



# Annual Report

2024 - 2025



Connecting  
cardiovascular  
research,  
patient care  
and education  
in Southern  
Alberta.



# Contents

Executive Summary	05
Financial Summary	06
Membership	09
Research & Education	10
Research Grants & Funding	12
Major Awards & Recognitions	13
Initiatives	14
Precision Medicine Initiative	14
Women’s Cardiovascular Health Initiative	16
Clinical Innovation Initiative	18
P2 Initiative	19
Communications & Marketing	20



# Executive Summary

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**T**he Libin Cardiovascular Institute (LCI) is a joint entity of Alberta Health Services and the University of Calgary that connects world-class cardiovascular research, patient care and education in southern Alberta, Saskatchewan, and eastern British Columbia, serving a population of about two million.

Our dynamic membership includes physicians, clinicians, researchers, and trainees from across four UCalgary faculties, 10 departments within the Cumming School of Medicine, and four Alberta Health Services clinical departments. Our work spans five major hospitals and is driven by a shared commitment to advancing heart health through innovation, collaboration, and compassionate care.

In 2024, the Institute celebrated its 20th anniversary with a look back at its far-reaching impact.

The Institute continued to focus on four main initiatives: the Libin Precision Medicine Initiative (LPMI), the Women's Cardiovascular Initiative (WCHI), the Person to Population Initiative (P2), and the Clinical Innovation Initiative (CII).

Two highlights of success for the Institute's initiative include: the launch of LPMI's Pulse Clinic project; and the Calgary Health Foundation's \$5 million commitment towards a pilot Women's Cardiovascular Health Clinic

(WCHC), which aims to become a Centre of Excellence for cardiovascular conditions that uniquely affect women.

Clinical and scientific research and education remain cornerstones of the Institute's mission. Despite continued economic challenges and significant governance changes to AHS, LCI membership published 910 unique publications in the past year, receiving 5,750 global citations.

Libin trainees also saw substantial success. For the 2024-2025 period, the Institute granted 57 scholarships and awards, including 16 travel awards, which enabled trainees to present their research and insights at various prestigious conferences.

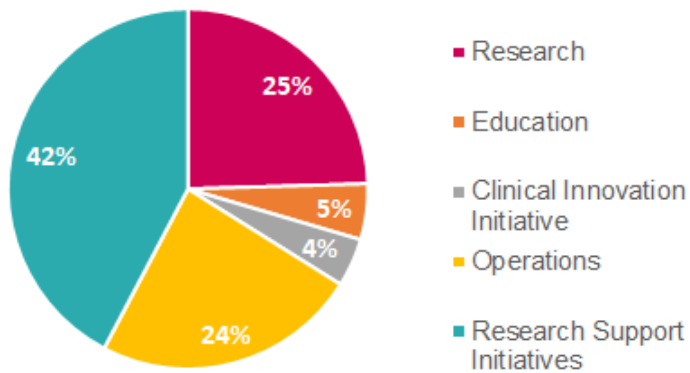
# Financial Summary

## OVERVIEW

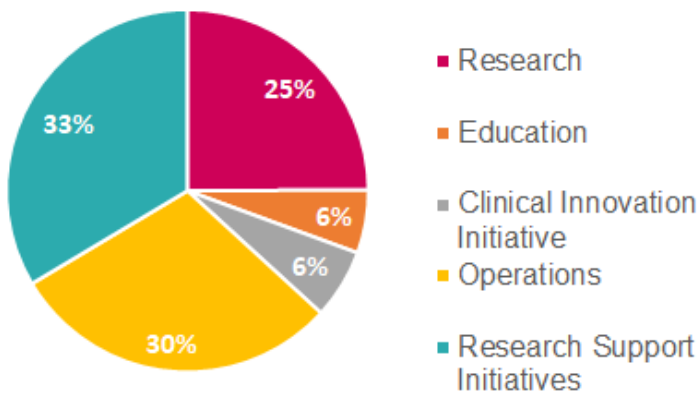
The Institute’s financial planning and goals for the 2024–2025 fiscal year were well aligned with expectations. While the Institute anticipated higher expenditures, delays in several key projects resulted in the deferral of some costs, bringing overall spending below budget.

Actual expenditures—encompassing research support, education and scholarships, keystone initiatives, and operational activities—rose by 5% compared to the previous year. This increase reflects our planned growth and the rising costs associated with supporting our expanding programs and initiatives.

