



Strategic Plan 2023 - 2028

Prepared June 2023

About OCRC

The Occupational Cancer Research Centre (OCRC) was established in 2009 as the first research centre in Canada dedicated to the study of cancers caused by work. The centre's founding partners were Cancer Care Ontario (CCO), the Canadian Cancer Society (CCS), the Ontario Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) and the United Steelworkers (USW).

The OCRC is now based at Ontario Health and currently receives funding from Ontario's Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development and Ministry of Health, and competitive research project grants. Over the years the OCRC has broadened its scope to include a wide range of occupational diseases. Our partners bring a range of resources and communication channels with which to leverage our research into prevention efforts and strengthen its collective impact.





Research Program



Vision

The elimination of occupational disease



Mission

To enhance understanding of the health effects of hazardous occupational exposures, and use this knowledge to support stakeholder efforts to improve policies, regulations and interventions related to occupational disease prevention and compensation



OCQC | Research Program

Surveillance

Identify groups of workers where the risks of occupational exposure and disease are highest by developing large-scale data platforms that integrate population, exposure, and disease records

Exposure

Identify occupational exposures and their sources, develop innovative exposure assessment tools, and conduct field studies

Epidemiology

Identify and better understand the causes of occupational disease by conducting new studies, synthesizing results across studies, and predicting the impact of exposures or prevention efforts





Strategic Objectives

1

Build capacity for occupational disease and exposure research

2

Lead occupational disease and exposure surveillance in Canada

3

Enable informed decision-making and action by disseminating timely evidence and recommendations

4

Collaborate with under-represented communities and groups to identify research priorities

Strategic Priorities

Objective 1: Build capacity for occupational disease and exposure research

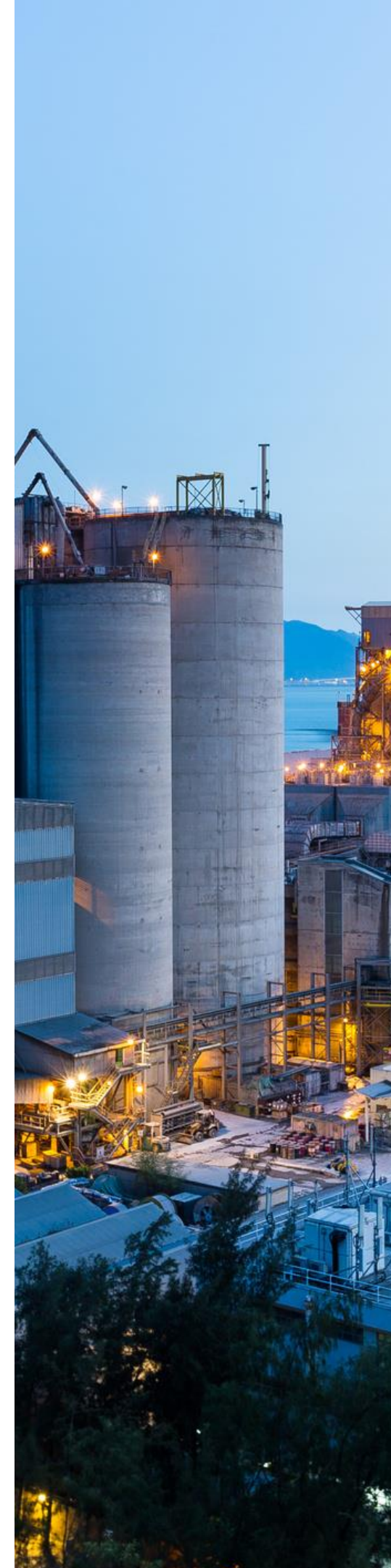
- Expand our interdisciplinary research team
- Attract students and provide research experience and training in strategic partnership with the University of Toronto and other organizations
- Strengthen our capacity to address government and key stakeholder requests and priorities, including investigations of suspected high-risk workplaces/groups and new or emerging hazards
- Expand and strengthen our research through strategic national and international partnerships



Strategic Priorities

Objective 2: Lead occupational disease and exposure surveillance in Canada

- Strengthen the Ontario system for collecting, analyzing, interpreting and reporting large volumes of data created by linking provincial databases and exposure data
- Develop innovative new methods for exposure surveillance
- Establish surveillance collaborations across Canada to actively pool expertise and identify new data sources
- Seek funding to support national and international surveillance efforts



Strategic Priorities

Objective 3: Enable informed decision-making and action by disseminating timely evidence and recommendations

- Provide evidence-based recommendations for the prevention and compensation of occupational disease
- Produce reports, briefing notes, and other dissemination materials in clear, concise language to align with the specific needs and preferences of our stakeholder community, including government, union, and employer representatives
- Develop novel models for assessing the impact of occupational exposures on diverse diseases and populations
- Build networks and collaborations to disseminate research findings and recommendations



Strategic Priorities

Objective 4: Collaborate with under-represented communities and groups to identify research priorities

- Conduct research to inform equitable prevention policies, regulations, and interventions aimed at reducing disparities in occupational disease and exposure
- Identify new data sources and methods to investigate the impact of gender, race, Indigeneity, socio-economic status, mobility and related factors on the development and identification of occupational disease
- Apply an equity lens to all stages of research, from planning through communicating results, to ensure that under-represented groups are considered with greater attention

