



Country: Canada

Organization: Canadian Institutes for Health Research

Program/Project: Canada is a leading nation in rare disease research thanks to numerous federal and provincial funding opportunities built around a solid partnership between the Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR) and Genome Canada. At CIHR, rare disease research is a key priority area of the Personalized Medicine Signature Initiative, which launched in 2012. The same technologies used to diagnose rare diseases also show that common diseases like cancer are often just collections of many rare diseases. This allows cancer patients to be classified into groups that will respond optimally to different therapies.

Canadian Institutes for Health Research and Genome Canada are IRDiRC Member Institutions.

Scientific Director of Canadian Institutes for Health Research Institute of Genetics: Prof. Paul Lasko (Department of Biology, McGill University)

Program/Project: CARE for RARE is a nation-wide research program focusing on the improvement of both the diagnosis and treatment of rare diseases. Led out of the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO) Research Institute in Ottawa, Canada, CARE for RARE includes 21 academic sites across the country, and is recognized internationally as a pioneer in the field of genomics and personalized medicine. Its team uses state of the art DNA sequencing technology to identify new rare disease genes for patients across Canada and around the world, and develops novel therapeutic approaches. Together, 80 physicians and 50 scientists work to advance rare disease research as part of the CARE for RARE program.

Leadership: Dr. Kym Boycott (Medical Geneticist at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO) and Clinician Scientist at the CHEO Research Institute); Dr. Alex MacKenzie (principal investigator at the CHEO Research Institute)

Website of CARE for RARE: <http://care4rare.ca/>