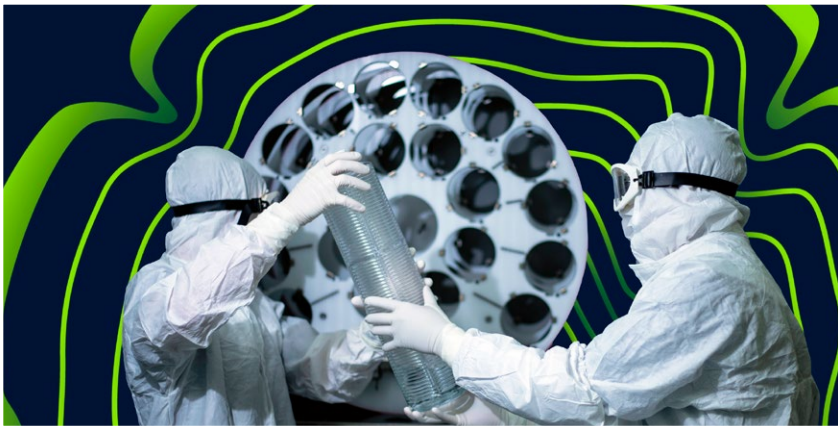
LIFE SCIENCES ONTARIO









SUCCESS STORIES 2026

Ontario life sciences companies are producing astounding innovations across our sector. Read about how their businesses are fuelling our economy – and how we can help them reach their full potential to accelerate life sciences into a major economic powerhouse.

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SPOTLIGHT

www.lifesciencesontario.ca

LIFE SCIENCES ONTARIO

"Diversity of Members, Unity of Voice"

Life Sciences Ontario is a member-funded, not-for-profit organization with a legacy of more than 35 years advancing the success of Ontario's life sciences sector. From its beginnings, LSO has always been more than an industry association: it is a community-based organization representing the full breadth of Ontario's life sciences ecosystem, including academia, research hospitals, start-ups, multinationals, and service providers. Through advocacy, message amplification, and connectivity, LSO works to build a stronger, more cohesive community in Ontario and beyond.

Established in 1989 as the Toronto Biotechnology Initiative (TBI), the organization gave the sector its first united voice. TBI quickly became a vocal advocate, opposing sweeping regulations in favor of a risk-based approach that balanced public safety with R&D and economic growth. Beyond advocacy, TBI expanded into networking breakfasts, mentorship programs, and annual awards, steadily broadening its membership beyond the Greater Toronto Area; a tradition that continues today, serving as a conduit of connectivity across the sector. In March 2007, TBI was renamed The Biotechnology Initiative, and by June 2010 it evolved into Life Sciences Ontario, embracing a provincial mandate that included pharmaceuticals, medical technologies, agritech, biochemicals, and service providers.

LSO has built partnerships with organizations across Ontario and beyond to champion the sector through joint initiatives for sector advancement: ensuring access to capital, strengthening support for SMEs, encouraging the adoption of innovation across health systems, expanding access to wet lab space, attracting and retaining top talent and many more critical areas of focus.

At the national level, LSO is a part of the National Biotech Accord, which calls on leaders from all orders of government, industry, academia, and stakeholders across Canada to collaborate to strengthen and grow the life sciences enterprise. Jason Field, President and CEO of Life Sciences Ontario chaired the Life Sciences Council that served as an important step in phase two of Ontario's Life Sciences Strategy.

Beyond this, LSO also collaborates cross-provincially with other members of the accord to create new opportunities by facilitating connections, sharing resources, and expanding access to funding and markets. In today's economic climate, working across provincial borders is more important than ever, and these partnerships ensure that Ontario's strengths contribute to a stronger, more integrated national life sciences ecosystem.

The purpose of these success stories are to showcase the diverse and vibrant stories within our ecosystem. We hope you enjoy reading them as much as we've enjoyed bringing them together.

Read more about us at www.lifesciencesontario.ca



SPOTLIGHT

Bioenterprise
Canada's Food & Agri-Tech Engine

www.bioenterprise.ca

Year founded: 2003

Number of employees: 35

Location in Canada: Ontario

"Canada has everything it needs to lead the world in food and agricultural innovation—world-class research, ambitious entrepreneurs, and exceptional natural resources. What we need now is greater alignment to turn that potential into impact. If we coordinate strengths and work together with purpose, Ontario can lead the way toward a stronger, more competitive Canada."

- Dave Smardon,
  President & CEO Bioenterprise Canada

LIFE SCIENCES ONTARIO MEMBER

BIOENTERPRISE CANADA

Bioenterprise is Canada's Food & Agri-Tech Engine, the country's leading agri-tech alliance, uniting innovators, partners, and investors to drive groundbreaking agri-food innovation. By providing market intelligence, mentorship, and funding, Bioenterprise Canada bridges cutting-edge research to commercial success, helping agri-food innovations scale nationally and globally. Through its team of agri-food industry experts and Innovation Advisors, The Engine is dedicated to helping small and medium-sized agri-food businesses connect, innovate, and grow.

The Spark

Canada has no shortage of ideas capable of changing the future of food and agriculture. The real challenge is getting those ideas into the hands of the people who can put them to work.

For more than two decades, Bioenterprise Canada has worked alongside innovators navigating that journey. Experience has shown that moving a promising innovation into the market — and ultimately into use — takes much more than a good idea.

Approach

Alongside funding, it takes trusted expertise, market insight, industry relationships and connections to the people who will ultimately buy, use and invest in new solutions.

Through Canada's Food & Agri-Tech Engine, launched in 2020, Bioenterprise connects innovators with farmers, researchers, investors, industry partners and commercialization expertise — bringing together the people and resources needed to move innovation forward. Today, The Engine includes more than 1,200 members and partners nationwide.

Impact

Ontario has been central to demonstrating what the Bioenterprise approach can achieve, and the results show what happens when the right pieces come together.

From 2020 to 2025, Bioenterprise-supported Ontario innovators developed 265 new technologies, secured more than 80 new intellectual property assets and commercialized 476 products. Completed programs helped create more than 495 jobs, generate $52 million in new sales and attract more than $77 million in outside investment — evidence of what Canadian innovation can become when promising ideas have a clearer pathway to market.

Canada's innovation advantage won't be measured by how many good ideas we create; it will be measured by how many we put to work. And Ontario is leading the way.

Momentum

Through March 2027, Bioenterprise is administering the Sustainable Growth and Adoption Program (SGAP), supporting 50 Ontario food and agri-food businesses with projects that accelerate sustainable growth through the adoption and integration of clean technologies, practices and process enhancements into their operations.

In 2026, Bioenterprise launched the Clean Agri-Tech Accelerator (CATA), supported by up to $7 million from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to help promising clean technologies move closer to market while reducing emissions and improving sustainability.

Bioenterprise Canada's national reach creates new opportunities for Ontario innovators and strengthens the province's role in Canada's food and agri-tech sector.

Next

Canada has all the building blocks needed to lead the next generation of food and agricultural innovation. The opportunity now is to turn more of those ideas into adopted solutions that create economic value, strengthen food security and competitiveness, and help address challenges within and beyond our borders.





SPOTLIGHT

TELEPOINT OF CARE INC. DBA VIRTUAL POCT

Virtual POCT is a Canadian digital health company building MANA SYNC, a cloud-based SaaS quality management and operations platform for point-of-care testing (POCT) in community healthcare settings such as pharmacies, long-term care homes, and clinics.
The platform delivers competency tracking, quality control management, temperature logs, proficiency records, operator lockout, QC lockout, and real-time authorization visibility. MANA SYNC is aligned with ISO 22583 and CLIA, and is device-agnostic and scalable.

www.virtualpoct.com

Headquarters:
Mississauga, Canada

Number of employees:
101-500

Focus Areas:
Pharmaceuticals, Biotechnology

After 25 years running point-of-care testing programs inside hospital labs, I saw the same testing move into pharmacies and long-term care without the quality infrastructure that keeps patients safe.

Virtual POCT built MANA SYNC to close that gap and hold community-based diagnostics in Ontario to laboratory standards, not an afterthought.



Sousan Bagherpoor

The Spark

Point-of-care testing has moved beyond hospital labs into pharmacies, long-term care homes, community clinics, and emergency services across Ontario. Patients now receive results in minutes at their pharmacy counter or bedside instead of waiting days for lab work. The problem is that the quality management systems built for centralized labs do not follow the tests into these community settings. Operators without lab training run devices without competency verification, quality control checks slip, and there is no consistent audit trail. Sousan Bagherpoor spent 25 years in laboratory medicine, including implementing POCT programs at University Health Network. She saw firsthand how a missing quality layer created clinical risk in community sites, the same devices in the same hands but without the guardrails that make results trustworthy. That gap became the reason Virtual POCT was founded.

Approach

MANA SYNC is a cloud based SaaS quality management platform purpose built for point of care testing in community settings. It brings the discipline of a hospital lab into pharmacies, long term care homes, an d clinics without requiring lab staff on site. The platform tracks operator competency, enforces quality control before testing can proceed, logs device temperatures, manages proficiency records, and gives supervising labs real time visibility into who is authorized to test and where. Operator lockout prevents untrained users from running a device. QC lockout prevents results from being released when controls fail. The system is device agnostic, so it works across brands and analyte types rather than being tied to one manufacturer. MANA SYNC is aligned with ISO 22583 and CLIA. It is built in Canada by a founder who ran POCT programs before building the software.

Impact

The intended beneficiaries reach beyond Virtual POCT. Community pharmacies, long-term care homes, community clinics, and emergency services running point-of-care tests can operate with the same quality discipline expected in hospital labs. Patients benefit because the person testing them has verified competency, the device has been quality checked, and there is a clear record if a recall or investigation is needed. Supervising labs and site owners gain oversight of decentralized testing without being onsite.

Regulators and accreditation bodies gain traceable evidence rather than paper-based records. Virtual POCT is early stage and pre-revenue, with pilot deployments underway in Ontario. The company is not claiming outcomes yet. What it is building is the infrastructure that community testing will need as it continues to grow across the province, keeping patients safe as care moves closer to home.

Momentum

Virtual POCT completed core development of MANA SYNC and moved into beta deployment across community pharmacy and long-term care sites in Ontario. The company was selected into the Accelerator Centre AC Health Cohort 1 and has secured non-dilutive support from Spark Centre, Health Innovation Hub at the University of Toronto, and Intellectual Property Ontario. A collaborative research engagement with Durham College is underway to strengthen platform security. These milestones reflect steady validation of the need for structured quality management in decentralized testing environments across Ontario.

Next

Next steps include expanding pilot deployment across Ontario pharmacies and long-term care homes, advancing partnerships with regional innovation centres, and preparing for broader rollout as community-based point-of-care testing continues to grow across the province.

SPOTLIGHT

www.weardoxx.com

Year Founded:	2025
Number of Employees:	0
Location in Canada	Toronto
Annual Revenue	Pre-Revenue

"We started with a simple question: how can we make meaningful health monitoring easier to access and easier to repeat? Ontario gives us the research talent, clinical connections and commercialization ecosystem to turn that question into a platform that can move from the lab toward real patient use."

- Dr. Razieh (Neda) Salahandish
  Founder and CEO,
  WearDOXX Inc.

WEARDOXX INC.

WearDOXX Inc. is an Ontario-based diagnostic technology company developing non-invasive wearable biosensing systems for longitudinal health monitoring. Its platform combines sweat-based biomarker detection, a wearable patch, smartphone-based readout, and AI-assisted analysis to support earlier and more accessible monitoring of clinically relevant biomarkers.

The Spark

For many chronic, inflammatory and neurological conditions, biological changes can begin before symptoms are strong enough to trigger a clinic visit. Yet repeated laboratory testing is invasive, inconvenient and difficult to integrate into everyday life. WearDOXX was created around a practical question: can clinically useful biomarker information be captured more often, without another needle, clinic visit or dedicated reader? The team is translating Ontario-based wearable biosensing research into a non-invasive sweat platform designed to make earlier and more frequent health monitoring easier to access.

Approach

WearDOXX combines a simple sweat patch with microfluidic color-based sensing, smartphone imaging and AI-driven analysis. Biomarkers in sweat produce measurable color changes that can be read through the phone, removing the need for additional electronic hardware. The challenge is significant: sweat is available in small volumes and relevant biomarkers can appear at very low concentrations. Rather than developing a laboratory sensor in isolation, the team is engineering the full workflow from sample collection and sensing to interpretation. The platform is now at an advanced prototype stage and has achieved more than 95% validation against laboratory standards.

Impact

The potential benefit extends beyond the device itself. Less invasive, repeatable biomarker monitoring could help clinicians follow changes between appointments and support remote-care models while reducing some of the friction that limits frequent testing. For patients, the goal is a simpler way to stay connected to relevant health information over time. For Ontario, WearDOXX demonstrates how university research can move toward commercialization while keeping scientific talent, intellectual property development, prototyping and company-building connected within the province. That translation pathway strengthens Ontario's capacity to turn life-sciences research into products, partnerships and future skilled jobs.

Momentum

In 2026, WearDOXX moved decisively toward commercialization. York University's Lassonde School of Engineering reported that the company had secured more than $5 million in committed capital as it advanced toward clinical validation and market entry in Canada and the United States. WearDOXX was also selected for York University's Inventor to Founder Fellowship, showcased at DiscoveryX 2026, and confirmed as an exhibitor at microTAS 2026, expanding its exposure to investors, partners and the international diagnostics and microfluidics community.

Next

The next phase is focused on clinical validation, regulatory readiness, manufacturing partnerships and market entry. WearDOXX aims to keep Ontario at the centre of that work as the platform advances from prototype toward a scalable diagnostic product.







SPOTLIGHT

CASTL
Canadian Alliance for Skills and Training in Life Sciences
adMare BioInnovations Partner

www.castlcanada.ca

Year Founded	2020
Number of Employees	26
Location in Canada	Head office in PEI

"When people can see how their scientific knowledge translates into meaningful work, it changes what they believe is possible for their careers. This partnership is helping Ontario build not only technical capability, but confidence, connection and a stronger sense of opportunity—qualities that will sustain the province's life sciences sector for years to come."

- Penny Walsh, CEO, CASTL

LIFE SCIENCES ONTARIO MEMBER



CASTL CANADA

The Canadian Alliance for Skills and Training in Life Sciences (CASTL) is Canada's biomanufacturing training partner, dedicated to developing skilled talent to drive the country's thriving biomanufacturing sector. With state-of-the-art, GMP-simulated facilities from coast to coast (in Charlottetown, PE; Montreal, QC, and Vancouver, BC), CASTL delivers hands-on, industry-informed training alongside flexible online learning. As Canada's exclusive provider of National Institute for Bioprocessing Research and Training (NIBRT) programs, CASTL offers world-class education with support from adMare BioInnovations, shaping the next generation of life sciences professionals.

The Spark

Ontario's life sciences ecosystem is rich in scientific talent, but discovery alone does not produce vaccines, biologics or advanced therapies. The sector also needs people who understand how science moves into a highly regulated manufacturing environment. Graduate students may know the biology behind a promising therapy yet have limited exposure to GMP, contamination control, quality systems or the careers that bring treatments from bench to bedside.

Approach

In Ottawa, that challenge sparked a partnership between the University of Ottawa, the Canadian Alliance for Skills and Training in Life Sciences (CASTL) and The Ottawa Hospital Research Institute's Biotherapeutics Manufacturing Centre (OHRI-BMC). Since 2024, the partners have delivered a three-credit graduate course within uOttawa's Microprogram in Biomanufacturing.

The model combines academic learning with CASTL's industry-informed curriculum and OHRI-BMC's specialized biotherapeutics environment. Students learn from sector experts, explore upstream and downstream processing, GMP, quality assurance, aseptic processing and facility design, and connect those concepts to specialized laboratories, biomanufacturing equipment and potential career pathways. As one participant explained, seeing the spaces they were learning about "helped solidify my understanding."

Impact

Across three cohorts, the course earned an average satisfaction rating of 4.9 out of 5, and all respondents expressed some level of interest in a biopharmaceutical manufacturing or advanced therapeutics career. One reflected: "I understand the inner workings of the biomanufacturing industry much better than I did before, and I feel like I would be able to work in biomanufacturing now."

This confidence strengthens Ontario's talent pipeline and helps employers access industry-ready emerging professionals.

"This course positions uOttawa students at the heart of Ottawa's growing biotherapeutics and precision medicine ecosystem," says Carolina Ilkow, senior scientist at the Centre for Innovative Cancer Research, Ottawa Hospital Research Institute, and professor at the University of Ottawa. "Through our partnership with CASTL and the BMC, we ensure our graduates enter the workforce not just with knowledge, but with the applied skills and industry perspective to make an immediate impact in a sector that will define Canadian health innovation."

Momentum

Three successful cohorts have established a practical model for collaboration among education, health research and workforce training. The fourth cohort of the uOttawa course is currently underway. The model also enables the curriculum to evolve alongside a fast-moving industry.

"As biomanufacturing continues to outpace traditional program development, CASTL's expert-led, rapidly evolving curriculum demonstrates a new model for delivering industry-relevant training," says Jennifer Quizi, director of scientific operations at OHRI-BMC and adjunct professor in the University of Ottawa's Department of Biochemistry, Microbiology and Immunology. "Strategic partnerships like this will be essential to keeping pace with the evolving needs of students and the sector."

Next

Building on the course's success, CASTL and its partners connect learners with the applied knowledge and industry perspective needed in Ontario's growing biotherapeutics and precision medicine ecosystem. This investment helps more people envision careers in biomanufacturing and confidently carry health innovation from discovery through manufacturing and, ultimately, into patient care.

Learn more about partnering with CASTL to bring industry-informed biomanufacturing training to your students at https://www.castlcanada.ca/for-post-secondary-institutions or start a conversation with Lee McKinley, CASTL Director of Learning and Development, at https://meetings-na3.hubspot.com/lee-mckinley?uuid=3328e97a-5a7a-43f6-896a-e353c825aabe

SPOTLIGHT

let's talk science est • 1993 | parlons sciences depuis • 1993

www.letstalkscience.ca

Headquarters: London, Canada

Number of Employees: 101-500

Focus Areas: Education

"Building a strong life sciences ecosystem starts well before someone enters a lab or begins their career. Making science accessible and relevant early can open doors to discovery and possibility, helping youth develop the skills and perspectives to become the scientists, innovators, and problem-solvers who will shape the future of health in Canada."

- Daniel Martinez, Executive Medical Director, Amgen Canada.





LET'S TALK SCIENCE

Let's Talk Science – a leading partner in Canadian education – is a national charitable organization committed to inspiring and empowering children and youth of all ages to develop the skills they need to participate and thrive in an ever-changing world. To accomplish this, Let's Talk Science offers a comprehensive suite of STEM-based programs to support youth, educators, and volunteers across Canada.

The Spark

The journey to becoming a scientist, health researcher, or innovator begins long before a student chooses a postsecondary program. Yet for too many young people, that journey ends before it really starts. Across Ontario, too many students graduate without the course credits, confidence, or career awareness needed to pursue STEM opportunities. That's why Let's Talk Science is tackling the STEM skills gap, raising career awareness, and inspiring the next generation of scientists and innovators. We believe every young person deserves the opportunity to explore their interests, discover their strengths, and envision their future filled with possibility. Through free, bilingual STEM learning experiences from the early years through Grade 12, we ignite curiosity and connect classroom learning to real-world opportunities. Early engagement in STEM is key to building a strong, robust talent pipeline to help power Ontario's future.

Approach

At Let's Talk Science, we see STEM as a powerful learning platform and suite of tools for helping young people develop the skills they need to thrive in future careers and as engaged citizens. We create meaningful experiences that connect learning to the world around students and the future they are helping to build. Through free, hands-on activities, real-world problem solving, and exposure to diverse STEM role models, youth discover that STEM is not just a collection of school subjects, but instead a way of thinking that can open new pathways to understanding complex issues, contributing to society, and pursuing rewarding careers, no matter their chosen field. With the help of our partners, we seek to make STEM relevant, accessible, and engaging for all students so that they envision themselves as the next generation of leaders, researchers, and engaged citizens.

Impact

The impact of STEM education extends far beyond the classroom. For students, especially those from underserved and underrepresented communities, including Indigenous, rural, and northern populations, access to meaningful STEM experiences can expand what they believe is possible for their future. Our work immediately benefits youth, educators, and families through increased awareness, interest and confidence in STEM, while our volunteers benefit from training that develops employability skills and opportunities to share their knowledge with their communities. Furthermore, our long-term impact benefits Ontario. Employers, postsecondary institutions, and governments all rely on a skilled and adaptable workforce prepared for a rapidly changing economy. As demand continues to grow in the life sciences, health care, technology, and other innovation-driven sectors, Ontario needs talent that is both highly trained and locally developed. By helping young people envision STEM pathways early, Let's Talk Science is strengthening Ontario's future prosperity, productivity, and resilience.

Momentum

For over 15 years, Amgen Canada has been a valued partner of Let's Talk Science, advancing a shared vision for STEM education and applying real-world insights in practical and pragmatic ways.

Understanding the importance of research and evidence, we worked together to develop the landmark series of Spotlight on Science Learning reports, illuminating the critical importance of STEM education for Canada's future productivity and quality of life, which have been cited around the world. Coupled with ongoing investment in our youth programming, Amgen Canada has helped enable a ten-fold increase in youth reach since our partnership began.

Next

With support from our partners, we are contributing to the development of a strong, self-sustaining talent pipeline. By equipping youth with the skills, knowledge, and confidence they need to pursue STEM fields, we are helping create tomorrow's researchers, technologists, and innovators who will help drive Ontario's economic and social prosperity.

SPOTLIGHT

UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH

www.uoguelph.ca/research

Year Founded	1964
Number of Employees	4000
Location in Canada	Ontario
Location in Ontario	Guelph
Annual Revenue	$1,035.1 M

At the University of Guelph, life sciences research moves quickly from discovery to impact. Across disciplines, our researchers are advancing human, animal, plant and environmental health through work spanning infectious diseases, the microbiome, nutrition, mental wellness, vaccines and disease surveillance. By bringing together science, technology and practical application, we are addressing complex health challenges and strengthening the resilience of our communities, food systems and ecosystems.

LIFE SCIENCES ONTARIO MEMBER





UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH

The University of Guelph is one of Canada's top comprehensive and research-intensive universities.

Established in 1964, the University enjoys a reputation for innovation and excellence dating back more than 150 years to its founding colleges: Ontario Veterinary College, Ontario Agricultural College and Macdonald Institute.

Today the University's eight colleges conduct cutting-edge teaching and research across a range of disciplines in the physical and life sciences, business, arts, social sciences, and agricultural and veterinary sciences.

Together our students, faculty and staff pursue active inquiry and exercise creativity in our shared commitment to Improve Life.

STORY #1:
Dr. Brendan Daisley, Canadian Bee Gut Project, University of Guelph

The Spark

Honey bees are essential to Canadian agriculture, but beekeepers continue to face major losses from disease, parasites, and environmental stress. One missing piece is the microbiome: the community of microbes that can influence nutrition, immunity, pathogen resistance, and overall colony resilience. Our goal is to understand when microbial communities signal declining bee health and, more importantly, whether beneficial microbes can be used to prevent disease or improve recovery. This work was inspired by the need for practical, science-backed tools that complement existing disease-control methods and reduce reliance on antimicrobials.

Approach

Through the Canadian Bee Gut Project, we are building the first nationwide catalogue of bee-associated microbes in Canada, drawing on more than 30,000 samples collected across eight provinces. We combine this large-scale field surveillance with mechanistic laboratory experiments to determine how the bee microbiome influences health and disease. DNA sequencing, microbial culturing, experimental infection models, bioinformatics, and predictive modelling allow us to move beyond identifying which microbes are present to testing what they actually do. This field-to-lab approach is designed to identify microbial biomarkers of health and translate promising strains into practical probiotic or disease-management tools.

Impact

The immediate beneficiaries are beekeepers and queen breeders, who need better tools to detect emerging disease, understand unexplained losses, and support healthier bees. This is particularly important for strengthening domestic queen production and reducing vulnerability in Canada's bee supply. The broader impact extends to crop producers and the agri-food sector because managed honey bees provide essential pollination services across Ontario and Canada. Our work also supports regulators and animal-health professionals by generating evidence on pathogen distribution, antimicrobial resistance, and alternatives to antibiotics. Ultimately, the goal is to turn microbiome science into actionable tools that strengthen pollinator health, agricultural resilience, and food security.

Momentum

The Canadian Bee Gut Project has already demonstrated the value of this approach. By combining microbiome profiling, pathogen surveillance, microbial isolation, genome sequencing, and experimental infection models, we recently identified the cause of a previously unrecognized disease affecting developing honey bee queens. This discovery provides new insight into an important threat to queen-rearing operations and could help improve the health and sustainability of domestic queen production. More broadly, the project has generated microbial culture collections, computational tools, disease-surveillance datasets, and experimental models that we are now applying to queen health, overwintering losses, antimicrobial resistance, and microbiome-based interventions.