BUDGET 2024-2025



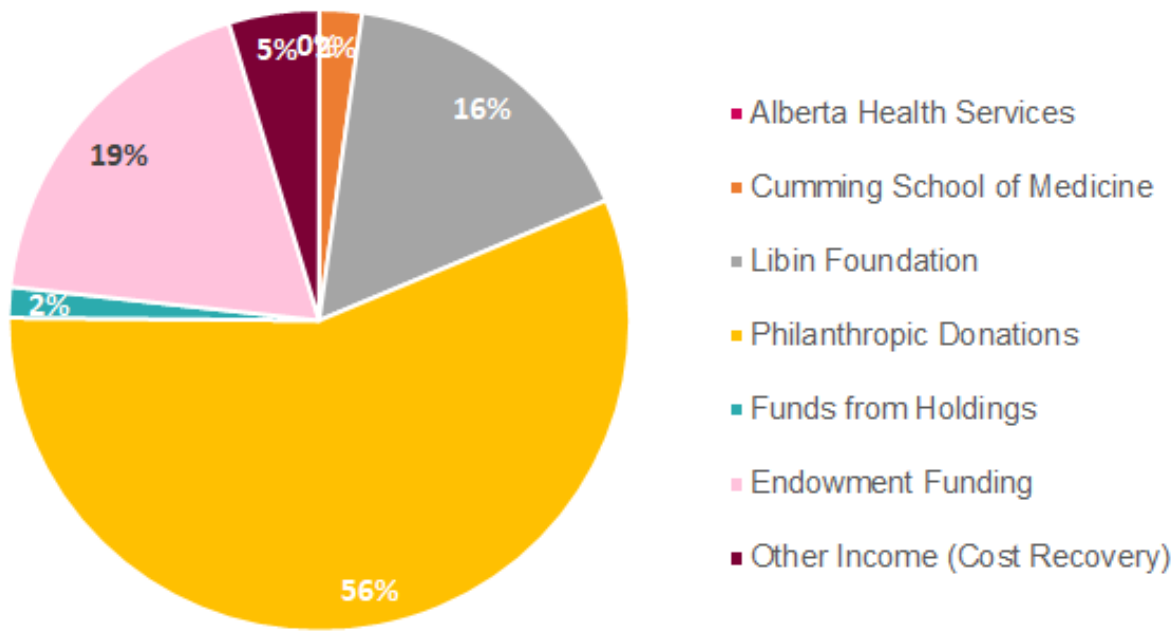
ACTUALS 2024-2025



## FUNDING SOURCES

The LCI is funded chiefly through philanthropic donations, which support its four initiatives, research and educational support, and operational expenses. The Institute is extremely grateful to the community and its partners for their contributions towards furthering cardiovascular research and education.

REVENUE SUMMARY 2024-2025





# Membership

Changes to the Libin Cardiovascular Institute's membership are as follows:

## NEW RESEARCH MEMBERS

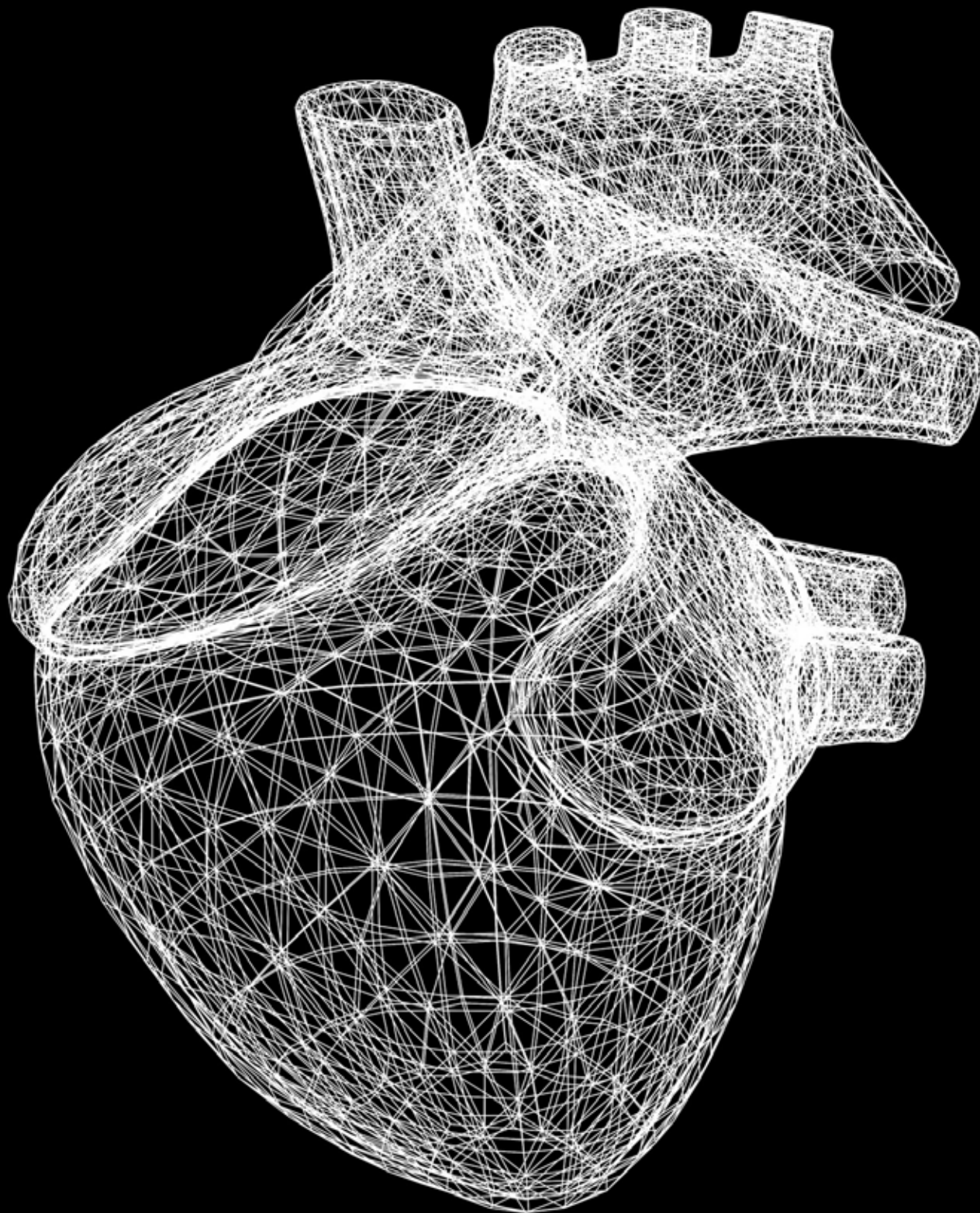
- Dr. Heather Conradson
- Dr. Amy Johnston
- Dr. Scott Ryan
- Dr. Doug Helmersen
- Dr. Araba Chintoh
- Dr. Taisiya Sigaeva
- Dr. Paolo Dominelli

