



# **October 2021 RRC Stakeholder Visioning Session**

Turning Visioning into Action: Responding to  
Opportunities, Strengths and Challenges

Prepared for: Respiratory Research Centre  
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Date: October 13, 2021

# Executive Summary

Building on RRC's June 2021 discussion and identified model of RRC's niche and strengths in interdisciplinary collaborative research, RRC stakeholders met on October 13, 2021 to identify specific goals and actions.

Goals identified include:

- Goal 1. Increased Researcher Collaborations, and Connections to Grow Research Capacity & Knowledge Translation Across Disciplines and Basic/Applied/Clinical perspectives.
- Goal 2. Fiscal Sustainability & Access to Shared Resources to Grow Research Capacity
- Goal 3. Strong Mutually Beneficial Partnerships and Memberships
- Goal 4. Meaningful Outreach, Knowledge translation & Impact

Specific actions and next steps were identified for each of these goals.

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# Introduction

## Background and Aim

The Respiratory Research Centre, launched in 2017 by the College of Medicine and the Lung Association of Saskatchewan, is dedicated to enabling ground-breaking discoveries in respiratory health from across the province.

The October 13, 2021 session was concise, focused and facilitated to maximize engagement and insight from busy stakeholders. It was virtual and hosted on Zoom.

### *Building on June Discussions and RRC Model*

This discussion built on RRC's June 2021 session engaging stakeholders including association representatives, patients, clinicians, early career and experienced researchers, and university research leaders in visioning RRC's future directions.



Figure 1. RRCs Niche and synergies

## About Higher Education and Beyond

Our experienced and qualified facilitators offer professional development and consulting for individuals and organizations in evidence-based decision-making, effective engagement processes, outcome assessment, professional development design, and inter-perspective knowledge translation for organizational success within and beyond higher education.

## **About Carolyn Hoessler, PhD, CE**

Senior Facilitator, Evaluator, Founder of Higher Education & Beyond.  
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Carolyn is an experienced facilitator and consultant on navigating change and creating and assessing change initiatives and professional development in higher education and community organizations. Carolyn draws on a combination of skilled facilitation of diverse groups, respect for human-scaled timelines, deep knowledge in curriculum, course and professional development design and advanced yet approachable deep insight into quantitative, qualitative and mixed-method analysis and reporting to further change. Carolyn is passionate about engaging people in decision-making, assess contribution, and evidence value.

With decades of experience developing professional development and assessing skills and learning opportunities informs Carolyn's work in higher education spanning six universities and national associations. Carolyn is a credential evaluator with the Canadian Evaluation Society, and a nationally recognized leader, facilitator and educational developer. With a PhD in Education from Queen's University, a Master's degree in Social Psychology from Wilfrid Laurier University, and an Honours BSc with a specialization in research psychology from the University of Toronto, Carolyn has depth of knowledge in how to develop and assess people's experiences and learning.

# Process

## Preparation

- Initial meeting with Donna Goodridge, RN, Ph.D. (Director) and Britney Duncan, MPH, CHES® (Coordinator)
- Pre-meeting to confirm facilitation plan with Director and Coordinator
- Scheduling and confirming groups with Coordinator

## Facilitation

- October 13 2021 facilitation

## Agenda

- Welcome – Dr. Donna Goodridge, RRC Director
- Opening remarks – Dr. Marek Radomski, Vice Dean Research
- Stakeholder response to remarks (Google doc; what was affirmed, what was a surprise, opportunities, challenges)
- Goal setting (Google doc; Small group discussion)
- Reporting back from groups about goals
- Direction and action planning (Google doc; Small group discussion)
- Reporting back from groups about actions
- Summary of comments – Dr. Carolyn Hoessler (facilitator)
- Wrap-up and next steps comments – Dr. Donna Goodridge, RRC Director

## Appendix

Full Google Document with notes from October 13 2021 (pdf)

# Goals and Action Plans

These summarized goals and actions are a synthesis of the goals and actions identified in small group discussions. The actions and initial steps can be added or expanded by the group over the next 2 years as they identify new opportunities and steps.

## Goal 1. Increased Researcher Collaborations, and Connections to Grow Research Capacity & Knowledge Translation Across Disciplines and Basic/Applied/Clinical perspectives

Actions	Initial Steps (1-2 years)
<b>1.1 Create awareness via a Researcher database</b>	1.1.1. Create a searchable database of RRC members' research projects, expertise and interests (2021-22).
<b>1.2. Offer Researcher Connection Points to break down silos</b>	1.2.1. Continue seminars along with communication processes. 1.2.2. Assess interest and capacity for hosting update meetings of the RRC group updating current research activities and programs. 1.2.3. Develop and appropriate platform for discussion around this specific topic (possibly through venues such as the resp summit).
<b>1.3. Host transdisciplinary sessions as catalysts</b>	1.3.1. Multi-perspective breakfast talks focused on a topic with two or more researchers from distinct perspective (e.g., basic biologist and clinical respirologist). 1.3.2. Foster connections and collaborations about front-line needs.
<b>1.4. Deepen research conversations</b>	1.4.1. Host research methods seminars (e.g. engagement with indigenous communities, field safety protocols). 1.4.2. Host open deep dive ("nerd") conversations on a specific methodology topic that is facilitated/led by a RRC member.
<b>1.5. Grow grant awareness &amp; Needs-based topics</b>	1.5.1. Identify and promote grant opportunities highlights, focused transdisciplinary collaborations or open discussions. 1.5.2. Identify potential for scaffolding grants through initial funding for preliminary data, building towards CIHR and tri-council funding leading to publications, paper and patents, therapies and procedures.
<b>1.6. Support of Students</b>	1.6.1. Sponsor undergraduate and graduate student awards requiring co-supervision by two disciplines. 1.6.2. Identify needs and strengthen capacity for joint supervision of students. 1.6.3. Explore engagement with Computer Science students by RRC members.

