

CLINICAL  
TRIALS  
ONTARIO

# 19/20 Annual Report





# About CTO

Clinical Trials Ontario is a leading non-profit organization in the clinical trials community dedicated to strengthening, promoting and capitalizing on Ontario's competitive advantages for conducting high-quality clinical trials. We work collaboratively with industry, research institutes, hospitals and universities, patients and the public and other health innovation organizations to improve the clinical trials environment and attract investment to the province, while supporting the highest ethical and quality standards.

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## *Vision*

Our vision is to make Ontario a preferred location for global clinical trials, while maintaining the highest ethical standards.

## *Mission*

Our mission is to strengthen, promote and capitalize on Ontario's competitive advantages to conduct high-quality clinical trials.

## *Strategic Priorities*

**Streamline** processes to help make high-quality clinical trials more timely, efficient and cost effective.

**Engage** with patients and the public to increase awareness, foster collaboration and improve how clinical trials are conducted.

**Promote** Ontario's competitive advantages and clinical trial capacities to attract more trials and industry investment to the province.



# Clinical Trials in an Era of COVID-19

*Joint message from Susan Marlin,  
President and CEO, and Rafi  
Hofstein, Board Chair*

As we reflect on the past year, we recognize the many talented, dedicated people working within Ontario's health research community. More than ever, 2019-2020 underscored the critical roles that research and clinical trials play in responding effectively to urgent health crises, advancing medicine and improving care. On behalf of Clinical Trials Ontario (CTO), we applaud the collaborative efforts of our community to quickly develop solutions in the fight against COVID-19.

Ontario's rapid response to COVID-19 reaffirms our place as a top jurisdiction for conducting clinical trials. Together, we have worked hard for that position.

“ **This year has been challenging, unpredictable and, at times, heartbreaking, but we are motivated by the incredible and tireless commitment of our community to advance health research forward, faster, for an even brighter future in this province.** ”

Since 2015, CTO has partnered with researchers, research ethics boards, hospitals and universities, industry, patients, health innovation organizations and others to build on and promote Ontario’s existing capabilities and offer programs to increase quality and efficiency in clinical trials. COVID-19 put these systems to the test and proved their value.

Since March 2020, CTO Stream has supported more than 70 Ontario-led COVID-19 studies, enabling ethics approvals for research sites within just five days, on average. Our new Trial Site Network, now representing over 230 academic hospitals, community hospitals and private research networks, allowed us to quickly connect companies with sites to initiate trials and validation tests. Through regular communications and new resources, we have kept the research community, patients and the public informed about studies underway. These programs and others have helped Ontario move COVID-19 research forward as quickly as possible.

As we reflect on these and other shared achievements in this report, we thank the Government of Ontario for its recognition of the vital role that clinical trials play in this province and for its continued support of our community’s work. We also thank our dedicated team and our Board of directors.

This year has been challenging, unpredictable and, at times, heartbreaking, but we are motivated by the incredible and tireless commitment of our community to advance health research forward, faster, for an even brighter future in this province.

Susan Marlin | President & CEO

Raphael (Rafi) Hofstein | Board Chair

# Clinical Trials in Ontario

Ontario is Canada's largest and fastest growing clinical trials community and among the top ten jurisdictions in North America. With a world-class environment and leadership in key research areas, Ontario is attracting investment, jobs and talent.

## CLINICAL TRIAL SNAPSHOT

**3,900+** open clinical trials

**2x more** trials than other provinces in Canada

**1,850+** industry sponsored clinical trials

**65%** of all clinical trials conducted in Canada

**71%** of all oncology trials conducted in Canada

**\$410M** in industry investment in Ontario clinical trials\*

\*Data from 2017 Patented Medicines Pricing Review Board Report. All other data in this infographic retrieved from [clinicaltrials.gov](http://clinicaltrials.gov).

## OUR WORLD-CLASS ENVIRONMENT

23

academic hospitals including 6 of Canada's top 10

2,200+

biotechnology, medical device and digital health companies

30,000+

jobs in drugs and pharmaceuticals

26,000+

jobs in medical devices

20,000+

employed researchers/staff in academic hospitals

**Global Leadership**

in cancer, focused ultrasound, cardiovascular, regenerative medicine, infectious disease and more

## COVID-19: Looking Ahead

Ontario's response to COVID-19 reaffirms our place as a top jurisdiction for conducting efficient, effective clinical trials. CTO and the research community took an all-hands-on-deck approach, moving studies forward quickly to assess a wide range of interventions. COVID-19 has also helped us identify new efficiencies that can make Ontario even more competitive. Looking ahead, CTO is supporting Ontario institutions to restart non-COVID related studies quickly, safely and efficiently, including sharing information about best practices like remote monitoring of clinical trials.

