Profile

- Sunnybrook Research Institute (SRI) is the research arm of Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, a teaching hospital fully affiliated with the University of Toronto.

- The vision of SRI is to invent the future of health care. Our main aims are to understand and prevent disease, and develop treatments that enhance and extend life.

- Research funding at SRI has tripled since 1998. Total funding for 2013/2014 was $93.5 million.

- Research space at Sunnybrook comprises 500,000 square feet, including 150,000 square feet for the Centre for Research in Image-Guided Therapeutics.

People

- SRI has 295 scientists and clinician-scientists.

- In total, SRI has 1,275 research staff. Working with scientists are 495 highly skilled personnel (including research associates, engineers, physicists, laboratory technicians and research assistants) and 485 postdoctoral fellows and other trainees.

- Eight SRI researchers hold Canada Research Chairs.

- Three SRI researchers hold departmental chairs at the University of Toronto: one in each of immunology, medical biophysics and medical imaging.

Areas of Focus

- Scientists at SRI work in one of eight clinical domains:
  - Holland Musculoskeletal
  - Hurvitz Brain Sciences
  - Odette Cancer
  - Schulich Heart
  - St. John’s Rehab
  - Trauma, Emergency & Critical Care
  - Veterans & Community
  - Women & Babies

- Main areas of expertise are in Biological, Physical and Evaluative Clinical Sciences.

Large-Scale Research Projects

- SRI has five large-scale capital research projects funded mainly by the federal and provincial governments, which have a total budget of $183 million:
  - Breast Cancer Research Biomatrix
  - Breast Cancer Research Centre
  - Centre for Research in Image-Guided Therapeutics
  - Imaging Research Centre for Cardiac Intervention
  - Toronto Angiogenesis Research Centre

- SRI leads three multi-institutional consortia that are funded by provincial and private-sector investment, with a total budget of $110 million:
  - Focused Ultrasound Devices for Noninvasive Surgery and Drug Delivery
  - Imaging for Cardiovascular Therapeutics
  - Ontario Preclinical Imaging Consortium

- SRI is a member of the Toronto-wide McLaughlin Centre for Molecular Medicine, which takes shape here as the $20-million Centre for Molecular and Cellular Response and Repair.

Partnerships

- SRI has partnered with Thunder Bay Regional Research Institute to establish a dual-site high-intensity focused ultrasound surgery suite, the world’s first.

- Sunnybrook and SRI have partnered with Baycrest, the Heart and Stroke Foundation, Memorial University of Newfoundland, Toronto Rehabilitation Institute (University Health Network), the University of Ottawa and Ottawa Hospital Research Institute to form the Heart and Stroke Foundation Canadian Partnership for Stroke Recovery.

Commercialization

- SRI commercializes its research. Successful spin-off companies include Colibri, Focused Ultrasound Instruments, Profound Medical, Sentinelle Medical, Vasomune and VisualSonics.

- In 2014 SRI issued six patents and seven licenses. Since 2009, SRI has issued 38 patents and 17 licenses.

- SRI secured a $6.9-million investment from the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario to develop and commercialize image-guided therapy and monitoring systems. The funding is matched by SRI’s 18 industry partners.

- SRI and technology transfer partner MaRS Innovation signed an agreement in 2010 to commercialize a novel therapeutic agent and three advances in medical imaging, all developed by SRI scientists.