

ANNUAL REPORT

April 2025–March 2026



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



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Executive Summary

The 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, serving a population of about two million. Our members include physicians, clinicians and other health professionals, researchers and trainees from four large University of Calgary faculties, 10 faculty of medicine departments, four Alberta Health Services (AHS) clinical departments and five AHS hospitals. Together, our members and facilities are addressing cardiovascular health needs within our communities.

The year 2025-2026 was characterized by sustainability and progress. Our members continued to push the boundaries of research and medicine. The Institute continued to support four main initiatives: the Libin Precision Medicine Initiative (LPMI), the Women's Cardiovascular Health Initiative (WCHI), the Person to Population Initiative (P2), and the Clinical Innovation Initiative (CII) as well as a broad range of basic, translational, clinical, and population level research efforts of Libin Institute members

This year, the WCHI launched the Women's Cardiovascular Health Clinic at South Health Campus. This new clinic will expand access to specialized, coordinated care focused on prevention, earlier diagnosis, and tailored treatment for cardiovascular conditions that uniquely or disproportionately affect women.

LPMI celebrated its one-year milestone of implementation at South Health Campus of the Insight Clinic Program, recruiting nearly 1,000 patients,

updating its internal systems and collaborating with the WCHI to develop a customized data collection tool for the new clinic to help catalyze and support women's cardiac research.

The CII continued to strengthen partnerships with members of the Department of Cardiac Sciences by supporting numerous events, such as a heart transplant retreat, CathSHOCK, the Basic 12 Lead ECG Interpretation Workshop and the Minimally Invasive Cardiac Surgery Conference.

The Person to Population Cardiovascular Research Initiative (P2) sharpened its focus on health equity, with the goal of addressing the persistent disparities that shape cardiovascular outcomes across diverse populations.

Clinical and scientific research and education remain cornerstones of the Institute's mission. LCI members brought in more than \$34 million in new and ongoing funding this year, including over \$11 million in tri-council funding, and received numerous awards and accolades. Members published 502 unique publications in the past year, which received numerous global citations and recognition.

Our trainees also saw substantial success. This fiscal year, the LCI awarded 50 scholarships and prizes totalling \$441,903. Travel awards allowed our trainees to showcase their work at prestigious events around the world, such as the American College of Cardiology Annual Scientific Session, SCMR Annual Scientific Sessions and the Canadian Organization for Gender and Sex Research events.

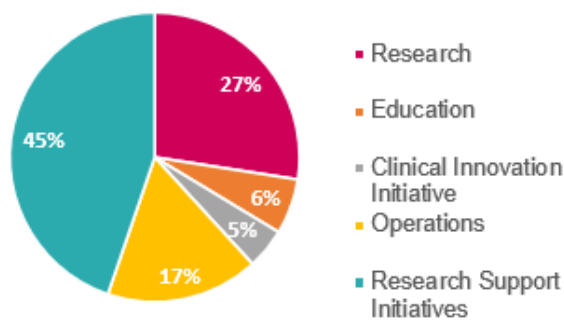
Financial Summary

OVERVIEW

The LCI oversees a core mission to enhance cardiovascular care through supporting innovative research and high-calibre training. To further this mission, the LCI presented a budget to maintain the current strategic trajectory for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. While under the leadership of the Acting Director, the institute continued to serve as the foundation for all cardiovascular discovery, innovation and training across our programs.

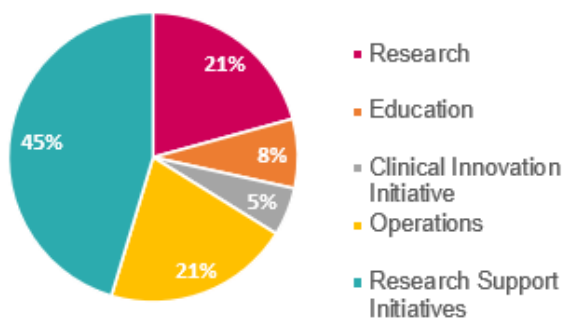
Despite limited resources for recruitment of new faculty, our leadership team has worked tirelessly with the Cumming School of Medicine and the Department of Cardiac Sciences to enable the recruitment of clinician-scientists to support our mission, and we are excited to announce several anticipated recruitments for the year 2026-2027.

