25 years of impact / 25 ans de retombées

A vision for Canada

CTO meeting 2025-11-05

Canadian Institutes of Health Research / Instituts de recherche en santé du Canada

Canada

Canadian Institutes of Health Research

Objectives (from the CIHR Act):

- to excel… in the **creation** of new knowledge and its **translation** into improved health for Canadians, more effective health services and products and a strengthened Canadian health care system…
- creating a **robust health research environment** in Canada…
- addressing emerging health opportunities, threats and challenges and accelerating the **discovery** of cures and treatments and **improvements** to health care, prevention and wellness strategies…
- promoting the **dissemination of knowledge** and the application of health research to improve the health of Canadians…
- encouraging **innovation**, facilitating the **commercialization** of health research in Canada and promoting **economic development** through health research in Canada…
- building the **capacity** of the Canadian health research community

Canadian Institutes of Health Research

INVESTMENTS

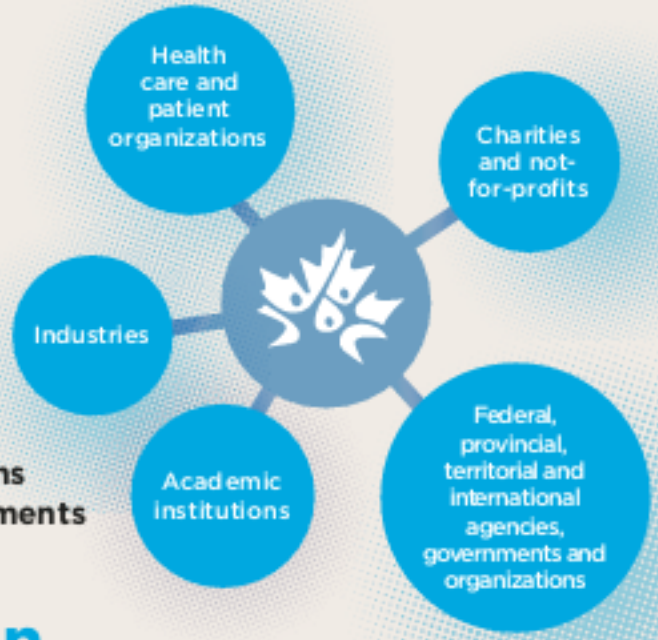
$1 billion

in annual investments

to provide financing for **13 000** researchers and trainees

COLLABORATION

Making Canadians healthier is a collective effort



CIHR partners with over **250** organizations and governments

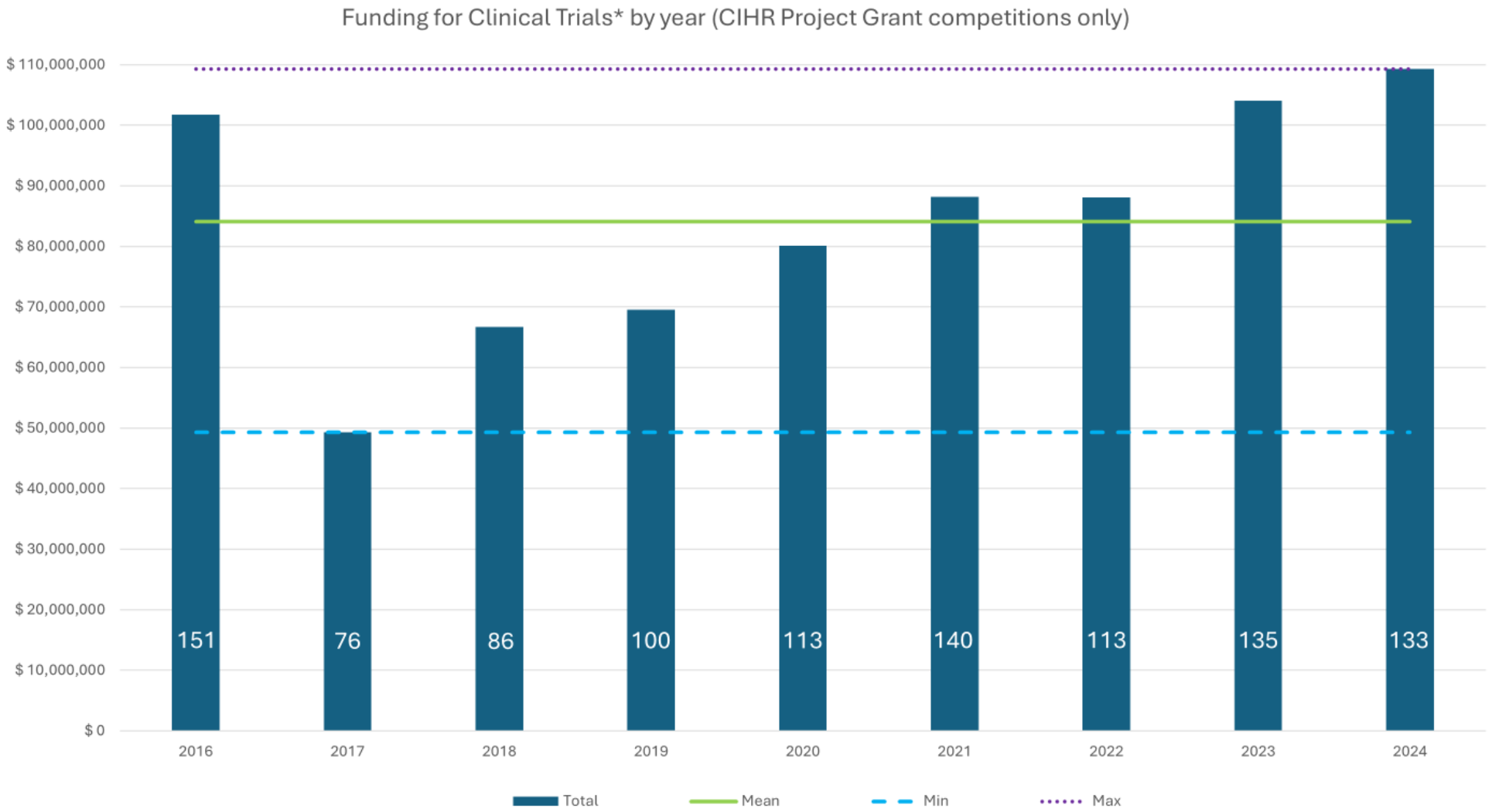
Close to **$200 million** secured from partners for research