## NEW CLINICAL MEMBERS

- Xiao Yue (Eadric) Cai
- Dr. Yuan Peter Zhang
- Dr. Jonathan Blankenstein
- Dr. Matthew Cheung
- Dr. Nishant Sharma
- Dr. Liane Arcinas
- Dr. Emel Celiker-Guler

## RETIREEES

- Dr. Waldi Wilkin
- Dr. Nanette Alvarez
- Dr. Debra Isaac
- Dr. Neil Filipchuk







# Research & Education

## OVERVIEW

LCI members were featured in 910 publications in 2024-25, including 357 where an LCI member was listed as a first, last or single author. The Institute received \$32.54 million in donations and external grants to support research.

Number of Projects Funded	357
Research Funds Received	\$32.54M
Tri-Council (CIHR, NSERC, SSHRC) Funds Received	\$8.59M
Alberta Innovates	\$4.42M
Heart & Stroke Foundation of Canada	\$643K
Diabetes Canada	\$288K
Number of Publications	910
Number of Citations	5,750
Source: Faculty Analytics, Libin Annual Report 2024	

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Equipment Competition

The LCI launched its annual Research Equipment and Maintenance Competition in October 2024. The LCI funded all six requests, which totalled \$81,847, for new equipment and maintenance. This funding is critical for supporting and enhancing the research programs of LCI members.

### Michael & Terry Wilson Cardiovascular Research Innovation Fund

The LCI received a generous gift from Michael and Terry Wilson to support multi-investigator teams proposing collaborative, innovative, translational projects in cardiovascular health and disease and/or align with emerging LCI priorities. The funding offers up to \$250,000 per project.

The 2024 competition received 11 applications, with two proposals selected for funding:

**Dr. Michael Hill** – Development and evaluation of an implementation strategy for CYP2C19 testing to inform antiplatelet medication therapy in adults after stroke – \$223,725

**Dr. Wayne Chen & Dr. Robert Rose** – Discovery and characterization of novel cardiovascular disease-associated genes and new cardiovascular diseases – \$250,000

### Tine Haworth Cardiovascular Research Day

The LCI hosted its annual Tine Haworth Cardiovascular Research Day on April 30, 2024, showcasing outstanding research through oral and poster presentations from faculty and trainees. The event featured the prestigious E.R. Smith Lectureship, delivered by Dr. Ian Dixon, Professor and Head of the Department of Physiology and Pathophysiology and member of the Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences at the Albrechtsen Research Centre (St. Boniface campus).

### Scholarships & Awards

The LCI is dedicated to advancing trainee education. In 2024-25, LCI awarded 57 scholarships and prizes, including 16 travel awards. Libin trainees showcased

their work at prestigious events around the world such as the American College of Cardiology Annual Conference, ENDO 2024, IEEE International Conference on Digital Health, International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation Annual Meeting, and the World Congress of Computational Mechanics.

### Libin Cardiovascular Institute Trainee Organization (LCITO)

Established in 2022, the Libin Cardiovascular Institute Trainee Organization (LCITO) continues to enrich the training environment of the institute’s graduate students and postdoctoral scholars by facilitating academic collaboration, professional development, and community building among trainees.

LCITO continues to offer valuable opportunities for trainees to develop leadership experience, enhance their professional skills, and build strong academic networks. The organization is well-positioned for continued growth and impact in the coming year.

LCITO leadership team for 2024-25 included:

- **Jessica Wager** (President)
- **Carmina Albertine Isidoro** (Vice President)
- **Elise Rougier** (Social and Communications Lead)
- **Taylor Scheidl** (Community Outreach Lead)
- **Megan Meechem** (Journal Club Lead)
- **Heshini Dalpathadu** (RUSS Lead)

