



## MOHCCN SCIENTIFIC QUESTIONS WORKING GROUP Terms of Reference

### Background

The vision of MOHCCN is to bring together leading Cancer Centres across Canada to collaborate on precision medicine to benefit cancer patients and drive innovation. The goal of the Network is to apply advanced technologies such as genomics and other omics, high-powered imaging, and artificial intelligence (AI) to advance precision oncology and improve cancer diagnosis and management.

When the funding for the MOHCCN was announced by the Federal Government in March 2019 it was determined that the MOHCCN should operate according to agreed standards and guidelines recommended by nominated Expert Working Groups (WGs). Seven WGs were established: Scientific Questions, Patients, Data, Technology, Data Platform, Health Technology Assessment, and Agreements. Additional WGs were since created.

Previous work of the SQWG led to four prioritized MOHCCN scientific questions: (1) Determinants of treatment failure of immunotherapy/precision cancer medicine, (2) Investigation of temporal and spatial heterogeneity, (3) Evaluation of the clinical validity and utility of genomics for real-time clinical decision making, (4) Understanding cancer biology and multi-omics of rare subtypes. These four scientific questions provided guidance to the Cancer Centres on thematic areas to help focus and assemble their cases eligible for the MOHCCN Gold Cohort.

### 1. Mandate of WG

The WG is focusing on immediate priorities for MOHCCN Gold Cohort approvals and data preparation for submission to digital platforms, in close collaboration with designated sites and MOHCCN/TFRI leadership.

#### The mandate of the WG is to:

- ✚ Connect and represent scientific communities across the spectrum of the Network
- ✚ Provide overarching scientific questions and themes as a guide to Network activities
- ✚ Recommend priorities for funding and future cohort selection

**WG Responsibility and near-term deliverables:** Aligning with priorities of the MOHCCN scientific questions, provide recommendations on up to 5 themes regarding scientific focus and potential to create MOHCCN pan-Canadian cohorts. These 5 themes will be



derived from consensus from WG members, based on a variety of sources including (but not limited to): white papers, existent themes from cohorts being assembled by MOHCCN, suggestions by WG members who represent different geographical and scientific areas across Canada.

**WG Strategy:** Socialization of guidelines or recommendations among the WG members to identify areas of question/concern, followed by discussion of the feedback for integration and finalization of those recommendations.

## 2. Reporting Structure

**Document Initiation and Development:** For the development of guidelines, any documents including any initial draft developed will be socialized, usually through a one-month comment period, with the WG. The drafts will live in a shared folder in TFRI's OneDrive that will allow for real-time tracking of edits and comments from all WG members. Feedback will be integrated and harmonized by MOHCCN Staff in collaboration with WG leadership. It is expected that WG members will consult with the individual designated Consortium/programs and initiatives and cohorts for input.

**Draft Finalization:** MOHCCN Staff will submit, usually via email, the draft guideline to the Steering Committee along with a briefing note (BN). The BN will indicate the history of the development of that policy, including details on feedback received and any remaining areas of concern that were raised by WG members.

The Steering Committee will review, usually electronically, the guideline and associated documents and provide their comments. When done electronically, a review template will be provided. Any contentious issues raised by Steering Committee will be addressed by the WG or MOHCCN Staff.

**Document Endorsement:** Finalized draft guideline will be submitted for endorsement to Network Council along with a summary of the reviews provided by the Steering Committee and the relevant responses provided by the WG or MOHCCN Staff. Remaining issues will be outlined.

## 3. Composition

The membership of the WG will reflect the interests, philosophy, and strategic direction of the Network. It is composed of experts from each consortium member. This includes an effort to align with the 50-30<sup>1</sup> Challenge to support gender parity and significant representation of under-represented groups.



### The WG membership

Membership will be provided through the following process:

**a. Chair/Co-chair appointment:** Existing chairs from already active working groups would be asked to continue chairing the WG or for their suggestions on a replacement to MOHCCN/TFRI Staff. The formation of new WGs will be discussed at Network Council to seek their recommendations.

