Purpose

Increase the University of Toronto’s capacity to support and scale cross-divisional, high-impact interdisciplinary research initiatives that address grand challenges of societal importance.
Institutional Strategic Initiatives (ISIs)

Created in 2019 to launch, grow, and sustain large-scale interdisciplinary strategic research networks:

- Focus on a significant challenge
- Cross-divisional and tri-campus
- Clear path to sustainability beyond ISI funding
ISI Supported Initiatives

PROVOSTIAL PRIORITIES

INLIGHT: Student Mental Health Research
BRN: Black Research Network
INDIGENOUS RESEARCH NETWORK

LAUNCHED

- Acceleration Consortium
- CLIMATE POSITIVE ENERGY
- Critical Digital Humanities Initiative
- CRAFT
- DATA SCIENCES INSTITUTE
- EPIC: Emerging & Pandemic Infections Consortium
- INSTITUTE FOR PANDEMICS
- MITO2i: Mitochondrial Innovation Initiative
- Mobility Network
- Quantum*
- TORONTO CANNABIS AND CANNABINOID RESEARCH CONSORTIUM
- TRANSFORM HF

PRE-EXISTING

- MEDICINE by DESIGN
- PRIME: NEXT GENERATION PRECISION MEDICINE
- SCHWARTZ REISMAN INSTITUTE FOR TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIETY
- SGC
- UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

IN DEVELOPMENT

- Biomanufacturing
- Centre for Medicinal Chemistry
- Centre for Sports Science & Sports Medicine

Sustainable Development Goals*

*received seed funding
Support and inspire Indigenous research at U of T by connecting people and communities with each other and with academic, cultural and spiritual resources.

Promote Black excellence at U of T and enhance the research capacity of Black scholars within the University and on the world stage.

Catalyze the transformative nature of data sciences in disciplines, in fair and ethical ways, to solve society’s complex and pressing problems.
Meeting global greenhouse gas emission targets by developing solutions to transform our energy systems and ensure clean energy access and production are equitable and just.

Harness the full potential of Toronto’s diverse community of experts focused on infectious diseases to ensure future emerging infections do not wreak devastation.

Materials acceleration platforms (MAPs) can reduce the time and cost of bringing advanced materials to market, from an average of 20 years and $100 million to as little as one year and $1 million.
Supports for Initiatives

ISI supports funded initiatives in the following areas:

- Human Resources
- Website & Communications
- Capacity-building & Operations
- Strategic Planning
- Oversight, Reporting & Evaluation
- Sustainability & Fund-Raising Support
Community of Practice

Monthly meeting for senior staff of ISIs

Topics include:
- EDI in Research Environments
- Support for External Partnerships through IPO
- Facilitation Resources through CRIS

Leadership Forum

Quarterly meeting for ISI academic directors

Topics include:
- Industry collaboration
- How to build an effective advancement case
- Partnership development
Supports for Existing Initiatives — Communications

- **ISI Speaker Series on Communications/Marketing Best Practices.** Recent topics have included:
  - Communications Planning
  - Social Media
  - Virtual Events
  - Measuring Impact
  - How to Write Effective Communication

- **Groundbreakers:** Supporting external communications with a multimedia series highlighting the various initiatives’ research programs and the community driving it:
  - News articles posted on utoronto.ca/news
  - Video features on the University’s YouTube channel
Supports for Existing Initiatives — Industry Partnerships

- **Industry Partnerships Manual & Toolkit** to support the establishment and maintenance of industry partnerships and consortia

- Active support for initiatives such as:
  - Acceleration Consortium, Climate Positive Energy, CRAFT, Data Sciences Institute, EPIC, and Robotics

- **Impact:**
  - Acceleration Consortium secured 3 industry partnerships worth $700,000 USD/year, with 2 additional companies in late-stage negotiations
Supports for Existing Initiatives - Government Relations

The ISI team supports Government Relation’s advocacy for large-scale government programming relevant to the University’s strategic initiatives

- Establishment of the Canadian Bioscience Research Fund (CBRF)
- Provincial matching for CFI and other federal programs
- Provincial/ISED support for SIF applications lead by UofT faculty members

UofT tour with François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry
Supports for Existing Initiatives — Large Grants

ISI team continues to support the development of large-scale grants

- Biomedical Research Infrastructure Fund — Toronto CL3 Toronto High Containment Facility: [$35M]
- Strategic Innovation Fund (SIF) — Structural Genomics Consortium: [$130M]
- Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF) — Five ISIs submitted LOIs [~$200M]
THANK YOU