Next

The next step is translation: turning microbial signatures into diagnostics, identifying probiotic strains that perform reliably in real colonies, and integrating microbiome information with disease surveillance and selective breeding. The aim is evidence-based tools that help beekeepers predict problems earlier and manage bee health more sustainably.

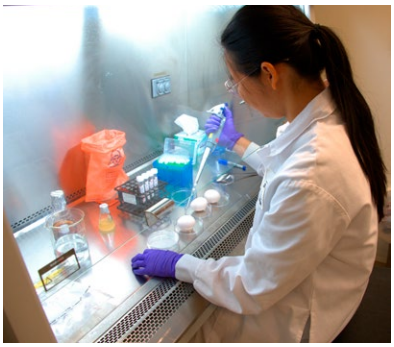
SPOTLIGHT

UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH

www.uoguelph.ca/research

Year Founded	1964
Number of Employees	4000
Location in Canada	Ontario
Location in Ontario	Guelph
Annual Revenue	$1,035.1 M

At the University of Guelph, life sciences research moves quickly from discovery to impact. Across disciplines, our researchers are advancing human, animal, plant and environmental health through work spanning infectious diseases, the microbiome, nutrition, mental wellness, vaccines and disease surveillance. By bringing together science, technology and practical application, we are addressing complex health challenges and strengthening the resilience of our communities, food systems and ecosystems.



UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH

STORY #2:

Dr. Lawrence Goodridge, Professor and Canada Research Chair in Foodborne Pathogen Dynamics; Director, Canadian Research Institute for Food Safety; President, Canadian Black Scientists Network

Canadian Research Institute for Food Safety (CFRIFS)

The Spark

Salmonella remains one of the leading causes of foodborne illness and a persistent challenge for livestock and food producers. Despite decades of control efforts, the pathogen continues to circulate through animal production and food-processing systems and cause human disease. At the same time, agriculture needs new tools to control harmful bacteria without increasing reliance on conventional antibiotics. This challenge inspired us to develop a new class of precision antimicrobials that could target Salmonella at its source, while also creating a platform that could ultimately be adapted to other bacterial pathogens important to food production, animal health and agriculture.

Approach

Our approach uses bacteriophage tailspike proteins (the specialized proteins bacterial viruses use to recognize and attack their hosts) as precision antimicrobials. These proteins bind to specific sugar structures on the bacterial surface and enzymatically degrade them, normally helping bacteriophages gain access to and infect the bacterial cell. Importantly, this degradation can also disrupt the protective surface barrier, making the bacterium more permeable and vulnerable to environmental stresses. We have developed a collection of tailspike proteins that collectively target Salmonella types responsible for approximately 99% of human clinical infections and have demonstrated activity against representative strains in the laboratory. Because tailspike proteins can be selected for different bacterial surface structures, the same strategy could potentially be adapted to other foodborne and non-foodborne bacterial pathogens important to food production, animal health and agriculture.

Impact

The technology is designed to benefit the entire food-production system. Tailspike proteins are naturally occurring proteins produced by bacteriophages, the viruses that infect bacteria, providing a biologically derived approach to pathogen control. For Salmonella, potential applications include reducing carriage in food animals, including poultry and potentially other livestock, and limiting contamination during food processing, including egg production. Farmers and food processors could gain new targeted tools for pathogen control, while consumers could benefit from safer food and reduced exposure to foodborne disease. The approach may also help reduce dependence on conventional antibiotics and support efforts to combat antimicrobial resistance. Beyond Salmonella, the platform could be adapted to additional bacterial threats affecting animal health, agricultural productivity and food safety, while creating opportunities for Ontario-developed biotechnology, partnerships and commercialization.

Momentum

We have established laboratory proof-of-concept and developed tailspike proteins that collectively target Salmonella types responsible for approximately 99% of human clinical infections, with activity demonstrated against representative strains. We are now advancing the technology into poultry trials, with the goal of completing these studies within the next six months, and are considering future evaluation in dairy calves. We also recently received funding from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness to develop an egg-wash intervention based on the same tailspike-protein platform, creating a second pathway toward practical application.

Next

Our immediate next step is to demonstrate efficacy in poultry and advance the egg-wash application, with potential future evaluation in dairy calves. We then aim to optimize formulation, scale-up and delivery, pursue commercialization, and expand the platform to additional bacterial pathogens important to food production and agriculture.

SPOTLIGHT

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO SCARBOROUGH'S ARTS AND SCIENCE CO-OP

The Arts & Science Co-op program at the University of Toronto Scarborough provides undergraduate students across a wide range of academic disciplines with opportunities to gain meaningful, paid work experience. Students are available for work terms of 4, 8, or 12 months in duration, beginning in January, May, or September.

Within life and health sciences, students bring academic knowledge and emerging skills to organizations across research, healthcare, biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, and related sectors. Our team works directly with employers to understand their talent needs, develop suitable co-op opportunities, and connect them with students who can contribute while building the experience needed for their future careers.

University of Toronto Scarborough | Arts & Science Co-op

www.utsc.utoronto.ca/artscicoop

Year Founded	1827
Number of Employees	20000
Location in Canada	Ontario
Location in Ontario	Scarborough

Life Sciences Ontario LSO Member

Spark

Ontario's life sciences sector needs a sustainable pipeline of skilled talent, and undergraduate students need meaningful opportunities to translate their academic learning into real-world experience. At the same time, life sciences organizations can face barriers to bringing early-career talent into their workplaces, including limited hiring capacity, funding constraints, and uncertainty around how co-op students can contribute.

For more than 50 years, the Arts & Science Co-op program at the University of Toronto Scarborough has worked to bridge this gap. Our goal is to make it easier for employers to access motivated undergraduate talent while giving students opportunities to explore careers, develop practical skills, and contribute meaningfully to organizations across Ontario's evolving life sciences ecosystem.

Approach

We simplify the co-op hiring process by reducing barriers and offering employers flexibility in when and how they hire. Our team supports organizations throughout the process - from identifying suitable student skill sets and developing job descriptions to coordinating recruitment and connecting employers with relevant funding opportunities.

Students can complete 4-, 8-, or 12-month work terms beginning in January, May, or September, providing greater flexibility than a traditional summer-only internship model. Across life and health sciences, students have contributed to lab and research work, patient recruitment, data analysis, report generation, quality-related functions, analytics, software development, and other emerging areas.

Beyond individual placements, we build relationships with employers and industry organizations to better understand evolving workforce needs and create stronger connections between undergraduate education and Ontario's life sciences sector.

Impact

The impact extends to both students and Ontario's life sciences employers. Students gain hands-on experience, income, professional networks, and greater clarity about where their education can take them. Some have contributed to research resulting in co-authorship in industry publications, while others have discovered entirely new career possibilities through their work terms.

Employers gain access to students who bring current academic knowledge, fresh perspectives, and the ability to learn quickly. Co-op also gives organizations an opportunity to develop future talent before graduation; students can return for additional work terms or transition into full-time employment, supporting longer-term workforce development and knowledge retention.

By connecting education and employment earlier, we aim to strengthen students' transition into the workforce while helping Ontario's life sciences organizations develop sustainable pipelines of future talent.

Momentum

Our work continues to expand beyond individual co-op placements through deeper engagement with Ontario's life sciences community. Through partnerships, industry events, employer outreach, and initiatives such as LAUNCH, we create opportunities for employers and students to connect while gaining a clearer understanding of emerging workforce needs.

These relationships help us identify new career pathways for Arts & Science students and enable employers to consider undergraduate talent across functions ranging from laboratory and research work to data, quality, technology, policy, and business operations.

Next

Looking ahead, we will continue strengthening partnerships across Ontario's life sciences ecosystem, simplifying access to co-op talent, and creating pathways into emerging areas of work. Our goal is to help employers build sustainable talent pipelines while preparing students to contribute to the sector's evolving workforce needs.

SPOTLIGHT

BANTING DISCOVERY FOUNDATION

The Banting Discovery Foundation identifies promising early-career researchers and provides them with seed funding and mentorship to advance their academic program. By supporting researchers at a critical stage in their careers, the Foundation helps accelerate scientific discovery, foster innovation, and uplifts the next generation of Canadian research leaders.

bantingdiscoveryfoundation.ca

Year Founded	1925
Number of Employees	Volunteer Run
Location in Canada	Ontario
Location in Ontario	Toronto

"Backed by the Banting Discovery Award, we built a competitive research program combining cutting-edge genomics with advanced machine learning. Now, we are translating those foundational insights into health solutions to develop rapid diagnostics and vaccines."

- Amy Lee, 2022
  Banting Discovery Awardee





The Spark

For over a century, the Toronto-based Banting Discovery Foundation has invested in 1,397 exceptional researchers across Canada when they need it most: at the start of their careers.

Its story traces back to Frederick Banting's work at the University of Toronto. He pursued the research that led to the discovery of insulin with limited resources and borrowed lab space, and transformed medicine worldwide. His story helped inspire a Foundation dedicated to giving other promising researchers the support he knew could make a difference.

Young scientists still face those precarious circumstances. They can have bold ideas and enormous promise, but lack the track record or preliminary data to secure major funding. Potential comes before proof. Without early support, ideas stall and talented scientists can leave the field before their discoveries have a chance to make an impact.

Dr. Amy Lee was one such researcher who considered leaving science behind.

Approach

She tackles two urgent global health threats: antimicrobial resistance and neonatal sepsis, a severe infection that can threaten a newborn's life within hours.

Her work seeks to detect infection before symptoms appear, allowing doctors to intervene before a newborn becomes critically ill.

But in 2022, two years after she launched her lab at Simon Fraser University, her startup funding was running out. She needed early data to compete for larger grants, but generating it required money she did not have.

She questioned whether she could continue and considered leaving science altogether. Then she received a $30,000 Banting Discovery Award.

In Amy's words: "It was a lifeline."

Amy's story reflects a challenge faced by many early-career scientists: promising research can stall before it has the chance to become a breakthrough. The Banting Discovery Foundation steps in by investing when it counts, turning potential into proof.

Impact

Four years after the initial investment, we can see what that lifeline made possible.

In three years, Dr. Lee secured $4.3M in total funding, nearly 150 times the Foundation's investment. But the value extends far beyond the dollars.

She and her collaborators identified a four-gene signature that predicted nine out of 10 newborns who later developed sepsis. They are now testing on an independent cohort with Sepset, a company founded by her postdoctoral advisor, to develop a rapid PCR test. This has received nearly $1M USD in philanthropic support for development.

The discovery may not immediately change clinical practice, but it brings us closer to faster diagnostics and more effective therapies. This is how medical progress begins: fundamental discoveries lead to new technologies and, ultimately, better care. One day, that progress could mean preserving a child's life—one that might otherwise be cut short.

Momentum

Dr. Lee's story is part of a century-long Canadian legacy. Applications for the Discovery Award rose 67%, from 64 in 2022 to 107 in 2026, reflecting growing interest in the Foundation's support.

A recent survey of past recipients shows what that early recognition can set in motion: greater visibility, new collaborations and mentorship, and the confidence to pursue ambitious research. Recipients have gone on to secure over $2M in subsequent funding, build new laboratories, and earn major recognition, including a Canada Research Chair.

Each award is the beginning of a new story of discovery.

SPOTLIGHT

BioCanRx
Canada's Immunotherapy Network
Le réseau canadien d'immunothérapie

biocanrx.com

Year Founded	2015
Number of Employees	12
Location in Canada	National
Location in Ontario	Ottawa

"Ontario is already proving what's possible: CLIC-01 has treated close to 100 patients with a made-in-Canada cancer therapy delivered right here at The Ottawa Hospital and at other sites across the country. Our job now is to make sure the next breakthrough doesn't get stuck between good research and good policy."

- Dr. Stéphanie Michaud, President & CEO, BioCanRx

LIFE SCIENCES ONTARIO MEMBER

BIOCANRX - CANADA'S IMMUNOTHERAPY NETWORK

BioCanRx – Canada's Immunotherapy Network – is a federally funded network created in 2015 under the Network of Centres of Excellence program and, since April 2024, funded through ISED's Strategic Science Fund. Our mandate is to accelerate the development of made-in-Canada cancer immunotherapies — including CAR-T cell therapies and other advanced cell and gene therapies — from preclinical research to clinical trials and beyond.

The Spark

BioCanRx was established in 2015 in Ontario to bring innovative cancer therapies from the US to be made in Canada for Canadian patients. We help researchers cross the valleys of death in drug development through our milestone-based funding program and have learned that turning great ideas into sufficiently safe therapies to treat patients is more complex than funding. Canadian life sciences companies and researchers face a complex governance landscape spanning multiple ministries, mandates, and decision-making processes. Those working within government and regulatory systems have lacked a clear, evidence-based diagnosis of the structural barriers holding the sector back. BioCanRx set out to change that, producing a diagnosis that government, researchers, and industry could work from together.

Approach

BioCanRx commissioned the Institute on Governance (IOG) to compare Canada's life sciences sector with six peer jurisdictions, including the UK, Australia, Japan, and the United States while also examining the translational research ecosystems in British Columbia, Alberta, Quebec and Ontario. The resulting study identified an unintended structural divide in Canada's commercialization pipeline: discovery research and commercialization are overseen by two federal ministries, Health Canada and Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED), with different mandates and no requirement to coordinate. When a discovery moves from Health Canada-funded research toward ISED's economic development portfolio, there is no consistent handoff. Promising Canadian discoveries fall through the cracks, or leave the country.

Impact

The stakes are concrete, and they're playing out in Ontario. While Ontario's combination of long-term institutional funding, enabling infrastructure programs, and new strategy-linked instruments provides an example of how substantial efforts can address risk across multiple stages, however it cannot act alone. The BioCanRx-supported CLIC-01 trial, a made-in-Canada CAR T-cell therapy delivered at The Ottawa Hospital, has now treated almost 100 patients. Its companion trial, CLIC-02, received Health Canada approval, providing a brand new therapeutic option to both pediatric and adult patients in Ontario. CLIC is expanding to a second cell manufacturing site in Ottawa, a first for a multi-site, made-in-Canada CAR T platform. These pillars represent exactly the kind of homegrown breakthroughs the governance gap puts at risk once they reach the harder, costlier work of scaling and commercializing. BioCanRx looks forward to working in closer collaboration with ecosystem partners to close the gap.

Momentum

BioCanRx shared the IOG findings widely across government. President and CEO Dr. Stéphanie Michaud has since testified before both the House of Commons Standing Committee on Science and Research and the Standing Committee on Health, and was appointed to Canada's Pharmaceutical and Life Sciences Sector Task Force, which published recommendations to the Ministers of Health and Industry in July, including the critical need for a clear pathway for translational research to move discoveries from lab to market without leaving Canada.

Next

BioCanRx continues to advocate for mandated ministerial coordination to ensure a clear, accountable path from research funding into commercialization support. Continuing the work of moving Canadian, and Ontario-based, discoveries toward the clinic, BioCanRx will award $6 million to successful projects among the 82 applications received during its 2026 funding competition.







SPOTLIGHT

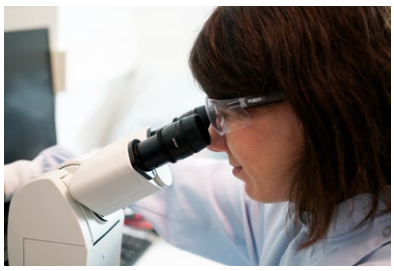
Commercializing Living Therapies

www.ccrm.ca

Year Founded	2011
Number of Employees	124
Location in Canada	Ontario
Location in Ontario	Toronto

"The future of life sciences will be shaped by the convergence of biology, advanced manufacturing and emerging technologies, including AI/ML and quantum computing/sensing. By aligning these capabilities, we can unlock approaches to developing and scaling transformative therapies, strengthen Ontario's innovation ecosystem, and position Canada as a global leader in the next generation of medicine."

- Michael May,
  President and CEO, CCRM



CCRM

CCRM is a global, public-private partnership headquartered in Canada. It has received funding from the Government of Canada, the Province of Ontario, and leading academic and industry partners. CCRM supports the development of regenerative medicines and associated enabling technologies, with a specific focus on establishing new cell and gene therapy ventures. A network of researchers, leading companies, investors and entrepreneurs, CCRM accelerates the translation of scientific discovery into new companies and revolutionary medicines for patients with specialized teams, dedicated funding and unique infrastructure. In 2022, CCRM established OmniaBio Inc., a commercial-stage CDMO for manufacturing cell and gene therapies.

The Spark

Cell and gene therapies (CGTs) and other advanced medicines have enormous potential, but realizing that potential requires more than scientific breakthroughs. Developers face complex challenges in biology and chemistry, biomanufacturing, analytics, automation and supply chains. CCRM is addressing these challenges by bringing together the technologies, expertise and infrastructure needed to move innovation from discovery into scalable, real-world impact, while unlocking technological innovations to transform therapeutic design and biomanufacturing.

Canada is a leader in regenerative medicine science, but not in commercializing its discoveries. Since its establishment, CCRM has been building an integrated ecosystem that connects scientific innovation with advanced manufacturing, company creation, investment and training. We believe these are the essential components that Canada's regenerative medicine ecosystem needs to thrive.

Approach

CCRM's comprehensive model bridges the gap between discovery and market. A key element is our CDMO spin-out, OmniaBio Inc. Located in Hamilton, Ontario, OmniaBio specializes in pre-clinical to commercial-scale manufacturing for CGT products. Domestic manufacturing enables Canadian companies to initiate clinical trials locally, without relocating closer to foreign manufacturers, and attracts international customers to Canada's clinical infrastructure. CCRM is extending this model into emerging technologies shaping the future of advanced therapies. CCRM's DeepTech Bio Lab™ collaborates with organizations developing technologies at the interface of AI/ML, robotics and automation, and high-performance quantum computing/sensing with CGT biomanufacturing, analytics, and logistics and supply chain.

Through Venture by Design, CCRM's market-driven company creation and incubation platform, we de-risk and validate the complex biology and manufacturability of emerging concepts before incorporation, managing IP, leadership and development partners to maximize success. This model represents a step-change in how life sciences innovation is developed, scaled and delivered.

Impact

The ultimate beneficiaries of CCRM's efforts are patients, both in Ontario and worldwide, who need faster access to effective, affordable therapies and even cures. Advanced therapy developers, researchers and biotech companies also benefit from access to advanced infrastructure, manufacturing expertise and emerging technologies that can help optimize processes, increase efficiency and accelerate development. By building this ecosystem in Ontario and connecting it globally, CCRM is helping strengthen the province's position as a destination for life sciences innovation, investment and advanced manufacturing.

Momentum

A major milestone for CCRM has been the creation of DeepTech Bio Lab through a collaboration with IonQ, one of the world's leading quantum computing companies. The collaboration will explore how quantum computing can unlock new approaches to process optimization and simulation in personalized medicine and advanced biomanufacturing. IonQ has made a significant investment to fuel joint initiatives across CCRM's growing network of global hubs. Combined with OmniaBio's advanced manufacturing capabilities and CCRM's partnerships, this work is creating new opportunities at the intersection of biology, manufacturing and computational technologies.

Next

CCRM will continue connecting life sciences with transformative technologies, expanding partnerships across its global network to advance computational biotechnology, quantum-enabled innovation and next-generation biomanufacturing. This work will help unlock new approaches to developing, scaling and delivering advanced therapies while strengthening Ontario's position as a global life sciences innovation hub.

SPOTLIGHT

TEMERTY FACULTY OF MEDICINE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO | Commercialization & Partnerships

rhse.temertymedicine.utoronto.ca/commercialization-partnerships

Year Founded	2025
Number of Employees	9
Location in Canada	Ontario
Location in Ontario	Toronto

"Great discoveries change lives only when they have a path forward. Our ambition is to equip health innovators with confidence, connections and support to navigate commercialization, build ventures and transform Canadian research into solutions that reach patients."

- Soror Sharifpoor, Director, Commercialization & Partnerships, Temerty Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto







COMMERCIALIZATION & PARTNERSHIPS (MEDCP), TEMERTY FACULTY OF MEDICINE, UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

MedCP is the Commercialization & Partnerships unit at the Temerty Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto. MedCP supports health researchers, trainees, clinicians and innovators with the tools, training, funding and networks to translate discoveries and ideas into real-world health solutions, from the bench to the bedside and into the market. As Temerty Medicine's front door to health innovation and commercialization, MedCP is home to a broad portfolio of programs and initiatives, including the Health Innovation Hub (H2i), Entrepreneurship for Commercialization of Health Opportunities (ECHO) program, Lab2Market Health Hub, Entrepreneur-in-Residence (EiR) Program and other initiatives. Several of these programs have national reach, extending MedCP's support to health innovators across Canada.

The Spark

Health research at Temerty Medicine has laid the groundwork for therapies, devices and tools that improve lives worldwide. Translating research into real-world solutions, however, carries considerable risk. A 2024 Conference Board of Canada and MaRS study ranks Canada second among 20 peer countries for entrepreneurial opportunities and capabilities, yet 19th for fear of failure. This fear can deter health innovators from pursuing commercialization.

Although extensive resources exist across the innovation ecosystem, health entrepreneurs must navigate a complex landscape to find essential support at the right time. To address this challenge, Temerty Medicine launched MedCP in 2025, supported by the generous Temerty Foundation gift. The unit integrates longstanding programs, new initiatives and resources within a collaborative platform. By filling gaps and coordinating support, MedCP helps mitigate commercialization risks and creates an efficient, accessible pathway for moving discoveries from bench to bedside and into the market.

Approach

MedCP is the Commercialization & Partnerships unit at Temerty Medicine. It serves as a front door to health innovation and commercialization, connecting researchers, trainees, clinicians and entrepreneurs with coordinated support. Rooted at Temerty Medicine, its reach extends across Canada through national programs and partnerships.

MedCP delivers support through four pillars: entrepreneurship training, mentorship and networking, strategic advisory, and funding. Its portfolio includes the Health Innovation Hub (H2i), Entrepreneurship for Commercialization of Health Opportunities (ECHO) program, Lab2Market Health Hub and Entrepreneur-in-Residence (EiR) Program. Rather than operating in isolation, these programs create a connected pathway for innovators at every stage, from exploring an idea and assessing commercial potential to building a venture and preparing for market. By matching innovators with the right program, expertise and resources as their needs evolve, MedCP helps promising ideas advance toward real-world impact.

Impact

MedCP provides researchers, trainees and clinicians with coordinated access to tools, training, funding and networks needed to translate discoveries into real-world health solutions. As their needs evolve, they can progress through complementary programs, carrying knowledge, relationships and momentum forward as they advance.

Neuropeutics, a pharmaceutical venture, demonstrates this connected pathway in action. It joined the Health Innovation Hub (H2i) for early-stage support, tested its market through Lab2Market Validate and entered the Entrepreneurship for Commercialization of Health Opportunities (ECHO) program to advance their pre-clinical package. With MedCP providing support at multiple stages of its commercialization journey, the company has achieved many milestones. Most notably, its CEO received the Temerty Innovation Prize for Student Entrepreneurship, while the company secured ALS Canada-Brain Canada and Ontario Genomics funding and won the AbbVie Innovators Biotech Award. Neuropeutics' journey illustrates how connected support can move promising discoveries closer to the people they are intended to serve.

Momentum

In its first year, MedCP moved from vision to implementation, building the foundation for a coordinated health innovation and commercialization platform. It assembled a dedicated team, established advisory committees that bring investors, industry executives and sector organizations together with Faculty leadership, and integrated mentors, events and funding opportunities across programs. With this foundation in place, MedCP is strengthening partnerships, extending its reach across Canada and supporting more researchers and ventures as they advance discoveries from the lab toward patients and the market.

Next

For over a century, researchers at Temerty Medicine have advanced discoveries that improve human health. MedCP will build on this legacy by strengthening commercialization pathways, deepening partnerships and expanding access to support so more health innovations reach patients and the market in sustainable, scalable ways. This work has only begun.

SPOTLIGHT

Craft Science Inc.

www.craftscience.ca

Year Founded	2017
Number of Employees	5
Location in Canada	Ontario
Location in Ontario	Mississauga

"Ontario is home to extraordinary life sciences innovation. At Craft Science, we help that science travel farther: turning discovery into funding, evidence into clinical confidence, and complexity into clarity - supporting implementation, adoption, and better care."

- Dr. Anna Vainshtein, Founder & Director



CRAFT SCIENCE INC.

Craft Science Inc. is an Ontario-based, scientist-led medical and scientific communications firm helping pharmaceutical, biotechnology, academic, nonprofit, and healthcare organizations transform complex evidence into communications that are clear, credible, compliant, and built to move science and medicine forward.

CSI works across the life sciences continuum helping generate and publish evidence, translate that evidence into clinical guidance and education, and carry it through to launch, market entry, and the resources patients and clinicians depend on. With a team of highly trained writers and consultants experienced in regulatory affairs, pharmacovigilance, PAAB compliance, and medical strategy, CSI helps organizations communicate with the rigour science demands and the clarity impact requires.