BUDGET 2025-2026



Budget 2025-2026
\$3,825,294

ACTUALS 2025-2026



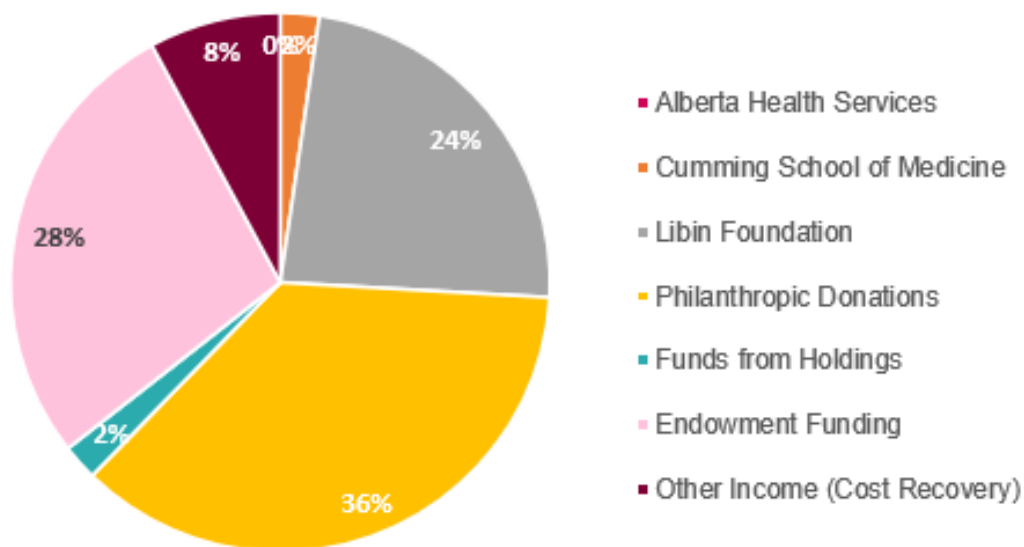
Actuals 2024-2025
\$3,224,535

FUNDING SOURCES

Breakthroughs in cardiovascular health begin with bold ideas and exceptional people. Traditional funding mechanisms often do not support early-stage, innovative research or provide stable support for trainees. Philanthropic investment fills this critical gap—unlocking new discoveries and ensuring a pipeline of highly trained scientists and clinicians.

The LCI is funded chiefly through philanthropic donations, which support research and educational initiatives, key programs 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 2025-2026



Revenue 2025-2026
\$3,183,484



Research

OVERVIEW

The LCI aims to reduce the burden of suffering and premature death due to cardiovascular disease through life-changing research. The LCI is a centre of excellence driving transformative, patient-centered research, translating scientific discovery into clinical innovation to improve heart health outcomes.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES FOR 2025-2026	
Number of Projects Funded (New & Ongoing)	339
Research Funds Received (New & Ongoing)	\$35.62M
Tri-Council (CIHR, NSERC, SSHRC) Funds Received	\$11.08M
Alberta Innovates	\$3.72M
Heart & Stroke Foundation of Canada	\$1.01M
Other Grants & Sponsors	\$20.15M
Number of Publications	502
*This list only includes publications where LCI members within the CSM were the first, last or single author.	
Source: UCalgary CSM Faculty Analytics, May 26, 2026. Data is reported from April 1, 2025, to March 31, 2026.	

HIGHLIGHTS

Research Equipment Competition

In 2025-26, the LCI supported more than \$42,630 in research equipment and maintenance requests. This funding is critical for supporting and enhancing the research programs of our members

Michael & Terry Wilson Cardiovascular Research Innovation Fund

In 2025, the LCI funded two of 13 applications received. These awards have two-year terms and serve as catalyst-type grants to advance preliminary research and increase the likelihood of investigators obtaining larger external funding awards.

Dr. Joon Lee – “Machine Learning-Enabled Automated Coronary Angiogram Analysis and Outcome Prediction in Patients with Coronary Artery Disease”

Dr. Aaron Phillips – “Sex Differences in Cardiovascular Health After Spinal Cord Injury”

New Research Members

- **Dr. Claire Allen** – Anesthesiology, Perioperative and Pain Medicine
- **Dr. Helen Tam-Tham** – Medicine
- **Dr. Johanna Ospel** – Clinical Neurosciences
- **Dr. Chunlong Mu** – Microbiology, Immunology and Infectious Diseases
- **Dr. Mina Aminghafari** – Mathematics and Statistics
- **Dr. Mohamed El-Hussein** – Mount Royal University, School of Nursing and Midwifery
- **Dr. Karolina Skibicka** – Physiology and Pharmacology
- **Dr. Paul Gibson** – Obstetrics and Gynaecology

Awards and Recognitions

- **Dr. Marcello Tonelli, Dr. Braden Manns, Dr. Robert Rose, Dr. Kara Nerenberg, Dr. Kathryn King-Shier and Lucy Reyes, RN** – King Charles III Coronation Medals.

- **Dr. Erin Brennand** – May Cohen Equity, Diversity and Gender Award from the Associations of Faculties of Medicine Canada.
- **Lucy Reyes** – UCalgary Women’s Resource Centre Distinguished Alum Award
- **Dr. Randy Moore and Dr. Marcello Tonelli** – UCalgary Post Graduate Medical Education (PGME) Award of Excellence winners
- **Dr. Ali Fatehi Hassanabad** – (supervisor Dr. Paul Fedak) JACC: Basic to Translational Science Thomas Force Young Investigator Award.
- **Dr. Marcello Tonelli** – Order of the University of Calgary.
- **Dr. Kara Nerenberg** – Women’s Heart and Brain Health Midcareer Investigator Award from the Canadian Women’s Heart Health Alliance.
- **Dr. Kristina Rinker** – Entrepreneurial and Innovator Award at Heritage Park’s 2025 Women Making History in Alberta Awards.
- **Dr. David Campbell** – Diabetes Canada 2025 National Volunteer Innovation Award.
- **Dr. Ayaaz Sachedina** – Foothills Medical Centre Medical Staff Association “Physician of the Year” award in the early career category.
- **Dr. Elena Di Martino** – Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Engineering (CAE)
- **Dr. Tyler Williamson and Dr. Hude Quan** – 2025 UCalgary Alumni Association Arch Awards
- **Taylor Scheidl** (supervisor **Dr. Jennifer Thompson**), **Nabilah Gulamhusein** (supervisor **Dr. Sofia Ahmed**) and **Joel Burma** (supervisor **Dr. Cindy Barha**) – CIHR IGH Trainee Awards at the Organization of Sex Differences 2025 Annual Meeting.
- **Dr. Jeff Shaw** – Appointed Medical Director for Cardiac Intensive Care Units (CICU).
- **Dr. Chad Bousman** – Member of the Royal Society of Canada (RSC) College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists.
- **Dr. Katherine Kavanagh** – Canadian Heart Rhythm Society’s 2025 Magdy Basta Award.

