



Thunder Bay Regional Health Research Institute

2019-2020 Annual Report Summary



Thunder Bay Regional
Health Research
Institute

Bringing
Discovery
to Life

Donner
vie à la
découverte

Message from the Board Chair & CEO



Since its inception over a decade ago, the Thunder Bay Regional Health Research Institute has focused on health challenges that affect us most in Northwestern Ontario. Over the past few years, we have sharpened that focus through collaborations between our scientists, clinicians at the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre (our Hospital) and elsewhere, and by understanding the shared priorities of the Health Research Institute and our Hospital. Today, we are developing new and innovative techniques for universal health care challenges such as cancer care. Just as importantly, we are also creating regional solutions to our own unique challenges including barriers to Indigenous health and providing distance health care for patients across our large region.

The mandate for the Health Research Institute has clearly changed over the past few years. Research has expanded beyond medical imaging and there is recognition that self-sustainability through commercialization of medical technologies is unrealistic. There is no doubt that medical imaging should remain a strong research area within the Health Research Institute but more emphasis of research related to population health, especially Indigenous people, and smart health research should be considered.

We are proud of the successes and the impact the Health Research Institute, our scientists and dedicated staff have had on the health care landscape of Northwestern Ontario. We were instrumental in bringing the cyclotron and its countless medical, research applications, and economic benefits to Thunder Bay. Dr. Alla Reznik and her team at Radialis Medical Inc. are developing positron-emission mammography that will revolutionize how breast cancer is detected. Dr. Zubair Fadlullah has brought his expertise in Smart Health Technology that investigates ways to improve access to health services, such as early detection and real time monitoring in rural and remote communities in our region. The establishment of the annual

Summer School of Medical Imaging, led by our scientists and staff, is a great example of how we are developing the next generation of homegrown scientific talent. The Research Chair program is very worthwhile and will be an important factor in helping to expand the scientific community at the Health Research Institute and Lakehead University.

During this past year, we have experienced a period of change and transition. The departure of Dr. Valerie Grdisa, who held the role of Executive Vice President of Research, Quality & Academics/Chief Nursing Executive has left a gap. However, Dr. Grdisa initiated some great work and began the process of expanding the research agenda at the Health Research Institute and the Hospital to increase emphasis on clinical research and practitioner-led research. These transitions, including a relatively new and lean Board have delayed the development of a new Strategic Plan for the Health Research Institute.

We have signed a new Affiliation Agreement with the Hospital's Board which will provide stability to governance and allow for better integration. It recognizes that the Health Research Institute is the research arm of the Hospital and this emphasises the importance of being an academic health sciences centre. There is also the clear recognition that the Health Research Institute is financially dependent on the Hospital. The independence of the Health Research Institute as a separate corporate entity with its own Board is important. There has also been a strong statement that the President and CEO of the Hospital is also the CEO of the Health Research Institute and that there is a dual reporting structure.

This past year, the Board has recruited two new Directors, Peter Bishop and John Dixon, and will be recruiting a new Director with recommendations from the Fort William First Nation and Nishnawbe Aski Nation. In addition, Dr. David Marsh replaced Dr. Penny Moody-Corbett as the ex-officio representative from the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM). Dr. Moody-Corbett retired in December, 2019.

Dr. Christopher Mushquash, Interim EVP Research for the Hospital and Chief Scientist for the Health Research Institute, has been appointed to the Board of the Canada Foundation for Innovation, an independent not-for-profit organization that invests in research facilities and equipment in

Canada's universities, colleges, research hospitals, and non-profit research institutions.

External partnerships are and will continue to be a key component to our success. The relationship with Lakehead University and NOSM is strong and stimulates collaborations, cross appointments of scientific talent and the training of highly qualified personnel. Our connection to Radialis Medical Inc. shows immense promise and could lead to a production facility in Thunder Bay. Working with the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research (OICR) involves us in the development of new cancer research discoveries for patients in our region and around the world. The beginning of the "Group of Seven" or the Northern Ontario Health Innovation Cluster should also lead to increased collaborations and opportunities.

We owe a tremendous amount of gratitude to our partners at all levels of government, and the generous donors to the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Foundation. Our success could not have been possible without their financial support over the years and their strong belief in the importance of health research to our community. The Health Research Institute has not been immune to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and we must be prepared to function under the conditions of the new normal that it has created for our society. However, with challenges, there often comes opportunity. There will be an increased focus on the importance of health research as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and how it can help keep people safe. This can be an opportunity for growth at the Health Research Institute, and accentuates the value that health research brings to patient care at the Hospital and the community at large.