The Spark

Life sciences innovation can hold transformational potential and still struggle to advance if its value is not communicated clearly and credibly to the people who can fund, publish, prescribe, and bring it into practice.

CSI was built to bridge the gap between innovation and real-world impact. We help science keep its rigour while giving it the clarity and reach it needs to move forward. For CSI, communication is not the finishing touch after discovery. It is the force that helps science rise above the noise, earn trust, and move closer to those it is meant to serve.

Approach

Life sciences communications carry real stakes and are often where momentum is gained or lost. A grant proposal can influence whether research continues. A clinical guideline can shape how evidence is applied in practice. A launch narrative can affect how physicians understand a therapy. Patient education can impact how people interpret their diagnosis and care options.

CSI's model is rooted in scientific fluency. We let the evidence lead the way, asking what it shows, why it matters, who needs to understand it, and what decision it needs to support. From there, we shape communications that protect nuance while making the message accurate and actionable.

CSI brings together scientific depth, strategic thinking, regulatory awareness, and storytelling discipline to create communications that are built with purpose and grounded in evidence.

Impact

Craft Science translates complex science into communications that support health innovation in practice. Our work has contributed to practice guidelines and consensus-driven initiatives that make evidence more usable for clinicians. We supported pharma and biotech teams with materials that communicate emerging data accurately, strategically, and responsibly in regulated environments. We helped develop disease education and digital platforms that make reliable information easier for patients, caregivers, and healthcare providers to access and understand.

Together, this work strengthens the connective tissue of Ontario's life sciences ecosystem: the space between discovery, publication, education, adoption, and care. The benefit reaches beyond our clients, to startups trying to advance, physicians trying to decide, patients trying to understand, and a sector working to compete on the world stage.

Momentum

In 2025–2026, CSI grew 50%, deepening PAAB, ICH GCP, regulatory, and pharmacovigilance expertise and strengthening partnerships across pharma, agency, nonprofit, and health-sector clients.

Our work has evolved too. CSI is increasingly brought into complex, high-stakes projects where scientific accuracy, compliance, strategy, and usability all matter at once, reflecting a broader recognition that scientist-led communications are becoming essential infrastructure for innovation.

One example: CSI co-led an international consensus framework on skeletal muscle health, published in Nature Metabolism alongside senior investigators across Europe and North America, demonstrating CSI's ability to help shape the frameworks and narratives that give evidence structure and influence.

Next

CSI's next chapter is about scaling with purpose. We are building the team, partnerships, and platform to help more Ontario and Canadian life sciences organizations communicate evidence with rigour, creativity and transparency so their science can be seen, understood, trusted, and carried onto the world stage with confidence.

SPOTLIGHT

DELPHIC RESEARCH GROUP

Delphic Research helps organizations in regulated sectors make sense of complex government, policy, regulatory and market environments. We combine deep sector expertise, structured knowledge and artificial intelligence to identify, filter and interpret the information that matters most. Our work includes the Executive Daily Briefing, data-driven stakeholder mapping, evidence curation and other intelligence products designed to improve situational awareness and support better decisions. Rather than simply monitoring information, we help clients understand what matters, why it matters and what may happen next.

delphicresearch.ca

Year Founded	2020
Number of Employees	26
Location in Canada	Ontario
Location in Ontario	Toronto

"There is something deeply satisfying about building something new here in Ontario and then taking it out into the world. We have extraordinary talent, institutions and a remarkably strong life sciences community. I'm proud that Delphic was built here, and proud that Ontario will remain our home as we grow internationally."

-- Jason Grier, Founder

The Spark

We set out to solve a challenge that had become increasingly difficult for organizations working in government affairs, market access and public policy: how to identify what actually matters in an environment flooded with information.

The digital transformation of the economy has created more sources, more signals and more noise. Important developments may appear in government documents, regulatory filings, stakeholder activity, professional bodies, health systems, legislative proceedings or other channels. Missing one critical piece can change the interpretation of everything around it.

Traditional media monitoring was not enough. Much of what mattered most to our customers was never covered by the news media at all. When it was, it was often too little, too late.

We believed there had to be a better way.

Approach

From the beginning, we understood that technology alone would not be enough. Good intelligence requires domain expertise, context, structured knowledge and an understanding of how organizations actually make decisions.

Life sciences became our natural proving ground. Few sectors are shaped by such a complex web of governments, regulators, payers, health systems, professional bodies, patient organizations and other stakeholders. Every therapy, company and market situation is different.

So we built a different model. Our Argus platform combines artificial intelligence with purpose-built workflows, domain-specific ontologies and structured knowledge assets, informed by a team with deep health and life sciences expertise. The objective is not simply to collect more information, but to help clients understand what matters, why it matters and what may happen next.

Impact

The people who benefit are the teams making consequential decisions in complex, highly regulated environments. By identifying important developments earlier and placing them in context, Delphic helps government affairs, market access and public policy professionals build stronger situational awareness and make better-informed decisions.

For Ontario, the impact goes further. We are building a Canadian intelligence capability here at home, drawing on the province's life sciences expertise and creating technology and knowledge assets that can help Ontario businesses compete more effectively. The same foundation is now proving adaptable beyond life sciences, extending the value of what was built here into other sectors important to Ontario's economy.

Momentum

Delphic has grown from an idea into a platform serving dozens of enterprises, trade and industry associations, health regulatory bodies and governments. Our core product, the Executive Daily Briefing, is read by decision-makers across Canada and increasingly by colleagues and teams around the world. At the same time, our early investment in domain-specific ontologies and structured knowledge is paying dividends, helping us launch a new Energy and Resources practice and supporting our move into the U.S. market. Together, these milestones are validating both the model and its potential to scale internationally.

Next

Our next chapter is about growing from Ontario: deepening Argus, expanding into sectors where better intelligence can make a meaningful difference, helping Ontario businesses compete, and taking an Ontario-built capability to customers across North America and, ultimately, around the world.





SPOTLIGHT

GENERATOR AT SHERIDAN

Generator at Sheridan is where purpose and passion unite the extraordinary research, innovation and entrepreneurship undertaken by Sheridan's faculty, staff and students, working across disciplines and sectors, to drive meaningful impact for an ever-changing world. In addition to our exceptional faculty-led research, Sheridan also boasts four renowned research centres that provide innovation supports to community, industry and government partners. From collaborative problem-solving with industry and community partners to tangible improvements in health, technology and sustainability, Generator's innovation expertise and capacity exemplify how applied research can move the needle on real-world outcomes, delivering measurable impact and value across Ontario's life sciences ecosystem. Learn more at sheridancollege.ca/generator.

sheridancollege.ca/generator

Year Founded	1967
Number of Employees	33
Location in Canada	Ontario
Location in Ontario	Oakville Brampton Mississauga
Annual Revenue	$5,483,925 External Research Income in 2025-26 FY

"Sheridan College's applied research hub, Generator at Sheridan, advances research and innovation by working hand in hand with industry and community partners to solve real world challenges. As a national leader in applied AI research, we are proud to highlight how Sheridan is accelerating the adoption of AI-enabled technologies across Ontario's life sciences sector, turning data into actionable insight and insight into solutions that are responsive to human needs and strengthen the organizations that deliver them."

- Ben Rogers,
  Executive Director, Research,
  Sheridan College

The Spark

Artificial intelligence (AI) is rapidly reshaping the life sciences landscape, transforming how care is delivered, decisions are made and outcomes are improved. Recognized as a national leader in AI research partnerships and completed projects, Generator at Sheridan is at the forefront of this shift, translating applied AI research into practical solutions that respond to real human needs and enable more personalized, data-driven and scalable approaches to care.

Approach & Impact

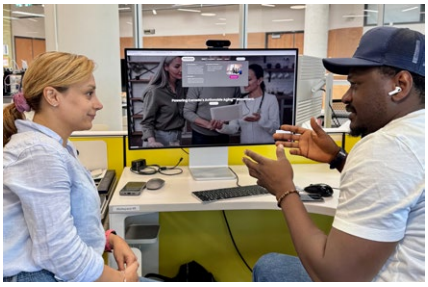
Take Generator's collaboration with Incluzia Inc., a Canadian AgeTech and HealthTech company that delivers readiness planning, service navigation and evidence-based home assessment tools through two digital platforms; IncluzIT Home for older adults, families and care providers, and IncluzIT Pro for occupational therapists. To improve the effectiveness of the tools, Generator's Centre for Applied AI and Centre for Elder Research gathered critical insights into the needs, priorities and challenges faced by older adults as well as integrated AI-driven analytics, semantic search and personalized recommendations into Incluzia's platforms. These adjustments ensure that users, including older adults, families and care providers, receive tailored, actionable guidance that reflects lived experience and supports safer, more independent living.

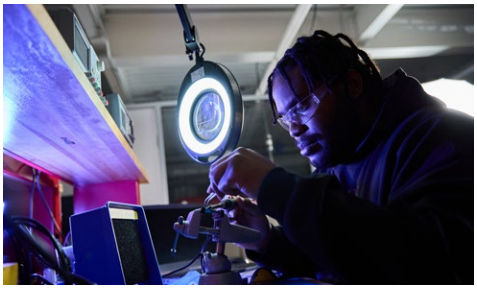
Meanwhile, innovation in wearable health technology is reshaping how chronic conditions are monitored and managed. In partnership with med-tech company DIA Labs Canada, Generator's Centre for Intelligent Manufacturing developed advanced AI-enabled prototypes for AirSense, a patient-centered wearable device designed for continuous asthma monitoring for up to 14 days. Through custom-engineered prototype designs, researchers created a sleek, wearable-ready solution that enables more precise, non-invasive respiratory monitoring that will help reduce emergency visits and improve at-home care for people living with asthma.

While these projects are only a snapshot of Generator at Sheridan's impact on the life sciences sector, they demonstrate how Sheridan's innovation hub brings together researcher and faculty expertise, state-of-the-art facilities, student talent and industry and community partners to transform emerging technologies into practical solutions that improve lives across Ontario.









SPOTLIGHT

www.lgcstandards.com

Year Founded	1982
Number of Employees	323
Location in Canada	Ontario
Location in Ontario	Vaughan

"Ontario has a long history of scientific excellence, and we are proud to contribute to that legacy. At our Organic Chemistry Synthesis Centre of Excellence in Vaughan, our chemists design and synthesize complex compounds, from well-characterized molecules to novel compounds that have never been commercially available, and develop the analytical standards researchers need to advance scientific discovery. It's a powerful example of how Ontario-based expertise can drive innovation and support research with global impact."

– Enoch Koo, Site Leader, Toronto Research Chemicals (TRC), LGC Standards





LGC I TORONTO RESEARCH CHEMICALS (TRC)

About LGC: *LGC is a global leader in life sciences, diagnostics, and analytical solutions. The company partners with customers to tackle some of the world's most complex challenges. Every day, its science helps to diagnose disease, treat illness, feed a growing population, and protect public health. LGC provides the tools, expertise and services that underpin scientific discovery, enable better health outcomes, and safeguard the integrity of food, water, medicines, and the environment.*

With operations in 14 countries and a heritage of over 180 years, LGC's products and services are integral to public health and global sustainability. From supporting the accuracy of medical test results to verifying the safety of baby food, to helping scientists develop the next generation of medicines, LGC's solutions are trusted by customers in more than 170 countries.

About TRC: *Toronto Research Chemicals (TRC), part of LGC Standards, is recognized globally as a Centre of Excellence in organic chemistry synthesis. Founded at the University of Toronto more than 40 years ago, TRC now offers a catalogue of over 100,000 research chemicals and analytical standards to scientists and manufacturers worldwide, advancing discoveries in pharmaceuticals, diagnostics, forensic science, food safety, and environmental analysis. In 2025, TRC opened a new state-of-the-art facility in Vaughan, Ontario, further strengthening its capabilities in complex organic synthesis. This expertise is supported by more than 100 PhD- and MSc-qualified scientists.*

The Spark

Nicotine-free, but risk-free? Investigating emerging nicotine alternatives

Novel nicotine analogues are increasingly appearing in consumer products, raising questions about their potential health effects. Among them is 6-methyl nicotine (6-MN), which is emerging as an alternative to traditional nicotine in products such as e-cigarettes and oral pouches. However, the scientific evidence needed to understand this substance remains limited. When these products began appearing, little was known about how 6-MN is metabolised, how exposure could be detected, or its potential toxicity.

As governments, health agencies and scientists work to understand the implications of 6-MN use, generating trustworthy analytical data becomes increasingly important.

Approach

At our Organic Chemistry Synthesis Centre of Excellence, we specialize in developing high-quality research chemicals and analytical standards for investigating emerging compounds. We have longstanding expertise in nicotine and tobacco research, with more than 200 nicotine-related analogues, metabolites and labelled materials available to support the identification and accurate measurement of nicotine and emerging alternatives. Our materials have been cited in thousands of nicotine-related scientific publications.

Our chemists monitor the scientific literature and marketplace to anticipate emerging research needs, developing new materials as the chemical landscape evolves. By making difficult-to-source materials available to scientists, we help researchers to rapidly characterize emerging substances and produce credible evidence that can inform further investigation and scientific understanding.

Impact

TRC materials are already supporting important research into 6-MN. Scientists at the University of Louisville used high-resolution mass spectrometry to investigate the metabolism and potential toxicity of 6-MN. In separate research published in *Drug Testing and Analysis*, scientists investigated oral pouches marketed as tobacco- and nicotine-free. While some retailers explicitly stated that the products contained 6-MN, others advertised only the absence of nicotine. Mass spectrometry and NMR spectroscopy confirmed the presence and structure of 6-MN, with concentrations reaching approximately 20 mg per pouch.

Momentum

This growing body of research is helping to build a clearer picture of 6-MN – from its presence in consumer products to how it is processed by the body and how exposure can be detected. This evidence is helping to identify potential health risks and strengthen surveillance of emerging nicotine products, giving regulators and public health agencies a clearer picture of what people may be exposed to. TRC's contribution shows how Ontario-based scientific expertise is supporting international research into complex issues with public health and regulatory relevance.

Next

As new compounds emerge, scientists need the means to identify them and investigate their potential health effects. We will continue monitoring this evolving landscape and developing the specialized materials researchers need as part of our mission to leverage Science for a Safer World.

SPOTLIGHT

LIFE SCIENCES CENTRAL

Life Sciences Central is a network launched by MaRS, OBIO®, and TIAP that provides Canada's life sciences ventures with a single, streamlined point of entry for commercialization support. By aligning resources across partner organizations, it reduces fragmentation, helps companies grow, and builds globally competitive Canadian health innovation. Through a mix of open, self-serve programming and targeted support for high-potential ventures, Life Sciences Central helps entrepreneurs access capital, talent, advisory, and global market opportunities.

lifesciencescentral.ca

Year Founded	2025
Number of Employees	Delivered by partner staff
Location in Canada	Ontario
Location in Ontario	Toronto

"Ontario has world-class researchers, entrepreneurs and institutions. But we've long lacked the cohesive infrastructure to translate that excellence into scale-ready companies," says Grace Lee Reynolds, CEO, MaRS Discovery District. "Life Sciences Central addresses that gap by connecting the dots across our ecosystem, lab space, capital, talent and commercialization support, making it easier for high-potential ventures to grow here at home."

The Spark

Life Sciences Central addresses a critical challenge in Canada's life sciences sector: fragmentation across the commercialization ecosystem. Ontario is home to world-class researchers, entrepreneurs, and health innovation institutions, yet startups often struggle to navigate disconnected resources, funding, talent networks, infrastructure, and commercialization support. This lack of coordination can slow down growth, limit access to capital, and prevent promising innovations from reaching patients and global markets.

The opportunity that inspired this work is the potential to transform Ontario's strong research foundation into scale-ready, globally competitive life sciences companies. By bringing together the expertise and resources of its partners, Life Sciences Central creates a more connected, efficient pathway for innovators, helping ventures access the right support at the right time, advance commercializing, attract investment, and stay rooted in Ontario. The goal is to strengthen Canada's innovation economy and deliver breakthrough health solutions.

Approach

Life Sciences Central works with early-stage life sciences companies, directing them to the right resources and programming. Companies with validated science and strong early traction receive more targeted support to help them prepare for growth.

This is about solving systemic fragmentation in the ecosystem. By clarifying roles and aligning supports, Life Sciences Central creates a stronger pipeline that benefits innovation at every stage.

Impact

Life Sciences Central is a single-entry point for life sciences ventures, providing coordinated access to funding, infrastructure, talent, advisory services, commercialization programs, and investor networks. By reducing duplication and confusion, it offers companies a clear, connected pathway from early traction to Series A+ and from the lab bench to global markets. Whether a company needs lab space, clinical validation, IP strategy or investor readiness, Life Sciences Central connects it with the right resources at the right time to help it reach its next milestone.

Momentum

In its first year, Life Sciences Central welcomed 130+ companies across therapeutics, medtech, diagnostics, digital health and consumer health, coaching them on their commercialization strategies. Life Sciences Central's team held 150+ intake screening calls and hosted six workshops on topics including accelerating adoption in healthcare, biotech valuations and medtech procurement.

Next

In its second year, Life Sciences Central will welcome additional partners to expand the reach and impact of the collaboration.







SPOTLIGHT

www.mitacs.ca

Year Founded	1999
Number of Employees	300+
Location in Canada	British Columbia
Location in Ontario	Toronto

"At its core, innovation is about creating tangible value for people, businesses and communities. By connecting organizations with the talent and expertise they need to grow, Mitacs helps transform research into real-world solutions that improve lives, strengthen communities, and deliver lasting economic and social impacts."

- Derek Newton, Senior Vice-President, Business Development and Strategic Partnerships, Mitacs





MITACS INC.

For over 25 years, Mitacs has helped grow the economy and develop the workforce of tomorrow, connecting industry with academia and global partners to solve real-world challenges. Mitacs supports business-academic research collaboration through internships, co-funded with businesses, for undergraduate to graduate students and post-doctoral fellows, acting as an essential research-commercialization bridge. Mitacs is funded by the Government of Canada, the Government of Alberta, the Government of British Columbia, Research Manitoba, the Government of New Brunswick, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, the Government of Nova Scotia, the Government of Ontario, Innovation PEI, the Government of Quebec, the Government of Saskatchewan, and the Government of Yukon.

The Spark

Every breakthrough therapy, medical device, or digital health solution begins with a promising idea. The challenge is turning that idea into measurable health and economic outcomes for patients, healthcare systems, and global markets.

For life sciences companies, researchers, and healthcare innovators, access to specialized expertise and highly qualified talent can be the difference between a concept with potential and a solution ready to scale. Translating scientific advances into meaningful outcomes requires strong connections across industry, academia, healthcare, and government.

The Approach

For more than 25 years, Mitacs has helped bridge that gap by connecting innovators with expertise, talent, and applied research opportunities that accelerate the journey from discovery to implementation.

As Canada's national innovation organization and a trusted partner to federal and provincial governments, Mitacs invests in collaborative projects that bring together industry, researchers, and healthcare organizations. These initiatives help organizations reduce risk, advance commercialization, and move promising solutions closer to adoption.

Nowhere is this work more evident than in Ontario, home to Canada's largest life sciences ecosystem. Through applied research collaborations and talent development, Mitacs helps accelerate the transition from discovery to commercialization while strengthening the province's capacity for growth.

The Impact

One example is Toronto-based health technology company Skinopathy. Seeking to improve access to early skin cancer detection, the company partnered with Mitacs to accelerate development of GetSkinHelp, an AI-powered mobile application that analyzes skin lesions from smartphone images. Through the collaboration, highly qualified talent contributed machine learning expertise while gaining valuable industry experience. Today, the platform has served more than 24,000 patients and generated over 2,300 physician referrals, demonstrating how applied research can help bring innovative healthcare solutions to market faster.

Skinopathy is one example of a broader contribution to Canada's life sciences sector. Between 2018 and 2026, Mitacs invested more than $550 million in life sciences and health initiatives, supporting over 10,000 projects across Canada. These collaborations engaged more than 4,000 organizations, 89% of them small and medium-sized enterprises, and created opportunities for more than 13,000 highly skilled interns and researchers. Ontario accounted for more than one-third of this activity, underscoring the province's leadership in transforming discoveries into solutions that benefit patients, communities, and the economy.

The Momentum

Working alongside ecosystem leaders, including Life Sciences Ontario, Mitacs continues to help organizations access expertise, talent, and applied research opportunities that accelerate growth in areas such as AI-enabled health, biomanufacturing, advanced therapeutics, precision medicine, digital health, and health-system transformation.

What's Next

Looking ahead, Mitacs will continue to invest in the people, collaborations, and capacity needed to transform Canadian discoveries into measurable health and economic outcomes. By connecting innovators with Canada's research ecosystem, Mitacs is helping ensure that breakthroughs developed in Ontario can scale nationally and compete globally, delivering a return on innovation for patients, industry, and the economy.

SPOTLIGHT

www.obio.ca

Year Founded	2009
Number of Employees	12
Location in Canada	Ontario
Location in Ontario	Toronto

"OBIO® is committed to supporting Ontario's health science companies as they advance innovative solutions that improve patient outcomes and drive economic growth,"

- Dr. Maura Campbell, President and CEO of OBIO®.





OBIO®

OBIO® supports early-stage and venture-backed life sciences and health tech companies enabling them to raise capital, hire and train industry-ready talent, facilitate the commercialization and market adoption of their technologies in health systems, and access infrastructure. Through the OBIO® membership, we offer companies and their teams access to mentorship & expert resources, experiential learning opportunities and more.

The Spark

Founded in 2009, OBIO® is a not-for-profit, membership-based organization offering programming and infrastructure to support early-stage and venture-backed companies across the therapeutics, medtech, diagnostics, digital health and consumer health sectors. We enable them to raise capital, hire and train industry-ready talent, facilitate the commercialization and adoption of their technologies in health systems, and access infrastructure across various areas of focus: Capital Access & Adoption, Skills Development & Training, Women in Health, Critical Technologies and Defence & Dual-Use Applications.

Since its inception, OBIO® has worked tirelessly to develop programs for the life sciences & health tech sector, build resilience, help small-medium enterprises (SMEs) have their technologies procured in Canadian healthcare systems, and attract investment to grow the sector and support the province's economic development.

Approach

Since 2009, OBIO® has brought the voices of early-stage life sciences and health tech companies to decision makers in government to advocate for policies and actions to support our sector. OBIO® is led by President and CEO, Dr. Maura Campbell, a senior life sciences executive with 35+ years leading venture creation, IP portfolio development and global commercialization across biotech, medtech and digital health. Dr. Campbell has extensive expertise in building, managing and monetizing IP portfolios, including in- and out-licensing, freedom-to-operate, diligence and strategic pharma partnerships. Her proven track record in private and public financings, venture capital and pharma collaborations has led to deals exceeding $1B in value. Dr. Campbell has led companies through redomiciling, reverse mergers and IPOs, integrating M&A and scaling operations from startup to public markets. The OBIO® team brings decades of experience in supporting entrepreneurs commercializing life science and health tech innovations.

Impact

OBIO® members are early-stage companies who are addressing all aspects of human healthcare across the therapeutics, medtech, diagnostics, digital health and consumer health sectors.

Momentum

Companies supported through OBIO®'s Capital Access Advisory Program have now collectively raised over $1 billion.

OBIO®'s Early Adopter Health Network (EAHN®) now comprises 88 healthcare partners ready to "Buy Canadian". 27 women-led companies have been supported through OBIO®'s Women in Health Initiative Seed Program with $700,000 invested in participating companies. Participants have raised more than $30 million in additional capital, which is $43 raised for every $1 invested through OBIO®.

OBIO® has delivered entrepreneurship bootcamps in partnership with BioHubNet, PRiME and Stem Cell Network.

OBIO® has launched Canada's first Defence Readiness & Go-to-Market Masterclass, supported in part by NRC IRAP.

Next

Raising capital remains a major challenge for our members, especially in the trade war. OBIO® will continue:

- Collaborating with partners to build a globally competitive life sciences sector that strengthens Canadian innovations
- Expanding on its Commercialization, Skills Development & Training and Market Adoption programming to address evolving sector's needs

SPOTLIGHT

oicr.on.ca

Year Founded	2005
Number of Employees	300
Location in Canada	Ontario
Location in Ontario	Toronto

ONTARIO INSTITUTE FOR CANCER RESEARCH

OICR and FACIT are working together to bring innovations to people with cancer and ensure that Ontario reaps the economic benefits of its world leading research. This partnership is attracting unprecedented investment to the province and creating successful companies and good jobs.

The Spark

Cancer research aims to improve patient care, but too many research innovations never reach patients because they aren't successfully commercialized and brought to market. When new made-in-Ontario innovations are spun out into new companies and products, it often happens outside of the province, meaning Ontarians don't benefit from their own locally generated IP.

The Government of Ontario created OICR and FACIT to close the gap between innovation and implementation, while helping turn local innovations into economic prosperity for Ontarians. OICR drives cutting-edge cancer research across the province, and FACIT helps launch promising local start-ups and accelerate the development of made-in-Ontario innovations.