# Impact & Achievements

## *Streamline*

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Facilitating faster, more efficient clinical trials

CTO helps streamline clinical trials conduct by creating coordinated systems and facilitating collaborations that improve the timeliness and the quality and cost of clinical trials. This work is helping Ontario capitalize on its many research strengths and attract the attention of industry around the world.

1 CTO Stream

2 QuickSTART

3 Research Ready

## CTO Stream

CTO Stream enables 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. Today, CTO Stream is the gold standard for supporting efficient, high-quality multi-site studies.

### 2019-2020 HIGHLIGHTS

- Leveraged CTO Stream infrastructure to expedite COVID-19 studies
- Launched online Helpdesk platform to better support growing number of CTO Stream users
- Began development of new program to qualify REBs that review observational studies, including university REBs

 [Join CTO Stream](#)

### BY THE NUMBERS

**\$7M** in estimated cost savings to Ontario

**108** participating hospitals & research sites, including Ontario's most active trial sites

**120+** pharmaceutical & medical device companies

**19** Qualified Ontario research ethics boards provide multi-site ethics review

**1,200+** research studies

**3,600** applications for research ethics approval received

**11** days to approval for participating research sites (average)

### COVID-19

**70+** COVID-19 studies

**214** sites submitted applications to join open COVID-19 studies

**5** days to approval for participating research sites (average)



## QuickSTART

A typical clinical trial can take more than five months to get started, draining time and resources for research sites and industry sponsors. Our QuickSTART program helps sites and sponsors achieve activation within just 90 days by developing authentic partnerships, setting targets and enhancing existing procedures without disrupting them.

### 2019-2020 HIGHLIGHTS

- Reduced trial start-up times from 5+ months to just 90 days
- More than 10 institutions and more than 10 industry sponsors are QuickSTART Ready
- 7 research study engagements successfully completed
- Launched platform to include contract research organizations in QuickSTART
- Leveraged QuickSTART to support investigator-initiated trials in response to COVID-19
- Expanding QuickSTART tools to support medical device trials

 **Join QuickSTART**

## Research Ready

The Research Ready program is strengthening Ontario's world-class health research infrastructure by helping to ensure that Ontario research institution staff have the skills and knowledge to conduct effective and efficient clinical trials.

### 2019-2020 HIGHLIGHTS

- 50+ participants in online community of practice sharing best practices in key areas including patient consent, clinical trial budgets, RedCap and privacy
- Launched community-led Mentor Spotlight knowledge exchange series, with 3 webinars/workshops and 80+ participants per event

 **Join Research Ready**



## *Engage*

### Improving patient and public engagement with clinical trials

CTO is committed to developing ways to better engage patients and the public with clinical trials. Over the past year, we've worked closely with our partners to create new and improved tools and resources that are helpful and accessible for patients, the public and the research community.

### College of Lived Experience

We launched the [College of Lived Experience](#) with 25 members from across Ontario including patients, caregivers, and members of the public. CTO and external research community partners can collaborate with the College and gain input to improve proposed resources, research projects and clinical trials.

### Toolkit to Improve Clinical Trial Participants' Experiences

We co-created an easy-to-use [digital toolkit](#) with our community to help improve the experience of trial participants that includes useful resources, templates and examples. Thanks to the many collaborators who helped build this toolkit with the goal of making trial participants feel more valued and informed.

## Interactive Decision Aids for Patient Partner Engagement

CTO, in partnership with patients and researchers at the University of Toronto, Queen's University, and the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario, enhanced and promoted two online [decision aid tools](#) – one for patients and one for investigators/sponsors – designed to assess readiness for and help with patient partner engagement as part of patient-oriented research teams.

## Enhancing Clinical Trials Finder

CTO's [Clinical Trials Finder](#) search tool is helping connect patients and the public with clinical trials. Users can now receive alerts when new trials that meet their criteria become available. With more than 4,400 users, engagement with CTO's Clinical Trial Finder app increased by 22% in 2020.

## Raising Awareness as a Community

CTO works closely with [health charities and patient organizations](#) to co-develop and distribute informative clinical trials resources to their communities and raise awareness to improve patient and public engagement with clinical trials. We thank this community for its ongoing support.