- **Dr. Michael Hill** – 2026 Inductee into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame.
- **Dr. Wayne Chen** and **Dr. Ejaife Agbani** – Canada Foundation for Innovation's (CFI) John R. Evans Leaders Fund (JELF).
- **Dr. Lisa Welikovitsh** – Canada's Most Powerful Women. Presented by the Women's Executive Network (WXN) and the Canadian Cardiovascular Society Women in Cardiovascular Medicine/Science 2025 Mentorship Award.
- **The Calgary Stroke Program** team won the 2025 ASTech Researcher of the Year award
- **Dr. Satish Raj** – Canadian Cardiovascular Society's Dr. Robert E. Beamish Award.
- **Dr. Kelly Larkin-Kaiser** – Cumming School of Medicine UCalgary Staff Excellence Award for Service to People and Partners.

• PGME CLINICAL TEACHING AWARDS:

- **Dr. Derek Chew**
- **Dr. Jillian Colbert**
- **Dr. Bryan Har**
- **Dr. Erkan Ilhan**
- **Dr. Ken Parhar**
- **Dr. Kenton Rommens**
- **Dr. Yorgo Veenhuyzen**
- **Dr. Stephen Wilton**

• LCI CARDIAC SCIENCES AWARDS:

- **Dr. Tauben Averbuch** – Peter Russell Award
- **Dr. Michael Chiu** – Cardiology Preceptor of the Year Award
- **Dr. Karan Saraf** – Teacher of the Year/Excellence Teaching as a Subspecialty Cardiology Fellow
- **Dr. Olina Dagher** – John Burgess Resident Research Award
- **Dr. Imtiaz Ali** – Cardiac Surgery Preceptor of the Year
- **Dr. Lucy Jefferson** – Andrew Maitland Award for Excellence
- **Dr. Amy Brown** – LB Mitchell Fellow Research Award
- **Dr. Ayaz Sachedina** – Clinician of the Year
- **Jen Sieben** – Achievement and Recognition Award
- **Dr. Jennifer Thompson** – Todd Anderson Award
- **Dr. Wayne Chen** – Libin Researcher of the Year
- **Dr. James White** – Henry J Diff Research Mentorship Award
- **Dr. Sonia Butalia** – Dr. Norm Campbell Cardiovascular Disease Prevention Award



Education

OVERVIEW

The LCI continues to focus on its educational vision and the essential work of training the next generation of cardiovascular clinicians and researchers. In 2025-26, about 220 graduate students, postdoctoral trainees, fellows and residents joined the LCI from around the world to study and train.

HIGHLIGHTS

Tine Haworth Cardiovascular Research Day

The LCI hosted its annual Tine Haworth Cardiovascular Research Day on April 29, 2025. The event showcased innovative research in cardiovascular health through presentations by both internal and external experts. Highlights included the keynote E.R. Smith lecture, updates from LCI initiative leads and competitions featuring oral and poster presentations.

A key highlight was the presentation of the prestigious E.R. Smith Lectureship by Dr. Stanley Nattel, MD, professor of Medicine and Paul-David Chair in Cardiovascular Electrophysiology at the Université de Montréal, director of the Electrophysiology Research Program at the Montreal Heart Institute and editor-in-chief of the *Canadian Journal of Cardiology*.

Scholarships & Awards

The LCI is dedicated to advancing trainee education. In 2025-26, the LCI awarded 50 scholarships and prizes, including 15 travel awards, totalling \$441,903. Libin trainees showcased their work at prestigious events around the world, including the American College of Cardiology Annual Scientific Session, SCMR Annual Scientific Sessions, Canadian Organization for Gender

and Sex Research events, the Human Proteome Organization World Congress and the Metabolomics Association of North America Scientific Conference.

Libin Cardiovascular Institute Trainee Organization (LCITO)

In April 2025, trainees elected a new LCITO leadership team. The organization continues to enrich the training environment for the institute's graduate students and postdoctoral scholars by facilitating academic collaboration, professional development and community building among trainees. LCITO also provides valuable opportunities for trainees to develop leadership experience, enhance professional skills and build strong academic networks. The organization is well-positioned for continued growth and impact in the coming year. 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)

Initiatives

The LCI has four priority initiatives focused on precision cardiovascular research, women's cardiovascular health, clinical innovation and ensuring equitable cardiovascular care for all.