Approach

The model created by OICR in FACIT is unique in Ontario because it integrates commercialization as part of the research process, engaging a diverse range of partners to create a single pathway from innovation to clinical impact and economic prosperity. OICR and FACIT have an Ontario-first mandate, focusing on keeping innovations, IP, talent, jobs and investment within the province.

With expert guidance from FACIT, OICR research is carried out with commercialization in mind from the earliest stages. FACIT advances these and other Ontario innovations by providing business and investing expertise, and a continuum of commercialization capital and entrepreneurial support programs targeting innovations at the pre-seed and seed stages, where a long-standing funding gap exists in Ontario. The return of capital from FACIT portfolio companies is reinvested in the next breakthrough cancer innovations to further multiply its impact.

Impact

Together, OICR and FACIT have helped create nearly 1,500 new jobs and launch 35 companies in Ontario that generate local economic value while advancing cancer solutions. FACIT's portfolio of companies has attracted more than $1.74 billion in follow-on investments, returning $25 to Ontario's life science ecosystem for every one dollar invested by the province.

These jobs, companies and the IP behind them aren't just a boon for Ontario's economy. They are also helping bring new innovations to Ontario patients. That includes new higher-resolution imaging tools to diagnose breast cancer, drugs that harness the immune system to attack cancer, and radioactive isotopes that can deliver cancer medicines to the precise location of a tumour.

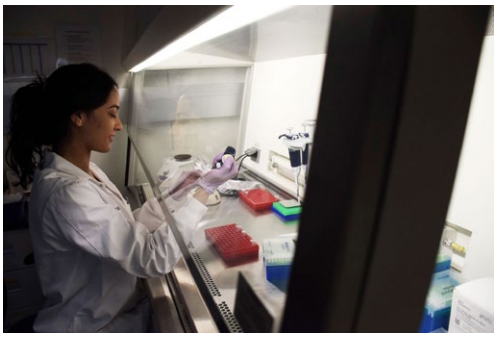
Momentum

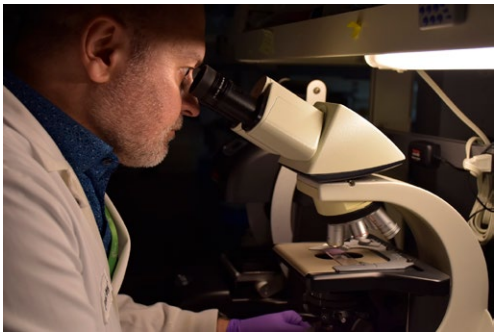
In recent years, OICR and FACIT have helped build a thriving radiopharmaceutical hub in Hamilton, Ontario. By co-founding and supporting the Centre for Probe Development and Commercialization, they helped launch spinout companies AtomVie and Fusion Pharmaceuticals and supported them to grow and thrive in Hamilton.

Then in 2024, Fusion was acquired by AstraZeneca for $2.4 billion USD in a record-setting boost for the Ontario economy. Since then, AstraZeneca has invested more than $800 million in Ontario, expanding a highly skilled workforce and future radiopharmaceutical development in the province.

Next

Moving forward, OICR and FACIT will continue turning cancer innovations into market-ready solutions by strengthening entrepreneurship in Ontario, scaling early-stage local companies, and streamlining access to pre-seed and seed investment and commercialization support for the province's innovators. We are excited to continue collaborating with Ontario's thriving life sciences community.





SPOTLIGHT

SickKids

Industry Partnerships & Commercialization

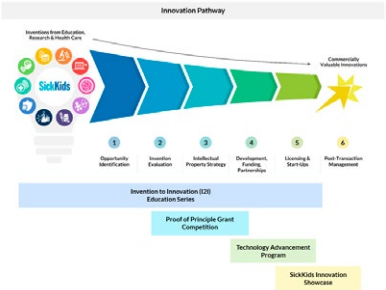
ipc.sickkids.ca

Year Founded	1875
Number of Employees	14
Location in Canada	Ontario
Location in Ontario	Toronto

"SickKids combines world-leading paediatric care and research with a growing commercialization ecosystem designed to translate breakthrough discoveries into impact. By expanding programs that provide funding, expertise, mentorship, and industry engagement, we are building the foundation for a technology accelerator that can further de-risk high-potential innovations and help bring them closer to patients and families."

- Ihor Boszko, Executive Director, SickKids IP&C





SICKKIDS INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS & COMMERCIALIZATION

SickKids Industry Partnerships & Commercialization (IP&C) helps transform discoveries from The Hospital for Sick Children into real-world health solutions through intellectual property protection, funding programs, industry partnerships, and commercialization expertise.

The Spark

Ranked the world's #1 paediatric hospital by Newsweek, SickKids attracts leading scientists, clinicians, educators, and trainees from around the globe. Equipped with a combination of world-class research laboratories, clinical research infrastructure, and leading treatment and care facilities, the SickKids ecosystem enables exceptional opportunities for health innovation.

Across the hospital and research institute, our innovators are making discoveries and advancements that have the potential to revolutionize child health and care outcomes. However, the journey from discovery to impact requires far more than scientific excellence alone. Advancing innovations beyond the research environment demands specialized expertise, funding, strategic partnerships, and industry engagement.

Recognizing this need, the SickKids Industry Partnerships & Commercialization (IP&C) team is forging a path towards commercialization to broaden access to SickKids innovations and catalyze real-world impact.

Approach

SickKids is uniquely positioned to drive paediatric innovation by bringing research, education, and clinical care together within a single ecosystem. This integrated environment enables researchers, clinicians, trainees, patients, families, and external partners to collaborate closely, helping identify unmet needs and accelerate the development of solutions with high commercial potential.

To support innovators along this journey, IP&C has built a growing continuum of support that begins with commercialization awareness and skill-building through the Invention to Innovation Education Series. As projects mature, innovators receive tailored guidance on intellectual property strategy and protection, commercialization planning, industry engagement, and business development, supported by close integration with teams responsible for research administration, contract management, finance, and legal services. Opportunities expand through the Proof of Principle (PoP) Grant Competition, the Technology Advancement Program (TAP), and the SickKids Innovation Showcase, helping innovators access funding, mentorship, partnerships, and visibility as technologies advance toward application.

Impact

In FY2025-2026, IP&C received 43 invention disclosures and executed 44 licenses, reflecting continued activity across a diverse portfolio of innovations. From AI-enabled diagnostics and therapeutic platforms to medical devices, health outcome measures, and educational tools, these solutions are designed to improve clinical decision-making, care delivery, and health outcomes. By helping innovators navigate the path to commercialization, IP&C supports the advancement of discoveries with the potential to benefit patients far beyond the hospital's walls.

At the same time, these efforts help strengthen Ontario's life sciences ecosystem. When SickKids innovators gain access to opportunities that move their discoveries toward implementation, industry partners, entrepreneurs, investors, and health-care organizations also gain access to emerging homegrown innovations. This collaborative approach facilitates partnerships, enables licensing, and catalyzes start-up creation, helping transform research discoveries into products, services, and companies that not only benefit patients, but also contribute to Ontario's economy.

Momentum

Building on the success of the Proof of Principle (PoP) Grant Competition, IP&C expanded the Technology Advancement Program (TAP) into a fully developed commercialization program in 2026. Designed to support innovations beyond early validation, TAP combines development funding with mentorship from the SickKids Commercialization Advisory Board, consultations with industry experts, and guidance from the IP&C business development team. The program attracted 14 applications in its second year, highlighting growing demand for advanced support. Together, these initiatives represent more than $3 million in cumulative funding awarded to innovators and have helped establish a stronger continuum of support across the Innovation Pathway.

Next

Our long-term vision is to establish a fully integrated in-house technology accelerator that provides the expertise, funding, mentorship, infrastructure, and industry access needed to advance high-potential technologies toward commercialization. Realizing this vision requires continued investment, partnership, and ecosystem-wide support to help more Ontario-developed innovations reach patients and create lasting impact.

SPOTLIGHT

Stem Cell Network | Réseau de Cellules Souches

stemcellnetwork.ca

Year Founded	2021
Number of Employees	17
Location in Canada	Ontario
Location in Ontario	Ottawa

"As Stem Cell Network marks 25 years, we're proud of the role we've played building Canada's regenerative medicine ecosystem. In Ontario, our investments are helping move promising discoveries toward patients while developing talent and catalyzing biotech growth. We're committed to ensuring Canadian science translates into better health outcomes for Canadians and economic impact for our country"

- Cate Murray, President & CEO





STEM CELL NETWORK

The Stem Cell Network (SCN) is a national not-for-profit that supports four main objectives: funding stem cell and regenerative medicine (RM) research; training the next generation of highly qualified personnel; enabling knowledge mobilization of research; and enhancing the commercialization readiness of stem cell and RM innovations.

The Spark

For 25 years, the Stem Cell Network (SCN) has built national capacity in regenerative medicine by convening partners across the ecosystem, advancing world-class translational research and clinical development, and training the next generation of talent. SCN was created to address one of regenerative medicine's most persistent challenges across the life sciences sector: bridging the translational gap between promising research and real-world application. Progress often depends on long development timelines, multidisciplinary collaboration, specialized expertise, and sustained funding that is difficult to secure through traditional granting pathways. SCN fills this critical gap, remaining Canada's only national organization dedicated to enabling translational regenerative medicine research from development through to preclinical studies, clinical trials, commercialization, and policy readiness. By connecting people, expertise, and resources, SCN contributes to policy discussions on health system modernization, helping ensure regenerative medicine innovations reach patients and deliver lasting benefits to Canada.

Approach

SCN represents a connected national community of researchers, clinicians, trainees, biotech innovators and industry partners working toward a shared goal of improving health outcomes for Canadians.

Responding to the evolving needs of this community, SCN provides coordinated support across the translational continuum, from preclinical development and clinical advancement to commercialization, implementation, and policy readiness. This integrated model is built on three pillars: direct funding and investment; commercialization and regulatory resources; and talent development and ecosystem engagement. Together, these supports strengthen Canada's regenerative medicine ecosystem and help move promising innovations toward meaningful real-world impact.

Impact

SCN's impact in Ontario benefits the regenerative medicine research community and life sciences sector, ultimately driving toward new companies and transformative therapies that improve Ontarians' health and create positive ripple effects in the economy. Since 2016, SCN has invested $26.M in regenerative medicine research based in Ontario, including: 77 total projects, 87 investigators, 10 clinical trials, and 12 institutions. SCN-funded researchers in Ontario are making important advancements in areas such as muscular dystrophy, lung disease, cardiac disease, and multiple sclerosis. Additionally, SCN funding has catalyzed several biotech companies in the province which generate valuable intellectual property and employ highly qualified personnel.

One remarkable example is Satellos, a publicly traded, clinical-stage biotech company based in Toronto. Built upon foundational research from co-founder Dr. Michael Rudnicki's lab, which SCN directly funded, Satellos is developing new therapeutics to treat degenerative muscle diseases, which affect more than 50,000 Canadians.

Momentum

Other promising examples from SCN's translational research pipeline are the Ontario recipients of its Fueling Biotechnology Partnership Awards, granted in 2025. Dr. Craig Simmons and his team at University of Toronto are working with Toronto-based company BoutIQ Solutions to advance a specialized "nutrient solution" that helps human stem cell-derived heart cells mature in the lab, making them better suited for heart repair in clinical therapies. Dr. Amy Wong and her team at The Hospital for Sick Children are working on a potential one-time gene therapy to correct the underlying cause of cystic fibrosis, restoring lung function.

Next

With 2026 marking SCN's 25th anniversary, the organization is looking ahead to the next 25 years. SCN will continue to power regenerative medicine research programs, train emerging talent, accelerate the development and health system adoption of cutting-edge therapies, and support the growth of biotech companies across Ontario and Canada.



SPOTLIGHT

THINKRBELLE INC.

ThinkrBelle® *is an Ontario-based pharma and technology advisory firm that accelerates commercialization efforts of life-sciences companies to deepen adoption of medicines, digital health solutions and patient-support models, while helping technology companies enter and succeed in global pharma. Our work spans commercial strategy, launch and growth, patient and clinician insight, digital-health partnerships, and implementation. Our proprietary digital listening tool, RealVoice Insights™ is a core part of our framework as it combines structured and qualitative market data, AI-enabled public signals and senior pharmaceutical judgment to identify the barriers that prevent people from reaching, starting or staying on the right treatment.*

www.thinkrbelle.com

Year Founded	2023
Number of Employees	5
Location in Canada	Ontario
Location in Ontario	Toronto
Annual Revenue	400k

"The team at ThinkrBelle really help stretch the limits of my imagination—by looking in places that I would not necessarily think of looking, and having the courage to challenge me in a positive way."

- Senior Director, Global Pharma Company (Canadian Affiliate)

The Spark

Pharma optimizes the drug…not the human journey toward it.

Clinical innovation can only exist when the human pain points for the condition/disease are well-understood and when the pathway to care is known. Traditional research in Pharma often starts without a robust understanding of the human/patient journey for the therapeutic. Our method has been proven success int 2 recent case studies that delivered a comprehensive and real-time patient journey that combined structured Rx and sales data with traditional f2f market research along with AI-powered digital listening as the key to launch success and future market penetration of novel therapeutics and medical devices.

Approach

ThinkrBelle advisors have deep pharma and tech experience that allows them to triangulate direct patient and clinician voices, digital behaviour, and commercial evidence into a Human Experience Journey and practical next actions.

Our method turns 'hidden signals' into important actions for pharma's leaders. RealVoice Insights triangulates a company's existing structured Rx and sales data with traditional f2f market research and AI-powered social listening to further develop a good assumption scenario to build an accurate sales forecast and further engage the target market of HCPs and patients with a direct approach.

Impact

ThinkrBelle's RealVoice Insights™ framework is a divergence from traditional market insights methods as it reduces the need for further aggregated data and traditional market research interviews

Our method enhances the margin of the drugs commercialized, and the ability for pharma to pass down savings to the patients they serve. When patients and clinicians are heard in real-time; life-science teams can make earlier, more human-centred decisions about evidence, access, education and adoption of their therapeutics.

Momentum

Delivered a major Canadian mass-market drug insight initiative for a global pharmaceutical company using our novel framework. We also tested the concept in a small pharma company based in ON. We discovered insights that were previously unseen, allowing our client to design a direct-to-patient GTM strategy for a Canadian launch product.

Next

ThinkrBelle is expanding its use of RealVoice Insights™ to help life-sciences organizations make faster, more grounded commercialization decisions across complex diseases and launches.



SPOTLIGHT

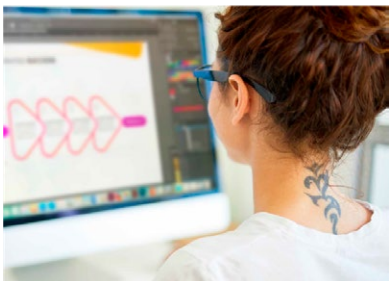
TORONTO INNOVATION ACCELERATION PARTNERS

www.tiap.ca

Year Founded	2008
Number of Employees	12
Location in Canada	Ontario
Location in Ontario	Toronto

"TIAP's vision is for Ontario's world-leading health research excellence to be translated into a global-leading commercial life sciences cluster. We are focused on achieving this by providing expert support, disciplined capital, and a wide network of co-investors and partners so we can collectively build globally successful new companies stemming from Ontario's research institutions."

- Prakash Gowd, TIAP, I/President and CEO.





TIAP - TORONTO INNOVATION ACCELERATION PARTNERS

Since 2008, TIAP has been building relationships with innovators and entrepreneurs at Toronto's top universities, hospitals, and research institutes to identify the most exciting sparks of ground-breaking therapeutic, medical device and digital health/AI innovation; and then providing the tools, resources, and know-how to transform this work into successful commercial ventures. With a 15+ year track record that includes the launch of more than 90 new companies, the raising of over $1B in private investment, and the creation of more than 1,000 jobs, TIAP has generated significant commercial and social return on our Member Institutions' research — making a measurable impact on the growth of the Ontario life sciences sector and a significant contribution to Canada's economic prosperity.

The Spark

Ontario is an international health research leader, and its world-class research institutions continue to invent breakthrough medical discoveries that save lives and improve people's quality of life. These breakthrough discoveries have multi-billion dollar commercial value, and the payoff of successfully scaling a life sciences company can be extraordinary. To realize these immense societal and economic benefits, TIAP partners with our members, industry, and investors to transform leading research into Canadian-made innovations and successful commercial ventures.

Approach

As the primary interface with institutional tech transfer offices, TIAP is at the forefront of company formation. We provide early investment into new life sciences companies stemming from Ontario's leading universities, hospitals, and research institutes, while providing key business support and also connecting them with industry partners and co-investors. TIAP also collaborates closely with ecosystem organizations to align complementary resources that accelerate scale-up and growth.

Enabling TIAP's impact is a strong 'flywheel' that ensures a robust sustained pipeline of new highly promising Ontario life sciences companies, representing pre-validated, vetted, and significantly de-risked investment opportunities.

Impact

For Members: TIAP offers critical expertise, resources and early investment to advance innovative health research towards commercialization.

For investors: TIAP offers a robust pipeline of validated, de-risked investment opportunities.

For industry: TIAP offers a pool of novel innovations based on world-leading research to build their technology pipelines.

For HQP: TIAP offers a growing commercial life sciences industry in which to secure employment.
For governments: TIAP translates public investment in research into significant health and economic societal returns.

Key achievements include:

- Launch of ~90 new therapeutics, med device and digital health/AI companies (50% being led by women & >60% led by other under-represented groups)
- Raising of over $1B in private investment by portfolio companies
- Advancement of more than 100 novel innovations
- Creation of 1,000+ jobs.

Momentum

Over the past year, TIAP has seen several major achievements beyond its direct company investments, which include:

- Establishing Life Sciences Central, a new collaborative initiative that brings together the commercialization services of three of the province's leading innovation organizations: MaRS, OBIO® and TIAP
- Bringing Mission BioCapital's Platinum Ticket program to Canada, acting as the Founding Regional Sponsor
- Successfully co-delivering OBIO's Life Sciences Critical Technologies & Commercialization Centre of Excellence, supporting more than 20 emerging life sciences technologies and early-stage ventures
- Co-delivering the University of Toronto Early Stage Technology (UTEST) Program to record-level cohorts of new health science companies.

Next

TIAP looks forward to continuing to work in close collaboration with ecosystem partners to reduce fragmentation of commercialization resources, expand our reach as an organization, and amplify our impact on realizing Ontario's full potential as a world-leading life sciences centre.

SPOTLIGHT

www.bd.com/en-ca

Year Founded	1951
Number of Employees	400+
Location in Canada	Ontario
Location in Ontario	Mississauga

"Ontario has an incredible life sciences community, with so much momentum building. As the province continues to prioritize the sector, we see an important opportunity to bring innovation closer to the people who can benefit from it and help improve how care is delivered for patients across Ontario."

- Ivy Parks, President, BD-Canada





BD-CANADA

Transforming Long-Term Care with Smarter Medication Management

BD is a global medical technology company that is advancing the world of health by improving medical discovery, diagnostics and the delivery of care. The company provides innovative solutions that help advance medical research and genomics, enhance the diagnosis of infectious disease and cancer, improve medication management, promote infection prevention, equip surgical and interventional procedures and support the management of diabetes.

The Spark

Ontario's long-term care sector faces growing pressure from an aging population, increasing medication complexity, and ongoing workforce challenges. Care teams often spend valuable time on manual medication management tasks, including inventory tracking, audits, documentation, and emergency medication access. These processes can create administrative burden for nurses and pharmacists while reducing time available for direct resident care.

The Province of Ontario has recognized the importance of medication safety technology in long-term care and has invested in advanced solutions that help strengthen medication management and resident safety. The installation of BD Pyxis™ MedBank™ at Park Lane Terrace long-term care home in Paris, Ontario was driven by a shared goal: helping caregivers access critical medications more efficiently, improving accountability and inventory visibility, and reducing reliance on manual processes. By modernizing medication management workflows, the project aimed to support health professionals and caregivers, improve operational efficiency, and ultimately enhance the care experience for residents.

Approach

BD Pyxis™ MedBank™ is an automated medication dispensing and inventory management solution designed to workflows. The technology provides secure medication storage, electronic transaction tracking, automated inventory management, and integration with pharmacy information systems, replacing many manual processes traditionally required in long-term care settings.

A unique feature of the solution is its secure CUBIE™ technology, which enables tamper-evident medication transport, automated replenishment, and full traceability between pharmacy and care facility. The system supports first-dose, emergency, and as-needed medication access, giving caregivers rapid access to medications when residents need them most. Automated documentation, inventory monitoring, and pharmacy connectivity help reduce administrative burden and improve medication accountability, allowing care teams to spend more time focused on residents rather than paperwork.

Impact

Research evaluating automated dispensing technology in long-term care facilities showed significant workflow improvements, including reduced medication retrieval times, increased medication availability, and fewer unscheduled pharmacy deliveries. The findings also showed strong nurse adoption and satisfaction with the technology.

The benefits are particularly relevant for communities where timely access to medications can be challenging. Similar pharmacy automation technologies are helping support healthcare delivery in remote and underserved communities across Canada, including recent deployments serving northern populations, demonstrating the broader potential of innovation-enabled care.

Momentum

Jessica Marcotte, Director of Care at Park Lane Terrace said: "The BD Pyxis Med Bank was a great addition to our home. Not only has it made the dispensing of medication simplified and safer, it has also improved workflow for our nurses who no longer need to count the controlled medications in our emergency box. As a manager the system generated reports are very helpful for oversight/ risk mitigation. It's great that you can personalize the reports and their time frames. The processes within the BD Pyxis Med Bank have proven easy for staff utilization. Overall it has been a great quality initiative in our home that is supporting our staff and residents very well. We really enjoyed the supports of the BD team who made the whole installation and roll out a breeze!"

Next

Building on the success at Park Lane Terrace, BD-Canada continue working with long-term care providers, pharmacies, and health system partners to expand medication management innovation. Recent deployments in locations ranging from southern Ontario to Iqaluit, Nunavut, show how pharmacy automation can improve access to safe, efficient care in both urban and rural/remote communities.

SPOTLIGHT

dexcom

www.dexcom.com/en-CA

Year Founded	1999
Number of Employees	29 in ON
Location in Canada	British Columbia Ontario
Location in Ontario	Vaughan

"Integrating Dexcom CGM data into the RxFood platform enables both healthcare providers and people living with diabetes to better understand the relationship between nutrition and glucose management. By providing personalized insights into how food impacts glucose levels, the combined solution empowers more informed dietary decisions and reinforces the growing role of food as medicine in diabetes care."

Dr. Jeffrey Alfonsi, Co-Founder RxFood

LIFE SCIENCES ONTARIO MEMBER

DEXCOM INC.

Dexcom empowers people to take control of their health through innovative and connected glucose biosensing technology.

Dexcom's technology has transformed how people manage diabetes and track their glucose, helping them feel more in control and live more confidently.

Spark

Dexcom's Continuous Glucose Monitoring (CGM) Systems have transformed how people manage diabetes and track their glucose, helping them feel more in control and live more confidently. Dexcom CGM Systems take glucose readings using a sensor inserted just below the skin.

Approach

Users can see directly how medications, food, exercise and several other factors such as stress or illness, affect their glucose levels. Users continuously gain insights on what keeps their glucose levels stable, empowering them to learn what works in order to feel their best and stay motivated over time. Discreet and easy to use, Dexcom G7 has unique features such as the Predictive Urgent Low Soon alert that can warn in advance of severe hypoglycemia and/or prolonged hyperglycemia for insulin therapy optimization. Dexcom CGM Systems provide real-time glucose readings, trends, and direction of change. Alerts help users stay ahead of highs and lows, while the Share feature enables caregivers and family to remotely view glucose data and receive alerts.

Momentum

At a health system level, Dexcom is leveraging its data integration capabilities with Electronic Health Record (EHR) systems integrating patient level CGM data into their platforms and bringing CGM data into clinicians' existing workflows. The direct integration of CGM data can help reduce administrative burden, improve efficiency and healthcare system capacity, streamline care delivery, and support informed clinical decision-making. Multiple health systems in Ontario have engaged with this initiative and are working towards leveraging the value of interoperability in diabetes care.

Dexcom's integration of CGM data into EHR systems supports Ontario's vision of a connected and interoperable health system where clinically relevant patient information is securely available within provider workflows at the point of care, enabling more informed clinical decision-making and coordinated care.[1, 2]

Impact

Dexcom CGM Systems connect to more insulin delivery systems, and digital health partners than any other brand, making diabetes management more customizable and convenient. Thousands of people living with diabetes leverage their Dexcom connectivity with digital health tools that improve their diabetes management; one of which is Ontario based RxFood, a solution when connected to Dexcom provides insights into the impact of nutrition on glucose.

What's Next

Dexcom's strategic partnerships, connected ecosystem, and commitment to interoperability are helping shape a more connected future for diabetes care in Ontario. By empowering individuals with actionable glucose insights, supporting healthcare providers with integrated data within their existing workflows, and collaborating with innovative partners, Dexcom is advancing more personalized, efficient, and proactive care. As Ontario continues to strengthen digital connectivity across the healthcare system, Dexcom remains committed to enabling better health outcomes through innovative biosensing technology and meaningful partnerships that put people at the centre of care.

