



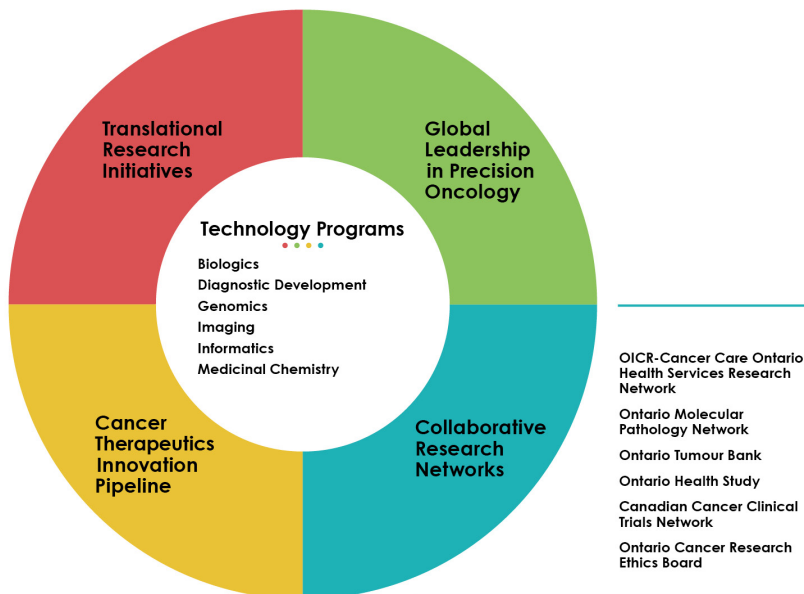
# **OICR Translational Research Initiative Planning Workshop Reports**

## A. Background

This document provides a summary of the structure and purpose of one of the major Strategic Initiatives of OICR, the Translational Research Initiative (TRI), and the TRI Planning Workshops that were hosted by OICR from November 2015 – February 2016. Reports describing the information that was shared at each of the TRI Planning Workshops are published at the OICR website for the Ontario cancer research community.

## B. Introduction

Over the past eight years, OICR has made substantial progress towards achieving its vision of strengthening cancer research, improving patient outcomes and delivering economic benefit to Ontario. In an effort to accelerate translational cancer research, the 2016-2021 blueprint will support four strategic initiatives that align research activities, scientific innovation and technology support in a more integrated and coordinated fashion between OICR and the Ontario cancer research community.



TRIs, one of the four strategic initiatives, are large-scale, multidisciplinary collaborations between laboratory and clinician scientists that build on areas of strength and leadership for Ontario, focused on a clinical priority or unmet need for cancer patients. TRIs are viewed as the translation engines of the Institute designed to accelerate the development of promising innovations aiming to improve cancer patient outcomes.

OICR is contemplating funding TRIs in the following seven areas that were identified in the Strategic Plan:

- Acute Leukemia;
- Brain Cancer;
- Early Breast Cancer;
- Early Prostate Cancer;

- Esophageal Cancer;
- Immuno-oncology;
- Ovarian Cancer.

TRIs consist of:

1. Two to five major projects that evaluate and validate hypotheses, technologies, biomarkers, therapies and interventions with the objective of improving the translational value of Ontario discoveries/innovations, resulting in their progression to the clinical setting or the broader research/medical community. One or more of the major projects **must** be a clinical trial or health intervention study that starts within the second year of the initiative, at the latest;
2. If applicable, smaller “catalyst/blue sky” research projects required to support future research aligned with the TRI theme; and
3. If applicable, Health services research activities to facilitate dissemination and adoption.

### C. TRI Planning Workshop

TRI Planning Workshops were intended to catalyze the sharing of ideas and expertise among Ontario stakeholders (translational researchers, clinicians, biostatisticians, health services researchers, funding agencies and receptors, if applicable) to further define the focus and scope of proposed initiatives, and lead to the creation of cohesive teams that will submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) for each of the aforementioned TRI themes. The Workshop goals were:

- Identify ideas, hypotheses and innovations/assets that can be brought to bear on important medical needs of cancer patients;
- Explore the most promising avenues to move new hypotheses, technologies, biomarkers and potential therapies or other health interventions towards the clinic or dissemination and adoption by the research/medical community;
- Build consensus in the community around TRI priorities;
- Ensure that OICR research is internationally competitive;
- Leverage OICR Technology Programs capabilities;
- Create synergy among scientists with complementary expertise; and
- Identify potential sources of co-funding.

### D. Next Steps

The TRI Planning Workshop reports are published at the OICR website to provide an opportunity for the Ontario cancer research community to understand the topics that will be considered for inclusion into the LOIs. The timeline below outlines the next steps towards the start of the TRI in April 2017:

1. Declaration of LOI intent: April 15, 2016;
2. LOI submission: May 2, 2016;
3. LOI peer review: June 2016;
4. Selection of LOIs that will progress to full TRI applications: July 15, 2016;
5. Submission of full TRI Funding Request applications: October 31, 2016;
6. International review panel for TRI FR applications: February 2017;
7. Beginning of TRI funding: April 2017.