LIBIN PRECISION MEDICINE INITIATIVE (LPMI)

OVERVIEW

LPMI is a flagship initiative of the LCI. It aims to enhance access to high-quality cardiovascular health data for all stakeholders and strategic partners of the LCI to catalyze research and innovation in data-driven care. During the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the LPMI team, led by Director Dr. James White, expanded numerous high-impact programs to benefit members of the LCI, the Department of Cardiac Sciences and patients. The following highlights share the progress of LPMI during this period.

HIGHLIGHTS

The Insight Clinic Program

The Insight Clinic Program (formerly known as the PULSE Clinic Program) celebrated its one-year milestone of implementation at South Health Campus (SHC). The Insight Program is a critical component of the LPMI vision, expanding the proven data collection, linkage and prediction model development framework developed by the Cardiovascular Imaging Registry of Calgary (CIROC) to clinics across the Calgary Zone. During this inaugural year at SHC, the Insight Clinic Program recruited nearly 1,000 patients with a 90 per cent consent-to-contact response, which can be leveraged for additional study recruitment needs across the LCI.



The Insight Clinic Program also updated its internal systems during this pilot year, including developing critical tools to offer customized data collection for individual clinics, improving workflows for patient surveys and providing a custom portal to improve patient usability and back-end data infrastructure. In response to feedback from patients and clinicians, this program will soon have the ability to allow patients to consent to having their survey shared securely with their care providers.

The team collaborated with the Libin Women's Cardiovascular Health Initiative to develop a customized data collection tool for the new Women's Cardiovascular Health Clinic. This custom questionnaire, deployed in fall 2026, was designed to meet the specific needs of this population and is already demonstrating impressive recruitment metrics that will produce robust data as the cohort builds. This partnership will help to catalyze and support cardiac research focused on women's specific needs and priorities.

AI for Better Health Grant

Dr. White was successful in the 2024 AI for Better Health Grant competition and the LPMI team has made tremendous progress in designing, implementing and testing a novel platform solution for multi-modal data. The funding from this grant catalyzed the development of a solution aimed at accelerating AI model development and enhancing governed access to matched data resources on a scalable, cloud-native platform for multi-modal phenomics data. The Manta platform is designed to enable centrally governed access to data sources, with features

including automated de-identification, data migration and visualization of health data resources. Ultimately, the goal is to not only facilitate the management and utilization of health data but also to support the integration of decision-support interventions into the health-care system for clinical use.

The project has now shifted from the grant program to a fully scalable MVP (minimally viable product), has attracted commercial interest and has catalyzed discussions with stakeholders across the province to implement Manta in the provincial system to benefit clinicians and patients.

LPMI Cardiac Data Model

The LPMI core data model consists of standardized data definitions with de-identified, matched and linked data across key areas such as patient demographics, cardiac disease, comorbidities, laboratory results, pharmacy data and clinical outcomes. Over the past year, the team has added an additional 360 new variables to the core data model, including tabular data from Echo and ECG sources. The core data model provides a curated, research-ready data product that can facilitate a broad range of cardiac research projects.

Ignite Catalyst Competition

The LPMI Ignite Catalyst Competition was announced in April 2025, with four inaugural awardees announced in the fall whose projects are supported by the LPMI team with datasets curated from the core data model. Awards were granted to **Dr. Roopinder Sandhu, Dr. Robert Miller, Dr. Derek Chew and Dr. David Campbell**. Project work is ongoing with expected outputs during the upcoming year.

Project Support

The LPMI team has been testing the use of the core data model with case example projects and the Ignite Catalyst Competition projects. In addition to these projects, the team has taken on specific use case projects to further establish and validate the core data model, test backend infrastructure and refine internal processes. LPMI is expanding its project intake on a case-by-case basis and will be engaging with researchers across the department and LCI to explore the alignment of the core data model with the needs of individual researchers, projects and programs. Custom datasets from the core data model can be provided for individual projects after all institutional requirements (ethics board and health system approvals) are met.

Other Notable Accomplishments

- Participation at the 2025 Pan-Canadian OMOP Common Data Model Engagement event to collaborate with national stakeholders on efforts to standardize health data across the country
- Successful collaboration with AHS / Health Shared Services to support the Statistical Society of Canada with a large synthetic patient dataset that was used for educational purposes with student teams across Canada
- Expanded on internal collaboration and partnerships with key teams including the Nelson PULSE Centre, UCalgary IT and Research Computing Services to help design future infrastructure for data and innovation; One Child Every Child to contribute to shared compute resources and data governance models; and various other data-forward and research teams across the Cumming School of Medicine
- Established a partnership with the Canadian Vigour Centre at University of Alberta
- LPMI datasets and team expertise contributed to a variety of projects this year, notably trainee efforts as the data model and processes were refined. LPMI supported work that was accepted at various conferences, including the CSM Precision Health Symposium, American College of Cardiology and the Society for Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance

Mozell Family Analysis Core

Over the past year, the Mozell team continued to play a supportive role in advancing high-quality health research through the delivery of specialized analytical expertise, responsive consultation, and research support services. While the overall volume of requests and active projects fluctuates over the course of the year, the team remained focused on delivering meaningful, high-impact contributions that supported the quality, rigour and project outputs of research across the LCI. The Mozell team supported work across a variety of research projects and Institute members, including eight trainee projects, six grant applications, five manuscripts and four conference abstracts, in addition to ongoing consultations that provide expert advice and direction. Looking ahead, the team is positioned to evolve the current service model to continue providing sustainable support across the LCI.