[1]- https://ehealthontario.on.ca/en/it-professionals/standards
[2]-https://www.ontario.ca/page/ontario-health-data-council-report-vision-ontarios-health-data-ecosystem





SPOTLIGHT

ALK-ABELLO PHARMACEUTICALS INC.

For more than 100 years, ALK has been researching and developing major advances for the treatment of allergy. As the pioneers of allergy solutions and with a global portfolio of innovation, ALK remains focused on allergy treatment and diagnosis. In Canada, that means impacting the lives of the over 8 million people that are affected by allergies. Today, ALK Canada is on a rapid expansion trajectory supported by a team of 40+ professionals. ALK continues to build their presence in Ontario and across Canada with offices in Toronto, distribution in Mississauga, and expanding manufacturing in southwestern Ontario to meet the rising global demand for life-changing allergy treatments.

www.alk.net/ca/

Year Founded	2009
Number of Employees	40
Location in Canada	Ontario
Location in Ontario	Mississauga
Annual Revenue	1.4 billion

"We are thrilled that Canadians can now access neffy®, a needle-free epinephrine device that can help patients and caregivers act quickly and with confidence when every second counts. This innovation reflects our continued dedication to make a real difference by offering solutions for prevention, diagnosis, or treatment for everyone who is touched by allergy

- Andrew Desbarats, General Manager

The Spark

For more than 100 years, ALK has researched and developed treatments for allergy but one barrier has stubbornly resisted progress: needle hesitancy. Emergency department visits for anaphylaxis have climbed over the past two decades, and many of the fatalities involve people who already knew about their allergy. Awareness alone isn't preparedness. Fear of needles, uncertainty about symptom severity, and confusion about when to act routinely delay the one treatment — epinephrine — that can save a life in those critical minutes.

Approach

This August, ALK brought that barrier down for Canadians with the launch of neffy® 2 mg, the country's first needle-free epinephrine treatment for anaphylaxis and severe allergic reactions for patients weighing 30kg and more (>66lbs). Delivered entirely through the nose, neffy® is designed to help patients, caregivers, bystanders, and responders act quickly and with confidence for adults and children experiencing a potentially life-threatening reaction.

Impact

Ontario didn't wait to put that promise into practice. In August, Innisfil became the first fire department in Canada to add neffy® to its trucks, training its firefighters on the device and removing barriers to fast, effective care. The service's medical director, Dr. Ian Young, was inspired to act after attending Anaphylaxis Summit Ontario, an event hosted by the Danish Embassy with ALK's sponsorship, where he connected with the company and championed bringing needle-free epinephrine to his department. That same readiness is spreading beyond the fire hall. Some Ontario school boards have begun adding neffy® to their emergency anaphylaxis kits, giving staff and nurses a needle-free option for severe reactions.

National anaphylaxis action plans used by schools are being updated in parallel, giving institutions across Ontario clear, current guidance.

Momentum

Neffy® has already received positive reimbursement recommendations from Canada's Drug Agency and INESSS in Quebec, and private payer coverage is expanding. ALK Canada's team of more than 40 professionals continues to grow alongside its Toronto office and Mississauga distribution hub, supporting rising demand for allergy treatments across the country.

Next

Beyond neffy®, ALK's sublingual immunotherapy (SLIT) portfolio offers a needle-free alternative to allergy shots, serving tens of thousands of Canadians yearly while easing pressure on primary care. To meet growing demand, ALK announced on September 30th the expansion of its strategic partnership with Catalent with a commitment to invest just over $100M over 3 years across its production sites in Canada and the UK. This investment will strengthen ALK's global supply chain and new create high skilled biomanufacturing jobs in Southwestern Ontario.









SPOTLIGHT

www.amgen.ca

Year Founded	1991
Number of Employees	500
Location in Canada	Ontario
Location in Ontario	Mississauga

"At Amgen, innovation extends beyond the medicines we discover. It's also reflected in the partnerships we build, the scientific talent we invest in, and the communities where we operate. Together, these efforts help strengthen the life sciences ecosystem and create lasting impact for patients."

– Ugur Gunaydin,
Vice President & General Manager,
Amgen Canada



**Ugur Gunaydin,
Vice President & General Manager,
Amgen Canada**

AMGEN CANADA INC.

Amgen was founded more than 40 years ago with a clear mission: to serve patients by using science and biotechnology to address serious illnesses with high unmet medical need. Today, Amgen is a global biotechnology company discovering, developing and delivering innovative medicines across areas including cardiovascular disease, cancer, and rare diseases.

Amgen has had a presence in Canada since 1991, with main operations located in Mississauga, Ontario, as well as a discovery research facility in Burnaby, British Columbia that contributes to Amgen's global R&D efforts. Across our Canadian operations, we bring Amgen's global scientific expertise and innovative medicines to patients while collaborating with healthcare, research, and life sciences partners to help advance patient care and address barriers to timely access. This combination of global capabilities and local collaboration enables Amgen to contribute to Canada's life sciences ecosystem while remaining focused on what matters most: improving outcomes for patients.

The Spark

Scientific innovation depends on more than breakthrough medicines. It also depends on the people who will discover the next generation of them. Giving aspiring scientists opportunities to experience research first-hand can help inspire a lifelong pursuit of scientific discovery. The Amgen Foundation, Amgen's philanthropic arm, works to advance excellence in science education and inspire the next generation of innovators. Through the Amgen Scholars Program, the Foundation provides undergraduates around the world with opportunities to engage in scientific research at leading institutions. In Canada, that experience comes to life at the University of Toronto, connecting students from across the country with Ontario's world-class research community.

Approach

Launched in 2006, the Amgen Scholars Program immerses undergraduates in a summer of scientific research at leading institutions around the world. Since 2019, the University of Toronto has served as the program's Canadian host institution, welcoming students from across Canada to Ontario. Participants take part in important research projects, gain hands-on laboratory experience, and contribute to the advancement of science. They are mentored by faculty, including leading research scientists, and participate in scientific seminars, workshops, and networking opportunities. Financial support is also a critical component of the program, helping ensure eligible students can participate regardless of their financial status. Together, these experiences provide aspiring scientists with opportunities to deepen their research experience, learn from leading scientists, and connect with a broader scientific community.

Impact

The Amgen Scholars Program creates lasting value for students, academia, and the broader scientific community. Students gain experience and professional networks that can support their continued pursuit of science, with thousands of program alumni having pursued or completed advanced graduate degrees in scientific fields and alumni now working in science across more than 40 countries. In Canada, students have the opportunity to become part of this global scientific community while conducting research at the University of Toronto, reinforcing Ontario's role as a destination for research and scientific talent. By creating opportunities for young researchers to learn, collaborate, and contribute to scientific discovery, the Amgen Foundation is helping inspire the scientists and innovators of tomorrow.

Momentum

Since becoming the Canadian host institution for the Amgen Scholars Program in 2019, the University of Toronto has welcomed more than 100 undergraduate students from 34 universities across Canada, bringing emerging scientific talent together here in Ontario. Made possible by the Amgen Foundation, the Amgen Scholars community has grown to more than 5,800 alumni from over 1,000 universities and colleges worldwide. In 2025, the Amgen Foundation extended its commitment to the program to more than $80 million, supporting an additional 500 undergraduates and putting the program on track to surpass 6,000 participants by the end of summer 2027.

Next

The future of healthcare depends on continued scientific discovery and the people and partnerships that make it possible. Guided by our mission to serve patients, Amgen will continue advancing innovation and working collaboratively to help translate the promise of science into better outcomes for patients.

SPOTLIGHT

argenx Canada

Turning Global Science into Canadian Progress

argenx is the immunology innovation company committed to improving the lives of people suffering from severe autoimmune diseases. Partnering with leading academic researchers through its Immunology Innovation Program (IIP), argenx aims to translate immunology breakthroughs into a world-class portfolio of novel antibody-based medicines. argenx developed and is commercializing the first approved neonatal Fc receptor (FcRn) blocker in the U.S., Japan, Israel, the EU, the UK and China. The Company is evaluating efgartigimod in multiple serious autoimmune diseases and advancing several earlier stage experimental medicines within its therapeutic franchises.

www.argenx.com

Year Founded	2022 (Canada)
Number of Employees	25
Location in Canada	Ontario
Location in Ontario	Vaughan

"What motivates our Canadian team is the opportunity to connect scientific innovation with something deeply human: helping people living with rare autoimmune diseases regain possibilities in their daily lives," says argenx Canada General Manager John Haslam. "Ontario gives us the talent, clinical expertise and collaborative ecosystem to turn that ambition into meaningful progress for patients and the healthcare system."

- John Haslam
  General Manager
  argenx Canada Inc.



The Spark

For Canadians living with severe autoimmune diseases, scientific progress only matters when it translates into meaningful treatment options and timely access. argenx Canada was established to help close that gap. From its home in Vaughan, Ontario, the team is working to bring advances in antibody science to patients while confronting a broader challenge: how to introduce innovation in a healthcare system balancing unmet patient needs, constrained resources and increasing demand.

That challenge is particularly visible in generalized myasthenia gravis and chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy, two rare neuromuscular diseases that can severely affect strength, mobility and daily life. These conditions have also traditionally placed significant demand on immunoglobulin, a therapy manufactured from donated human plasma. The opportunity in bringing VYVGART IV and VYVGART SC to Canada was to help patients, clinicians and health systems rethink what sustainable, patient-centred care can look like.

The Approach

argenx Canada combines global immunology research with a deeply local model. The Canadian team works across medical affairs, regulatory science, market access, patient services and clinical research, collaborating with clinicians, academic centres, patient organizations and healthcare decision-makers. Canadian clinical studies contribute evidence to the global understanding of autoimmune disease, while the MyPATH patient support program helps patients navigate treatment and access services.

The team is also advancing a conversation about blood-product stewardship. By supporting access to targeted alternatives for appropriate patients, argenx believes innovation can improve treatment choice while helping reduce pressure on Canada's constrained plasma supply. This connects individual patient outcomes with the long-term sustainability of the healthcare system.

The Impact

Ontario is central to this work. The Vaughan-based affiliate creates specialized life sciences roles, works with Canadian research and healthcare partners, and contributes to policy discussions through organizations such as Life Sciences Ontario. Its presence helps connect Ontario's clinical, scientific and commercialization expertise with a global immunology company and its expanding research pipeline.

The benefits extend beyond argenx. Patients gain new possibilities, clinicians gain additional choices, researchers contribute to international evidence generation, and policymakers gain a partner focused on both access and system sustainability.

The Momentum

In September 2026, argenx Canada completed its third submission to the Canadian Drug Agency in four years, this time for seronegative generalized myasthenia gravis. Earlier in 2026, the company also received a positive Canadian Drug Agency recommendation for VYVGART SC in CIDP, a chronic and progressive disease which has traditionally been treated with human-derived plasma products.

What's Next

The next chapter is focused on turning these milestones into sustainable access, expanding Canadian research partnerships and continuing to grow the Ontario affiliate. For argenx Canada, success will be measured not only by therapies advanced, but by whether its work gives patients greater hope, strengthens the health system and reinforces Ontario's role in global life sciences innovation.

SPOTLIGHT

www.bayer.ca

Year Founded	1863
Number of Employees	90,000+ Globally 1200+ Canada
Countries/markets:	80+ countries.

BAYER INC.

Bayer is a 150+ year-old life sciences pioneer committed to advancing innovation across health and nutrition, driven by its global mission of "Health for All, Hunger for None." The company operates three distinct business areas: Pharmaceuticals, Consumer Health Products and Crop Science (Agriculture).

A century of global investment in Canada:

For more than a century, Bayer has been part of Canada's story. Bayer helped make canola the pride of central Canada through its crop science program and continues to work with local health system researchers to bring new innovations to the world.

Over the past 15 years, Bayer has committed well over $2 billion (CAD) to drive local research and business in Ontario — an investment in Canadian ingenuity that continues to grow.

Ontario is the global clinical trials engine that continues to drive

Ontario's research hospitals, universities and clinical collaborators are vital to Bayer's ability to run high-quality, globally relevant clinical trials. An example is the program delivered by Hamilton's Population Health Research Institute (PHRI), which is a local partnership that includes McMaster University and Hamilton Health Sciences. For many years, researchers have provided the scientific expertise and trial infrastructure enabling many of Bayer's global research programs, including research into biomarker discovery, COVID-19 and cardiovascular disease. More recently, collaboration through the OCEANIC trial program evaluated new therapies for improving secondary stroke outcomes.

A billion-dollar bet on Ontario science

Bayer's investments in Canadian research also go well beyond running clinical trials, they include the building and scaling of entirely new platforms born from Canadian ideas.

In 2016, what began through pioneering stem cell research by Dr. Gordon Keller and Dr. Michael LaFlamme at the University Health Network (UHN) became BlueRock— launched with US$225 million from Bayer, through its Leaps by Bayer arm, and Versant Ventures. Bayer was not a passive investor, but a founding partner committed to translating Canadian discovery science into a global platform. In 2019, Bayer acquired full ownership of BlueRock in a transaction valued at up to US$1 billion, giving BlueRock the resources to accelerate discoveries into solutions. Today, BlueRock is a cornerstone of Bayer's Cell and Gene Platform and continues to call Toronto home with roughly 200 staff operating in the downtown core.

The results are also more than tangible. BlueRock's lead program is an investigational stem-cell-derived therapy for Parkinson's disease that replaces the dopamine-producing neurons lost to the condition. The first clinical trial subject was dosed in Canada in 2022 and has since received FDA Regenerative Medicine Advanced Therapy designation, with Phase 1 data published in Nature magazine in 2025. The innovation is still under investigation and has not obtained market authorization from Health Canada.

Beyond Parkinson's, the pipeline extends to ophthalmology and preclinical neurology programs. What started as a Canadian idea is now a global regenerative medicine engine — a testament to Bayer's conviction that the most transformative investments in Canadian science are about believing in what Canadian researchers can build.







SPOTLIGHT

boreal biomanufacturing

boreal-bio.com

Year Founded:	2006
Number of Employees	40
Location in Canada	Ontario
Location in Ontario	Ottawa

"Every advanced therapy begins with a patient hoping for a better option. Knowing our team at Boreal helped move a promising Canadian innovation from the lab to the clinic is deeply meaningful. It shows the value of having specialized biomanufacturing capabilities in Canada to support our innovators and, ultimately, benefit patients."

- Eric Lee, General Manager Boreal Biomanufacturing



Eric Lee, General Manager Boreal Biomanufacturing

BOREAL BIOMANUFACTURING

Boreal Biomanufacturing helps move a promising solid-tumour CAR-T therapy into the clinic

For nearly two decades, Boreal has provided biotech innovators with the manufacturing expertise needed to bring cancer and rare disease therapies to patients

The Spark

CAR-T therapy has transformed treatment for certain blood cancers, but progress against solid tumours has been far more difficult. One challenge is translating a promising laboratory concept into a therapy that can be safely tested in people. Canadian researchers developed a personalized CAR-T therapy for alveolar soft part sarcoma, a rare solid cancer. To create it, a patient's immune cells are removed, genetically modified and expanded in a laboratory, then returned to the same patient. The work required a specialized virus capable of delivering the genetic instructions to those immune cells. Boreal Biomanufacturing at The Ottawa Hospital collaborated with researchers at the University of Calgary to help bridge this critical gap between discovery and clinical testing.

Approach

Boreal manufactured the virus used to genetically modify the patients' immune cells. This is highly specialized work: Boreal is the only facility in Canada with a proven ability to manufacture this kind of virus for use in humans. Embedded within one of Canada's largest research hospitals, Boreal brings together biomanufacturing, translational research, early-phase clinical trial capabilities and direct access to patients. That integrated model helps academic teams move advanced therapies toward clinical testing.

Impact

The new therapy showed promise in laboratory models and in two patients enrolled in a clinical trial. The findings offer a potential new direction for people with alveolar soft part sarcoma, while also advancing the broader effort to make CAR-T therapy work against solid cancers. The benefits extend beyond any one institution. By providing Canadian manufacturing capacity for clinical-grade viruses, Boreal enables researchers and health-care teams to test homegrown cell and gene therapies closer to where they are developed. This helps strengthen Ontario's and Canada's life sciences ecosystem and builds expertise that can support future therapies for cancer and other complex diseases.

Momentum

Building on the encouraging early results, the research team is planning to launch a larger clinical trial involving hospitals across the country and patients with three cancer types, including alveolar soft part sarcoma and certain breast and kidney cancers. This next phase will help determine whether the therapy can benefit more patients and further demonstrate the potential of CAR-T therapy in solid cancers. The expansion of the trial reflects growing confidence in the approach and highlights the importance of Canadian partnerships that can move promising discoveries from the laboratory to patients.

Next

Boreal is focused on supporting the next generation of cell and gene therapies by providing the specialized manufacturing expertise needed to advance innovative treatments into clinical trials. As demand for made-in-Canada advanced therapies grows, Boreal aims to help more academic and industry partners translate promising discoveries into real-world patient impact.



Boreal's highly trained biomanufacturing team provides the expertise needed to produce clinical-grade materials that support the development of advanced therapies.

SPOTLIGHT

CSL CANADA

CSL Canada is the Canadian affiliate of CSL, a leading global biotechnology company with a dynamic portfolio of lifesaving medicines, including those that treat hemophilia and immune deficiencies, and therapies in iron deficiency anemia. Driven by a promise to save lives using the latest technology, CSL Canada offers a broad range of quality plasma-derived and recombinant therapies in the life sciences industry. By partnering closely with patients, healthcare professionals, scientific leaders and key stakeholders, CSL Canada works to bring innovative therapies to Canadians and advance healthcare.

cslbehring.ca

Year Founded	1916
Number of Employees	29000 Worldwide
Location in Canada	Ontario
Location in Ontario	Ottawa

"Innovation is central to how we serve patients, from advancing new technologies to working with partners across the healthcare ecosystem to help bring those innovations into practice. In Canada, CSL is committed to building on scientific progress and collaboration to support better outcomes for patients and contribute to the strength of the life sciences sector."

- Marie-Ève Jacques, General Manager



Marie-Ève Jacques, General Manager, CSL Canada



The Spark

CSL Canada's work is driven by the unmet needs of patients living with rare and serious diseases. The company advances treatment approaches across immunodeficiencies, autoimmune diseases, iron deficiency anemia, hereditary angioedema and hereditary bleeding disorders.

For people living with hemophilia B, the condition can require lifelong treatment, frequent monitoring and managing bleeding risk. Repeated bleeding episodes can cause joint damage, chronic pain and reduced mobility affecting daily life. By reducing the burden of treatment and supporting sustained factor IX expression, gene therapy has the potential to help people approach work, education, travel, physical activity and family life with greater confidence and independence.

These advances reflect CSL's commitment to addressing unmet patient needs through research, innovation and patient-focused treatment solutions. To improve the lives of patients and their families, CSL Canada continues to deliver diverse patient support programs, working alongside advocacy groups and healthcare professionals to increase education and disease awareness.

Approach

What differentiates CSL Canada's approach is its focus on translating gene therapy innovation into real-world care and access. This requires more than securing regulatory approval: public reimbursement is essential and hemophilia treatment centres, hospital networks, pharmacies and healthcare teams must be prepared to deliver treatment and provide follow-up care.

CSL Canada works across the healthcare ecosystem to help establish the pathways required for eligible patients to access gene therapy. This includes pursuing agreements, working with provincial drug plans to support public reimbursement, and collaborating with clinicians, scientific institutions and patient advocacy groups to support implementation.

The first publicly funded gene therapy treatment for hemophilia B in Canada, delivered in Ontario, demonstrates how this coordinated model can help move clinical innovation from reimbursement into practice.

Impact

CSL Canada's work benefits patients, families, healthcare professionals, patient organizations and the broader healthcare system.

The company has supported Canadians living with immunodeficiency, iron deficiency anemia and autoimmune diseases such as hereditary angioedema (HAE) through partnerships. In 2026, CSL Canada employees partnered with HAE Canada for the global #active4HAE challenge, participating in activities that promoted physical and overall well-being while raising awareness of HAE.

In Ontario, CSL Canada also helps translate innovative therapies into publicly funded care by supporting the coordinated implementation of new treatment pathways for eligible patients. CSL Canada's patient support programs provide education, training, ongoing assistance and coordination with healthcare teams.

Together, these efforts can help patients and families navigate care, access appropriate treatment and participate more fully in everyday life with greater confidence and independence. By strengthening patient communities, raising awareness and connecting people with resources, CSL Canada's impact extends beyond its therapies and organization.

Momentum

In 2026, Ontario became the first province in Canada to publicly reimburse CSL's gene therapy for hemophilia B, establishing a pathway for access. This milestone was followed by Canada's first publicly funded treatment at London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC) and the first treatment in Canada outside a clinical trial. Collaboration between CSL Canada and LHSC was critical to preparing for and delivering the treatment. Together, these achievements demonstrate how provincial funding, hospital readiness, multidisciplinary care teams and clinical innovation can converge to bring advanced therapies to eligible patients.

Next

Looking ahead, CSL Canada will continue advancing access to innovative therapies for people living with rare diseases, from the hospital to the home. CSL Canada also supports home-based care initiatives that help eligible patients receive treatment where they live, while continuing to collaborate with healthcare partners, patient organizations and stakeholders.

SPOTLIGHT

EISAI LIMITED

Founded in 1941, Tokyo-based Eisai has over 80 years of history and innovation as a leading global research and development-based pharmaceutical company. Rooted in Eisai's focus on delivering human health care (hhc), Eisai Canada, founded in 2011, is on a mission to support all Canadians by creating solutions in areas where significant medical challenges and treatment gaps persist. We define our corporate mission as "giving first thought to patients and their families and to increasing the benefits health care provides," which we call our hhc philosophy.

With approximately 10,000 employees working across our global network of R&D facilities, manufacturing sites and marketing subsidiaries, we strive to realize our hhc philosophy by delivering innovative products to address unmet medical needs, with a particular focus in our strategic areas of Oncology and Neurology. Eisai's commitment to innovative R&D and open collaboration across lines of business, industry, language and culture has resulted in an industry-leading pipeline in Neurology and Oncology. Powered by the strength of our collaborations, we discover and deliver medicines that matter to people living with Cancer, Epilepsy, Insomnia and Alzheimer's disease.

ca.eisai.com/en-CA

Year Founded	2011
Number of Employees	120
Location in Canada	Ontario
Location in Ontario	Mississauga

"Our journey at Eisai demonstrates what is possible when patients, clinicians, advocacy organizations, industry, and health system partners work toward a common goal. From expanding our presence in Ontario to advancing access for Canadians living with early Alzheimer's disease, insomnia and cancer, we remain committed to delivering innovations that make a meaningful difference in patients' lives."

- Pat Forsythe,
  General Manager



The Spark

Alzheimer's disease is one of Canada's most pressing health challenges, impacting individuals, families, and caregivers. While treatment options have historically focused on managing symptoms, many Canadians have long awaited therapies that target the disease itself. As Canada's population ages, the need for earlier diagnosis, innovative treatments, and improved care pathways continues to grow.

At Eisai Canada, we believe patients and families deserve more time, independence, and hope. Guided by our hhc philosophy, we work alongside patients, caregivers, clinicians, researchers, and advocacy organizations to address unmet needs in Alzheimer's disease, insomnia and oncology. Our goal is to translate innovation into meaningful outcomes for people living with some of the most difficult to treat conditions.

Approach

Eisai combines scientific innovation with collaboration across the healthcare ecosystem. Building on more than four decades of Alzheimer's disease research, we have partnered with clinicians, patient organizations, caregivers, and health system leaders to support early diagnosis and readiness for disease-modifying therapies. Health Canada's approval of LEQEMBI® in October 2025 marked a significant milestone as the first treatment approved in Canada to target an underlying cause of early Alzheimer's disease.

At the same time, Eisai expanded its Mississauga headquarters in summer 2025, increasing capacity for a growing team supporting Canadian patients and healthcare professionals. Together these investments reflect our commitment to pairing scientific advancement with patient access and local growth.

Impact

The impact of this work extends beyond our organization. For patients and caregivers, disease-modifying treatments have created new hope and shifted conversations toward earlier diagnosis and intervention. For healthcare professionals, they have strengthened focus on Alzheimer's care pathways and system readiness.

The benefits also extend to Ontario's life sciences sector. Our Mississauga office expansion reinforced Ontario's role as a hub for pharmaceutical innovation and supported the growth of highly skilled jobs. Through partnerships with universities and training programs, we continue to support the development of the next generation of life sciences talent.

Most importantly, our efforts have contributed to broader discussions around improving dementia care in Ontario, including coordinated care pathways, timely diagnosis, and access to services for people living with dementia and their families.

Momentum

The past year marked a transformative period for Eisai Canada. In summer 2025, we expanded our Mississauga office footprint by approximately 50%. In October 2025, Health Canada approved LEQEMBI®, the first new treatment for Alzheimer's in Canada in more than twenty years.

