Research Roadmap

As of May 2024, 10 out of 32 projects have been completed, including the two placeholder projects (2.3 Engage the Provincial Digital Health and Information Services team on specific strategies to address research priorities, and 6.1 Assess and advance opportunities for pan-PHSA coordinated genomics research, and pan-PHSA coordinated mental health research through regular RLC discussion).

Summary of Completed Research Roadmap Projects

	Initiative		Project	Date Completed	Project Deliverables and/or Outcomes
4	Modernize provincial compliance approaches to strengthen the cross-PHSA research environment	4.2	Establish single delegated review by PHSA research ethics boards for PHSA population studies	Apr 2023	Guidance documents were developed for when regional health authorities must delegate ethics review to the BC Children's and Women's Research Ethics Board (REB) or BC Cancer REB. The guidance documents can be found on the Research Ethics BC website, within the resource library.
5	Strengthen clinical research and clinical trial environment	5.2	Implement PHSA-wide Clinical Trial Management System	Sep 2023	RealTime Clinical Trial Management System (CTMS) was implemented in all PHSA programs conducting clinical trials. A provincially harmonized CTMS platform supports standardization of processes, systems, metrics and operational unity, which in turn optimizes clinical trial execution, improves data quality, facilitates provincial reporting and supports Health Canada regulatory compliance.
		5.3	Negotiate and agree on principles and processes to improve researchers' relationships with and access to laboratory, diagnostic imaging and pharmacy services	Sep 2023	The scope of the project was narrowed down to focused on the provision of laboratory services by Fraser Health and Northern Health. Current state processes by which PHSA researchers access laboratory services from Fraser Health and Northern Health were mapped out. The resultant maps and additional resources were published on the PHSA website for researchers. In addition, agreed upon turnaround times were established for BC Cancer researchers accessing Fraser Health laboratory services, the highest priority concern of PHSA researchers.
6	Strengthen pan-PHSA research in genomics and in mental health	6.2	Strengthen provincial research connections in mental health through BCMHSUSRI	Jan 2024	BCMHSUS Research Day 2023 was hosted on November 7, 2023, under the theme: "Making Connections: Strengthening Mental Health and Wellness through Research". Conference sessions and posters highlighted research conducted across BCMHSUS programs and populations, how research is responding to community needs, Indigenous approaches to research, and the importance of partnering with people with living and lived experiences.

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	Initiative		Project	Date Completed	Project Deliverables and/or Outcomes
7	Improve experience and success of trainees and early career researchers across PHSA	7.1	Scale existing trainee and early career research education and resources across PHSA (e.g., shared webinars, data training)	Jun 2023	An inventory of resources relevant to trainees and early career researchers across PHSA was compiled and are now available to trainees and early career researchers across all PHSA. The Trainee & Early Career Researcher webpage includes resources related to educational videos, library services, research ethics, project management, navigation of PHSA locations, wellness, and training and awards. The webpage will continue to be updated with additional resources as identified.
9	Advance health system impact of research	9.3	Leverage work of existing communication teams to increase PHSA research communications	Sep 2022	A research communications working group with defined terms of reference was established with representatives from PHSA Corporate Communications and PHSA research communications teams. The working group added a continuously refreshing News and Stories Webpage in the Research section that promotes and amplifies PHSA research stories and accomplishments. A channel with the federal advocacy organization Research Canada was also established to publish regular PHSA research news and stories into Research Canada communication platforms that target the national research community and federal parliamentarians.
10	Develop PHSA-wide tools, mechanisms, resources and strategies designed to support EDI in the conduct of research	10.2	Establish clear policy direction and tools/resources to support collection of ethnicity data for all PHSA-led research	Mar 2024	PHSA research leaders issued a joint statement endorsing the collection of race, ethnicity, and Indigenous identity data for all PHSA-led research according to the *Standards for Race-Based and Indigenous Identity Data Collection Health Reporting in Canada* developed by the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI). An education workshop to aid PHSA researchers in utilizing the standards, created in collaboration with CIHI and based on PHSA researcher input, was delivered by CIHI in February 2024. Future work related to this project will focus on activating a working group to establish a transparent central auditing framework to track performance measures over time.
		10.3	Share and scale available inclusion, diversity, equity and access (IDEA) learning, experience, tools and strategies across the PHSA research community	Mar 2024	A needs assessment survey was conducted by the BC Children's & Women's (C&W) Oak Street Campus to identify equity, diversity, and inclusion gaps within the C&W research community members, including researchers, trainees and staff. Additionally, a comprehensive toolkit of equity, diversity and inclusion resources relevant to researchers across PHSA was compiled and made available in February 2024 through the publicly accessible PHSA website for researchers. A communications plan to bring awareness of the resources is currently being implemented, and a quantitative evaluation will be performed in Fall 2024 to measure the uptake and use of the resources.

