



## Health and Biomedical Research

Canada is home to 17 Faculties of Medicine recognized for training world-class medical doctors and health researchers.

### **22,000 full and part-time faculty training:**

- **2,300 MD graduates a year**
  - **10,500 medical students**
  - **13,400 masters and doctoral students**
- 13,000 clinical postgraduate**

The Faculties play a major role in research activities contributing to the global expansion of new knowledge in health and biomedical sciences and they are the drivers behind the application of this knowledge to improve clinical care and healthcare delivery. The Faculties work in partnership with healthcare organizations and teaching hospitals and other health-related academic units at Canadian universities and have major partnerships with the federal, provincial and private organizations involved in promotion of health research and health care delivery.

Over the years, based on strategic initiatives of our granting councils, particularly the CIHR, there has been an unprecedented increase in interdisciplinary research teams resulting in alignment of clinical, biomedical, health services and community health research into multi- and interdisciplinary research teams tackling major health issues facing Canadians.

Canada has a proud history in fundamental discovery research. We are leaders in areas such as the groundbreaking work on neural stem cells and sequencing of the SARS virus. Canadian researchers are also internationally recognized for their unique large-scale pan-Canadian research programs of interdisciplinary teams such as the Canadian Cardiovascular Outcomes Research Team and the Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging. Research requires a trained medical workforce, a solid research base to provide evidence to insure best practice, and continued investments in state-of-the-art infrastructure and resources.

### **Research success relies on**

- **Infrastructure**
- **Indirect costs**
- **State-of-the-art resources**
- **Highly skilled personal**
- **Operational resources**

Maintaining and expanding Canada's role in national and global health care delivery is contingent upon sound, evidence-based research, research that requires predictable financial investments. **Canada's faculties of medicine call for long term planning and financial support for health and biomedical research, commitments for on-going projects, and continued opportunities to develop new and innovative strategies to deal with the healthcare needs of Canadians well into the future. Canada's faculties of medicine encourage all sectors of government to continue their strong endorsement of health and biomedical research with continued long-term financial investments.**

**Canada's faculties of medicine also support the development of academic health science networks as national and provincial priorities that will be the engine that ensures that Canada remains a leader in healthcare innovation and effective, efficient healthcare delivery.**

**We are also keen supporters of the CIHR initiative on patient-oriented research (SPOR), which strives to "improve quality, accessibility and cost-effectiveness of [the Canadian] health care system" and encourage the federal government to provide investment for its implementation.**

**The Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada strongly encourages the government to enhance training programs by investing in programs from the early stages of research education at the undergraduate level through to masters and doctoral studies.** Secure funding for all stages of research training provides an opportunity to have a meaningful impact on a large cross-section of Canadians, resulting in a better educated population of decision-makers. We encourage the government to continue to make this critical investment in research, enhancing the infrastructure, state of the art research tools and next generation of highly skilled researchers.