# Research Grants & Funding

## MAJOR MEMBER GRANTS

- **Dr. Marc Poulin** – Diabetes Canada – [“Interplay between sleep, exercise and pre-diabetes in older adults at risk of Alzheimer disease and related dementias”](#)
- **Dr. Tanvir Turin Chowdhury** – 2024 Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) grant for his project looking at systemic barriers faced by internationally trained health professionals pursuing an alternative career
- **Dr. Maryam Badv** – [New Frontiers in Research Fund \(NFRF\) 2023 Exploration grant](#) – [“Real-Time Biosensors for Clot Detection on Biomaterials”](#)
- **Dr. Jennifer Thompson** – Heart and Stroke – To study estrogen receptor-mediated sex differences in vascular responses to new generation bisphenols. Her aim is to understand how plastic pollution impacts cardiovascular health
- **Dr. Cindy Barha** – [Tier II CRC in Neuroscience, Brain Health and Exercise](#) in the 2023 Canada Research Chair competition
- **Dr. Aaron Phillips** – Heart and Stroke – [“Autonomic neurorehabilitation with chronic epidural electrical stimulation to treat transient hypertension after spinal cord injury”](#)
- **Dr. Vaibhav Patel** – Heart and Stroke – [“A single-cell serenade into the role of Angiotensin 1-7 in thoracic aortic aneurysm and cellular dynamics”](#)

## SPRING 2024 CIHR PROJECT GRANT AWARDEES

- **Dr. Dana Olstad** - [“Does the British Columbia Farmers’ Market Nutrition Coupon Program improve the diet quality and food security of parents and children with low incomes? A dose-response, pragmatic randomized controlled trial”](#)

- **Dr. Vaibhav Patel** - [“Epicardial Adipose Tissue-Derived Stem Cells in Myocardial Infarction: Investigating the Influence of Diabetes”](#)
- **Dr. Tolulope Sajobi** – [“strokePRO: Development and evaluation of a user-centered electronic platform for outcome assessment in stroke trials”](#)

## FALL 2024 CIHR PROJECT GRANT AWARDEES

- **Dr. Sean Dukelow** – [“Vision and Proprioception Evaluation with Robotics after Stroke \(VIPERS\)”](#)
- **Dr. Alexander Leung** – [“Nuclear Imaging for Subtyping Primary Aldosteronism”](#)
- **Dr. Jennifer Thompson** – [“Sex and estrogen-dependent cross-talk between macrophages and adipocyte progenitors during adipose remodelling in obesity”](#)
- **Dr. Maria Santana** – [“Implementing and evaluating an adolescent and child measurement-based care program in Alberta’s mental health care system \(INSIGHT\)”](#)
- **Dr. Leslie Skeith** – [“The PARTUM \(Postpartum Aspirin to Reduce Thromboembolism Undue Morbidity\) Trial”](#)



# Major Awards & Recognitions

- **Dr. Robert Sheldon** – Canadian Cardiovascular Society Research Achievement Award
- **Dr. Michael Hill** – 2024 Health Research Foundation Medal of Honour
- **Dr. Robert Miller** – Avenue Calgary’s Top 40 Under 40 and Rising star in nuclear medicine and molecular imaging through the Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Medicine’s (SNMMI’s) Ones to Watch program
- **Dr. Stephen Wilton** – Inaugural associate director of the Cumming School of Medicine’s new [Planetary Health Initiative](#)
- **Dr. Chad Bousman** – 2024 Canadian College of Neuropsychopharmacology (CCNP) Innovations in Neuropsychopharmacology Research Award
- **Dr. David Campbell** – 2024 Rose Awards Nomination, for film, *Low*
- **Dr. Charlene Elliot & Dr. Matthew James** – Appointed as chairs of the esteemed UCalgary Research Excellence Chairs (UCREC) program
- **Dr. Ganesh Shanmugam** – New interim cardiac surgery section chief for the Dept. of Cardiac Sciences at the Cumming School of Medicine
- **Dr. Aaron Phillips** – Appointed the [new associate dean of Innovation and Commercialization](#) at the Cumming School of Medicine
- **Dr. Tavis Campbell** – [2024 Killam Annual Professor](#)
- **Dr. David Campbell** – Early Career Leadership in Health Policy/Health Systems award from the Royal College
- **Dr. Norman Campbell** – [World Hypertension League’s 2024 Graham MacGregor Excellence Award in Dietary Salt Reduction at the Population Level](#)
- **Dr. Wayne Chen** – Sarrazin Award from the Canadian Physiological Society

- **Dr. Robert Rose** – Outstanding Peer Reviewer by CIHR during National Volunteer Week.
- **Dr. Braden Manns** – Associations of Faculties of Medicine of Canada (AFMC) [Mentorship Award](#) and appointed Cumming School of Medicine’s senior associate dean of clinical research and the associate vice-president (health research) at the University of Calgary
- **Dr. Michael Hill** – 14th annual Margolese National Brain Disorders Prize for his leadership in developing new therapies and approaches for treating and preventing stroke
- **Dr. George Veenhuizen** – Postgraduate Medical Education (PGME) 2024/2025 Award for Excellence in Clinical Teaching





# Initiatives

## Precision Medicine Initiative

### OVERVIEW

The Libin Precision Medicine Initiative (LPMI), a flagship program of the Libin Cardiovascular Institute, aims to enhance cardiovascular care through patient-centred clinical decision support. By improving access to cardiovascular health data, LPMI will facilitate research and innovation. This year under the leadership of Director Dr. James White and Associate Director Dr. Melanie King, the team made significant progress.

