



MICYRN is a multi-disciplinary Canadian initiative to support world-class clinical research nationwide. Our vision is that the synergistic strength from a formal collaborative network of leading researchers and integrated infrastructure will spur tremendous incremental advances unattainable by individual groups. MICYRN's goal to promote high-quality clinical research in Canada includes the intent to support research in critical and underserved areas of maternal, infant, child, and youth health, in addition to building shared and sustainable national research infrastructure.

Currently the new executive of MICYRN are performing an evaluation of needs in the research community, in order to decide what steps we can take first in order to produce the most effective and timely results. We have begun with a pilot survey undertaken at the new MICYRN headquarters location, the Child and Family Research Centre, based at the BC Women's and Children's Health Centre. Also included were pediatric researchers from the Women's Health Research Institute, the BC Mental Health and Addictions Institute, and the Centre for Molecular Medicine and Therapeutics.

The survey was sent by email to 120 researchers and research managers with 82 surveys returned (68.3%) over the course of one month. Respondents were 60:40 investigators to research managers/coordinators. Of these responses:

- 2/3 are involved in collaborative networks (3/4 of researchers are involved)
- > 1/2 are involved in multi-centre trials (2/3 of researchers are involved)
- 60% of investigators have been involved with research for over 10 years

The most frustrating barriers to research that could make or break a researcher's success were identified as:

Barriers to success in research	Overall percentage	Researchers Only
Securing funding	66	55
Ethics (local or collaborating centres)	58	48
Finding time for research	58	46
Regulatory affairs (contracts, legal, Health Canada, etc.)	59	37
Hiring and training of staff	59	23
Managing data (including IT)	51	23

We also asked respondents to provide their "wish list" of top three ways that MICYRN might be able to assist them in their efforts, with the responses chosen in the following order:

Ways MICYRN could potentially assist in research	Overall percentage	Researchers Only
Facilitate ethics process both locally and nationally	65.3	75.0
Assist with funding of collaborative networks	58.9	67.5
Streamline contracts/regulatory affairs process	50.0	42.5
Provide data management solutions	34.6	35.0
Enhance connectivity between researchers/potential collaborators	33.3	32.5
Identify effective ways to translate research results into clinical practice	20.5	10.0
Assist with training of research staff/trainees	19.2	12.5
Create national biobanking network	11.5	10.0
Other	3.8	2.5

We are currently following up these surveys with more in-depth interviews being held with groups of researchers to discuss the questions in further detail, and to try to determine how MICYRN would best be able to improve the current state.