now, Next, Never**

- Ramy Nassar, AI & Emerging Technology Expert

10:00 AM Break, Networking & Exhibition Hall

10:30 AM **Panel: The Use of AI in the Drug Discovery and Clinical Research Continuum**

- **Moderator:** Dr. Ron Boch, Vice President, Biotechnology and Industry Affairs, BIOTEC Canada
- Kevin Richards, Senior Director, Clinical Quality, AstraZeneca Canada
- Donna Janzen, Director, Regulatory Affairs Strategy and Policy, Roche Canada
- Mina Tadrous, Associate Professor, Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Toronto and Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in Pharmaceutical Policy and Real-world Evidence; Co-Director, Pharmaceutical Policy and Pharmacy Practice, Ontario Drug Policy Research Network (ODPRN); Adjunct Scientist, ICES
- Eleana Rodriguez, Director Research Legal – Clinical Trial Agreements (CTAs), University Health Network

Day 2: November 6, 2025

11:15 AM

Panel: Precision Meets Purpose – The Promise of Cell & Gene Therapy

- **Moderator:** Kenneth Getz, Executive Director & Professor, Tufts Center for the Study of Drug Development; Founder & Board Chair, CISC RP – Tufts University School of Medicine and Center For Info & Study on Clinical Research Participation
- Cate Murray, President & CEO, Stem Cell Network
- Dr. Allison Brown, Senior Vice-President, Academic Engagement & Philanthropy, CCRM
- Dr. Sowmya Viswanathan, Scientist, Osteoarthritis Program, Division of Orthopedic Surgery, Schroeder Arthritis Institute & Krembil Research Institute (University Health Network); Associate Professor, Institute of Biomedical Engineering & Department of Medicine, University of Toronto
- Jenna Shea, Member of CTO's College of Lived Experience, Huntington's disease advocate

12:00 PM

Panel: Trials in Real Life – Not Black and White, But Grey All Over

- **Moderator:** Therese Lane, Member of CTO's College of Lived Experience
- Jackie Manthorne, President & CEO, Canadian Cancer Survivor Network
- Margaret Loniewska, Rethink Breast Cancer Key Collaborator and MBC Advisors Group member

12:30 PM

Lunch, Networking & Exhibition Hall

1:30 PM

Panel: Does Canada Have the People Power for More Trials?

- **Moderator:** Kristen Pitzul, Director of Strategic Policy and Hospital-Enabled Research, Ontario Hospital Association
- Munaza Jamil, National Director, Canada's Clinical Research Workforce Strategy
- Rob Henderson, President & CEO, BioTalent Canada
- Alison Orth, Director, Clinical Trials British Columbia
- Lisa Goos, Chief Operating Officer, CANTRAIN

2:00 PM

Panel: Are We Becoming More Agreeable?

- **Moderator:** Susan Marlin, President & CEO, Clinical Trials Ontario
- Monisha Nundy, National Operations Strategist, Site Management, Bayer Inc.
- Saliha Boumaza, Executive Director, Clinical Research, Merck
- Jennifer Cox, Legal Counsel and Manager, Research Contracts, Ottawa Hospital Research Institute
- Eleana Rodriguez, Director Research Legal – Clinical Trial Agreements (CTAs), University Health Network
- Dr. Bradly Wouters, Executive VP Science and Research, University Health Network

2:30 PM

Fireside Chat: Speaking Across Blurred Lines Between Research and Care

- Maureen Smith, Member of CTO's College of Lived Experience
- Dean A. Tripp, Professor in the Departments of Psychology, Anesthesiology, and Urology; Chair of Queen's University Health Sciences and Affiliated Teaching Hospitals Research Ethics Board (HSREB)

3:00 PM

Closing Remarks & Conference Concludes

Thank you to our sponsors & exhibitors!

Exhibition Hall 2025

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



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About Clinical Trials Ontario



At Clinical Trials Ontario (CTO), we work closely with the clinical trials community to capitalize on Ontario's health sciences assets and deliver on our mandate to build a stronger and more efficient clinical trials environment while maintaining the highest ethical standards for patient safety. Together, we have made a tremendous impact.

Streamline Your Research Ethics Reviews

Stream, CTO's Ontario-built online system, enables all research sites participating in a clinical trial to undergo a single ethics review rather than separately applying to their local research ethics boards, reducing the time and labour required to obtain research ethics approval. Stream supports over 12,000 users, 175 hospitals and research sites, and more than 300 industry sponsors. In 2024, Stream was selected to power CanReview, Canada's new pan-Canadian research ethics review system for multi-site clinical trials and health studies. Are you ready to get started with Stream? Contact streamline@ctontario.ca.

Accelerate Your Trial Start-Up Times

Have you heard about Ontario's new **Universal Agreement for Clinical Trials** (UACT)? This standardized clinical trial agreement was developed collaboratively with hospitals and industry to simplify contracting, reduce negotiation burdens, and provide greater consistency for both sponsors and sites. Already adopted by 21 hospitals and global sponsors, it's part of CTO's new **QuickSTART** program to improve efficiencies and collaboration, with a goal of activating clinical trials in just 45 days. Adopt the UACT today, and learn more about getting started (quickly!) with QuickSTART. Contact quickstart@ctontario.ca.

Engage Patients and the Public With Trials

Check out CTO's clinical trials **tools and resources**, including our glossary, videos, Clinical Trial Finder online search tool and our Patient Experience Toolkit. Co-developed with our **College of Lived Experience**, these tools are designed to inform patients and the public about clinical trials and improve engagement. Want to learn more or download a Patient & Public Engagement information package? Contact dawn.richards@ctontario.ca.

Thank you for joining us at CTO's 2025 Clinical Trials Conference!

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

Contact Us

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