

# 2025

CLINICAL TRIALS  
TRAINING SUMMIT

FEBRUARY 24, 25 & 26

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## CANTRAIN LAUNCHES 2025 CLINICAL TRIALS TRAINING SUMMIT VANCOUVER, BC, FEBRUARY 24-26, 2025

*The Clinical Trials Training Ecosystem Unites to Focus on the Future*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Montreal, QC, February 10, 2025 – Four clinical trials training programs – CANTRAIN (CANadian Consortium of Clinical Trial TRAINing), CAN-TAP-TALENT (Canadian Training Platform for Trials Leveraging Existing Networks), STROKECOG Platform (CanStroke Recovery Trials) and CBITN (Canadian Behavioural Interventions and Trials Network) – come together in February in Vancouver, BC for the 2025 Clinical Trials Training Summit. Their mission: to make the clinical trials field more collaborative, effective, and inclusive – so we are all better prepared in future.

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Fairmont Hotel  
Vancouver



"I think of this Summit as being about the future of clinical trials," explains CANTRAIN Chief Operating Officer Dr. Lisa Goos. "How do you properly engage with patients in clinical trials? With Indigenous peoples and marginalized rural populations? How do we bring the potential of trials to more people? We need to collaborate to do that."

"I hope this summit will stimulate the interests of those who are new to clinical trials and energize our seasoned investigators to make improvements for cost-efficient conduct of clinical trials in Canada," says CAN-TAP-TALENT Scientific Director and Nominated Principal Investigator, Dr. Angela Cheung.



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"Strengthening clinical trials training is key to advancing research, accelerating treatment innovations, and equipping professionals to improve patient care and outcomes," states StrokeCog Platform Director Farrell Leibovitch. "I'm eager to engage in discussions on next steps and potential collaborations to ensure the long-term sustainability of our work."

"Given the fact that behaviours are so critical to health as well as how we do our research, being able to partner with our sister CTTs will allow greater discussions and collaborations to improve all aspects of the Canadian clinical trials landscape," explains CBITN Lead, Dr. Simon Bacon. "In the long-term this will clearly benefit all Canadians."

This second national Clinical Trials Training Summit (following the first [2024 Summit in Montreal](#)) will focus on the next generation of clinical trials, patient engagement, and new forms of partnership. Front and centre will be the theme of *inclusivity*, and how clinical trials can better serve our population, including Indigenous and marginalized communities. The Summit's high-profile speakers include a representative from the World Health Organization, presenting the WHO [Guidance for Best Practices for Clinical Trials](#). "Canada may be a high economy country, but it's important when we're doing a trial, that we are more representative of the *entire* population," states CANTRAIN Principal Nominated Investigator Dr. Jean Bourbeau.

## **Better Prepared. Better Care. Together.**

Key to making clinical trials more equitable is also re-thinking the role of *patients* as active partners. "Patients used to be called subjects in clinical trials. We don't use that word anymore," explains Linda Hunter, CANTRAIN National Stream Lead, Patients and Community Partners Stream. "Patients can be partners, they can be advocates, or they can be leaders in clinical trials." The Summit session "Sharing Leadership with Patient Partners in Clinical Trials: Why, Why no, and How?," organized by Ms. Hunter and Dr. Caroline Jose, will include a participatory exercise envisioning a brighter, better future of clinical trials.

Ultimately, the future of clinical trials lies with the next generation of trialists, researchers and industry stakeholders. The Summit will showcase and celebrate the work of CANTRAIN's Master's, doctoral, and postdoctoral Awardees. These include Lauren Lindsey (University of Alberta), whose doctoral research is focussed on trials for optimizing treatment to eliminate *Helicobacter pylori* infection in northern Canadian Indigenous communities. "This award is a significant step forward in my journey toward advancing health equity and inspiring other underrepresented researchers to break barriers in clinical research," remarks Ms. Lindsey.

"All of this, it's building for the future: the young people who will make a difference when we're not here anymore," concludes Dr. Bourbeau. "This Summit is about being prepared, it's



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about partnership, because we cannot do it all, and it's about building on the foundation of what we have done so far, and to be able to continue our work into the future."

The **2025 Clinical Trials Training Summit** takes place on February 24-26 at the Fairmont Hotel, Vancouver, BC, and online. Please check out our [Summit Website](#) for updates and more details.

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**About Clinical Trials Training Platforms (CTTPs):** The COVID-19 pandemic made clear that Canada's clinical trials capacity needed major improvement. A [\\$250M investment](#) from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) in 2023 created the Pan-Canadian Accelerating Clinical Trials Consortium (ACT), plus seven Clinical Trials Training Programs (CTTPs).

**CANTRAIN** (CANadian Consortium of Clinical Trial TRAINing platform) is the largest and broadest of the CTTPs. Housed at the [Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre \(RI-MUHC\)](#) in Montreal, CANTRAIN offers a unique training program based on cognitive adult learning techniques, expert guidance from mentors, and a focus on making clinical trials more effective, efficient, and inclusive.

**StrokeCog** is an equity, diversity, inclusivity and accessibility (EDIA)-centered training platform that redefines how stroke clinical trials expertise is developed in Canada. StrokeCog's vision is to innovate new approaches to clinical trials training that directly embed evidence-based EDIA principles at every stage, to create sustainable change in the systems of clinical trial design and conduct in Canada.

**CAN-TAP-TALENT** (Canadian Training Platform for Trials Leveraging Existing Networks) is intended to meet the need for increased clinical trials capacity and expertise in Canada, in order to efficiently answer critical questions in the context of our own diverse population and unique healthcare systems, reduce redundancies, streamline state-of-the-art training of highly qualified personnel (HQP), and produce Canadian-led clinical trials with global impact.

**CBITN** (Canadian Behavioural Interventions and Trials Network) is a specialised pan-Canadian training platform to support the development, testing and delivery of behavioural interventions using innovative approaches and trial designs. CBITN's vision is to be world leaders in promoting and advancing behaviour change interventions for the purpose of improving the health and quality of life of individuals and communities.



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