



UBC Health

Better health together: Connecting people, ideas, and actions to advance health outcomes, equity, and systems

About Us

The Office of the Vice-President, Health at the University of British Columbia was established in 2018 to build on the work of the College of Health Disciplines in advancing interprofessional and collaborative health education and research and to create synergies and alignment across all areas of UBC that contribute to the health and wellbeing of individuals, communities, and society.

UBC Health works under the auspices of the Office of the Vice-President, Health to enhance and enable interprofessional and collaborative health education and interdisciplinary research to train people, develop knowledge, and shape policy—seeking to address inequities and improve the systems that produce health. We advance these aims by promoting and facilitating collaborations across all faculties at UBC’s Vancouver and Okanagan campuses, as well as with communities, institutions, and government organizations throughout BC.

In 2021, we revised our governance structure and completed the development of a five-year strategic plan, which reflects a broad remit in health education, health research, and health systems. Our work in collaborative health education and practice education continues to grow and is enhanced by this new structure. We are actively working to coordinate university and sector activities to establish evidence for new approaches to health.

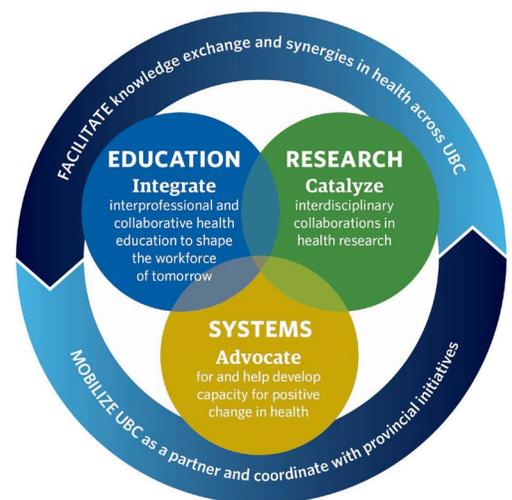
UBC Health is governed by the UBC Health Executive and guided by the UBC Health Council and advisory committees for education, research, and systems. The work of UBC Health is also informed by a student caucus and a patient, public, and community advisory committee.

Our Work

Our work focuses on three core areas—collaborative health education, interdisciplinary health research, and health systems, with directors in education and research as well as special advisors for Indigenous health and health systems.

Collaborative Health Education

We help develop collaborative health learning opportunities that extend into practice and ensure students are ready for the team-based care models that are emerging across the province. For example, we facilitate the delivery of the *Integrated Curriculum*, a series of workshops and online modules that supports the development of the interprofessional competencies needed for collaborative practice and provides learning experiences around complex health topics, such as ethics and Indigenous cultural safety. Through the *Practice Education Network*, we facilitate a coordinated approach to sector partnerships and inform strategies for interprofessional placement opportunities.



Interdisciplinary Health Research

We foster interdisciplinary health research collaborations that address pressing health challenges facing society. For example, through the *Health Innovation Funding Investment (HIFI) Awards*, we catalyze cross-faculty and cross-campus collaboration at the Vancouver and Okanagan campuses by providing grants to develop, undertake, or translate innovative health-related research activities that have the potential to create change. Through the *Health After 2020* program, we are leveraging the inflection point in our society created by the COVID-19 pandemic to build a community of scholars that will engage in interdisciplinary collaborations and may lead to new research programs and engagement with policymakers and communities.

Improvements in Health Systems

We work with health sector partners across BC to enable dialogue, activate assets, and advance policies and innovations to improve health systems at individual and community levels. For example, we have partnered with the BC Centre on Substance Use to improve substance use and addiction education for health profession students. This will help ensure graduates enter practice with foundational training in substance use and addiction prevention, treatment, and recovery to accompany the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to support people who use substances. Through the *TBC@UBC Network*, we connect faculty and staff who are working to advance team-based care. Network members are collaborating to support and connect team-based care efforts across the province, create synergies across initiatives, and disseminate lessons learned from campus-based and other experiences.

Our Leadership

- Dermot Kelleher, Vice-President, Health
- Anne Martin-Matthews, Associate Vice-President, Health
- Donna Drynan, Director of Education, UBC Health
- Kim McGrail, Director of Research, UBC Health
- Ray Markham, Special Advisor to the Vice-President, Health on Health Systems
- Nadine Caron, Special Advisor on Indigenous Health to the Vice-President, Health
- Victoria Wood, Assistant Director, Strategic Initiatives, UBC Health
- Ben Fair, Assistant Director, Health Systems, UBC Health
- Angela Towle & William Godolphin, Patient & Community Partnership for Education, UBC Health

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