Jean Bartkowiak

CEO, Thunder Bay Regional Health Research Institute

Dr. Andrew Dean, PhD

Chair, Thunder Bay Regional Health Research Institute Board of Directors

Board of Directors

Dr. Andrew Dean, PhD

Chair of the Board
Vice-President, Research & Innovation, Lakehead University

Jean Bartkowiak

Chief Executive Officer,
Thunder Bay Regional Health
Research Institute
President & Chief Executive
Officer, Thunder Bay Regional
Health Sciences Centre

Dr. Pam Wakewich, PhD

Vice-Chair of the Board
Professor Emeritus Sociology
and Women's Studies,
Lakehead University
Past Director, Centre for Rural &
Northern Health Research;

Christine Napierala, CPA, CA

(to June 20th, 2019)
Treasurer of the Board
Financial Manager at Hydro One
Remote Communities Inc.

James Peotto, CPA, CA

(Since April 26th, 2019)
Treasurer of the Board (since
June, 20th, 2019)
Senior Accountant, Reporting
and Compliance, Impala
Canada Limited

Dr. Valerie Grdisa, PhD

(to March 31st, 2020
delegated by Chief of Staff,
Thunder Bay Regional Health
Sciences Centre)
Executive Vice-President,
Research, Quality & Academics/
Chief Nursing Executive,
Thunder Bay Regional Health
Sciences Centre

Dr. Penny Moody-Corbett, PhD

(to December 2019)
Associate Dean of Research,
Northern Ontario School of
Medicine;
Senior member, Canadian
Institutes of Health Research

Kathleen Lynch

President, Confederation
College

Dr. Sheldon Tobe, MD

Professor in Medicine,
Staff Physician, Division of
Nephrology, University of
Toronto;
Professor and Heart and Stroke
Foundation Chair, Aboriginal
and Rural Health Research,
Northern Ontario School of
Medicine.

Andrew Ross

(since April 26th, 2019)
Manager of the Anishnaabe
Bimaadiziwin Research
Program, a collaboration of
the Sioux Lookout Meno Ya
Win Health Centre and Sioux
Lookout First Nations Health
Authority

John Dixon

(Since October 21st, 2019)
Director of Mental Health and
Addiction Services at Dilico
Anishinabek Family Care

Dr. David C. Marsh, MD CCSAM

(Since January 3rd, 2020)
Associate Dean, Research
Innovation and International
Relations
Professor, Clinical Sciences
Northern Ontario School of
Medicine

Former Board Directors

Dr. Mark Poznansky

(to November 19th, 2018)
Past President & CEO, Ontario
Genomics Institute; Past
President & CEO, Robarts
Research Institute

Jay Lefton

(to November 19th, 2018)
Partner, Fasken Martineau
DuMoulin LLP.

Aldéa Landry, CM, PC, QC

(to August 14th, 2018)
Lawyer & President, Landal Inc.;
Former Cabinet Minister and
Deputy Premier, New Brunswick

Tom Kehoe, MBA, CFA

(to November 19th, 2018)
Investor, Abiwin Ventures Ltd.

Clint Harris

(to August 30th, 2018)
Chair of the Board, Thunder
Bay Regional Health Research
Institute; Publisher and General
Manager, The Chronicle-Journal

Dr. Abraham Rudnick, MD, PhD

(to September 30th, 2018)
Executive Vice President
Research & Development,
Thunder Bay Regional Health
Sciences Centre and Chief
Scientist, Thunder Bay Regional
Health Research Institute

Dr. Jim Madder

(to August 2018)
President, Confederation
College

Stan Beardy

(on a leave of absence since
December 2018)
Chief, Muskrat Dam First
Nation and Former Ontario
Regional Chief

Anne-Marie Heron

(September 2018 to March 31st,
2019 - delegated by Chief of
Staff, Thunder Bay Regional
Health Sciences Centre)
Acting EVP Research and
Development and Executive
Director of Capital Planning
& Operations, Physical Plant
and Operations, Thunder Bay
Regional Health Sciences Centre

Scientists

Dr. Mitchell Albert, PhD

Lakehead University/
TBRHRI Research Chair
in Molecular Imaging and
Advanced Diagnostics
Professor of Chemistry,
Lakehead University
Adjunct Professor of
Biology, Biotechnology,
Health Sciences, and
Physics, Lakehead
University
Adjunct Professor of
Medical Sciences, Northern
Ontario School of Medicine
Scientist, TBRHRI

Dr. Michael Campbell, PhD

Lakehead University/
TBRHRI Research Chair
in Radiochemistry for
Molecular Imaging and
Advanced Diagnostics
Assistant Professor,
Department of Chemistry,
Lakehead University
Scientist, TBRHRI