### ***Let's #TalkClinicalTrials***

Help spread the word about why clinical trials matter on social media or on our [#TalkClinicalTrials](#) blog series, where trial participants, researchers and others share their experiences. [Read about Melissa Sulphur's experience here.](#)

 **Learn More**

## Promote

Attracting and connecting companies to Ontario clinical trials

### Industry Concierge & Trial Site Network

CTO's Industry Concierge service continues to connect industry sponsors with resources and research sites in Ontario's clinical trials ecosystem. Since 2019, our Trial Site Network has expanded to include more than 230 academic hospitals, community hospitals and private research networks across the province. The network is a win-win: Companies and start-ups are connecting directly with potential partners, and sites are expanding their research activities.

#### 2019-2020 HIGHLIGHTS

- 230+ trial sites participating in CTO's Trial Site Network
- 65 unique companies have used the Industry Concierge service to connect directly with clinical trials sites
- Connected 60+ incoming clinical trials/validation studies to 80+ potential site partners in areas such as COVID-19, autism, hemophilia, PTSD, early-stage Parkinson's disease and more
- Established partnership with Centre for Brain Health Innovation (CABHI)

◀ **Connect with our Industry Concierge**

## Promoting Ontario's competitive advantages

We continue to promote Ontario's world-class research talent and infrastructure to attract more clinical trials investment to the province. Over the past year, we've developed new tools and resources, highlighted Ontario successes, participated in key events and more.

### 2019-2020 HIGHLIGHTS

- Hosted a virtual booth and connected with industry from around the world at MedTech 2020
- Partnered with Healthing.ca/Post Media and other media outlets on stories about Ontario COVID-19 clinical trials
- Created new promotional videos and published stories spotlighting Ontario clinical trials
- Created new section of the website to highlight COVID-19 studies underway in Ontario

◀ **Watch the Highlight Video**

 **Clinical Trials ON**  
@clinicaltrialON

Today is International Clinical Trials Day! Clinical trials help to generate better medicines for patients, cutting-edge health technologies, and ultimately help shape the future of medicine. Learn more about [#clinicaltrials](#): [bit.ly/2nJC9tU](https://bit.ly/2nJC9tU) [#ICTD2020](#) [#TalkClinicalTrials](#)

### International Clinical Trials Day 2020

Visit [ctontario.ca/patients-public](https://ctontario.ca/patients-public) to learn more about clinical trials.

Join the conversation using [#ICTD2020](#) and [#TalkClinicalTrials](#)



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# Governance & Financials

## Financials

### Assets

	2020	2019
Cash	\$ 1,094,682	\$ 696,347
Guaranteed investment certificates	20,000	20,000
Accounts receivable	318,698	541,524
HST receivable	57,884	32,132
Prepaid software costs	134,736	98,056
Prepaid insurance and deposits	113,890	116,279
Prepaid rent	3,326	0
	<b>\$ 1,743,216</b>	<b>\$ 1,504,338</b>

### Liabilities & Net Assets

	2020	2019
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 412,054	\$ 562,703
Deferred contributions	226,449	138,135
Net assets (unrestricted)	1,104,713	803,500

## CTO Board of Directors

We have strong governance and oversight from a skills-based Board of Directors dedicated to advancing patient care by attracting and improving the quality of clinical trials in Ontario.

<b>Raphael Hofstein   Chair</b>	Former, President & Chief Executive Officer, Toronto Innovation Acceleration Partners, TIAP
<b>Dr. Bradly Wouters   Vice Chair &amp; Secretary</b>	Executive VP, Science & Research, University Health Network
<b>Ed Dybka   Treasurer</b>	President & General Manager, Ipsen Biopharmaceuticals Canada
<b>Tina Ceroni   Member</b>	Clinical Trial Participant
<b>Anne Ellis   Member</b>	Associate Professor and Chair, Division of Allergy & Immunology, Department of Medicine, Queen's University
<b>James Wilson   Member</b>	President, Brancorth Medical Inc.
<b>Bev Heim-Myers   Member</b>	Chair, Canadian Coalition for Genetic Fairness; Former President & CEO, Huntington's Canada
<b>Mark Lundie   Member</b>	Director, Medical Affairs, Rare Diseases, Pfizer Canada
<b>Clive Ward-Able   Member</b>	President, Clintell Inc.; Former Executive Director, R&D, Amgen




# Contact

Clinical Trials Ontario offers a wide variety of programs to the clinical trials community to help collectively improve the environment for clinical trials in Ontario. Contact our team to learn more about how you can get involved with our services and programs.

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