WOMEN'S CARDIOVASCULAR HEALTH INITIATIVE (WCHI)



OVERVIEW

Cardiovascular disease in women remains underdiagnosed, understudied, under-recognized and undertreated. As a flagship initiative of the LCI, WCHI advances its mission to save women's lives by preventing and treating cardiovascular disease in a more personalized and precise way. See below for an overview of the WCHI's activities in the 2025-26 fiscal year.

HIGHLIGHTS

WCHI Retreat

The inaugural WCHI Retreat, held in June 2025 at the Alt Hotel University District, brought together 21 members for a focused and energizing day of shared purpose. Members engaged in structured networking and breakout sessions to advance collaboration, address infrastructure and explore opportunities for the initiative. Key priorities included strengthening collaboration, expanding research supports, developing communication tools, leveraging existing datasets and improving knowledge translation to clinicians, patients and the public.

Clinical Care

Over the past year, the clinic progressed from concept development and pilot testing to a fully operational, multidisciplinary clinical program. The clinic established the technological, clinical and workforce infrastructure required for comprehensive care delivery. Efforts included addressing diagnostic gaps in coronary and microvascular dysfunction while embedding research, outcomes measurement and education into clinical workflows.

Using an iterative pilot–evaluate–refine–scale framework, the clinic launched in late fall 2025 following recruitment of a nurse practitioner, registered dietitian and psychologist, supporting long-term sustainability and innovation. The clinic integrates cardiology and allied health to address women-specific cardiovascular risk through comprehensive, lifespan-based care.

In parallel, the Women-Focused Cardiac Rehabilitation Project continued in partnership with TotalCardiology Rehabilitation, focusing on tailored models to improve access, engagement, and patient-centered outcomes.

INSIGHT Survey

WCHI partnered with the Libin Precision Medicine Initiative to develop a women-specific INSIGHT survey component administered within the Women's Cardiovascular Health Clinic and other sites (see LPMI update)

Community Physician Outreach

Following the clinic's launch, targeted efforts were undertaken by WCHI to enhance clinic visibility and accessibility across the region. Outreach efforts included presentations to cardiology groups and community physicians, distribution of referral materials across Southern Alberta and education sessions with primary care networks.

Calgary Health Foundation

In partnership with the Calgary Health Foundation, fundraising and media engagement—including radio and television coverage as part of the Calgary Health Foundation Home Lottery campaign—further increased awareness of and engagement with the clinic.

RESEARCH

Women's Research Seminar Series

The WCHI hosted eight speakers as part of its Women's Research Seminar Series to enable knowledge exchange, promote cross-disciplinary collaboration and support networking. The seminar series showcased both internal and external expertise and attracted a total of 254 unique participants. A new format featuring presentations by WCHI masters and doctoral scholarship recipients provided trainees with valuable opportunities to present their work and receive feedback.

Women's Catalyst Grant

The 2026 Women's Catalyst Grant competition, which launched on Feb. 13, 2026, provided an award of \$50,000 each to **Dr. Kara Nerenberg** and **Dr. Roopinder Sandhu**. The grants support collaborative, innovative and multidisciplinary projects that advance women's cardiovascular research and care. We look forward to sharing the successes of their grant projects in the year to come.

Platform Development

WCHI engaged members to update their University of Calgary profiles and express interest in future knowledge translation opportunities with the goal of strengthening research visibility and supporting future website enhancements.

EDUCATION

Trainee Awards

In January 2026, WCHI enhanced its Publication and Travel Awards by doubling funding, increasing competition frequency, and expediting disbursement. Two new \$1,000 trainee research awards were also introduced.

Cardiology Training Program

WCHI partnered with the Cardiology Training Program to launch a new women's heart health curriculum, including online learning, expert discussions and patient-partner perspectives. Additionally, cardiology fellows can now participate with clinicians at the WCHC.

LCITO

WCHI established a dedicated Women's Cardiovascular Health Initiative Lead on the LCI Trainee Organization (LCITO), with the goal of strengthening trainee engagement and leadership within the WCHI.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

WCHI continues to prioritize community engagement as a key driver of awareness, prevention, and empowerment.

Public Education and Outreach

In partnership with the Calgary Public Library, the WCHI Library Lecture Series delivers women's cardiovascular health education across Calgary. The inaugural 2024-2025 series attracted 184 attendees, demonstrating strong demand for accessible community programming. The 2025-2026 series launched with 36 participants and focuses on women's cardiovascular risk factors and prevention. Sessions are planned for May, September and December 2026.