Dr. Alla Reznik, PhD

Canada Research Chair
in Physics of Molecular
Imaging
Associate Professor,
Department of Physics,
Lakehead University
Scientist, TBRHRI

Dr. Ingeborg Zehbe, PhD, DSc

Lakehead University/
TBRHRI Research Chair
in Biology
Associate Professor,
Northern Ontario School of
Medicine (West Campus)
Scientist, TBRHRI

Dr. Jinqiang Hou, PhD

Lakehead University/
TBRHRI Research Chair in
Radiochemistry
Assistant Professor in the
Department of Chemistry,
Lakehead University
Scientist, TBRHRI

Dr. Zubair Fadlullah, PhD

Lakehead University/
TBRHRI Research Chair in
Smart Health Technology
Associate Professor in
Department of Computer
Sciences, Lakehead
University
Scientist, TBRHRI

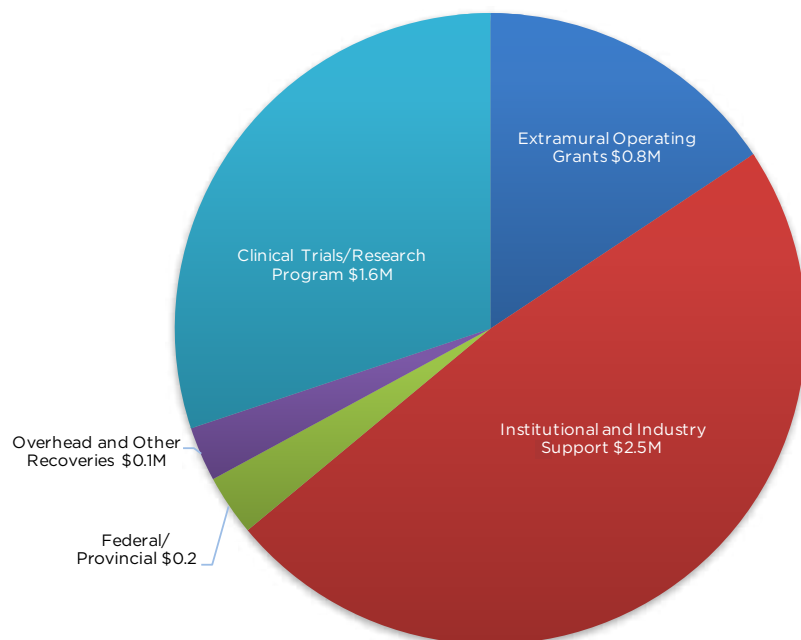
Associate Scientists

Dr. Jane Lawrence Dewar

2019-2020 Financials

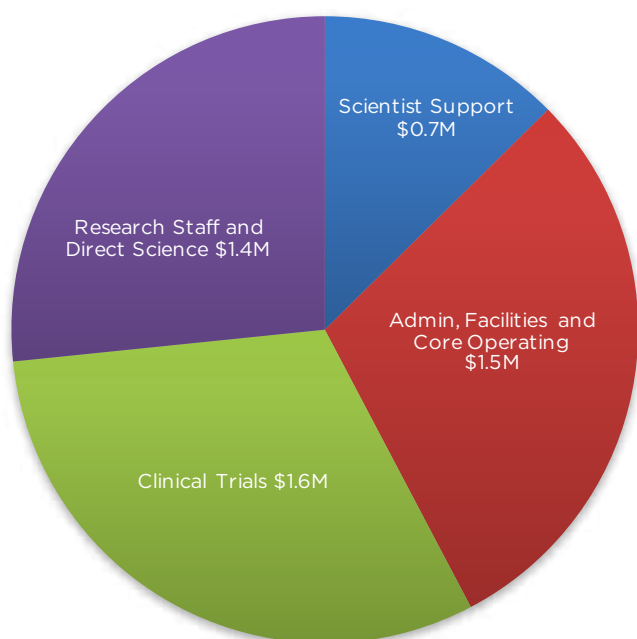
REVENUE SOURCES

Total = \$5.2M



EXPENSES

Total = \$5.2M



Funders and Partners

GOVERNMENT



ACADEMIC HEALTH SCIENCES CENTRES