In August 2026, Canada's Drug Agency issued a final positive recommendation recommending public reimbursement of LEQEMBI for eligible Canadians with early Alzheimer's disease. This milestone moved patients one step closer to publicly funded access and demonstrated continued progress from scientific discovery to patient care.

Next

Eisai continues to support new innovative treatments in neuroscience and cancer to Canada. Alongside efforts to bring a targeted therapy for ROS1+ non-small cell lung cancer, we are committed to enhancing quality of life and functioning for people living with insomnia, and improving the lives of those living with Azheimer's disease.

SPOTLIGHT

GILEAD SCIENCES CANADA, INC

Gilead Sciences Canada, Inc. ("Gilead") is the Canadian affiliate of Gilead Sciences, Inc., a global biopharmaceutical company focused on discovering, developing and delivering innovative medicines for people with life-threatening diseases. In Canada, Gilead supports a strong life sciences sector through investments in research and development, clinical trials, manufacturing and partnerships. Our work spans virology, inflammation and oncology, building on a legacy that helped transform HIV into a treatable and preventable chronic condition and contributed to a cure for hepatitis C. Today, we continue to advance innovation in viral diseases and cancer while collaborating with healthcare professionals, researchers, governments, community organizations and academic institutions to improve health outcomes and strengthen Canada's research ecosystem.

www.gilead.com/en-ca

Year Founded	2002
Number of Employees	550
Location in Canada	Ontario & Alberta
Location in Ontario	Mississauga

"Innovation thrives when researchers, healthcare professionals, industry and community partners work together toward a common goal. Ontario's life sciences ecosystem provides the foundation for that collaboration, enabling us to advance breakthrough research, strengthen Canada's innovation capacity and help deliver better outcomes for patients today and in the future."

- Paul Petrelli, Vice President and General Manager, Gilead Sciences Canada

The Spark

Scientific advances have transformed the lives of people affected by viral diseases, yet significant challenges remain. Patients and communities continue to need innovative treatments, prevention options and healthcare systems capable of translating research into better outcomes. In Ontario, addressing these challenges depends on a collaborative life sciences ecosystem that brings together researchers, healthcare professionals, community organizations and industry partners.

Approach

Gilead contributes to that ecosystem through sustained investment in research and development, clinical research and Canadian operations. The company invests nearly $100 million annually in research and development in Canada and supports more than 100 unique clinical trial sites across virology and oncology. These studies help generate evidence, build research capacity and provide eligible patients with access to investigational therapies. Ontario also serves as home to Gilead's Canadian corporate headquarters in Mississauga.

Impact

This commitment builds on decades of advances in virology. Today, our research and investments translated into the first approved therapy for treating Hepatitis D, the most severe form of viral hepatitis that carries a higher risk in cancer than smoking and death. Beyond individual therapies, these investments strengthen scientific expertise, support highly skilled jobs and connect Ontario to a broader Canadian and global innovation network. In addition to investing in research and innovation, Gilead supports community-based organizations working to improve health outcomes across the country. In the first half of 2026 alone, Gilead Canada invested $1.47 million in grants, supporting 51 organizations and an estimated 1.2 million individuals through initiatives focused on HIV, liver disease, oncology and cell therapy. These investments, the majority in Ontario - 67%, help expand access to care, strengthen community capacity and improve health outcomes for patients and underserved populations.

Momentum

Canada also plays a foundational role in Gilead's global manufacturing network. Ontario contract facilities produce close to 50% of the company's global tablet production, supporting patients in Canada and around the world. Combined with annual manufacturing investments exceeding $100 million, this footprint demonstrates the important role Canada plays in advancing research, development and manufacturing at a global scale.

Next

Gilead will continue advancing innovation in viral diseases and oncology while working alongside healthcare, research and community partners to improve patient outcomes. Ontario remains a critical part of that effort through its research excellence, clinical trial infrastructure and ability to translate scientific discovery into real-world impact.



SPOTLIGHT

MERCK CANADA INC.

Inventing for life: For over 130 years, Merck has been providing leading innovations and therapies for many of our world's most challenging diseases in pursuit of our mission to save and improve lives.

www.merck.ca

Year Founded	1911
Number of Employees	800
Location in Canada	Kirkland, Quebec
Location in Ontario	MaRS Toronto Office

"Prevention works best when it is accessible, trusted, and easy to integrate into everyday life. As Ontario continues to strengthen access to health services, community pharmacies represent an important opportunity to bring preventive health resources and trusted guidance closer to where people live and work."

- David D. Jones
  President and Managing Director
  Merck Canada



David D. Jones
President and Managing Director
Merck Canada

The Spark

Across Ontario, many people are trying to make thoughtful decisions about their health in a system that can be difficult to navigate. Although the province has taken important steps to improve access to primary care, approximately 1.98 million Ontarians remain unattached to a primary care team. For many residents, accessing preventive health services can require multiple appointments, referrals, or prescriptions, creating barriers that may discourage action altogether. The challenge is particularly acute in rural and underserved communities, where healthcare providers may be difficult to access and wait times can be longer.

For Merck Canada, this challenge raised an important question: how can Ontario make prevention easier to access while making better use of healthcare professionals already embedded in communities?

Approach

Merck Canada's work in Ontario is rooted in partnership. Recognizing growing pressures on primary care, the company has funded independent, university-led research on barriers to preventive care and access to pharmacy-based services, generated population-level insights through initiatives such as its Pulse Reports, and collaborated with healthcare organizations, pharmacy leaders, and policymakers to support evidence-based discussions focused on improving access to prevention.

One area of focus has been the role of pharmacists. Pharmacies are among the most accessible healthcare settings in Ontario, with approximately 91% of Ontarians living within five kilometers of a pharmacy. Their accessibility, expertise, and established role within communities present an opportunity to help simplify patient journeys, reduce reliance on multiple appointments, and bring preventive care closer to where people live and work.

Impact

The potential impact is both human and system-wide. For the nearly two million Ontarians without a primary care team, community pharmacies can offer a convenient and trusted access point for preventive care, helping reduce barriers while allowing physicians and nurse practitioners to focus on other patient needs. Further leveraging pharmacists' accessibility and expertise could help create a more connected, accessible, and prevention-focused healthcare system while making it easier for Ontarians to access the care they need closer to home.

Momentum

Ontario is on the right track in expanding pharmacists' scope of practice, enabling more care to be delivered in convenient community settings and helping improve access to preventive health services. The success of initiatives such as the Minor Ailments Program demonstrates how appropriately enabled pharmacists can improve timely access to care and help reduce barriers for patients. Building on this momentum, a similar policy approach could help expand access to preventive services, including vaccination, without requiring Ontarians to navigate multiple touchpoints across the healthcare system.

Next

As Ontario strengthens primary care access, Merck Canada believes prevention must remain a priority. Building on pharmacists' expanded scope of practice, there is an opportunity to explore a greater role for pharmacists in preventive services, including vaccination. Merck will continue supporting evidence-based discussions to improve access and convenience for Ontarians.

SPOTLIGHT

NOVARTIS PHARMACEUTICALS

novartis.com

Year Founded	1996
Number of Employees	500+
Location in Canada	Quebec
Location in Ontario	Toronto

"We are proud to partner with government, healthcare partners, and patient communities across Ontario to help bring life-changing medicines to patients faster. Initiatives like FAST demonstrate the power of collaboration to accelerate access to innovation and improve outcomes for Ontarians."

- Dimitri Gitas,
  President, Novartis Canada



Novartis Country president Dimitri Gitas and Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade Minister Vic Fedeli

Novartis is an innovative medicines company focused on improving and extending people's lives. We use science, technology, and data to develop treatments in areas of significant unmet need, including oncology, cardiovascular, renal and metabolic diseases, immunology and neuroscience.
*In Canada, Novartis works across the full patient journey, from research and clinical trials to treatment access and patient support. Today, approximately **2.4 million Canadians use Novartis products**, and Novartis invests an average of **CAD $36 million annually in research and development** across the country. With more than **500 associates** and more than **170 clinical trials sponsored and supported in Canada**, Novartis helps connect Canadian patients, researchers, and healthcare institutions to global innovation.*

The Spark

At Novartis, we know that for people living with cancer, time matters. Yet even after a medicine receives regulatory approval, patients can face lengthy waits before gaining access through public drug programs. For someone facing a serious diagnosis, those delays can have a real impact on treatment decisions and peace of mind.

When Ontario introduced the Funding Accelerated for Specific Treatments (FAST) program, we saw an opportunity to be part of a new approach. FAST was designed to help patients access high-priority cancer medicines sooner, bringing together government, healthcare partners, and industry around a shared goal: reducing delays and getting innovative treatments to patients faster. Ontario's willingness to explore new models for access reinforced the importance of collaboration in improving patient care.

Approach

Working alongside the Government of Ontario, healthcare providers and patient advocates, Novartis helped one of our treatments for chronic myeloid leukemia (CML) through the FAST pathway.

FAST enables Ontario to begin funding select breakthrough cancer medicines while broader pricing and reimbursement processes continue. By aligning steps that have traditionally occurred one after another, the program creates an opportunity for eligible patients to access innovative treatments sooner.

As one of the first medicines funded through FAST, Novartis has demonstrated what can be achieved when governments, healthcare providers, patient organizations and industry work together to address barriers to access. The experience showed that innovation is not only about developing new medicines, but also about finding better ways to connect patients with them.

Impact

Through FAST, eligible Ontarians living with CML gained access to our innovative treatment significantly sooner than would have been possible through traditional funding pathways.

For patients and families, earlier access means more treatment options when they are needed most. It can reduce uncertainty, support more informed treatment planning and help ensure innovative medicines reach eligible patients without unnecessary delays.

For Novartis, the success of FAST demonstrated the value of partnership and reinforced our commitment to working with governments and healthcare stakeholders to improve access to innovation. More broadly, the initiative highlights how Ontario can continue strengthening its leadership in patient-centred healthcare and life sciences innovation.

Momentum

In January 2026, Ontario announced that six cancer treatments had been accelerated through the FAST program, including Novartis' product for chronic myeloid leukemia. The announcement marked an important milestone for patients and demonstrated how collaborative approaches to access can translate into real-world impact. Ontario's continued commitment to FAST is helping build momentum for faster access to innovation and reinforcing the province's reputation as a leader in modernizing cancer care.

Next

Building on the success of FAST, Novartis will continue working with governments, healthcare partners, and patient communities to support innovative approaches that help patients access breakthrough medicines sooner. We believe collaboration will remain essential to improving health outcomes and ensuring Ontario continues to be a leader in life sciences innovation.

SPOTLIGHT

OMNIABIO INC.

OmniaBio Inc. is a Canadian advanced therapeutics manufacturing organization supporting the development and production of cell and gene therapies. Through expertise in process development, analytical sciences, and GMP manufacturing, OmniaBio helps translate scientific innovation into therapies for patients while strengthening Canada's biomanufacturing capacity.

Omniabio.com

Year Founded	2022
Number of Employees	180
Location in Canada	Ontario
Location in Ontario	Hamilton

"OmniaBio is building the expertise, talent and infrastructure that will allow Canada to play a leading role in the international biopharma economy. By strengthening international partnerships and investing in the next generation of manufacturing technologies, we are helping position Ontario as a global leader in cell and gene therapy manufacturing."

- Michael May
  President and CEO, CCRM;
  Interim CEO, OmniaBio





The Spark

Canada has long produced world-class scientific discoveries, yet many promising cell and gene therapies leave the country for development and manufacturing as they advance toward commercialization.

Recognizing both the challenge and opportunity, CCRM launched its spin-out, OmniaBio Inc., to help build the manufacturing infrastructure, talent and technical capabilities needed to support a growing advanced therapy sector in Canada.

When manufacturing capabilities exist elsewhere, valuable process knowledge, highly skilled jobs, investment and commercialization opportunities are lost. By building advanced therapy manufacturing capacity in Hamilton, Ontario, OmniaBio is helping strengthen Canada's position in the global life sciences economy while creating greater accessibility for patients worldwide.

Approach

OmniaBio has developed Canada's largest dedicated cell and gene therapy manufacturing facility, providing integrated process development, manufacturing science and technology (MSAT), technology transfer and Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) services under one roof.

This end-to-end model enables therapy developers to progress efficiently from preclinical development through clinical and commercial manufacturing while reducing operational risk and maintaining continuity throughout the product lifecycle.

Supported by investments from both the Government of Ontario and the Government of Canada, OmniaBio is continuing to expand its manufacturing capabilities, workforce and advanced manufacturing technologies, helping establish Ontario as a globally competitive destination for advanced therapy development and production.

Impact

Cell and gene therapy developers gain access to specialized expertise and manufacturing capabilities within Canada, helping them advance therapies more efficiently while remaining connected to the domestic innovation ecosystem.

By improving manufacturing efficiency, scalability and operational performance, OmniaBio is helping address two of the industry's greatest challenges: reducing the cost and complexity of producing advanced therapies, ultimately supporting broader patient access.

Equally important is the development of Canadian talent. OmniaBio continues to build multidisciplinary teams of scientists, engineers, manufacturing specialists and Quality professionals, contributing to a highly skilled workforce that strengthens Ontario's life sciences sector and creates long-term economic value for the province.

Momentum

A significant milestone in 2026 was the successful acquisition of a Drug Establishment License (DEL) in near-record time. As a critical regulatory requirement for commercial supply chain operations in Canada, the DEL enables OmniaBio to operate within highly regulated global markets and demonstrates the organization's readiness to support commercial-stage clients.

The company continues to expand its technology transfer capabilities, strengthen international partnerships, and advance manufacturing innovations that improve scalability and performance.

Next

OmniaBio is focused on becoming a global centre of excellence for advanced therapy manufacturing while continuing to develop Canadian talent, strengthen international partnerships and bring innovative therapies closer to the patients who need them.

SPOTLIGHT

www.Pfizer.ca

Year Founded	1951
Number of Employees	500+
Location in Canada	Kirkland, Quebec





PFIZER CANADA ULC

Pfizer Canada ULC is the Canadian operation of Pfizer Inc., one of the world's leading biopharmaceutical companies. Our diversified health care portfolio includes some of the world's best known and most prescribed medicines and vaccines. Consistent with our responsibility as one of the world's premier innovative biopharmaceutical companies, we collaborate with health care providers, governments, and local communities to support and expand access to reliable, innovative health care around the world. Pfizer's Canadian footprint includes its headquarters in Kirkland, Quebec and a manufacturing site in Brandon, Manitoba. To learn more about Pfizer Canada, visit pfizer.ca or you can follow us on LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram or YouTube.

75 Years in Canada: Partnering to Shape the Future of Health in Ontario

As Pfizer Canada marks 75 years in the country, its Ontario investments and partnerships are helping shape a more connected, prevention-oriented and future-ready health system.

The Spark

For 75 years, Pfizer Canada has been part of Canada's health and life sciences landscape. Since establishing operations in 1951, the company has grown alongside Canada's healthcare system, building a Canadian workforce and long-standing relationships with hospitals, researchers and communities.

"Seventy-five years in Canada is a milestone we're proud of, one built on partnerships across the country," says An Van Gerven, Country President, Pfizer Canada. "Ontario has been a central part of that story, from our research collaborations with hospitals and universities to the communities we're proud to support. As we look to the next 75 years, that same spirit of partnership will be essential to advancing innovation, prevention and a more connected health system."

The Approach

A key part of that commitment is Pfizer Canada's continued investment in Ontario's research infrastructure. Of the roughly 100 active clinical trials Pfizer Canada runs across Canada in 2026, 91 include an Ontario site, in partnership with institutions such as Princess Margaret Hospital, Sunnybrook Research Institute, McMaster University and The Ottawa Hospital. In 2025, Pfizer invested approximately $121.5 million CAD in clinical trials across Canada, including $4.9 million in the Ontario Clinical Oncology Group, led by McMaster University in Hamilton, to support Canadians affected by multiple myeloma.

These investments connect patients to innovative medicines while strengthening clinical expertise, research capacity and skilled jobs. Greater data connectivity enabled by AI could help accelerate discovery, support prevention and earlier intervention, and keep Canada connected to global research networks.

The Impact

Through its 30-year sponsorship of the Canadian Paralympic Committee (CPC), the longest corporate partnership in CPC history, Pfizer Canada supports inclusion and community wellbeing. At this year's Milano Cortina Paralympic Winter Games, Team Canada included 50 athletes, with 23 from Ontario.

Tyler McGregor, captain of Canada's Para ice hockey team and a bone cancer survivor from Forest, Ontario, reflects on how the partnership has connected with his Paralympic journey.

"As a cancer survivor and Paralympian, Pfizer Canada has been part of my journey for more than a decade, not only through its long-standing support of the Canadian Paralympic Committee, but through the relationships and opportunities that helped me share my story, represent Canada and continue pursuing my goals as an athlete," says McGregor. "That kind of commitment helps create the conditions for Paralympians like me to compete, inspire others and show what is possible."

The Momentum

In June 2026, Pfizer Canada convened an Oncology Roundtable that brought together clinicians, researchers, policymakers and patient advocates to discuss innovation and the future of cancer care in Ontario. By fostering dialogue across the healthcare ecosystem, Pfizer Canada continues to support collaboration that can help improve patient outcomes and strengthen Ontario's position as a centre for life sciences innovation.

What's Next

As Pfizer Canada looks to the next 75 years, it is committed to partnerships that can build a more connected, prevention-oriented and future-ready health system. With greater data connectivity enabled by digital tools and AI, Pfizer Canada can help accelerate research, support earlier intervention and strengthen prevention — helping ensure innovation reaches people faster and that good health contributes to stronger communities, a more resilient health system and broader prosperity.

SPOTLIGHT

ROCHE CANADA

www.rochecanada.com

Year Founded	1931
Number of Employees	2000
Location in Canada	Pharma - Ontario, Diagnostics - Quebec
Location in Ontario	Mississauga

"With our Canadian affiliate and nine diverse global functions located in Mississauga, Roche Canada is proud to power Ontario's innovation, high-quality talent pipeline, and economy. We look forward to continued collaboration across Ontario's life sciences ecosystem to strengthen the province's healthcare system and economic future."

- Laura Pagnotta,
  Vice President of External Affairs,
  Roche Canada





At Roche Canada, we combine life-changing diagnostics and medicines to take on the toughest healthcare challenges – those that place the greatest strain on patients, families, communities and health systems.

Guided by the experiences of patients, we are determined to prevent, stop and cure diseases so people can live healthier, longer lives. In 2025, our medicines treated more than 236,000 Canadians and 1 in 4 Canadians were tested using a Roche diagnostic product. We focus on areas like oncology, neurology, cardiovascular and metabolic diseases, ophthalmology, infectious diseases and immunology to provide real and positive change for patients, the people they love, and the professionals who care for them.

We are proud to support Ontario's growth, where Roche Canada's activities and investments stimulated $5.88B in total economic impact between 2021 and 2025. During the same period, we employed around 2,000 employees each year and the ripple effects of our business activities supported the equivalent of 23,700 jobs, cumulatively, in Ontario.

Roche's commitment to and legacy in Ontario is significant. Through continued close collaboration we can continue to highlight the unique strengths and opportunities in Ontario and Canada, on the international life sciences stage.

The Spark

Canada has arrived at a crucial moment. While global shifts and capacity pressures make healthcare reform urgent, these are long-standing challenges we can no longer delay addressing. Today, Canada ranks last in the G7 for timely access to new medicines. Collectively, we need to value timely access to new medicines and diagnostics as investments into healthy communities, economic growth, and high-performing healthcare systems.

Thankfully, dedicated researchers, leaders, and partners across the country have spent years laying a strong foundation to make meaningful progress. As a committed partner to government, industry, academia, and patients, Roche Canada is translating this shared vision of more timely access into concrete action — from pioneering faster funding pathways for new medicines to accelerating clinical trial start-up timelines.

Approach

On February 24, 2026, Roche Canada was pleased to announce one of our medicines as the first breast cancer therapy funded through Ontario's new Funding Accelerated for Specific Treatments (FAST) program.

This first-in-Canada initiative, designed to bridge the gap between drug approval and public availability, provided the opportunity for Ontario patients to access specific treatments up to a full year sooner. By taking a bold step forward to accelerate access timelines and improve healthcare outcomes, Ontario showed important leadership and set a strong example for the rest of the country. Roche Canada is proud to have partnered on this initiative.

Together, we can secure Canada's health sovereignty and ensure everyone has reliable, timely access to the life-saving medicines and diagnostics they need to live longer, healthier, and more productive lives.

Impact

Creating the conditions for timely access to new medicines for patients saves lives, improves health outcomes, helps reduce long-term healthcare costs, contributes to economic productivity, and makes Canada a more attractive destination for future investment and innovation.

By working collaboratively and ambitiously to implement solutions that allow the right innovative medicines and diagnostics to reach the right patients at the right time, we create a more sustainable and healthier future for all of us.

Momentum

Since its inclusion in the FAST program, numerous breast cancer patients in Ontario have been able to receive expedited public access to our therapy, demonstrating the real-life impact of this innovative pathway. This example shows us that working together, it is possible to make ambitious — not just incremental — progress in improving access timelines.

The proven success of this program creates a clear opportunity to scale its impact. We look forward to seeing Ontario expand its impact to a wider range of patients and disease areas, reinforcing its role as a national leader in timely access to care.

Next

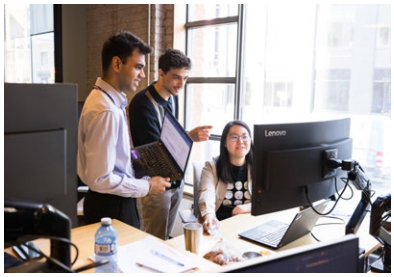
Roche Canada looks forward to continuing to work with our partners and government in Ontario to identify tangible solutions to improve timely access to healthcare innovation, unlock opportunities in connected and interoperable health data, and continue strengthening our clinical trials competitiveness, to build a resilient, prosperous Canada for all.

SPOTLIGHT

www.Sanofi.com/en/canada

Year Founded	1914
Number of Employees	2000+
Location in Canada	Ontario
Location in Ontario	Toronto





SANOFI

Accelerating innovative therapy discovery to delivery through the power of AI

Sanofi is deepening its investment in Ontario and growing AI talent to develop and manufacture life-changing medicines and vaccines faster than ever before.

The Spark

For patients waiting for a new medicine or vaccine, every moment matters. At Sanofi, we are working to shorten the time between scientific discovery to delivery of new therapies to patients, helping ensure innovations reach the people who need them sooner.

At Sanofi, we fully embrace AI and other advanced technologies throughout the company to accelerate delivery of treatments to patient. And we proudly call Toronto home to one of our five dedicated Digital Hubs. Beginning with three employees in our Toronto Artificial Intelligence Centre of Excellence (COE) in 2022, we have rapidly expanded, drawing on the city's world-class AI talent pool to innovate and grow.

Today, with more than 150 employees at the COE, we are scaling locally developed solutions to our operations around the globe.

In May 2026, we announced a $294 million investment to expand the COE and create 50 new high-skilled jobs in AI and healthcare.

Approach

As an R&D-driven, AI-powered biopharma company, Sanofi is delivering on our ambition to become the first biopharma company powered by AI at scale, significantly reducing the time from discovery to commercialization – to patients.

With strong governance, we are integrating AI across operations to accelerate discovery, strengthen manufacturing, and support faster delivery. AI empowers our people with innovative technology to push scientific boundaries and deliver results for patients and healthcare professionals.

Our Toronto AI Centre of Excellence serves as a strategic innovation engine, uniquely positioned to work across the full life sciences value chain. With co-located data, AI, scientific, manufacturing and product teams, we are designing and deploying advanced AI tools used throughout Sanofi's global research, manufacturing and business operations. The 50 new roles announced in May will lead this expansion, supported by a conditional grant of up to $5 million from the Invest Ontario Fund.

Impact

AI at Sanofi is driving positive patient impact across the entire medicine lifecycle — compressing drug discovery from weeks to hours, helping scientists find the right disease targets faster and more accurately, enabling faster and more inclusive clinical trials through digital patient twins, and predicting supply chain disruptions to support reliable medicine access.

Beyond patient impact, our Toronto COE reinforces Ontario's position as a global leader in AI-powered healthcare innovation, while building the next generation of talent — recruiting 30+ university interns annually with strong conversion to full-time employment.

This investment is part of Sanofi's broader commitment to Canada: over $2 billion in infrastructure investments by 2028, supporting 12,000 jobs across Canada in 2024, contributing over $2 billion to Canada's GDP, with exports reaching over 50 countries globally.

Momentum

Sanofi's company-wide adoption of AI demonstrates strategic momentum across all dimensions of our business. We are empowering our people with innovative technology, providing AI tools used throughout Sanofi's global research, manufacturing and business operations. And we continue to build for the future, working with healthcare partners to share our knowledge and drive innovation for patients.

