

# Health Sciences Research Strategy Committee (HSRSC) Terms of Reference

## Purpose

As a committee of the Joint Governance Council of the Academic Health Sciences (JGCAHS), the Health Sciences Research Strategy Committee (HSRSC) will provide overview and strategic guidance for initiatives that advance interdisciplinary research and training across health science colleges and schools at the University of Saskatchewan. This includes fostering collaboration on research priorities that benefit from co-ordination and alignment within the health sciences to enhance outcomes.

The HSRSC will engage in strategic planning to strengthen health science research in alignment with institutional priorities, including those mapped out by the vice-president research and the provost and vice-president academic. This alignment ensures that the committee's initiatives complement broader university research strategy and do not operate in isolation. This work includes consideration of the University of Saskatchewan signature areas of research relevant to the health sciences, such as [One Health, Health and Wellness](#) and related strategic themes. The HSRSC will also serve as a forum for identifying and responding to emerging research issues that impact multiple colleges or programs in the health sciences, ensuring collaboration and integration across academic units. This includes identifying major research opportunities and helping initiate and support large, collaborative proposals that advance the goal of increasing health science research activity.

Through its work with subcommittees and working groups, and through liaison with other relevant groups, the HSRSC will provide advice to the JGCAHS on how these initiatives or issues are to be implemented in the participating colleges, schools, and programs and will take direction from the JGCAHS regarding these activities within the health sciences, including but not limited to the use of shared research spaces and infrastructure and core facilities within the Health Sciences Building. The HSRSC will be knowledgeable about emerging research opportunities and shared infrastructure needs (through any subcommittees formed and through direct engagement with their own academic units) that will broaden research capacity and impact across the province.

## Responsibilities

The HSRSC will:

- Work to foster and establish a culture of collaboration and sharing.
- Provide ongoing reports to the JGCAHS through the director of the Academic Health Sciences (AHS), who will communicate on behalf of the committee.
- Execute requests of the JGCAHS via their subcommittees or working groups.

- Identify at least one or two short- and long-term strategic priorities with a focus on such topics as interdisciplinary research and infrastructure needs and training, for approval by the JGCAHS annually, and report progress regularly via the director of AHS. These priorities should fit within the broader goals of enhancing interdisciplinary and translational health research across the institution with additional focus on enhancing research collaboration between scientists and clinicians.
- Work to remove barriers to research productivity by recommending strategies to optimize the use of research space and infrastructure and by developing plans for equipment maintenance and renewal.
- Serve as a forum to identify issues affecting multiple health science research programs, collaborate with partners to explore solutions, and, when appropriate, develop recommendations for the JGCAHS on policies, procedures, and the effective use of resources that support shared health science research initiatives, to meet the needs of colleges, schools, faculty and students.
- When engaged by the JGCAHS to do so, interact and liaise with other committees created by the JGCAHS for sharing information across pillars including but not limited to equity, diversity, inclusion, Indigenization, operations, and education.
- Organize and host the annual Life and Health Sciences Research Expo.
- Ensure that strategic interdisciplinary research initiatives are considered during human resources and operational planning in the respective health science academic units.
- Advise on the development, management and cost-sharing of shared research facilities and equipment, including core facilities, offices, labs and any other health science research related operations.
- Using college- and school-level channels as appropriate, communicate with faculty, staff and trainees to ensure they are fully aware of institutional health research initiatives and programs and other health research program strategies that present opportunities to strengthen partnerships.
- Create and oversee standing subcommittees, including the Research Expo Committee, and term-limited *ad hoc* working groups as needed to address various common health science research issues and initiatives.

Responsibilities of the HSRSC will be reviewed and modified as required by the JGCAHS at least annually.

## Membership

### Members

- Chair (appointed by JGCAHS for a two-year term)
- Vice-chair (appointed by JGCAHS for a two-year term)
- One or more vice, associate or assistant deans research (or equivalent, or designate) of:
  - College of Dentistry
  - College of Kinesiology
  - College of Medicine
  - College of Nursing

- College of Pharmacy and Nutrition
- College of Western College of Veterinary Medicine
- School of Public Health
- College of Arts and Science
- Office of the Vice-President Research representative (associate vice-president or designate)

## Resource roles

- Director of AHS

In addition to this core membership, resource personnel and external representatives will be periodically invited to attend and provide updates in their respective areas of responsibility and expertise.

## Governance

- The HSRSC will be chaired by an appointee decided by the JGCAHS.
- The HSRSC will normally make its recommendations to the JGCAHS by consensus.
- Administrative support will be provided by the director of AHS.

## Meetings

- Meet twice a term or as needed
- Normally, the agenda for each meeting shall be prepared by the director of the AHS and reviewed by the co-chairs and distributed to members at least one week in advance.
- Minutes of each meeting shall be recorded and circulated with the agenda for approval at the next meeting.

## Reporting

- The HSRSC is accountable to the JGCAHS via the director of AHS.
- An annual report summarizing the progress toward the strategic priorities including committee activities, decisions, and outcomes shall be prepared by the director of AHS, approved by HSRSC and submitted to the JGCAHS every spring.
- Meeting notes shall be kept on file with the director of AHS in a secure folder accessible by the members.
- Any information deemed to be confidential in nature (e.g., individual health or personal issues) shall be handled and stored in a secure manner.
- Confidential information recorded during meetings shall be kept within a secure folder and location of this information referenced in the minutes.

## Review and amendment of the Terms of Reference

- The Terms of Reference shall be reviewed annually by the HSRSC.

- Amendments to the Terms of Reference may be proposed by any member and shall be reviewed by committee members for recommendation to the JGCAHS.
- JGCAHS approves the TOR

**Date approved by JGCAHS: April 30, 2026**