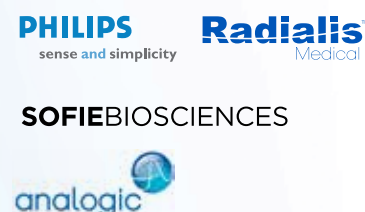
ACADEMICS



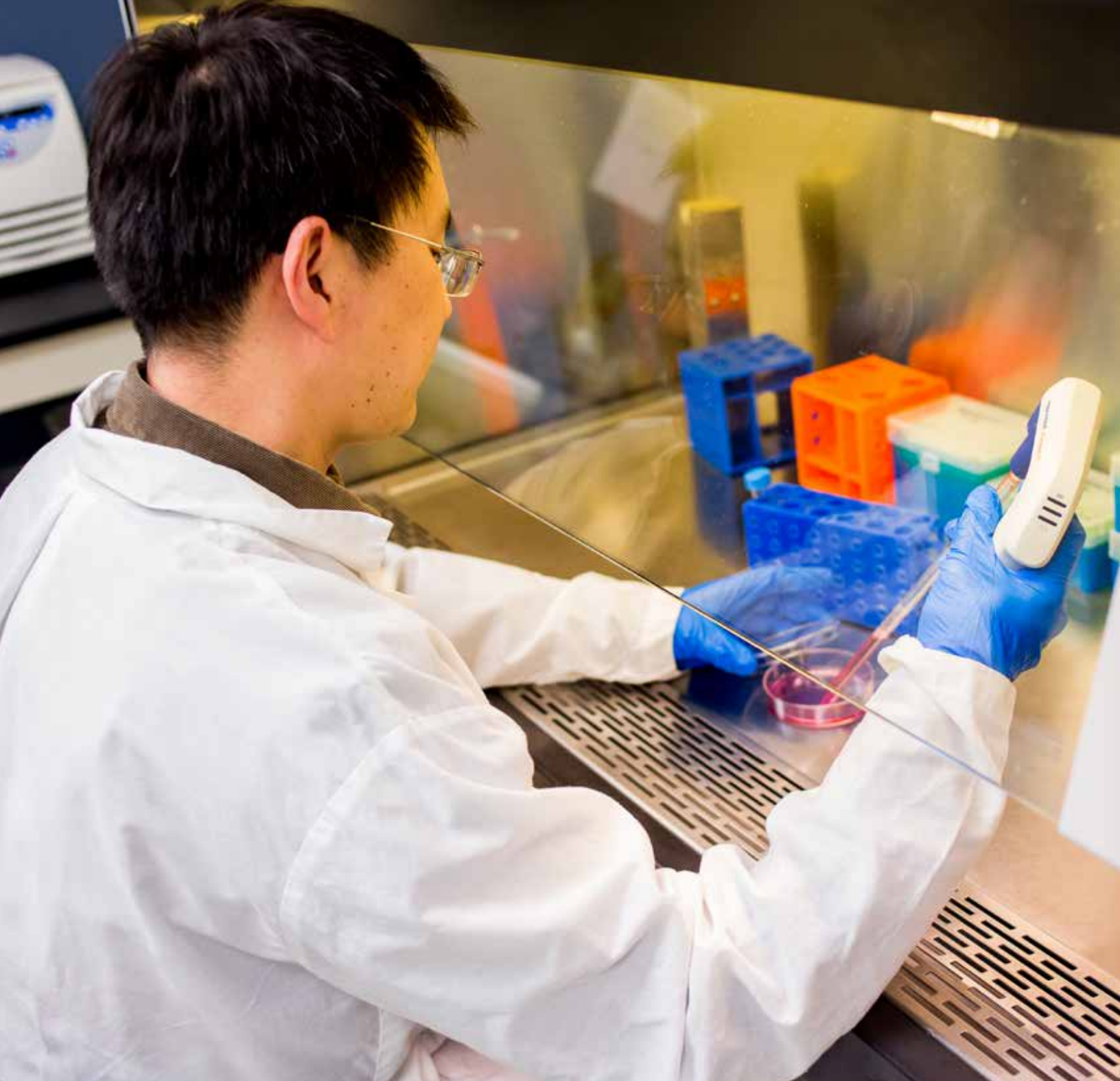
NOT FOR PROFIT



INDUSTRY







**Thunder Bay Regional
Health Research
Institute**

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Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6V4
Tel. 807 684 7223 | www.tbrhri.ca

Bringing
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Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre is a leader in Patient and Family Centred Care and a research and teaching hospital proudly affiliated with **Lakehead University, the Northern Ontario School of Medicine and Confederation College.**

Le Centre régional des sciences de la santé de Thunder Bay, un hôpital d'enseignement et de recherche, est reconnu comme un leader dans la prestation de soins et de services aux patients et aux familles et est fier de son affiliation à **l'université Lakehead, à l'École de médecine du Nord de l'Ontario et au collège Confédération.**