### LPMI HIGHLIGHTS 2024-2025

#### PULSE Clinic Program

Managed by Research Manager Dr. Rhys Beaudry, the PULSE Clinic Program is a key part of LPMI’s vision. It builds on the proven data collection, linkage, and prediction model development framework created by the Cardiovascular Imaging Registry of Calgary (CIROC)

With the support of Cardiac Sciences and South Health Campus (SHC), the PULSE Clinic Program launched at Unit 5A on Feb. 1, 2025. During this pilot phase, the team has collaborated closely with SHC staff and clinicians to refine workflows, recruitment materials, and processes. iPads and QR-coded materials linking to the PULSE questionnaire are now available in waiting and clinic rooms, and patient engagement is underway. The team is preparing to incorporate materials in booking packages and is working with the Women’s Cardiovascular Health Initiative (WCHI) to establish a partnership.

#### AI for Better Health: Grant Progress

Dr. White’s Alberta Innovates AI for Better Health grant (received in the 2023-2024 fiscal year) has been instrumental for developing MANTA, a dedicated data management solution that aims to automate the de-identification, integration, and visualization of multi-modal digital health data for AI model development and testing. This year, the team made tremendous progress in creating a scalable, cloud-native platform that will enable phenomics-driven personalized care. Supported by Jackie Flewitt, LPMI Manager of Strategic Partnerships, MANTA is scheduled for implementation, first at the University of Calgary in the summer of 2025, then at the University of Alberta. MANTA enables centrally governed access, visualization, and labelling of longitudinally matched data sources for the deployment of AI-enabled clinical decision support, inclusive of imaging, ECG, and structured health data models.

#### LPMI Cardiac Data Model

Version 1.0 of the LPMI Cardiac Data Model—a curated schema comprising over 850 standardized variables across key areas of cardiovascular care—is now complete. Developed for more than one million Southern Albertans who have received cardiac diagnostic services since 2000, this foundational resource will be available to Libin Institute investigators. Data is accessible as de-identified, longitudinally matched resources for target populations as defined by REB approvals. Categories include demographics, cardiac disease states, non-cardiac morbidities, lab results, non-invasive imaging (echocardiography, cardiac MRI), cardiac catheterization, ECG and Holter, pharmacy data, and clinical outcomes. This work was led by Dr. Dina Labib, Associate Scientific Director and Co-Lead of the Personalized Diagnostics Program, and Dr. Augustine Amakiri, LPMI Data Transformation Analyst.



#### Mozell Family Analysis Core

In early 2025, LPMI was saddened by the news of the passing of Sam Mozell. The Mozell Family are longtime supporters of many Libin programs, including the Mozell Family Analysis Core (MFAC). The Mozell Family’s foundational gift was instrumental in establishing MFAC, and it has grown substantially since its conception. It houses three full-time analysts and biostatisticians who have supported hundreds of cardiovascular research projects across a broad spectrum of research tasks, from idea development and planning through to scientific publications and presentations. MFAC has worked with all levels of researchers, from new trainees to seasoned career scientists. Both the MFAC and LPMI teams acknowledge the Mozell Family’s tremendous gifts and support and will continue to uphold the family’s legacy.

### AT-A-GLANCE: NEW & NOTEWORTHY

#### Collaborations

- LPMI continued to work closely with colleagues at the Centre for Health Informatics, One Child Every Child, Hotchkiss Brain Institute, and many other teams across the Cumming School of Medicine. These collaborations position LPMI for exciting and emerging projects and innovations.
- LPMI expanded its transdisciplinary collaborations across the University. LPMI provided a synthetic dataset to colleagues in the Dept of Statistics, with all AHS approvals in place, for use in a nationwide student competition as they learn and apply skills in real-world scenarios.
- The AI for Better Health grant project led to a partnership with the Cardiovascular Research

Institute Imaging Core (CVRI2C), which will serve as a secondary implementation site as we work to scale and validate the platform across Alberta.

#### New Students

- LPMI continues to partner with the University of Calgary’s Master of Precision Health program, offering experiential learning placements for second-year students. In Q1, an intern completed a feasibility assessment of key cardiac conditions using CIROC data. In Q3, we welcomed a new intern whose focus on innovation and entrepreneurship is lending to the design of an LPMI toolkit for digital innovation.
- Dr. White supports a PhD mathematics student who will use mathematical approaches to wavelets found in cardiovascular images that have the potential to highlight specific features or optimize ability to detect specific forms.

#### New Staff

- LPMI welcomed two new team members: Data Engineer Julian Neves and Project Coordinator Jillian Ilao.
- LPMI is optimizing resources and aligning support with Institute teams in administrative and coordinator roles, most notably in collaboration with the Women’s Cardiovascular Health Initiative, as the initiative strives to maintain strong alignment across the initiatives.



# Women's Cardiovascular Health Initiative

## OVERVIEW

The Women's Cardiovascular Health Initiative (WCHI) is a priority initiative of the Libin Cardiovascular Institute aimed at transforming cardiovascular health and the health system for women by addressing critical knowledge and care delivery gaps through a comprehensive approach to women's cardiovascular care across the lifespan. Under Dr. Roopinder Sandhu's leadership, WCHI's vision is to be a globally recognized center of excellence in women's cardiovascular health care delivery, research, education, and knowledge translation. Its mission is to save women's lives by preventing and treating cardiovascular disease in a more personalized and precise way. Through the initiative's four pillars of clinical care, research, education and community engagement, WCHI aims to create awareness, advocate for change and lead our community in acting.