**b. Membership:** Each working group/committee will include representation from designated Consortiums/programs and initiatives. Members are proposed to a WG by a designated Consortium/programs and initiatives or MOHCCN/TFRI Staff, considered by the Chair/co-Chair and if approved, endorsed by the Network Council. Voting Members are MOHCCN Project Leaders and Researchers. Non-voting members may include the centre's staff and outside advisers, based on the specific expertise required for the activities of a Working Group.

**c. Membership Changes:** Any additions or changes in membership will be reflected in the table below and communicated to Network Council for endorsement.

<sup>1</sup> The 50 – 30 Challenge is an initiative co-created by the Government of Canada, civil society and the private sector that aims to attain gender parity and significant representation (at least 30%) of under-represented groups on boards and senior management positions in order to build a more diverse, inclusive, and vibrant economic future for Canadians

Chairs	Institutions	From	Until
Christian Steidl	BC Cancer	2019	
Lillian Siu	Princess Margaret Cancer Centre	2019	
<b>PM2C</b>			
Trevor Pugh	Princess Margaret Cancer Centre/OICR	2019	
Scott Bratman	Princess Margaret Cancer Centre	2019	
Rima Al-Awar	OICR	May-2022	
<b>Other ON sites</b>			



Eileen Rakovitch	Sunnybrook	May-2022	
Jonathan Bramson	McMaster/Hamilton	May-2022	
<b>BC2C</b>			
Dan Renouf	BC Cancer		
Sam Aparicio	BC Cancer		
<b>QC2C</b>			
Mark Basic	McGill	2019	
Ian Watson	McGill	2019	
George Zogopoulos	MUHC	May-2022	
Rejean Lapointe	CHUM	June-2022	
<b>PR2C</b>			
Sorana Morrissy	University of Calgary	May-2022	
<b>CCTG</b>			
Janet Dancey	CCTG	May-2022	
<b>PROFYLE</b>			
Jason Berman	CHEO	May-2022	
<b>A2C</b>			
Sherri Christian	Memorial University of Newfoundland	May-2022	
Tony Reiman	University of New Brunswick	2019	
<b>TFRI</b>			
Jim Woodgett	President and Scientific Director	May-2022	
André Veillette	Executive Director, MOHCCN	May-2022	

#### 4. Management and Administration.

**Quorum** – A quorum of voting members (50% plus one) is required as a voting mechanism for WG decisions when needed. The vote may be requested by e-mail when not all members are present at a meeting, usually with a two (2) week deadline to hear back. Different perspectives are expected, and consensus is not necessary at the early stage. Any contentious issues can be escalated for further feedback to the Steering Committee. The WG cycle might be iterative and if it comes to an impasse, then the Steering Committee or the Network Council could be asked to help resolve the problem.

**Time commitment** – The WG will usually meet at least four (4) times per year. Meetings may occur by teleconference, the duration of which shall be approximately 1-hour. One (1) meeting shall be held in person each year if possible. Changes in the frequency of the meetings are expected as the mandate of the committee is fulfilled.

**Term of membership** – WG Chairs shall rotate on a two (2) or three (3) years provision. WG members shall serve for a minimum term of two (2) years. Centres can suggest a successor if at any point a member can no longer commit to their membership.

**Meeting Facilitation** – TFRI through MOHCCN Staff will facilitate the various WG meetings to ensure good integration of all activities. Responsibilities include pre-meetings with the Chairs, preparation of agendas and meeting minutes, socialization of materials for feedback, and reporting to TFRI leadership.



**5. Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest**

All information provided to WG members in paper or electronic format during discussions shall be considered CONFIDENTIAL and must be treated in that manner. Conflicts of interest must be disclosed to the WG Chairs and addressed.

**6. Remuneration**

For some Working Groups, a remuneration model may be developed according to the WG's nature. That remuneration model will be approved by Network Council and included as an appendix to the WG Terms of Reference. Other reasonable expenses necessarily incurred by the member to attend meetings will be covered.

**7. Terms will be Updated and Reviewed**

WG terms will be modified and reviewed as needed, to reflect the evolution of the project. They will be reviewed annually and approved by the Network Council.