Next

Sanofi's AI advances are opening new possibilities for patients. We're working to bring medicines to patients faster, explore treatments for previously untreatable diseases, and develop therapies tailored to individual needs. Through responsible AI practices, we aim to make healthcare more personalized, accessible, and effective for patients worldwide.

SPOTLIGHT

SHIONOGI CANADA INC.

www.shionogi.com/ca/en

Year Founded	2018
Number of Employees	7
Location in Canada	Ontario
Location in Ontario	Toronto

"At Shionogi Canada, we are united in our mission to address unmet medical needs and positively impact patient lives. By supporting the development of innovative digital tools, like the Annovii patient support app, we're working to bring practical, meaningful solutions to the Canadian rare disease community."

- Andy Zylak,
  General Manager,
  Shionogi Canada Inc.



Andy Zylak,
General Manager,
Shionogi Canada Inc.



Shionogi Canada Inc. is a subsidiary of Shionogi & Co., Ltd. a 148-year-old global, research-driven pharmaceutical company headquartered in Osaka, Japan, that is committed to identifying unmet needs and harnessing the full potential of science to treat challenging human diseases.

Shionogi Canada (previously Tanabe Pharma Canada) has been supporting the Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) community since 2018. While our name has changed, the dedicated team behind our unwavering commitment to advancing care for people affected by this devastating disease remains the same. As part of Shionogi, we are combining our established Canadian expertise with the strength of the company's global resources, to continue to foster collaboration and support Canadians impacted by ALS for years to come, as well as to bring the best possible medicines to aid the health and well-being of the patients we serve where unmet needs exist.

The Spark

ALS is a progressive, fatal disease that places enormous emotional and logistical burdens on patients and families. While many supports, services and resources exist, navigating them can be overwhelming, particularly when time and capacity are limited. People living with ALS often face uncertainty about who to contact, what information is relevant to their needs, and how to access the right resources and support as their disease progresses.

To address this challenge, Shionogi Canada partnered with Dr. Lawrence Korngut and his digital health innovation team at the University of Calgary, and Lumiio, a Canadian digital health company, to support the development of Annovii – a personalized app designed to support and empower people living with ALS and their families. Bringing contacts, trusted resources, support services and clinical trial opportunities together in one place. Annovii helps simplify a complex care journey and enables more equitable access to information and support across Canada.

Approach

Annovii was built for and with the ALS community. Before defining the app's features, the team spent months engaging more than 100 patients, caregivers, clinicians, researchers and advocacy organizations to understand the realities of living with ALS.

What truly sets Annovii apart is its community-driven and highly personalized approach. The app adapts to a patient's evolving needs and preferences, connecting people to relevant resources and services based on their circumstances, disease progression and location. The app also reflects the unique structure of Canada's ALS ecosystem through collaboration with the ALS Society of Canada, provincial organizations and clinics across the country, enabling locally relevant content and support.

Annovii also includes an optional research component through which people living with ALS can contribute patient-reported insights that can help advance the understanding of ALS in Canada. Research is governed by the ALS Working Group of the Canadian Neuromuscular Disease Registry (CNDR).

Impact

Rather than focusing solely on therapeutic innovation, Shionogi Canada has invested in building ecosystems of care, addressing unmet needs for people living with ALS, and facilitating the creation of resources that address longstanding gaps in patient support.

For people living with ALS and their families, Annovii offers a centralized hub that helps them navigate their patient journey, reducing the burden and overwhelm of managing a fast-progressing disease with complex care needs. Healthcare professionals benefit from patients who are better informed and prepared for visits, while clinics and advocacy organizations can reduce administrative demands and gain technology-enabled ways to distribute resources and information.

Annovii has the potential to strengthen the broader ALS ecosystem by connecting people with community organizations, improving access to accurate, vetted information, and contributing patient-reported perspectives that complement clinical data. Together, these insights can help inform future research, care delivery and innovation for Canadians impacted by ALS.

Momentum

The team at Shionogi Canada has been dedicated to the ALS community for nearly a decade, advancing therapeutic options and patient support solutions. After launching the first Health Canada approved ALS treatment in nearly 20 years in 2018, followed by an oral formulation in 2022, the company pioneered a Canadian AI EMR (electronic medical record) diagnostic initiative (Process for Progress in ALS) in 2023 to tackle one of the most pressing challenges in ALS – reducing delays in diagnosis. Today, its momentum continues with the beta launch of the Annovii patient support app before the end of the year.

Next

Shionogi Canada remains focused on improving the lives of people impacted by ALS and their families, while applying their decade of experience in rare diseases to help drive the next generation of innovation and impact across broader therapeutic areas where unmet needs exist.

SPOTLIGHT

www.takeda.com/en-ca

Year founded:	1781 (Japan) 2009 (Canada),
Number of employees:	180
Location in Canada:	Ontario
Location in Ontario:	Toronto

"The future of IG care must work better for patients and for the health care systems. Takeda is investing in innovative delivery models, patient support programs and next-generation approaches to reduce treatment burden, support transitions closer to home and free up hospital capacity."

- Alan Walshe,
  General Manager, Takeda Canada

TAKEDA CANADA

From Hospital to Home: Further Advancing Immunoglobulin Care in Ontario

Takeda Canada Inc. (Takeda) is working with healthcare partners to support flexible hospital-to-home IG care models that support equitable patient access, improve healthcare system capacity and bring care closer to home.

Every infusion chair hour matters – to the patient receiving treatment, and the healthcare team managing growing patient need.

For many who rely on immunoglobulin (IG) therapy, treatment is not just a simple daily pill; it involves regular appointments and time away from work, school, family and daily routines. It means transportation, waiting for an infusion chair, hours in clinic and planning life around treatment.

Ontario has demonstrated leadership in IG stewardship through initiatives like the Ontario Immunoglobulin Treatment (ONIT) Program, which supports home-based subcutaneous immunoglobulin (SCIG) treatment through hospital-embedded outpatient clinics. Building on this, Ontario has an opportunity to advance IG care through hospital-to-home models that start appropriate patients in supervised settings and transition them to home-based treatment – bringing care closer to home, reducing patient disruption, supporting clinicians and preserving hospital capacity for those who need it most.

For years, intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG) infusions in hospital or clinic settings were the standard-of-care for many patients. Conventional SCIG has given clinically appropriate patients the option to receive treatment at home, either independently or with caregiver support, with published data showing it can ease clinic pressure and free up about 50 nursing hours per patient annually. [1, 2]

Facilitated subcutaneous immunoglobulin (fSCIG) adds further flexibility, with an infusion schedule similar to IVIG that may fit into existing hospital medical day care units. Its shorter infusion time of possibly 1–2 hours, compared with IVIG infusions of 4–6 hours, may help free nursing time and create additional infusion chair capacity – potentially helping clinics treat more patients and reduce wait lists without additional infrastructure or resource investment.[2]

Together, integrating fSCIG in hospital settings with appropriate SCIG transitions to treatment at home can create a flexible patient- centered IG care model. By optimizing where and how IG therapies are delivered, patients can spend less time in hospital, while healthcare teams preserve scarce infusion capacity for those who need it most. [3,4]

Takeda' supporting this transition by partnering with healthcare teams to integrate fSCIG into medical day care units, enabling home-treatment through our patient support program, and investing in education, research and next-generation IG approaches. Building on Ontario's sustainable IG care models, these efforts can help expand equitable access, including in rural/remote areas, improve patient experience, and optimize healthcare capacity across the province.

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IVIG at healthcare facility

SCIG at home

SPOTLIGHT

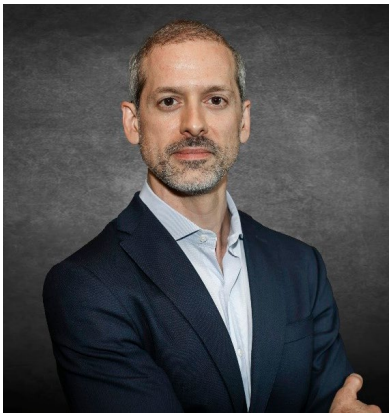
Inspired by patients. Driven by science.

www.ucbcanada.com

Year Founded	2006
Number of Employees	101-500 in Canada
Location in Canada	Ontario
Location in Ontario	Oakville

"Innovation in life sciences is ultimately about improving lives. At UCB Canada, we are committed to bringing together science, partnerships, and patient insights to address the challenges faced by people living with severe diseases. By working collaboratively across Ontario's life sciences ecosystem, we can help create meaningful impact for patients and strengthen the future of healthcare."

- Rodrigo Reis, General Manager



Rodrigo Reis, General Manager



UCB CANADA

UCB Canada is the Canadian affiliate of UCB, a global Belgium-based, biopharmaceutical company focused on discovering and delivering innovative medicines and care solutions for people living with severe diseases in neurology and immunology. Headquartered in Oakville, Ontario, UCB Canada works alongside patients, healthcare professionals, researchers, and health system partners to advance scientific innovation, help improve patient lives, and expand access to potentially life-changing therapies. To learn more about UCB Canada, visit ucbcanada.com and follow us on LinkedIn.

The Spark

For people living with severe autoimmune, neurological and rare diseases, the journey to diagnosis, treatment, and care can be complex and uncertain. Delayed diagnoses, fragmented care pathways and barriers to specialized support can significantly impact patients, families and communities. As Ontario's healthcare and life sciences ecosystems continue to evolve, there is a real opportunity to rethink how people living with severe diseases are identified, supported and connected to the care they need. UCB Canada is working to address these challenges by discovering and developing innovative medicines and combining scientific innovation with collaborative care models, patient-focused initiatives and partnerships across the healthcare ecosystem. By working alongside patients, healthcare providers, researchers and system partners, UCB Canada is helping advance more integrated and patient-centered approaches to care. These efforts have contributed to more streamlined diagnostic journeys, improved access to specialized care, and better health outcomes for Canadians.

Approach

To address the complex journeys faced by Canadians living with severe diseases, UCB Canada takes a patient-centred approach that extends beyond advancing therapies. By combining scientific innovation with public-private partnerships designed around patient needs, UCB Canada is providing solutions to improve patient pathways and access to specialized care. What differentiates UCB Canada is our focus on addressing barriers across the patient journey, not only through innovative medicines but also by working with the broader healthcare ecosystem to improve how patients reach the right diagnosis and care. In Canada, this approach is being put into practice through collaboration with hospital partners to address diagnostic delays for people living with axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA). By bringing specialty-trained physiotherapists and rheumatologists together in a more streamlined care pathway, the model supports earlier identification, more appropriate referrals, and faster access to specialized care.

Impact

The primary beneficiaries of UCB's work are patients and the people who support them. Through its Patient Support Programs, UCB Canada has helped more than 31,000 Canadians navigate complex treatment journeys with personalized resources and dedicated care teams, helping patients better understand and manage their care.

Canada is also an important contributor to UCB's global innovation ecosystem through clinical trials, investigator-initiated studies (IIS), scientific grants, and research partnerships. Between 2019 and 2025, UCB has spent over $140 million in clinical trials in Canada, with over 700 patients in Canada participating in over 160 clinical trials.

Beyond patient impact, UCB Canada continues to invest in and strengthen Ontario's life sciences ecosystem. Between 2023 and 2025, UCB Canada's operations contributed an estimated $74.0 million to Ontario's GDP, generated $59.1 million in labour income, and contributed $8.3 million in Ontario government revenue.

Momentum

As UCB marks 20 years transforming lives in Canada, recent milestones reflect continued progress in addressing the challenges faced by people living with severe autoimmune, neurological and rare diseases. Recently, UCB Canada has advanced access pathways for Canadians living with hidradenitis suppurativa and generalized myasthenia gravis through regulatory and reimbursement progress. Alongside these advancements, UCB Canada continues to expand, strengthening collaborative care models designed to help address diagnostic delays for people living with axial spondyloarthritis. Together, these efforts demonstrate how scientific innovation, partnerships, and patient-focused solutions are helping create more connected pathways to care for Canadians living with severe diseases.

Next

Looking ahead, UCB Canada will advance patient-centred innovation through scientific discovery, collaborative care and improved treatment access. Working with patients, advocacy groups, healthcare providers and system partners, UCB Canada aims to strengthen care pathways and improve outcomes for Canadians living with severe autoimmune, neurological and rare diseases.

SPOTLIGHT

ALL GOOD LIFE SCIENCE MARKETING

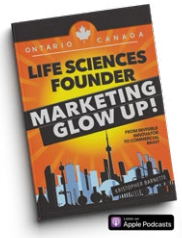
www.allgoodmktg.ca

Year Founded	2017
Number of Employees	1
Location in Canada	Ontario
Location in Ontario	Toronto MaRS DD Waterfront

"Ontario produces world-class science, but great ideas cannot sell themselves. Most founders are brilliant in the lab, but missed out on practical business training. I created this free book to help local inventors turn complex research into clear, human stories that keep top talent, funding, and life-saving discoveries right here at home."

- Kris Barnette





All Good Life Science Marketing is a specialized life science agency operating out of Toronto's MaRS Innovation Hub and Akron, Ohio, dedicated to helping life science ventures bridge the regional "commercialization chokehold" and transition discoveries from the lab to the market.

Led by President and Educator Kristopher Barnette, the agency combines strategic discipline with creative storytelling to help technical founders translate dense academic research into clear, human narratives that attract capital, partners, and buyers.

The agency's work centers on four primary areas of expertise:

- *Marketing Mindset Mentorship: Executive coaching and team mentorship that trains scientists to think commercially and treat marketing as a core business asset.*
- *Tactical Planning: Designing go-to-market blueprints, channel mix prioritization, competitive positioning, and investor narratives tailored to life science adoption cycles.*
- *Program Development: Managing integrated, multi-channel outreach campaigns linked directly to commercial milestones and procurement expectations.*
- *Creative Production: Creating visual and written assets, including websites, investor pitch decks, videos, motion graphics, PR, and thought leadership to drive your programs.*

Alongside custom agency services, All Good Life Science Marketing creates free educational resources for local innovators, such as The Ontario Life Sciences Founder Marketing Glow Up, a free 14-chapter audiobook and companion exercise workbooks designed to equip founders with practical standard operating procedures for commercial readiness.

The Spark

Ontario produces world-class innovations in life sciences, but many early discoveries struggle to reach the market. The real challenge is a commercialization talent gap. Most life science founders are brilliant scientists, but they have never been trained on how to build or grow a business. When launching a company, they know their science deeply but lack an understanding of how to commercialize it. When promoting their science, researchers often rely on dense academic language that is hard for non-experts to follow and engage. These talent gaps make it difficult to commercialize promising life science innovations, leaving them stuck on lab benches. Seeing this talent gap, US-based life science marketer and university educator Kristopher Barnette expanded All Good Life Science Marketing to Toronto's MaRS Waterfront. Barnette was compelled to write a free book to give local inventors a friendly commercial roadmap.

Approach

Barnette authored The Ontario Life Sciences Founder Marketing Glow Up to give technical founders the business training they were never taught. The book translates complex research into plain, human stories that investors understand. It gives founders a complete system of 52 hands-on exercises, along with a free five-exercise foundational marketing workbook and a 14-chapter audiobook available on major podcast platforms.

All Good brings decades of experience serving global health leaders like Thermo Fisher Scientific, Fluidigm, SynBioBeta, Restorative Therapies, and Stellar Scientific. The agency supports the province's life science innovators, large and small, through four primary service areas:

1. Marketing Mindset Mentorship: Coaching scientists to think like confident business leaders.
2. Tactical Planning: Creating simple launch maps from the bench to the market.
3. Program Development: Building outreach plans that drives GTM success.
4. Creative Production: Designing clear websites, pitch decks, and visuals that explain complex science.

Impact

By teaching founders how to share their mission in plain language, the book helps young companies earn trust and attract private capital. This de-risks early health ventures and protects research investments. It bridges the regional talent gap, keeping top minds, funding, and life-saving discoveries rooted here in Canada. Most importantly, they increase their chances of a successful commercial launch, thereby improving the world through their life science innovation.

Momentum

Since opening its Toronto hub, All Good Life Science Marketing has shared its free commercialization guide and five-exercise foundational workbook with researchers across Ontario. Founders across the province now listen to the free audio guide on podcast platforms every day to build practical business skills.

Next

All Good is committed to helping Ontario turn scientific innovations into strong local companies. Anyone can access the free 14-chapter audiobook on major podcast platforms or download the free foundational workbook at www.allgoodmktg.ca. By working together, All Good Life Science Marketing helps Ontario's life science innovations hit the global stage.

SPOTLIGHT

BIOACUITY CONSULTING INC.

BioAcuity Consulting helps life sciences organizations confidently navigate complex regulatory, quality, manufacturing, and validation challenges, combining deep industry expertise with hands-on support to accelerate development, commercialization, and operational success while meeting rigorous global quality and compliance standards.

www.bioacuity.com

Year Founded:	2010
Number of Employees:	8
Location in Canada:	Ontario
Location in Ontario:	Oakville

"Ontario has an incredible life sciences community, with so much momentum building. As the province continues to prioritize the sector, we see an important opportunity to bring innovation closer to the people who can benefit from it and help improve how care is delivered for patients across Ontario."

- Ivy Parks,
  President,
  BD-Canada

The Spark

Canadian life sciences companies often face significant challenges on the path to commercialization. Navigating complex regulatory requirements, developing compliant clinical trial strategies, preparing submissions, and managing health authority interactions can be time-consuming and resource-intensive, particularly for early-stage organizations. Gaps in regulatory planning can impact timelines, increase costs, and delay patient access to innovative products.

To help address these challenges, BioAcuity recently collaborated with the Pharmaceutical Sciences Group (PSG) to become a Validated Partner in Kingston Economic Development's Helix Funding Program, which provides startups in the Kingston region with access to specialized regulatory, quality, and commercialization expertise. By supporting companies through clinical development, regulatory strategy, and agency engagement, BioAcuity helps innovators accelerate their path to market while strengthening Canada's life sciences ecosystem.

Approach

BioAcuity takes a collaborative, tailored approach that goes beyond traditional consulting. By understanding each organization's technology, goals, regulatory strategy, and stage of growth, we provide practical support aligned with the milestones that matter most.

Central to this approach is building knowledge and capacity within the organizations we support. Each engagement is an opportunity to share expertise, strengthen internal capabilities, and establish sustainable regulatory and quality practices. Through collaboration and knowledge transfer, teams develop the confidence and understanding to navigate future regulatory and compliance challenges independently.

Impact

Building internal capacity also creates benefits beyond a single regulatory milestone. Strong regulatory, quality, and operational foundations support sustainable growth and better position companies for investment, strategic partnerships, and commercialization. Robust quality systems, regulatory strategies, and documentation practices can also help prepare companies for more productive interactions with health authorities and efficient regulatory reviews.

Strong collaboration among industry, academia, service providers, and economic development organizations is equally important, creating networks and resources that support innovation and accelerate development.

Momentum

Through the Helix Program, BioAcuity recently engaged with a research spin-out from Queen's University to prepare the regulatory documentation required to launch its clinical trial program. Through targeted regulatory guidance and close collaboration with the company's leadership and research teams, key submission activities were completed ahead of schedule, accelerating clinical readiness. The engagement also strengthened the organization's understanding of regulatory requirements and prepared the team for future health authority interactions as it progresses toward commercialization.

Next

Building on these successful engagements, BioAcuity President John Rydall has been appointed to the Helix Program's Ask the Expert initiative, where he mentors Canadian innovators and advises international companies entering the Canadian market. Together, these collaborative efforts help connect companies with expertise, funding, and mentorship while strengthening Ontario's life sciences sector, attracting investment, creating skilled jobs, and supporting homegrown innovation.





SPOTLIGHT

www.crbgroup.com

Year Founded	1984
Number of Employees	1300
Location in Canada	Ontario
Location in Ontario	Mississauga

"We're doubling down on what makes us different: visionary leadership, an unwavering commitment to our clients and people, and the ability to scale with purpose. This is the next chapter of CRB's story, and it's one rooted in bold thinking, responsible growth, and lasting impact."

– Vahid Ownjazayeri, President and CEO

CRB GROUP

CRB partners with life sciences and food & beverage companies to design, build and optimize the facilities where innovative therapies, medicines and consumer products are developed and manufactured. Through an integrated approach that combines engineering, architecture, construction and consulting expertise, CRB helps clients navigate complex projects and deliver sustainable solutions from concept to operation and optimization with confidence.

The Spark

As Canada's life sciences sector expands, developers of advanced therapies and biopharmaceutical products face growing pressure to deliver complex facilities faster, more efficiently, and with greater certainty. CRB was built to help organizations overcome these challenges by creating environments that accelerate innovation and bring critical therapies closer to the patients who need them. Our Canadian office was established in 2019 with just two employees and has since grown to a multidisciplinary team of 35 professionals, including project managers, architects, and process, mechanical, electrical, and plumbing engineers. Since its opening, the office has successfully delivered more than 100 projects for clients across Canada.

Approach

CRB's integrated project delivery approach combines planning, design, construction, and operational readiness into a single collaborative delivery model. By aligning stakeholders early and leveraging deep life sciences expertise, CRB helps clients improve schedule certainty, reduce project risk, and deliver high-performance facilities that support long-term growth.

Impact

The impact of CRB's work extends far beyond project delivery. By helping academic institutions, emerging biotechnology companies, and global manufacturers develop advanced research and production capabilities, CRB supports scientific innovation, job creation, and improved access to life-changing therapies. The company also advances sustainability, community engagement, and inclusive workplace practices.

Momentum

Recent achievements include being named Rockwell Automation EPC Partner of the Year, earning leading ENR rankings in pharmaceutical and industrial process design, and building on a legacy of multiple ISPE Company of the Year and Facility of the Year recognitions.

Next

CRB is expanding its Canadian presence while supporting projects across North America and Europe, helping shape the next generation of advanced therapy and biopharmaceutical facilities.



SPOTLIGHT

cencora
Innomar Strategies

www.innomar-strategies.com

Year Founded	2001
Number of Employees	3300
Location in Canada	Ontario
Location in Canada	Oakville

"For 25 years, Ontario has been at the heart of Innomar's story, and remains central to what comes next. As therapies become more advanced and treatment pathways more complex, our focus is helping patients access the care they need. We are proud of what we've built here and committed to evolving how that care is delivered."

- Guy Payette, Founder/President





INNOMAR STRATEGIES INC.

Innomar Strategies, a part of Cencora, is Canada's leading specialty medications service provider. We help patients access the medicines they need, where and when they need them, while supporting Ontario's healthcare system with end-to-end services that span patient support programs, specialty pharmacies, infusion clinics, pharmaceutical logistics and more.

The Spark

Twenty-five years ago, Innomar was founded in Ontario around a challenge that remains central to health care today: a prescription only matters if a patient can access treatment. For specialty medicines, that journey can involve complex coverage decisions, coordinated delivery, and support across multiple parts of the health system. When those pieces fail to connect, delays grow and patients can carry the burden.

Innomar was created to close those gaps through "inno-vative mar-ket access" solutions. What began as an Ontario solution has grown into a national organization helping therapies reach patients across Canada coast to coast. Our purpose has remained constant: turn treatment decisions into timely, coordinated care, and for patients living with complex or rare conditions, getting that pathway right can shape both their experience of the health system and their ability to get the ongoing care they need.

Approach

Specialty medicines account for a growing share of health system spending, with many therapies carrying significant per-patient costs and increasingly complex requirements for access and delivery. A high-cost therapy must be stored effectively, move through reimbursement efficiently, and reach the patient at the right time. Each step creates a point where an approved and funded treatment can potentially be delayed before care begins.

Innomar brings logistics, regulatory, access, pharmacy, clinic, safety, quality, and patient support, together within one organization, helping translate investment in complex therapies into streamlined treatment for patients. While much of this work happens outside the public delivery system, it supports its goals by easing pressure on care settings and helping funded therapies move from approval into practice. From our Ontario base, that role becomes more important as the pipeline continues to shift toward increasingly complex and higher-cost medicines.

Impact

Innomar has grown into a significant Ontario employer, with nearly 1,900 people working across the province and more than 90% of our Ontario workforce in full-time roles. These skilled jobs span patient care, pharmacy, distribution, technology and corporate functions, building expertise and strengthening Ontario's life sciences economy.

That economic contribution supports a much broader public impact. More than 700 nurses across our clinical network deliver over 500,000 appointments each year, extending Ontario-built capacity to patients across Canada. We also work closely with patient organizations, bringing lived experience and patient priorities into broader conversations about access and care.

Together, this reflects the wider value of a strong and innovative life sciences sector: high-quality jobs, Canadian expertise, deeper connections with patient communities and the capacity to deliver increasingly complex care. Investment in Ontario creates benefits that reach patients and communities across the country.

Momentum

Ontario is moving its life-sciences strategy toward the early adoption of innovative health products and services, while continuing to build more connected and convenient care closer to home. Our role is to help turn those priorities into practice for patients.

That means modernizing the way patients move from prescription to treatment as therapies become more complex. We are expanding responsible AI-powered document processing to reduce administrative burden and investing in the capacity needed to support new treatments as they reach the Canadian market. In doing so, we are helping strengthen Ontario's ability to translate life-sciences innovation into care.