## CLINICAL CARE

The Women's Cardiovascular Health Clinic (WCHC) is a planned three-year pilot program supported by the Libin Cardiovascular Institute that aims to become a centre of excellence for cardiovascular conditions that uniquely affect women. It will offer comprehensive care, including mental health services and women-focused cardiac rehab. Key areas will include non-obstructive microvascular disease, arrhythmias, POTS, and cardio-obstetrics. The clinic will collaborate with rural physicians and community cardiologists to develop care pathways, integrate research, and provide training opportunities. Advocacy by WCHI and Dr. Bryan Har led to acquiring the Corventis system to address a [diagnostic gap in unexplained chest pain in women](#) in Southern Alberta.



The pilot clinic relies on philanthropy and external funding. In November 2024, WCHI secured a \$5 million commitment from the Calgary Health Foundation for a three-year women's cardiovascular health clinic pilot program, including a cardiac PET scanner for non-invasive testing in women with microvascular disease. WCHI is actively fundraising with CHF to cover operational costs and a generous donor for the cardiac PET scanner has come forward.

## RESEARCH

The research pillar aims to foster interdisciplinary, translational cardiovascular research focused on prevention, diagnosis, and treatment across a woman's lifespan. To support this, WCHI launched a \$50,000 Catalyst Grant competition on February 13, 2025.

A recent membership survey confirmed member roles and expertise, with 86% responding. Networking and research collaboration emerged as top priorities. In response, a June 2025 retreat is planned to explore infrastructure needs, identify collaborative opportunities, and align initiatives across WCHI's four pillars.

## EDUCATION

WCHI hosted Dr. Emelia J. Benjamin as the inaugural Anne M. Gillis Libin Prize Lecturer. Dr. Benjamin's talk, "Health Equity and the Prevention of Atrial Fibrillation and its Complications," was presented at Cardiac Sciences Grand Rounds on Sept. 10, 2024. Her visit included a trainee lunch-and-learn and collaborative meetings with Libin members.

To raise awareness and foster collaboration, WCHI supports a monthly seminar series featuring UCalgary

researchers in women's health. This year, the WCHI secured funding to welcome external speaker Dr. Mark Haykowsky. The initiative also introduced student-led sessions where scholarship recipients present their research and mentor peers. In partnership with Libin Education leadership, seminar attendance now qualifies for trainee credits.

Two new donations strengthened the WCHI's Women's Cardiovascular Scholarships program. As a result, WCHI established a \$7,500 summer studentship to launch in May 2025. WCHI now supports awards across all training levels, including eight travel awards, eight publication awards, two Research Day awards, and two summer student research day awards.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In October 2024, the Dilawri Foundation hosted a high-profile event at the new BMO Centre to introduce Dr. Roopinder Sandhu and share the vision of WCHI with 100 women from our community. The event generated strong public and media interest and provided the perfect platform to announce the Dilawri Foundation's generous donation in support of WCHI's community engagement efforts.

In addition to this introductory event, WCHI organized and hosted the following throughout the year:

### WCHI Public Library Series

Launched in November 2024, the sold-out Heart Health for Her public library series featured experts discussing cardiovascular health across the reproductive lifespan. Led by Drs. Sandhu, Dumanski, Nerenberg, Premji, and Kealey, the four-part series focused on risk awareness and prevention strategies for women.

### EmpowerHER: Championing Women's Heart Health

Hosted at ATCO Blue Flame Kitchen, this community outreach event—held in partnership with Heart & Stroke—featured cookbook authors Bonnie Stern and Anna Rupert. It raised awareness of women's heart health through a panel discussion on heart-healthy

nutrition followed by an interactive cooking demo, Q&A, tastings, and book signings.

The following day, the Cookbook Co. hosted a sold-out fundraising cooking class with Bonnie Stern and Anna Rupert. Guests prepared recipes from Stern and Rupert's cookbook *Don't Worry, Just Cook*, shared a meal, and heard from Dr. Roopinder Sandhu on the impact of WCHI. All proceeds supported WCHI initiatives.

### Libin Wears Red

Libin Wears Red raises awareness of women's cardiovascular health in connection with Wear Red Canada. This year's campaign, featuring a new logo, included activities encouraging awareness and proactive health management. Highlights included media appearances by Drs. Roopinder Sandhu and Sandra Dumanski, 19 Alberta proclamations declaring Feb. 13 "Wear Red Canada Day," and iconic landmarks like the Calgary Tower lit in red. New initiatives included:

- Libin Wears RED Family Dance: A free event with Vivo for Healthier Generations, featuring dancing and music to celebrate and raise awareness about women's health.
- Clinical Challenge: Twenty-one clinical teams across Calgary and rural pilot clinic partners in Drumheller submitted photos of their teams wearing red, with the winner receiving a team lunch.

## LOOKING FORWARD

Next year, WCHI will focus on implementing programs for each pillar, with strategic direction to be set at our June 2025 retreat. We will launch the Women's Cardiovascular Health Clinic, integrating Precision Medicine's PULSE survey and patient registry, and introduce a pilot women's cardiovascular health curriculum within cardiology training. Our efforts will continue to empower members, support their research, and advance women's cardiovascular health.

