

Strategic Plan

2024-2027

WCHRI's Why

Our mission is to foster the brightest research minds to discover, innovate and ultimately transform the health of women and children. Seven core values guide our mission and shape our culture:

Collaboration & knowledge sharing

Integrity

Respectful relationships

Celebration of diversity

Community engagement

Impact

Gratitude

Celebrating diversity is the keystone of our culture. We value and uplift diverse peoples, ideas, research, backgrounds and experiences in all we do, including our strategic planning.

Our five core strategic goals: Addressing the unique health needs of women and children

1 Advance health research for greater impact

WCHRI's strength lies in our membership of over 400 leading U of A researchers, and we proudly support their relentless dedication to advancing women and children's health. We are committed to:

Increasing research leadership and collaborations in areas of strategic priority.

Encourage and support our members in pursuing leadership roles and securing large grants with national and international impact.

Building capacity and retaining research excellence. Recruit and retain research-focused faculty at the U of A and support their research programs in women and children's health across career stages.

Advancing member research. Tailor and evolve our diverse range of research programs and platforms to maximize support for and meet the ever-changing needs of our members.

2 Empower the next generation

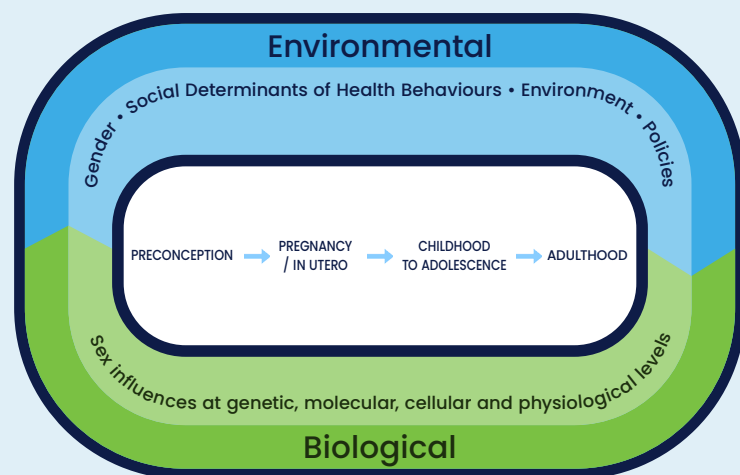
Our trainees are the future of women and children's health research. We are committed to:

Increasing capacity. Offer research funding and promote programs that enhance career paths for trainees.

Creating unique opportunities. Facilitate career development by connecting trainees with our members and broader network of partners.

3 Create an environment where innovative research can thrive

WCHRI is uniquely positioned as Canada's only institute dedicated to research across the lifespan of women and children, including the perinatal period. We've evolved our focus from a strictly population-based lens to a life-course perspective, considering the biological and environmental factors across all life stages.



We aim to cultivate a supportive research environment that addresses women and children's unique health needs, promotes transdisciplinary approaches, and acknowledges their interconnectedness across the lifespan. We collaborate with scholars, communities, our partner institutions and hospitals to accomplish this by:

Championing visibility and support for women and children's health research at the U of A, securing WCHRI's role in key partnerships.

Driving innovation in wholistic child health by building on our research strengths in perinatal health, enhancing pediatric trials, advancing precision medicine and leveraging data for AI solutions.

Leveraging expertise of AWHF women's research chairs, expanding clinical research and advancing sex and gender research while fostering women's health collaborations locally and beyond.

Prioritizing Indigenous women and children's health by supporting community-driven and culturally-grounded Indigenous health research.

4 Increase the reach of impactful research

By leveraging our partnerships and joint advocacy efforts, fostering collaborations and sharing resources, WCHRI aims to increase the impact of women and children's health research at local, national and global levels. Our partnerships are focused on:

Strengthening the translational impact of women and children's health research with hospital and health system partners.

Building relationships within the community that will increase WCHRI members' capacity to conduct engaged research.

Broadening our reach with our Foundations and partner hospitals through strong and coordinated branding and communications.

Forging partnerships on local, national and international levels that expand resource capacities and expertise in WCHRI research.

5 Enhance capacity, growth, resilience and diversity of our institute

WCHRI is committed to ensuring the highest levels of organizational accountability and sustainability, building a professional team and optimizing operations. We prioritize:

Succession planning and research institute process optimization.

Accountability and responsiveness to funding partner needs.

Maintaining a strong and future-focused governance model.