To pool resources, expertise and money.

To get new perspectives and set common priorities.

To accelerate the process between scientific discovery and its application in policy, services, treatments and products.

Trends in CIHR Clinical Trial Funding



* As declared by the applicant at the time of application submission.

Taking stock since 2022

- Clinical Trials Fund ($250M over 3 years) fully allocated - Accelerating Clinical Trials Consortium, multiple training platforms, trials focusing on pandemic preparedness, critical care, domestic life sciences industry

- Evolution of the Biomanufacturing and Life Sciences Strategy and creation of Health Emergency Readiness Canada (HERC)

- Review of the Federal Approach to Pandemic Science Advice and Research Coordination (2024)

> *"Canada must continue **investing in, maintaining, and enhancing** its clinical trial capacity and infrastructure to be better prepared for the next pandemic or health emergency. This includes **streamlining research ethics approvals and data and specimen sharing processes** for anticipated areas of research, and the establishment of emergency processes for **working with industry**, as well as **investing in processes** that can be leveraged for other health emergencies."*

Aligning with international best practices

Core funders of medical research commit to strengthening clinical trials worldwide

World Health Organization

25 September 2025 | Departmental update |Reading time: 4 min (1182 words)

Some of the world's largest funders of medical research have today committed, through the signature of a joint statement, to implement WHO standards to strengthen clinical trial systems and ensure that research better serves patients and communities. The statement sets out measures to integrate clinical trials into sustainable national infrastructure, improve trial design, ensure that trial populations are representative, and embed best practices on transparency, data management and public engagement.

CIHR is a signatory to the WHO joint funders statement, which highlights

- transparency
- patient and community engagement
- representativeness of trial populations

Stronger requirements to address these elements will be built into future clinical trials funding calls.

A vision for the future

- Greater emphasis on identifying and funding strategic priorities
- Eventually requiring use of tools to support clinical trials efficiencies
  - Use of streamlined research ethics boards processes which minimize the numbers of reviews to be completed for multi-site clinical trials
  - Use of inter-institutional agreements which minimize timelines for negotiation
  - Use of informed consent approaches for clinical trials that are participant-focused and increase consistency
- Improving access to trials - decentralized trial models, use of technology, approaches to reach remote and rural populations
- Support for research networks and other enabling infrastructure
- A focus on assessing the impact of CIHR-funded research

A challenge for the CTO community

What can we all do to collectively support continued integration and improvements in clinical trials processes?

- Ensuring research is inclusive and includes broad engagement all through the life cycle of a project with patients, communities and decision-makers
- Communicating on the importance and value of clinical trials
- Promoting uptake of trial efficiencies within your institutions
- Building and maintaining connections
  - With each other
  - With those who are not here today
  - With international partners

25 years of impact
25 ans de retombées

Thank you!

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