<b>1.7. Support of early career and mid-career researchers</b>	1.7.1. Identify needs and explore options (e.g., Perhaps an incentive embedded in future grant opportunities could be extra points for collaborating with early career researchers on team in a 2 birds with 1 stone approach)
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**Goal 2. Fiscal Sustainability & Access to Shared Resources to Grow Research Capacity**

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Initial Steps (2021-22)</b>
<b>2.1. (Wean) Shift from initial startup funding mechanisms to sustainable diverse funding</b>	2.1.1. Clarify grant mechanisms such as potential for part of infrastructure section of grant funds gained by the university for an internal research center that act as research capacity accelerators and incubator for the College of Medicine and University of Saskatchewan. 2.1.2. Consider need for RRC coordinated services (e.g., facilitate connections to analysts or knowledge translation specialists) available at a member-rates in grant budgets or with other funding sources to cover.
<b>2.2. Develop in-kind contributions and shared resources partnerships</b>	2.2.1. Develop list of have (opportunities, resources, talent) and needs of RRC Members. (2021-22). 2.2.2. Identify in conversation with partners around wet lab resources, data access, analysis, equipment, space, trials support, promotion etc. with partners (e.g., Non-governmental organizations; Industry; Saskatchewan Health Authority; College of Medicine; Pharma; Dentistry; Lung Association; University of Saskatchewan; other research centres locally or internationally).
<b>2.3. Support Members seeking Tri-council collaborative grants.</b>	2.3.1. Clarify mechanism for how tri-council grants connect to RRC (2021-22) in synergies with departments and colleges for leveraging in kind contributions, advocacy for funding, or access to shared overhead funds. 2.3.2. Identify needs of RRC members seeking Tri-council collaborative grants through a survey. 2.3.3. In collaboration with partners, identify and provide support to RRC members seeking Tri-council collaborative grants to increase Tri-council successes.

**Goal 3. Strong Mutually Beneficial Partnerships and Memberships**

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Initial Steps (2021-22)</b>
<b>3.1. Clarify membership and how RRC is/could be the centre of choice for members</b>	3.1.1. Identify the ways people engage and what types of membership/engagement options RRC will provide. 3.1.2. Clarify categories or layers of involvement, members and partners of RRC (e.g., research affiliate vs. attendee at a public talk).



	<p>3.2.3. For each member type develop clarity about what RRC offers, and asks of its members and partners by identifying needs including through discussions and a survey.</p> <p>3.1.4. Consider when planning partnerships and memberships how partnerships with patients and knowledge translation (Goal 5) play a role.</p>
<b>3.2. Clarify and Specify RRC Brand</b>	<p>3.2.1. Clarify and specify RRC’s messaging about what RRC is and offers (in relation to Goal 3 membership and partnership).</p> <p>3.2.2. Identify options for how members would be proud to highlight or affiliate with RRC and why (e.g., grant acknowledgements; signature lines).</p>
<b>3.3. Continue to build strong mutually beneficial partnerships and build collaborations</b>	<p>3.3.1. Continue outreach within CoM and University to maintain institutional partnerships/champions.</p> <p>3.3.2. Continue and expand intentional conversations with partners (e.g., non-governmental organizations; Industry; Saskatchewan Health Authority; College of Medicine; Pharma; Dentistry; Lung Association; University of Saskatchewan; other research centres locally or internationally).</p> <p>3.3.3. Strengthen SHA and college relationships including strengthening connections with clinicians allied health; data access discussions and agreements.</p> <p>3.3.4. Identify partnerships that enhance services and goals; where can collaborate rather than duplicate, including where can share or lead to in kind contributions (see 2.2.2.).</p>
<b>3.4. Engage in outreach to potential members at University of Saskatchewan and University of Regina and across the province</b>	<p>3.4.1. Encourage RRC membership from additional faculties through tours, presentations, invitations and shoulder tapping.</p> <p>3.4.2. Consider having one executive member from Regina or Southern Saskatchewan.</p> <p>3.4.2. Consider having one executive member from additional partners or agencies beyond the University of Saskatchewan.</p> <p>3.4.3. Invite seminar presentations from Regina.</p>
<b>3.5. Research partnerships with research centres nationally and internationally</b>	<p>3.5.1. Identify related research centres and networks.</p> <p>3.5.2. Identify and highlight recent collaborations of RRC members with researchers and research collaborations locally, nationally and internationally (for example, through social network analysis).</p>

**Goal 4. Expanded Outreach, Knowledge Translation & Impact**

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Initial Steps (2021-22)</b>
4.1. Leverage existing knowledge translation strategies	4.1.1. Document existing knowledge translation strategies.
4.2. Focus and expand knowledge translation	4.2.1. Identify audiences for knowledge translation for programming. 4.2.2. Plan for knowledge translation audiences when planning partnerships and memberships (Goal 3) and transdisciplinary sessions (Goal 1). 4.2.3. Highlight the findings and research of RRC Saskatchewan researchers and their collaborations in seminars or sessions.
4.3. Support the pursuit of grants and partnerships with impact	4.3.1. Leverage existing partnerships to seek grants and engage in projects with impact on respiratory health. 4.3.2. Identify and build new partnerships to seek grants and engage in projects with impact on respiratory health.