# Clinical Innovation Initiative

## OVERVIEW

The Clinical Innovation Initiative (CII) is committed to strengthening partnerships with members of the Department of Cardiac Sciences to improve cardiac care outcomes, bridge the gap between scientific research and clinical practice, and drive bench-to-bedside innovations that advance patient-centered care. Anchored in research and innovation, CII played a fundamental role this year in supporting knowledge translation efforts, helping existing programs move toward self-sufficiency, and identifying new opportunities for future growth.

## CLINICAL CARE & RESEARCH

### SYNGERY GROUP: Calgary Aortic Program (CAP)

CAP continues to build momentum with the launch of its Phase 2 initiatives, beginning with a strategic retreat aimed at expanding research initiatives and establishing a vascular research consortium. The retreat served as a platform to highlight early clinical and academic successes while charting the program’s future direction. The Clinical Innovation Initiative had a key role in organizing the event and remains committed to supporting CAP’s continued growth and evolving priorities.

### SYNERGY GROUP: Amyloidosis Program of Calgary (APC)

APC continues to build on its strong foundation with a focus on advancing and optimizing amyloidosis care. This year saw major progress in expanding strategic collaborations across research, clinical care, and patient advocacy, boosting national awareness. Highlights include partnerships with

the Canadian Amyloidosis Society, Prairie Amyloidosis Nursing Network–HeartLife Foundation, and Canadian Amyloidosis Nursing Network; the launch of a Cardiac Amyloidosis Fellowship; and the inaugural Canadian Amyloidosis Summit.

### PIIONEER GROUP: Minimally Invasive Cardiac Surgery (MICS)

The MICS program remains dedicated to establishing a Center of Excellence in minimally invasive cardiac surgery, with a focus on safe, evidence-based care and improved patient outcomes. This year, the program expanded its scope by increasing surgical volume, delivering hands-on peer-to-peer training, and publishing studies on patient-reported outcomes, cost analyses, and surgical results. It also continued active enrollment in a principal research study, reinforcing its commitment to advancing the field.

With CII’s support, MICS hosted its fourth national conference, uniting experts, researchers, and clinicians to share advancements in minimally invasive cardiac surgery. The event featured knowledge exchange, hands-on training, and collaboration, reinforcing the program’s leadership in the field. As the conference enters its final phase toward full independence, the Clinical Innovation Initiative will continue to support its growth and long-term success.

## DEPARTMENT OF CARDIAC SCIENCES SUPPORT

CII supported Dept. of Cardiac Sciences key initiatives, including the annual CathSHOCK Conference on November 29-30, 2024. Over 230 healthcare professionals from across Canada and the U.S. attended the conference, which offered in-depth education on managing cardiogenic shock in the cardiac catheterization laboratory. Attendees enhanced their skills in high-acuity scenarios through simulation-based learning and hands-on experience with circulatory support devices. The next conference, scheduled for November 22, 2025, transitions into a self-sufficiency phase, with continued support from CII to ensure

growth and long-term success.

CII also contributed to the Advances in MR Flow: Technical and Clinical Implementation workshop, hosted by the ISMRM MR flow and Motion Quantitation group on October 18-20, 2024. The international event, attended by over 100 participants, showcased the latest MR Flow advancements through scientific presentations, proffered papers, a poster session, panel discussions, and hands-on sessions featuring emerging technologies.

# P2 Initiative

## OVERVIEW

The Person to Population Cardiovascular Research Initiative (P2) is dedicated to advancing population cardiovascular health through active member and community engagement in patient-oriented research, health outcomes studies, and policy development. A membership survey conducted in January 2025 informed a strategic shift toward a clearer focus on health equity and reducing disparities in cardiovascular disease. This renewed direction aligns with the diverse expertise of P2’s transdisciplinary membership and the priorities of funders and stakeholders, positioning the initiative to make a meaningful impact in an often-overlooked area of cardiovascular research.

## RESEARCH

P2 fosters and enhances collaboration among cardiovascular researchers with the goal of advancing high-quality, precision population health research. More than 40 faculty, staff, trainees and patient partners attended the P2 spring retreat in June 2024. The event featured a keynote speaker, project updates, a session providing members the opportunity to receive feedback on future projects, and a student/trainee poster competition.

## Alberta Innovative Trials and Research Methods Symposium

P2 hosted the two-day symposium in October 2024 at the Alt Hotel, University District, in collaboration with the Alberta Health Services (AHS) Strategic Clinical Networks, APPROACH (Alberta Provincial Project for Outcome Assessment in Coronary Heart Disease), ICDC (Interdisciplinary Chronic Disease Collaboration) and the AHS Indigenous Wellness Program. Day one featured Dr. Amit Garg (Associate Dean, Clinical Research, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Western University) and focused on sharing knowledge and experiences gained from innovative trials and research.

Day two was led by Indigenous Wellness Program Scientific Director, Dr. Richard Oster, and focused on engaging Indigenous communities in research. The keynote presentation, “Ritual vs. Ceremonial-Based Thinking,” was given by Mosom Rick Lightning (Ermineskin Cree Nation & University of Alberta) and Elder Jackie Bromley (Kainai Nation). Dr. Tibetha Kemble (University of Alberta) presented, “Exploring the Dynamics of Anti-oppressive Approaches to Indigenous Clinical Trial Research.”