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Overview of Research Roadmap Projects In Progress

	Initiative		Project	Target Date	Project Objectives
1	Build PHSA scientist and health research workforce	1.1	Establish a model to increase protected time for clinician researchers	TBD	To develop a model for enhancing academic productivity through a clear mechanism to define, account for and resource academic activities in the context of clinical care.
		1.2	Establish a PHSA-wide academic scientist compensation system working with the Health Employers Association of BC	Nov 2024	To extend the three academic scientists job levels at BC Cancer to the rest of PHSA, and to ensure market competitiveness with UBC comparative roles.
2	Simplify and streamline operational processes and policies to enable research	2.1	Streamline research HR hiring approval processes to enable grant-funded regular positions and clarify requirements for posting non-contract positions		To enable grant-funded regular positions, and to clarify direction received from HR to hire non-contract positions as union positions.
4	Modernize provincial compliance approaches to strengthen the cross-PHSA research environment	4.1	Advance standardized approach to privacy and institutional review working with provincial partners	Apr 2026	To establish a provincial health authority research ethics board service to streamline all research approval processes including privacy, data access and sharing, contracts, and operational approvals.
5	Strengthen clinical research and clinical trial environment	5.1	Enhance clinical trial quality infrastructure to serve all PHSA programs	Dec 2024	To identify the most pressing gaps in personnel required to having a PHSA-wide approach to quality and establish an optimum operating model and organizational structure.
7	Improve experience and success of trainees and early career researchers across PHSA	7.2	Work across research institutes to increase the number of and support for research trainees from underrepresented communities	Dec 2024	To sponsor existing scholarships or funding awards for research trainees from underrepresented communities .

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Initiative		Project	Target Date	Project Objectives
8	Strengthen access to, extraction of, and linkage of clinical and administrative data to enable clinical research and idea generation	**8.1** Leverage work underway through BC Children's Hospital Research Institute to explore and develop plans to establish an integrated and scalable research data lake linkable to PHSA's Platform for Analytics & Data (PANDA)	*Phase I:* Mar 2024 *Phase II:* Dec 2024	*Phase I:* To develop the services, capabilities, governance, technical platform and tools required to support an integrated research data platform including costs and resourcing. *Phase II:* To implement demonstration research projects and evaluate the services.
		8.2 Improve research access to and use of CST Cerner patient chart	Dec 2024	To make available and test accessibility of CST OMOP (Observational Medical Outcomes Partnership) data in PANDA and the Health Data Platform (HDP), and clearly communicate the process to access data.
		8.3 Develop and implement a PHSA data governance framework that enables timely access and analysis of data for research	Mar 2025	To harmonize data access request and approval processes, develop a research platform governance structure, establish a data quality reporting process, and define compliance monitoring and program metrics.
10	Develop PHSA-wide tools, mechanisms, resources and strategies designed to support EDI in the conduct of research	**10.1** Create and/or share tools and strategies to facilitate and increase research access and participation for more people from diverse and underrepresented communities	Mar 2025	1: To describe how language barrier has been managed in clinical studies, and to which extent potentially eligible participants are excluded in research, due to language barriers, at BC Children's & Women's Hospitals (C&W). 2: To conduct qualitative key informant interviews to identify the barriers and facilitators to having limited English proficiency (LEP) families participating and being engaged in research. 3: Pilot implementation of strategies developed from findings in Objectives #1 and #2, at C&W, to estimate uptake, feasibility, satisfaction; including estimates for scaling up activities beyond C&W.
11	Co-develop with Indigenous partners a purposeful, protective and integrated Indigenous health research strategy	**11.1** Partner with Indigenous health research chairs, First Nations Health Authority and Indigenous leaders to identify how PHSA can best support building Indigenous health research leadership, capacity and cultural sensitivity	Mar 2024; delayed until Sep 2024	To design an Indigenous engagement approach to identify opportunities for how PHSA can best support building Indigenous health research leadership, capacity and cultural sensitivity.

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