

Institutional Strategic Initiatives

Division of the Vice President Research & Innovation

Arij Al Chawaf & Sean Caffrey
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Institutional
Strategic Initiatives

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



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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



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ISI Team



Associate Vice-President and Vice-Provost, Strategic Initiatives
Christine Allen

Institutional Strategic Initiatives

EDI in Research & Innovation



Ainka Jess



Jane Johansen



Executive Director, Strategic Initiative
Development
Arij Al Chawaf



Executive Director, Strategic Initiative
Development
Sean Caffrey



Director, EDI in Research
& Innovation
Nicole Kaniki



Institutional Strategic
Initiatives Partnership Officer
Patrycja Thompson



Institutional Strategic
Initiatives Officer
Nicole Kuchinsky



Visual Communications
Designer
Kohila Kurunathan



Institutional Strategic
Initiatives Officer
Ali Candib

ISI Supported Initiatives

PROVOSTIAL PRIORITIES



LAUNCHED



CLIMATE POSITIVE ENERGY



INSTITUTE FOR PANDEMICS



Quantum*



Sustainable Development Goals*



IN DEVELOPMENT

Biomanufacturing



Centre for Medicinal Chemistry

Centre for Sports Science & Sports Medicine

*received seed funding

PRE-EXISTING





INDIGENOUS
RESEARCH
NETWORK

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



BRN Black
Research
Network

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



**DATA SCIENCES
INSTITUTE**

Catalyze the transformative nature of data sciences in disciplines, in fair and ethical ways, to solve society's complex and pressing problems.



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CLIMATE POSITIVE ENERGY

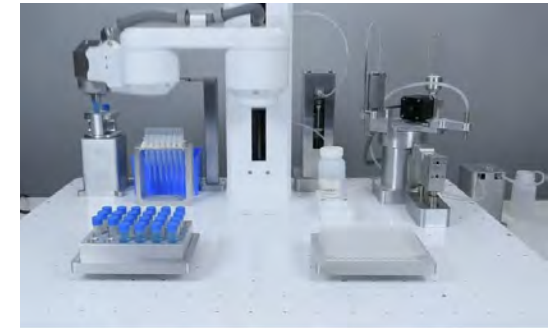
Meeting global greenhouse gas emission targets by developing solutions to transform our energy systems and ensure clean energy access and production are equitable and just.



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

UITS supports funded initiatives in the following areas:



Human
Resources



**Website &
Communications**



Capacity-building
& Operations



**Strategic
Planning**



Oversight, Reporting
& Evaluation



**Sustainability &
Fund-Raising Support**



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Supports for Existing Initiatives — Leadership Training & Support

Community of Practice

Monthly meeting for
senior staff of ISIs

Topics include:

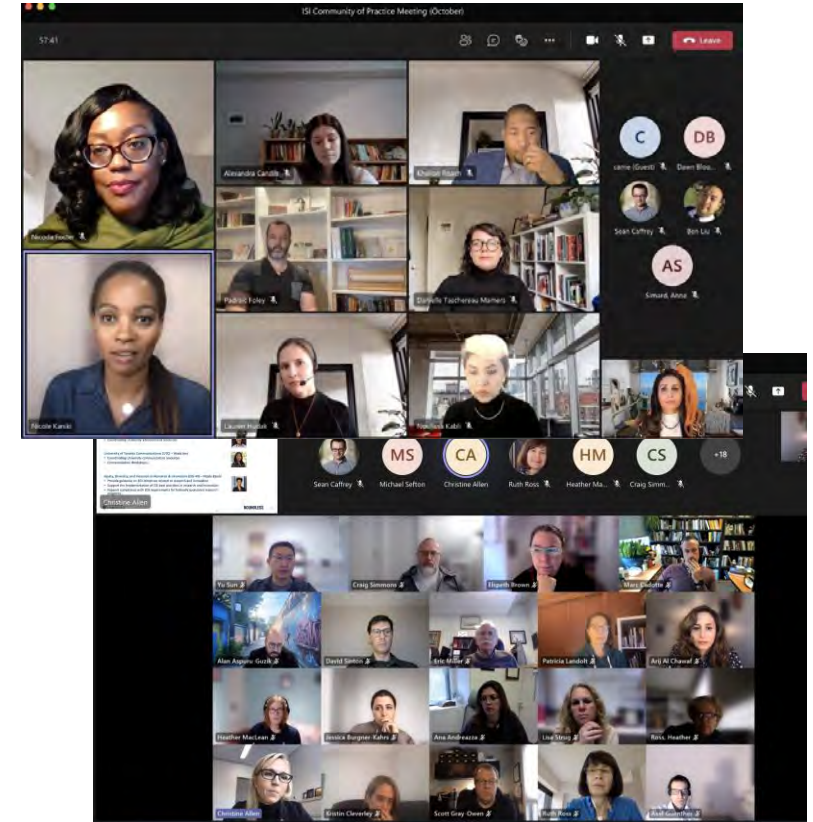
- EDI in Research Environments
- Support for External Partnerships through IPO
- Facilitation Resources through CRIS

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 programing 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



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