Awareness Campaigns

The annual WCHI's Libin Wears Red campaign mobilized clinical and research communities to raise awareness of women's cardiovascular health in alignment with Wear Red Canada. The 2026 campaign achieved broader community impact than in previous years as evidenced by: proclamations from 14 Alberta municipal districts Feb. 13 as Wear Red Canada Day; and the illumination of two prominent Calgary landmarks—the Calgary Tower and Reconciliation Bridge—as part of the "Light the Town Red" campaign. Additional activities included an internal research step challenge, a cardiovascular health booth on Feb. 13 at Foothills Campus and a city-wide clinical challenge.

Community Presentations and Partnerships

WCHI expanded community awareness, education and advocacy through presentations to corporate, community and philanthropic audiences, including the Calgary Petroleum Club, the Canadian Football League and ENMAX. These initiatives provided an opportunity to share evidence-based information on sex-specific differences in cardiovascular disease, engage broad audiences and strengthen relationships with donors and partners.

Social Media

WCHI launched independent Instagram and Facebook channels (@womensheartlibin) in partnership with Brookline Public Relations. Content includes a monthly Myth Busting series and educational features such as “Breaking Down the Science” and “Heart Talk.” Since launch in Feb. 2026, WCHI’s Instagram has generated more than 11,000 views and 182 followers, while Facebook has achieved 2,100 views and 56 engagements. WCHI members also remained a strong contributor to Libin-managed social media, with 58 posts generating 49,119 impressions and 2,675 engagements, with top content centered on Wear Red Canada Day.

LOOKING FORWARD

In the coming year, WCHI will continue expanding clinical referral pathways, enhancing trainee education, strengthening research collaboration and funding, and building community partnerships to advance women’s cardiovascular health.

CLINICAL INNOVATION INITIATIVE (CII)

OVERVIEW

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.

During the 2025-2026 fiscal year, CII supported knowledge translation activities, assisted existing programs in furthering toward self-sufficiency and identified areas for future development aligned with departmental priorities.

HIGHLIGHTS

Heart Transplant Retreat

On Sept. 6, 2025, the Edmonton–Calgary Heart Transplant Retreat, hosted in Calgary, brought together transplant physicians, coordinators, and specialists from across Alberta. CII supported planning and coordination of the retreat, enabling cross site collaboration and shared learning to support provincial alignment in transplant care delivery.

LLA Technology Market Research Pilot

From September to December 2025, CII partnered with LLA Technology to support a targeted market research pilot for Recordis, a cardiac monitoring device. The pilot involved structured interviews and product demonstrations with 18 clinicians and researchers. CII facilitated engagement with LCI members, enabling the collection of insights related to clinical relevance, workflow integration and operational considerations. Findings informed product development planning and demonstrated a scalable model for delivering structured market research support.

Innovation Forum

On Oct. 28, 2025, an innovation forum was convened with leadership from Medtronic, the LCI, Acute Care Alberta, the Department of Cardiac Sciences and the Section of Cardiac Surgery. CII supported planning and coordination of the session. The forum informed shared innovation priorities and contributed to the establishment of a strategic innovation partnership within the Section of Cardiac Surgery involving Medtronic and LCI.

CathSHOCK Conference

This year’s annual CathSHOCK Conference was held Nov. 22, 2025, attracting 190 participants and focusing on the management of cardiogenic shock. The program included didactic sessions and simulation-based training designed to support clinical decision making, interdisciplinary collaboration and team performance across physician and allied health groups. The conference was supported by multiple industry partners and endorsed by the Houston Shock Symposium and the Canadian Association of Interventional Cardiology.

CII provided in-kind marketing and communication support, financial management assistance and coordination of recruitment for a casual event specialist. This operational support contributed to conference sustainability and a strong foundation for long-term success.

Holding Multiple Perspectives: Cultivating Polarity Wisdom

On Nov. 25, 2025, CII co-hosted a leadership development workshop with the Office of Faculty Development led by Mark Stollow. The session focused on adaptive decision-making and managing competing priorities in complex health-care environments.

Basic 12 Lead ECG Nurse Workshop

On December 2, 2025, the Cardiac Sciences Clinical Nurse Educators delivered the second Basic 12 Lead ECG Interpretation Workshop. CII provided in-kind marketing and communications support, helping deliver nursing education aimed at strengthening ECG interpretation skills across cardiac and critical care settings.

MICS Conference

The MICS Conference took place on Dec. 13-14, 2025, with 99 participants. It focused on minimally invasive cardiac surgery, perioperative care and program implementation across cardiac centres in Canada, United States and internationally. The conference was supported by industry partners and endorsed by the Canadian Society of Cardiac Surgeons. CII provided in kind marketing and communications support and assisted with the operational transition, allowing the transfer of conference delivery to an established MICS leadership team and supporting a sustainable, independent model for future programming.

Perioperative Group Support

The perioperative group identified three priorities: the development of a validated longitudinal cardiac surgery database; identification of standardized patient reported outcome measures (PROMs); and assessment of a centralized Clinical Research Unit for perioperative trials. CII supported targeted stakeholder engagement to clarify scope, sequence next steps and harmonize expectations, enabling informed decision

making regarding feasibility, readiness and future implementation.

