

# Pain in Child Health

## EXPANDED ACADEMIC MISSION STATEMENT

Every child has the right to have the least amount of pain possible when undergoing medical procedures or suffering from painful diseases. Over the past decade, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research Pain in Child Health strategic training initiative has transformed Canada into a world-leader in pediatric pain research. The Pain in Child Health program has fostered a community of scientists and trainees charged with creating new knowledge on how to minimize pain and suffering in children.

Building from this foundation of training excellence, the Pain in Child Health program has broadened its mandate to include fostering international research linkages. Our mandate now spans the full bench to bedside research spectrum and includes clinical practice development, funding innovative research initiatives, knowledge translation initiatives and policy advocacy.

Our scope of current research includes projects that encompass, but is not limited to:

- Basic research to understand mechanisms by which pain is developed, maintained, or treated
- Epidemiological research to identify the most prevalent types of pain and the impact on developmental trajectories
- Clinical trials research to determine the most effective interventions to alleviate pain
- Implementation research to determine effective strategies to better incorporate research findings into practice, education and policy decisions
- Advocacy research to influence those involved in care of children to follow best practice clinical guidelines based on research

Through training scientists and clinicians on programs of research that use cutting edge methods, innovative technologies, and integrated knowledge translation strategies, we aim to mobilize our research in diverse settings where children receive healthcare. Our core faculty are renowned clinical and basic scientists that study pain across childhood, from preterm infants to adolescents. Our faculty aims to facilitate world-class training and foster innovative research networks through leading research projects, providing seed grants for new researchers, hosting specialized annual in-person institutes, facilitating onsite clinical workshops, and the continued fortification of the online international community we have built through regular webinars, social media, and a resource website.

Strengthened by our past experience and motivated by our future targets, our Pain in Child Health program collaboration of clinical and basic scientists aspires to improve child health and diminish pain and suffering in children of all ages.