

# The East Kootenay Regional Hospital Clinical Research Program

## Clinical Research at EKRH

The East Kootenay Regional Hospital is Interior Health's newest clinical research site. Initiated and led by Dr. Denise Jaworsky, our site has been granted three-years of funding from the Accelerated Clinical Trials (ACT) Canada program with the goal to establish a fully integrated and sustainable rural clinical research program.

The EKRH Clinical Research Program aims to enhance rural clinical research capacity in BC and Canada by initiating as many as five studies over three years. Our first trial is slated to begin in late 2024.

We plan to recruit one to two qualified investigators and provide them with regulatory training through Interior Health's clinical research department.

## Why Rural Research Matters

Clinical research is an essential component to enhancing medical care, ensuring treatments are safe and effective. By advancing scientific knowledge, evidenced-based outcomes can shape medical practices and the ways we provide care. It is crucial that these decisions are informed by data that is relevant and adaptable to both urban and rural populations.

Health equity and access to participate in clinical trials comes into question for those living in rural settings. As it stands, the vast majority of clinical research taking place in Canada occurs in larger urban areas. For rural patients, this translates to missed opportunities to participate in clinical studies, barriers to accessing new investigational treatments that could prove beneficial, and denied opportunities to contribute to the advancement of medical knowledge.

Rural residents deserve access to innovative care and treatment options stemming from clinical research. The EKRH Clinical Research Program will improve access for rural patients to participate in clinical trials and address the under-representation of rural populations in research outcomes.

## EKRH Clinical Research Team

- Dr. Deanne Taylor,  
Director, IH Research Department
- Jason Curran,  
Manager, IH Research Department
- Jen Siemens,  
Clinical Research Coordinator
- Lisa Larkin,  
Clinical Research Coordinator

### Current Qualified Investigators

- Dr. Denise Jaworsky,  
Physician Lead, Qualified Investigator
- Dr. Sheryl Hodgson,  
Qualified Investigator

## Our Partners

- Interior Health
- UBC
- Rural Coordination Centre of BC
- College of the Rockies

## Contact & Information

[ClinicalResearchEKH@interiorhealth.ca](mailto:ClinicalResearchEKH@interiorhealth.ca)  
[www.interiorhealth.ca/about-ih/research](http://www.interiorhealth.ca/about-ih/research)

