The Canadian Blood Services Centre for Innovation drives innovation in blood transfusion, cellular therapy and transplantation — bringing clarity and insight to an increasingly complex health care future. In collaboration with an extended network of partners, the Centre fosters discovery and clinical research, conducts product and process development research, translates knowledge through leading practices, and builds capacity through training and education.


**Value and Impact**

Canadian Blood Services holds a unique position within the national research landscape. As a biologic manufacturer and supplier of clinical and laboratory services to the Canadian health care system, the organization vigilantly stewards the safety, quality, and efficiency of the products and services it delivers for the benefit of Canadians. This imperative drives ongoing innovation and a research agenda that is focused and mission-driven, undertaken in partnership with hospitals, clinicians, academia, industry, funders, and regulators.

As a result of the work of the Centre for Innovation, we, along with the broader healthcare system, are better positioned to address emerging medical and scientific trends, risks, opportunities, and technologies, and to lead change for the benefit of donors and patients.

**Research Funding Opportunities**

The Centre for Innovation has multiple funding programs open to Canadian researchers interested in pursuing projects focused on Canadian Blood Services’ mission-driven research priorities:

**Research Programs**
- National Operating Grants
- Transfusion Medicine Research Program Support Award

**Training Programs**
- Transfusion Medicine Residency Fellowship
- Postdoctoral Fellowship Program
- Graduate Fellowship Program

Find out about all of our funding opportunities at blood.ca/research/funding-opportunities
**Research**
The Centre advances key priorities in transfusion and transplantation science and medicine through research led across the country by our own university-affiliated staff scientists, medical experts, and adjunct scientists, as well as Canadian academics receiving funding through our targeted research grant programs. This pan-Canadian structure also supports competitive training programs to foster national capabilities in transfusion science and medicine for the future. Highly integrated with national and international collaborators, the Centre pursues a research agenda that is unique and that optimizes outcomes and resources. Our research, extending from bench to bedside, focuses on safety, quality, and efficiency, optimal product utilization, and new therapies and technologies.

**Product and Process Development**
The Centre provides global leadership in advancing the scientific understanding of blood and hematopoietic stem cell products, and the processes used to manufacture and distribute them. This evidence base enables the optimization of current products and processes and the development of next generation products and technologies, while also informing evolving regulatory requirements for product safety and quality. netCAD, a replica blood donor clinical and production facility, is a unique research site internationally, enabling research collaborations with Canadian Blood Services’ manufacturing operations, as well as joint projects with industry partners to develop technologies that will improve products for patients now and in the future.

**Knowledge Mobilization and Education**
By facilitating the translation of research findings, the Centre works to optimize policy and practice vein to vein for better donor and patient outcomes. Knowledge is disseminated through peer-reviewed journal publications, national and international presentations and symposia, various web tools, and through direct communication with key stakeholders and decision-makers. The Centre also develops educational tools and programs to meet the needs of the transfusion and transplantation community. The impact of the Centre for Innovation is strengthened through an engaged network of researchers, clinicians, and knowledge users.

**Product and Services for Research**
The Centre for Innovation provides access to products for research, such as blood components and cord blood. We also provide access to unique sets of data.

Our processes for distribution of products and data for research follow a rigorous ethical and legal framework with oversight from Canadian Blood Services’ Research Ethics Board. In addition, we facilitate contract research for industry partners.

Find out more about our products and services for research at [blood.ca/researchers/products-for-research](http://blood.ca/researchers/products-for-research)

**Policy Research and Leading Practices**
Facilitating the development of systematic reviews and evidence-based clinical guidelines in transfusion and transplantation, the Centre for Innovation enhances uptake of these guidelines through stakeholder consultations and partnerships, and the creation of various knowledge dissemination tools. The Centre also advances research and leading practices in areas such as donation policy and bioethics.

**International Collaboration**
The Centre fosters the establishment of many international collaborations, with academia and research institutes, industry, regulatory bodies, and other blood operators. The Centre is Canadian Blood Services’ knowledge broker and point of contact with the Alliance of Blood Operators, a global network of operators that seeks to drive member performance improvement, knowledge exchange, and resolution of strategic issues for the benefit of health systems and the patients they serve, such as advancement of clinical governance, and leading practices in risk-based decision making for blood safety.

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**Some of the Centre’s Academic, Industry, Government and International Partners include**

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The Centre for Innovation is funded by the federal government (Health Canada), provincial and territorial ministries of health, as well as partners.