Acute Care Alberta and Plug and Play Partnership

CII collaborated with Acute Care Alberta and Plug and Play to identify cardiovascular clinical challenges and support connection across innovation stakeholders, with a focus on remote monitoring technologies. While progression to subsequent phases remains contingent on Acute Care Alberta approvals, this work established priority areas and positioned the partnership to support scalable and system-level cardiovascular innovation.

P2 INITIATIVE

OVERVIEW

The Person to Population Cardiovascular Research Initiative (P2) is dedicated to advancing population cardiovascular health by bringing together members and communities to drive patient-centered research, strengthen health outcomes and inform policy. P2 continues to sharpen its focus on health equity, addressing the persistent disparities that shape cardiovascular outcomes across diverse populations.

RESEARCH

P2 Indigenous Seed Grant

In 2025, the P2 Initiative launched the inaugural P2 Indigenous Seed Grant, a fund to support projects that advance Indigenous cardiovascular health and health equity in Canada. Two recipients received \$15,000 to help advance their work.

- **Sara Scott, Dr. David Campbell and Dr. Lindsey Crowshoe** are co-building an Indigenous-focused, peer-support model for patients with diabetes.

- **Drs. Meghan Elliot, Maoliosa Donald and Matthew James** are developing an Indigenous-specific tool to boost kidney and cardiovascular health.

P2 Retreat

The P2 Retreat is an annual event that brings together cardiovascular researchers to advance precision population health research through collaboration. More than 50 faculty, staff, trainees and patient partners attended the P2 spring retreat in June 2025. The event featured a keynote presentation from Dr. Kathryn King-Shier, a professor in the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Calgary who is known for her multi-methods program of research that focuses on the influence of ethnicity and sex and gender on cardiovascular disease symptoms, access to care and prevention activities. This was a perfect fit for the initiative's updated focus on equity in cardiovascular health promotion. The event also featured project updates from faculty and trainees, a poster competition and a Test Your Concept competition featuring three Libin researchers who presented their early research project ideas.

Dr. Alexander Leung received \$10,000 from the Test Your Concept competition for his project, "CURE-PA (Comprehensive Ultrasound-guided Radiofrequency for Equity-Primary Aldosteronism)."

Alberta Innovative Trials and Health Research Methods Symposium

P2, in collaboration with APPROACH (Alberta Provincial Project for Outcome Assessment in Coronary Heart Disease), ICDC (Interdisciplinary Chronic Disease Collaboration) and the Alberta Health Services (AHS) Indigenous Wellness Program, hosted a one-day symposium in October 2025, bringing together the health research community to share experiences and strategies for conducting both trials and other health research designs that use novel and innovative methods. This year's theme of "bringing evidence into practice" featured keynote presentations from Dr. Justin Presseau, an associate professor from the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute, and Dr. Khara Sauro, an associate professor at the University of Calgary. Both speakers presented on implementation science in practice.

EDUCATION

P2 Retreat

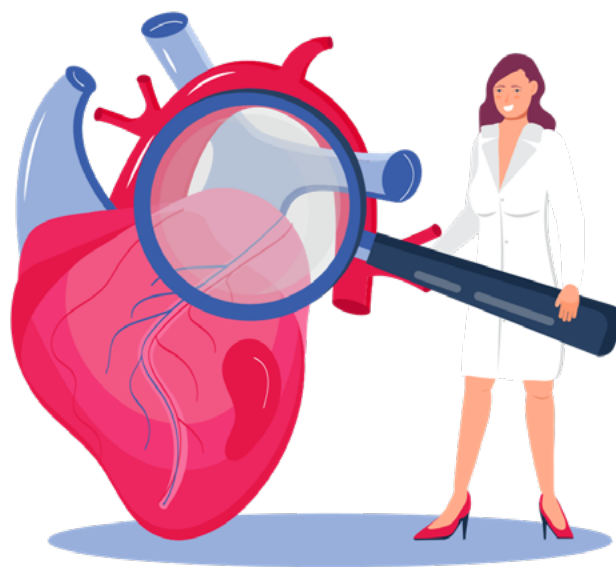
The following students were the winners of the poster competition, held at the 2025 P2 Retreat:

Scientific Rigour (First Place - \$3,000) & General Appeal (\$1,000): **Sara Scott** (supervisors: **Drs. Lindsay Crowshoe and David Campbell**) – "Bringing Conversations Together to Co-Design an Indigenous Peer Support Model for Diabetes Wellness."

Scientific Rigour (Second Place - \$1,000): **Tucker Reed** (supervisor: **Dr. David Campbell**) - "Describing Alberta Emergency Shelter Policies and Practices that Impact Clients' Diabetes Management: An Environmental Scan."

LCI MSc Scholarship in Cardiovascular Health Promotion

The 2025-26 recipient, **Sandeep Chand** (supervisors: **Drs. Glen Sumner and Satish Raj**), of the LCI MSc Scholarship in Cardiovascular Health Promotion received 17,500 for a project entitled, "Association between Clinical and Economic Outcomes and Specialist Payment Models in the Care of Patients with Heart Failure in Alberta, Canada - A Retrospective Cohort Study."



