



Cardiovascular Research Institute

CVRI Business Plan

2022 - 2025

Executive Summary

Drs. C. Andrin & J. Ezekowitz

February 14, 2023



**UNIVERSITY
OF ALBERTA**



1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Cardiovascular disease impacts millions of Canadians each year and imposes a significant burden on our healthcare systems. The only path forward to change this is through research. The Cardiovascular Research Institute (CVRI) is proposed to build and support a robust, coordinated cardiovascular research community that is driven in common purpose to eliminate the burden of cardiovascular disease.

The University of Alberta (UofA) has significant strengths in the cardiac sciences with impressive intellectual talent and vast equipment, infrastructure and resources that would benefit from the coordinated support of an overarching institute. These cardiovascular researchers bring millions of dollars to the university, are internationally known and respected, and highly successful (above average citation impact, high volume of publications, significant authorship in high ranking journals and authorship and/or contributions to numerous clinical practice guidelines). The UofA and the Faculty of Medicine (FoMD) have made a commitment to the development of the CVRI to drive discovery and innovation in the cardiac sciences while maximizing the benefit of allocated resources.

Currently, there are many cardiovascular research groups and resources on campus, each with their own mandates and strengths. There are significant opportunities to connect these resources to increase efficiencies and enhance their overall impact through the CVRI. The strategies outlined in this business plan will set the CVRI on a path to success.

The CVRI's main goals are to:

- I. Expand the UofA's cardiac **research, innovation and clinical care** impact – Create opportunities for effective and diverse research collaborations, and catalyze innovative research through increased funding opportunities.
- II. Capitalize on the learnings and **innovations** generated by UofA researchers through **commercialization** – Encourage, facilitate and lead partnerships with industry to drive knowledge translation and create sustainable revenue generation.
- III. Build the CVRI **brand** as the “one-stop-shop” for cardiovascular research support and foster strong, inclusive cardiovascular research community and **culture**.
- IV. Drive **fundraising** to increase cardiovascular research capacity and success.
- V. Prioritize **education and mentorship** – Promote and encourage an inclusive, supportive learning environment and create opportunities to help trainees succeed.

The CVRI will partner with academic, healthcare administration and funders to develop robust research support structures. Focused initiatives such as expansion or creation of key cardiac-related core facilities will provide immediate value back to the CVRI membership.



Membership is proposed to be inclusive and diverse to leverage the available expertise and maximize the collaborative capacity of the group. The CVRI will create opportunities for meaningful and effective collaborations through events, funding competitions, and institute-led team initiatives.

Funds through the FoMD and Alberta Health Services (AHS) Cardiac Sciences Chair endowment have provided the seed money to initiate the CVRI. The CVRI will further identify, manage and allocate funds to directly support high-value, peer reviewed research initiatives and trainees support programs, and collaborate with internal and external stakeholders to secure transformative funds to ensure the sustainability of the institute and its ability to support cardiovascular research.

The CVRI is well positioned to synergistically connect the UofA cardiac researchers under one umbrella to effectively and efficiently support research, and propel discovery and innovation to the next level.