Next

As Innomar enters its next 25 years, therapies are becoming more specialized, complex and demanding to deliver. As they enter wider use, the challenge shifts from whether a treatment exists to whether patients can reach it. Innomar is building Ontario-based capability to make the transition possible with government and manufacturers.

SPOTLIGHT

ONTARIO RARE

We are a non profit organization created to unite the rare disease community across Ontario. Our goal is to advocate for a Rare Disease Strategy. We recognize that despite the diagnosis all rare diseases face the same barriers to appropriate care.

ontariorare.ca

Year Founded	2026
Number of Employees	2
Location in Canada	Ontario
Location in Ontario	Beeton/ Etobicoke

"We have the power in our voices, to ignite conversation and awareness for people living with rare."

- Beth Vanstone





The Spark

What If We Could Change the Next Rare Disease Story?

For Beth Vanstone and Alice Williams, Ontario's life sciences sector is deeply personal.

They know what it feels like to sit beside a child in an Ontario hospital waiting for answers. They have seen what becomes possible when science advances, but also what happens when a diagnosis comes too late or a treatment remains out of reach.

Their experiences led to the same question: What if Ontario could make the rare disease journey better for the family that comes next?

That question became OntarioRare.

Two mothers. Two rare diseases. One shared realization.

Approach

Beth's daughter, Madi, was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis at eight months old. As the disease progressed, much of her childhood was shaped by treatments, illness and hospital stays. Then came a breakthrough therapy designed to address the underlying cause of her disease.

The treatment offered the possibility of a very different future, but despite being approved in Canada, Madi could not access it.

From their families to 1.3 million Ontarians

As Beth and Alice connected with others, they realized their experiences reflected broader challenges facing Ontario's rare disease community: long diagnostic journeys, fragmented care and barriers to accessing innovation.

Beth and Alice realized that 1 in 12 wasn't all that rare, and that if they could unite the community those voices may become loud enough to make the changes the community had been working on individually for decades.

Impact

In May 2026, more than 80 patients, caregivers and supporters joined OntarioRare at Queen's Park for its inaugural Voices for Rare Advocacy Breakfast, turning individual experiences into a collective voice.

Beth and Alice believe progress happens when patients, policymakers, healthcare professionals, researchers and the life sciences community work together.

Currently more that 30 rare disease organizations have endorsed the work of Ontario Rare with many more simply awaiting board signatures.

Momentum

We are growing and helping to educate and unite the community. We have a new website and are active on all socials. A team of students from the U of T will be working alongside us to continue our outreach.

MPP's now know who and what Ontario Rare stands for. Many in the industry have reached out to us to support our efforts and we are excited to be supporting their efforts to help create an environment where the patient experience is heard and considered when creating policies that affect them and their families.

Next

We have big things coming! We are continuing to meet with patients, families and advocates monthly online. We are planning to create a monthly newsletter. We have a number of events in the works including a Virtual Town hall, Queens Park "Voices for Rare" Breakfast. Patient "Advocacy Bootcamp"

SPOTLIGHT

MEDAIR
Global Life Science & Cold-Chain Logistics

medair.global

Year Founded	2001
Number of Employees	51
Location in Canada	Ontario, Quebec
Location in Ontario	Toronto

"In healthcare logistics, every shipment has a purpose beyond simply reaching a destination. Our role is to understand what's at stake, anticipate challenges and respond quickly when circumstances change. We're proud to support Canada's life sciences community by helping critical healthcare prod-ucts reach the people who need them."

- Andy Davies
  CEO, Medair

LIFE SCIENCES ONTARIO MEMBER

MEDAIR GLOBAL

When Every Moment Matters: Healthcare Logistics in Action

From breakthrough therapies to time-critical clinical trial materials, Medair helps connect Ontario and Canada to critical healthcare products when timing, precision and reliability matter most.

The Spark

In life sciences, a shipment can represent far more than a package. It may contain a newly approved therapy, material required for a clinical trial, or medication a patient is waiting to receive. For Medair, the challenge is ensuring these critical healthcare products reach their destinations safely, compliantly and within often unforgiving timelines.

The Approach

Medair combines specialist healthcare logistics expertise with careful preparation, temperature-controlled transportation, real-time monitoring and an international network capable of responding when plans change.

That capability was demonstrated across three very different recent shipments.

Medair supported the launch of a groundbreaking medication for a serious chronic disease, developing transportation solutions and placing a dedicated team on standby while FDA approval was still pending. When approval arrived, Medair was ready. Within hours, the first shipments were moving to three locations across the United States, followed by deliveries to the United Kingdom and Ireland.

In another case, Medair coordinated time-critical radioactive shipments from Tel Aviv to hospitals in Canada for cancer patients participating in a Health Canada-approved clinical trial. The material had a half-life of only

3.66 days, meaning delays could jeopardize its ability to be used for treatment. Medair's certified personnel coordinated the shipments, all of which arrived on time.

The Impact

The work demonstrates the critical role specialist logistics plays within Canada's life sciences ecosys-tem. Behind every shipment is a wider chain of researchers, healthcare providers, pharmaceutical companies and, ultimately, patients.

The Momentum

That expertise was tested again when a –20°C medication shipment travelling from Toronto to Tel Aviv became stranded in Frankfurt following the cancellation of flights into the region. Medair maintained the shipment under the required temperature conditions, extended its monitoring capability and worked through its global network to secure an alternative route. The medication ultimately arrived in Israel within specification.

What's Next

As increasingly complex and time-sensitive therapies move between Ontario, Canada and global mar-kets, Medair will continue building the specialist logistics capabilities required to connect life sciences innovation with the people who depend on it.

MEDAIR
Global Life Science & Cold-Chain Logistics



SPOTLIGHT

www.pacerair.com

Year Founded	1981
Number of Employees	23
Location in Canada	Ontario
Location in Ontario	Mississauga

"You can produce it perfectly but if you cannot move it, it does not exist."

- Managing Director, Giovanna Ippolito

PACER PRECISION LOGISITICS

Pacer Precision Logistics provides specialized transportation and supply chain solutions for highly regulated, time-critical products. We support the life sciences, radiopharmaceutical, aviation, technology, and media sectors through compliant transportation, temperature-controlled logistics, warehousing, cross-border coordination, live tracking, and specialized handling. Our expertise helps ensure critical products reach their destination safely, reliably, and on time.

The Spark

Pacer's story began more than 40 years ago with one van and a simple goal: move time-critical freight reliably. As Ontario's life sciences sector grew, we saw that highly regulated products such as radioisotopes could not be managed with a traditional freight mindset. These products are constantly decaying, which means every minute in transit affects their usable life. A delay is more than an operational inconvenience; it can affect whether a patient receives a potentially life-saving scan or treatment as planned. This challenge inspired us to rethink what specialized logistics should look like. The industry needed a logistics partner that understood not only transportation, but also quality systems, regulatory requirements, temperature control, dangerous goods handling, border processes and the importance of every handoff. We recognized an opportunity to build the infrastructure and expertise needed to connect scientific innovation with hospitals, clinics and the patients who ultimately depend on it.

Approach

Our approach combines speed with preparation, quality and a clear understanding of what is being moved and why timing matters. We have developed specialized handling procedures, regulatory expertise, a strong quality management system and a team that understands the impact of every decision across the supply chain.

We anticipate potential challenges before a shipment moves, from product release and packaging to routing, customs clearance and final delivery. Our investment in a 75,000-square-foot facility, including a dedicated 5,000-square-foot preconditioning area, further strengthens our ability to support temperature-controlled packaging and storage, even when requirements arise with little notice. What sets Pacer apart is that precision extends beyond transportation. We work closely with manufacturers, quality teams, drivers, brokers and receiving sites to ensure every handoff protects product integrity, maintains compliance and supports critical delivery timelines and the product's remaining usable life.

Impact

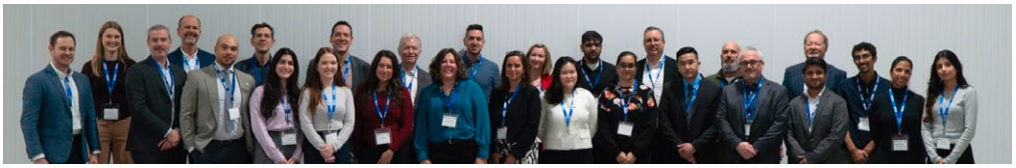
Our work benefits patients, healthcare providers, hospitals, manufacturers, researchers and the broader life sciences ecosystem. Most patients will never see the planning behind the delivery of a radioisotope or other time-critical medical product, and we believe that is exactly how it should be. Patients should be able to focus on their care rather than flight schedules, border crossings, dangerous goods documentation, temperature requirements or the remaining usable life of a product in transit. By protecting shipment integrity and coordinating every stage of the journey, we help ensure that critical products reach the right place safely and within the required treatment window. Our capabilities also support Ontario's growth as a centre for life sciences, radiopharmaceuticals and nuclear medicine by helping connect research, manufacturing and clinical care. Scientific progress creates its full impact only when the supporting supply chain works and the treatment or diagnostic dose successfully reaches the patient.

Momentum

For more than three and a half years, Pacer has successfully managed weekly shipments of Lu-177 produced from Bruce Power to Germany. This consistent delivery record demonstrates our ability to coordinate complex, highly regulated and time-critical international movements. Other recent milestones include our rebrand from Pacer Air Freight to Pacer Precision Logistics and the development of our 5,000-square-foot preconditioning facility. Together, these achievements reflect our continued investment in specialized infrastructure, regulatory expertise, quality systems and people to support the evolving needs of the global life sciences and radiopharmaceutical sectors.

Next

As treatments become more targeted, complex and time-sensitive, Pacer will continue investing in the infrastructure, people and partnerships that connect scientific innovation to patients. Our next chapter is focused on expanding specialized capabilities, strengthening collaboration across the life sciences ecosystem and preparing today for the supply chain needs of tomorrow.



SPOTLIGHT

vital Canada's Pharmaceutical Supply Chain Alliance

vital.ca/en

Year Founded	1965
Number of Employees	6
Location in Canada	National
Location in Ontario	Oakville

"Strong pharmaceutical supply chains don't happen by chance—they are built through collaboration. Vital brings together every part of the supply chain to help ensure Canadians can access the medicines they need when and where they need them, while strengthening Ontario's leadership in pharmaceutical supply chain innovation and resilience."

- Angelique Berg, President & CEO, Vital

LIFE SCIENCES ONTARIO MEMBER

VITAL, CANADA'S PHARMACEUTICAL SUPPLY CHAIN ALLIANCE

Vital, Canada's Pharmaceutical Supply Chain Alliance represents the pharmaceutical distributors, manufacturers, and service providers that help ensure Canadians have timely, reliable access to medications. Together, Vital's members support the safe, secure, and efficient movement of medicines to hospitals, pharmacies, clinics, and other points of care across Canada while advancing collaboration, innovation, and a more resilient healthcare system.

Building a Path Forward on Drug Shortages Through Supply Chain Collaboration

Through industry-wide collaboration and evidence-based recommendations, Vital is helping strengthen pharmaceutical supply chain resilience and improve medicine access for patients across Ontario and Canada.

The Spark

Canadians depend on a pharmaceutical supply chain that is largely invisible until it faces disruption. Drug shortages have become a growing challenge across Canada's healthcare system, affecting patients, providers, and governments alike. While supply disruptions often appear as isolated events, the underlying causes are complex and interconnected. Through discussions with distributors, manufacturers, healthcare stakeholders, and policymakers, Vital recognized the need for a collaborative approach that could move the conversation beyond identifying shortages and toward addressing their root causes.

Approach

To support long-term solutions, Vital (formerly CAPDM) partnered with the Canadian Generic Pharmaceutical Association to develop a report, A Path Forward: Collaborative Solutions to Strengthen Canada's Drug Supply. The initiative brought together stakeholders from across the pharmaceutical supply chain through multiple summits and consultations. Rather than focusing on a single sector perspective, the project examined the economic, regulatory, and operational factors contributing to shortages and identified practical recommendations to improve resilience and coordination across the healthcare ecosystem.

Impact

Ontario is home to many of Canada's leading pharmaceutical distributors, manufacturers, third-party logistics firms, service providers, and healthcare organizations. By convening these stakeholders and developing evidence-based recommendations, Vital helped advance discussions on how governments and industry can work together to strengthen medicine supply and reduce vulnerabilities. The initiative provided a shared foundation for policy discussions while highlighting the critical role supply chain partners play in ensuring Canadians have reliable access to essential medicines.

Momentum

The release of A Path Forward marked a significant milestone for the organization and demonstrated the value of cross-sector collaboration in addressing national healthcare challenges. Building on this work, Vital continued to strengthen partnerships across the pharmaceutical supply chain and healthcare community. In 2026, the organization also launched its new identity as Vital, Canada's Pharmaceutical Supply Chain Alliance, reflecting its broader vision of representing and connecting the full pharmaceutical supply chain.

Next

Vital will continue working with governments, healthcare organizations, distributors, manufacturers, and service providers to advance practical solutions that strengthen pharmaceutical supply chain resilience, improve medicine access, and support Ontario's life sciences ecosystem.



Angelique Berg, President & CEO, addresses attendees at Vital's Council of the Federation reception held in Charlottetown, PEI on July 21, 2026.



Vital unveiled its new brand at its Annual Conference in May 2026.

SPOTLIGHT

ATS

LIFE SCIENCES SYSTEMS

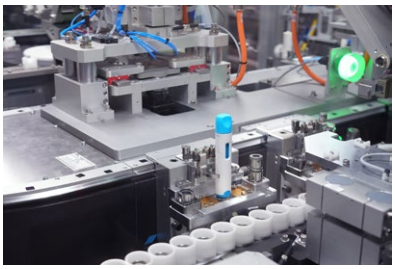
www.atslifesciences.com

Year Founded	1978
Number of Employees	850+ in ON additional globally
Location in Canada	Ontario
Location in Ontario	Cambridge

"Innovation is not owned by a single team; it is enabled by those who adopt it, challenge it, improve it, and ultimately deliver it."

- Jayson Jones, Director of Innovation





ATS LIFE SCIENCES SYSTEMS

ATS Life Sciences Systems, part of ATS Corporation (TSX: ATS, NYSE: ATS), is headquartered in Cambridge, Ontario, and is one of Canada's largest advanced automation companies and a global leader in medical device, diagnostic, pharmaceutical, pharmacy, and laboratory automation. We work with the world's leading life sciences organizations to automate complex workflows, enabling high-performance operations that deliver efficiency, traceability, and reliability for critical healthcare technologies. Our systems manufacture and assemble a wide range of medical devices, including autoinjectors, continuous glucose monitoring devices, contact lenses, and inhalers.

Innovate. Automate. Empower.

Creating solutions that positively impact lives around the world

The Spark

As demand for autoinjectors increased, a MedTech manufacturer challenged ATS to develop a high-speed assembly platform. The customer wanted speed, flexibility, and sustainability in the solution while reducing machine footprint. The challenge was not to just build a fast machine, but to find a more efficient way to achieve the same high-speed output with less equipment and wasted motion. ATS saw an opportunity to leverage SYMPHONI™, our modular, pre-engineered digital assembly platform, to deliver a higher-performing system than conventional assembly equipment.

Approach

ATS approached the challenge with an innovation mindset. The project began with a motion assessment across the complete assembly process, followed by mapping the motions to ultimately determine where non-value-added time could be eliminated.

The manufacturer's conventional equipment performed its critical functions during 38% of the total cycle time; the remainder of the cycle time was spent on non-value-added operations. Rather than focusing on increasing speed to meet throughput requirements, ATS' methodology focused on eliminating wasted motion, creating a more efficient and lean approach to high-speed assembly, and maximizing time on value-added assembly.

Impact

ATS proposed a digitally enabled assembly platform that would reduce tooling and eliminate stations by using feedback in assembly tools to perform pre- and post-inspection. While taking the same 0.5 seconds to perform the critical process work as the existing system, our solution increased total cycle time devoted to critical activities to 68%, maintaining the same critical process speed while reducing the time spent on non-value-added part handling.

The conventional approach relied on 10-up and 20-up assembly tooling to achieve 320 parts per minute, ATS delivered the same throughput using 4 assembly tools, significantly reducing system complexity. Our solution also reduced floor space without sacrificing performance, providing a simpler, more efficient approach to scaling autoinjector production.

Momentum

A key milestone was inviting the customer to the ATS Innovation Centre to see the solution in action. To allow the customer to review the operation in detail, we used a high-speed camera to capture the test runs and show how the process works.

The outcomes were clear, powerful, and from the customer's perspective, groundbreaking. Our SYMPHONI digital assembly system delivered the performance and quality required, while the reduction in stations and streamlining of processes resulted in less complexity, less validation, less maintenance, and lower power consumption, contributing to the customer's sustainability goals. It was a win on all counts!

Next

The ATS Innovation Centre enables teams to solve customer problems and advance disruptive technologies. This mindset, demonstrated through challenges like autoinjector assembly, has resulted in more than 120 granted patents across North America and Europe. These innovations help customers achieve higher performance, greater efficiency, and confidence in their manufacturing operations.

SPOTLIGHT

Q·RESERVE
get.qreserve.com

Year Founded	2014
Number of Employees	8
Location in Canada	Ontario
Location in Ontario	Hamilton

"Global R&D leaders are moving beyond isolated labs to build hyper-connected networks that share equipment, space, and expertise. QReserve powers this shift, providing the 'Built in Canada' resource management infrastructure Canadian institutions need to seamlessly integrate, maximize efficiency, and accelerate research from discovery to commercialization."

- Graeme Brown,
  CEO & Co-founder,
  QReserve Inc.



CEO Graeme Brown at VivaTech 2025

QRESERVE INC.

QReserve is an Ontario-based technology company that provides cloud-based resource management, scheduling, and workflow automation software.

Our platform helps universities, research hospitals, innovation hubs, and enterprises streamline how they track, showcase, and coordinate their shared physical assets—including scientific equipment, laboratory spaces, specialized personnel, and inventory. By replacing manual spreadsheets and disconnected booking tools with customizable rules engines and searchable resource directories, QReserve gives institutions complete visibility into asset utilization, automates access permissions, and makes cross-departmental and inter-institutional collaboration practical and secure.

The Spark

Canada's R&D ecosystem encompasses thousands of specialized facilities housing world-class life-science research infrastructure and expertise, many of which are located in Ontario universities, colleges, hospitals, regional innovation centres and life science businesses. This ecosystem is an important engine for economic growth and prosperity, and there is significant opportunity to improve visibility and access to the equipment, expertise, space and services found in these government supported organizations, to accelerate discovery and commercialization.

QReserve was built to be a powerful and flexible scheduling system that can improve operations, manage complex rules and workflows, tailor access permissions for distinct user roles, and accurately capture valuable utilization data. Having spun out of McMaster University over 10 years ago, we have developed QReserve alongside world-class research and innovation focused organizations that were early advocates of the core facility model of shared resources.

Approach

It starts with a "Next Generation" approach to visibility, access and improved resource management methodologies. QReserve's software platform bridges this discoverability gap by creating a real-time, dynamic view of R&D capability and capacity, with data coming directly from a modern, customizable resource management system. Rather than relying on static registries that require manual updates, QReserve is the operating system that houses the rules, workflows, permissions and calendar, becoming the source of truth for their operational capacity and the directory. This gives external partners a single, searchable pathway to identify, evaluate, and access high-value assets across the province while keeping internal access rules and administrative controls fully intact.

Impact

Straightforward resource scheduling and management changes the daily routine for everyone in the building, on campus, or across a multi-national's global footprint. Scientists spend less time coordinating logistics and get experiments started sooner. Lab directors get clear, automatic reports on how often equipment is actually being used, taking the guesswork out of maintenance schedules and future purchases. Partners and customers are invited into the system and provided appropriate access.

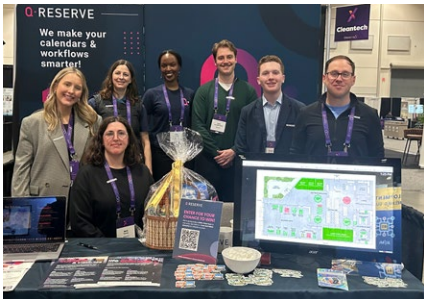
Utilization data also gives institutional leaders proof of how public grants and taxpayer dollars are being spent. QReserve helps Ontario's life sciences ecosystem stretch its funding further and run more efficiently as a whole.

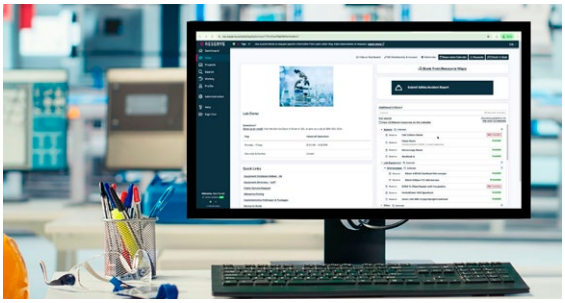
Momentum

We are seeing a significant increase in engagement through RFIs, RFPs and pilot projects from universities, colleges, hospitals, and other life science organizations. With the growing concerns around data residency and security and the preference for Canadian vendors, we expect robust growth in the next five years.

Next

We are focused on expanding our domestic partnerships to help build a fully connected, searchable research network across Canada. By making scientific tools and expertise easier to find, QReserve aims to strengthen cross-sector collaboration and elevate the global visibility of Ontario's life sciences community.





SPOTLIGHT

www.televu.ca

Year Founded	2021
Number of Employees	5
Location in Canada	Ontario
Location in Ontario	Concord

Virtual care is more than a video call that ends in a referral. TeleVU allows the remote expert to virtually stand beside the community care provider and guide the assessment in real time. That can mean faster diagnosis, fewer complications, and less unnecessary travel. This is what equitable access to quality care across Ontario can look like.





TELEVU INNOVATION LTD.

TeleVU Innovation is a Canadian digital health technology company that connects clinicians with patients wherever care is needed. Our platform brings together AR smart glasses, telepresence, remote patient monitoring, and AI enabled clinical workflow tools to support connected models of care across hospitals, occupational health programs, and rural and remote communities.

The Spark

In a remote Ontario community, access to a specialist can still mean hours of travel, time away from work, and delays in care. A video call can connect the patient to a clinician, but too often the encounter ends with advice and another referral because the remote clinician cannot fully examine the patient or guide the hands at the patient's side. TeleVU was founded around a simple question: what if the expertise could travel instead? We saw an opportunity to move virtual care beyond conversation and toward clinical resolution. By giving remote clinicians a clearer view of the patient, access to diagnostic information, and the ability to guide an onsite care provider in real time, we could help make distance less relevant. The goal was never to create another video platform. It was to give patients, wherever they live or work, a chance of getting answers during the first encounter.

Approach

Most virtual care replaces the visit. TeleVU extends what can be done virtually. Our AR smart glasses allow a remote physician to see exactly what the onsite caregiver sees, guide examinations in real time, and support hands free clinical care.

Around this, TeleVU integrates connected diagnostic devices, remote patient monitoring, and AI enabled workflow tools to create a more complete virtual encounter while keeping licensed clinicians in control.

Our CARE AI Pod brings these capabilities together in a deployable point of care solution for hospitals, occupational health programs, and rural and remote communities. The goal is to enable more patients to receive an assessment, diagnosis, and care plan during a single encounter, reducing unnecessary referrals and travel.

Every AI function is designed to assist clinical decision making, not replace it. All clinical decisions remain under licensed clinician oversight.

Impact

The impact is most visible in communities where distance, limited local resources, and specialist shortages delay access to advanced and primary care. In Northwestern Ontario, TeleVU has supported a regional wound care program serving Indigenous and remote communities by helping local providers connect with specialists sooner, share a clearer view of the patient, and receive guidance without requiring unnecessary travel. We've saved an average of 5000 km or travel/patient/year.

That same model can extend to primary care, where remote clinicians can support frontline teams with assessment, connected diagnostic information, and real time guidance for patients who may otherwise wait, travel long distances, or be referred elsewhere.

For patients, this can mean earlier intervention, fewer disruptions, and more care delivered closer to home. For the health system, it creates the potential to reduce avoidable transfers, improve specialist and primary care capacity, and support a more coordinated regional model of care.

Momentum

TeleVU's momentum is increasingly both local and global. In Ontario, we are expanding the platform with AI enabled wound tracking, clinical documentation, translation, remote monitoring, and connected diagnostic tools.

Internationally, TeleVU was selected as the AI assisted virtual care platform for Saudi Arabia's first digital AI clinic pod, demonstrating that technology developed in Ontario can address healthcare access challenges far beyond Canada. That international deployment gives us an opportunity to turn Canadian clinical innovation into export growth while continuing to build engineering capability, intellectual property, and skilled jobs in Ontario.

Next

The next chapter is about scale. We are focused on expanding across Ontario Health Teams, rural and remote care models, and occupational health programs, while strengthening our clinical evidence base and converting international deployments into sustainable export growth that keeps innovation, expertise, and intellectual property in Ontario.

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