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 LCI's newsletters continued to see strong engagement throughout the 2025–2026 fiscal year, with open and click rates meeting or exceeding industry benchmarks and low unsubscribe rates reflecting the ongoing value audiences place on Libin communications.

The Libin Beat, distributed monthly to approximately 2,500 internal and external stakeholders, achieved an average open rate of 51.54%, an average click rate of 5.17% and a 0% unsubscribe rate.* These results exceed industry standards, reflecting strong ongoing interest in Institute news, research, member achievements and strategic initiatives.

The Institute's weekly internal newsletter, distributed to an internal audience of about 1,300, also remained

an important channel for sharing timely updates, events, opportunities and announcements with faculty, staff and trainees. The newsletter achieved an average open rate of 50.39%, an average click rate of 3.12%, and an unsubscribe rate of 0.52%.*

METRIC	INDUSTRY BENCHMARK	THE LIBIN BEAT	WEEKLY INTERNAL NEWSLETTER
Open Rate	~28–40%	51.54%	50.39%
Click Rate	~2–3.5%	5.17%	3.12%
Unsubscribe Rate	~0.1–0.5% per send	0%	0.52%
*Please note that these metrics reflect activity up to January 2026.			

WEBSITE

Over the past year, the LCI website has continued to demonstrate strong visibility, with 87,901 visitors and 538,949 total interactions (ie. clicks and internal searches). Overall engagement averaged 43 seconds per user, reflecting meaningful but relatively brief interactions that vary significantly depending on how users arrive at the site.

Our most visited pages highlight consistent interest in both institutional identity and clinical education. The home page (16K views), Our Team (3.4K), and Department of Cardiac Sciences (3.1K) were among the top-performing pages, alongside high-interest program and engagement content such as the Fellowship Program (2.9K). This suggests users are seeking foundational information about the Institute, its people and its training and clinical programs.

Most visitors arrive through Organic Search (~55–56%), which also delivers the highest-quality engagement, with an average session duration of 1m 07s. This indicates strong search visibility and high intent among users who discover Libin content through search engines.

Geographically, the audience remains primarily Canadian, with 48K users from Canada, but international reach is expanding significantly. Growth is particularly notable in Singapore (12K users, +14,695%), China (13K users, +1,548%), Indonesia (1.1K users, +1,246%), alongside 9K users from the United States. This points to global visibility of Libin's research and education content.

SOCIAL MEDIA

This fiscal year, the LCI continued to expand its digital presence and deepen its connection with the cardiovascular community. Our combined audience grew by 141.5 per cent compared to the previous year, reaching 9,441 followers across all platforms, and overall engagement increased by nearly 20 per cent. Our content was seen almost one million times — 966,465 impressions across Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and X. Facebook remains our top-performing platform for reach and engagement, while LinkedIn is rapidly growing in both audience size and influence, now boasting our highest engagement rate at 8 per cent. Instagram saw exceptional growth this year, with views up 62 per cent and follower count increasing dramatically as the channel matured.

The Institute's highest-performing social media content consistently centered on people, community and shared experiences. Memorial tributes, awards and recognition, community culture moments and leadership announcements generated the strongest engagement across platforms. Engagement was also high during key events such as Wear Red Canada/Libin Wears Red and the Tine Haworth Cardiovascular Research Day. These results highlight the value of sharing stories that celebrate achievements, recognize people and strengthen connections within the Institute's community.

LOOKING FORWARD

Looking ahead to 2026–2027, the Communications and Marketing team is focused on building on this year's momentum with a sharper content strategy. Key priorities include significantly increasing video output and prioritizing people-centred storytelling as a core content pillar. Beyond social media, the team will be auditing and revitalizing the Institute's website to improve the user experience and will be adopting Dialog Insight as the primary tool for newsletter and email communications.

TOP STORIES OF 2025–2026



Over the past fiscal 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 (April 2025–March 2026) are highlighted below:

- [Clinician-researcher wins national award](#)
- [Libin researchers receive \\$9.2M in CIHR grants](#)
- [New implant restores blood pressure balance after spinal cord injury](#)
- [Bioengineer named fellow of Canadian Academy of Engineering](#)
- [Clinic provides personalized care for patients with inherited genetic disorders impacting the heart](#)
- [UCalgary researcher earns prestigious international award](#)
- [UCalgary scientists' work to be showcased in art exhibit](#)
- [UCalgary researcher testing effectiveness of Aspirin in preventing postpartum blood clots](#)
- [Project bringing genetic testing to the heart failure clinics](#)
- [UCalgary research links gene to cardiac arrhythmias](#)
- [Libin Precision Medicine Initiative launches enhanced cardiac care program](#)
- [New 4D model advances precision treatment for heart failure](#)
- [Study shows economic benefit of AI cardiovascular decision-making tool](#)
- [Film sheds light on emotional journey for families of children with congenital heart disease](#)
- [UCalgary research shows important links between sex hormones and brain health](#)
- [Dr. Tolulope Sajobi appointed department head, Community Health Sciences](#)
- [Dr. Ken Kuljit Singh Parhar appointed head of Critical Care Medicine](#)



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