## Steering Committee

In January 2025, P2 co-chairs Dr. David Campbell and Dr. Hude Quan created a P2 steering committee to discuss a new strategic direction and potential future activities. The steering committee is comprised of:

- **Dr. Dana Olstad** – representing population health and health promotion
- **Dr. Derek Chew** – representing health economics and policy
- **Dr. Maria Santana** – representing patient and family engagement
- **Dr. Turin Chowdhury** – representing community-based research approaches



## EDUCATION

P2 provides educational opportunities for students, clinical trainees and junior to mid-career faculty members. The LCI Master's Scholarship in Cardiovascular Health Promotion (\$12,500) is awarded annually through the Faculty of Graduate Studies' Graduate Award Competition (GAC). Olivier Lampron (Supervisors: Dr. Stephen Wilton and Dr. Robert Rose) received the 2023-24 scholarship for his project, "Identification of Frailty Syndromes and their Consequences in Patients with Coronary Artery Disease using Rich Multidimensional Data Sets."



# Communications & Marketing

## OVERVIEW

This section highlights the Libin Cardiovascular Institute's efforts in communications, marketing, and digital engagement. The Institute's target audiences are varied, and include the public, faculty and clinical members, students, staff, donors, potential donors, and other stakeholders. LCI communication objectives include:

- Highlighting member successes and showcasing Libin platforms and initiatives
- Bringing expert cardiovascular health information to the public
- Fostering digital engagement with the community
- Communicating leadership priorities and decisions

## NEWSLETTER

The Libin Beat, our monthly newsletter, has a distribution of approximately 2,900 external and internal stakeholders. The average open rate is 54%, click rate 6.3%, and unsubscribe rate 0.24% - all well above industry standards. This reflects the value of the content we create. Our weekly newsletter, targeted at internal subscribers, also saw fantastic engagement, with a 61% open rate, 8.2% click rate and 0.04% unsubscribe rate. The weekly newsletter has proved an excellent resource for communicating events and important news with our members.

## WEBSITE

Over the past year, the Libin Cardiovascular Institute website has continued to evolve, with website metrics providing valuable insights into our successes and opportunities for growth. Our top-visited pages reflect a wide range of interests, from general information about the Institute and our initiatives to specific research

findings and team member profiles. This diversity suggests broad audience engagement and effective content distribution. Most visitors find our site through organic search, highlighting strong SEO performance, while a significant portion arrives via direct links, demonstrating the success of our promotional efforts. Notably, 98% of visitors are first-time users, indicating a strong interest in cardiovascular health. Geographically, 74% of traffic originates in Canada, aligning with our local engagement goals. However, we are also seeing notable international interest, with visitors from the USA, Ireland, Germany, and Hong Kong, reflecting the global relevance of our work.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

This fiscal year, the Libin Cardiovascular Institute significantly expanded its reach and engagement with the community. Our online presence grew by 170% compared to the previous year, and engagement increased by more than 320%. We added 728 new followers across our platforms. Facebook and Instagram continue to be our top-performing social media platforms, with LinkedIn also showing strong growth and quickly becoming one of our most popular channels.

Top performing posts this year include those celebrating the Libin Institute's 20th Anniversary; Dr. Debra Isaac receiving national recognition from the Canadian Cardiovascular Society; and the introduction of a new ablation procedure benefitting a Calgary patient. Engagement was also strong during events such as Wear Red Canada/Libin Wears Red and the Tine Haworth Cardiovascular Research Day.

## NEXT STEPS

This fiscal year, the Libin Cardiovascular Institute significantly expanded its reach and engagement with the community. Our online presence grew by 170% compared to the previous year, and engagement increased by more than 320%. We added 728 new followers across our platforms. Facebook and Instagram continue to be our top-performing social media platforms, with LinkedIn also showing strong growth and quickly becoming one of our most popular channels.

## Telling Our Story

Over the past year, we've shared the groundbreaking research, clinical innovations, and community impact of the Libin Cardiovascular Institute through a series of feature stories. These articles highlight the achievements of our members, showcase our commitment to excellence, and bring to life the people behind the science. A sample of our top-performing stories are highlighted below:

- [Researcher investigating how hormonal changes impact risk of diabetes](#)
- [Innovative research uses AI technology to support clinical decision-making](#)
- [UCalgary researcher co-leads international team that develops simple test for fatal genetic heart condition](#)
- [Researcher develops artificial intelligence tool to transform coronary artery disease care](#)
- [Multi-disciplinary team wins Women's Cardiovascular Health Catalyst grant](#)
- [UCalgary cardiologist, researcher recognized nationally](#)
- [UCalgary research investigates the role of stem cells in healing the heart after heart attack](#)
- [Autonomic researcher recognized nationally for contributions to clinical science](#)
- [Researchers studying rare genetic variants to uncover cardiovascular diseases](#)
- [Calgary team performs unique valve replacement procedure](#)
- [Women's cardiovascular health researcher receives Top 30 Under 30 Award](#)
- [UCalgary research links gene to cardiac arrhythmias](#)





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