

Terry Fox Research Institute announces pan-Canadian project teams approved for \$25M Digital Health Innovation Fund

New projects will advance AI-driven discovery to accelerate precision medicine in cancer, neurodegenerative disease, and beyond

VANCOUVER, BC, [September 16, 2026] — The Terry Fox Research Institute (TFRI) today announced that 14 pan-Canadian project teams have been approved to receive funding through its first [Digital Health Innovation Fund \(DHIF\)](#), a national funding program led by TFRI's Digital Health & Discovery Platform (DHDP).

The selected projects represent a total value of \$40.9M and bring together 55 partners from across Canada—small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), academic institutions, and healthcare organizations—to accelerate health data sharing for AI-driven discovery in precision medicine.

“TFRI is excited to announce the Digital Health Innovation Fund project teams that will help accelerate safe and secure health data sharing for precision medicine advances across Canada,” said Dr. Jim Woodgett, TFRI’s President and Scientific Director. “These collaborations show research and enterprise coming together to drive innovation and accelerate clinical care, enabling personalized treatments tailored to the individual patient.”

The projects will leverage the DHDP’s novel federated learning platform to unlock new collaborations through secure data sharing and analysis. Using the DHDP, researchers can analyze vast amounts of complex health data across institutions without moving it, preserving privacy while unlocking new insights using artificial intelligence and machine learning. Teams will work to improve diagnosis and treatment across cancer, neurodegenerative disease, diabetes, ophthalmology, and other conditions.

The DHIF is supported by Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) through the Strategic Response Fund, reflecting a national commitment to advancing Canada’s digital health ecosystem and knowledge economy.

“Collaboration on data sharing is essential to ensuring that advancements in precision medicine benefit patients across Canada,” said Evan Solomon, Minister of Artificial Intelligence and Digital Innovation. “The Digital Health & Discovery Platform led by the Terry Fox Research Institute is bringing research institutions and SMEs on board as key players. Connecting researchers across the country through this federated learning platform ensures data security but also builds Canada’s global reputation in digital healthcare AI while maintaining our digital sovereignty.”

Since launching its call for proposals in March 2025, the DHIF has generated strong interest across Canada’s digital health sector. More than 200 Expressions of Interest were submitted, with multidisciplinary teams advancing through a competitive selection process to reach the final 14 funded projects.

Together, these teams are tackling critical challenges in healthcare, including:

- Using AI-powered imaging for real-time cancer detection during surgery
- Developing personalized approaches to diabetes care and mental health support
- Diversifying skin cancer diagnostics for early detection through inclusion of Indigenous data
- Enabling faster, more accurate vision care for remote and underserved communities
- Building national, privacy-preserving health data infrastructure

Project partners span every region of the country and include leading research centres such as Princess Margaret Cancer Centre and the Centre de recherche du CHU de Québec-Université Laval, alongside innovative Canadian SMEs working at the forefront of digital health and AI.

Healthcare data is incredibly valuable, but it's also highly sensitive and fragmented. Federated learning gives us a way to collaborate across institutions while respecting privacy, governance, and data sovereignty. By focusing on a privacy-by-design, federated learning approach, the DHDP breaks down traditional data silos, allowing researchers to collaborate more effectively. Feedback from DHIF teams will further refine the platform's capabilities, ensuring it meets the needs of users across research and healthcare settings.

The Digital Health Innovation Fund represents the next phase of TFRI's commitment to advancing collaborative, data-driven research, building on its leadership in national initiatives such as the Terry Fox New Frontiers Program Projects Grants and the Marathon of Hope Cancer Centres Network. The [second DHIF Request for Applications](#), which was announced at ALL IN — Canada's largest AI and tech event, launches this fall.

"We're excited to be working with SMEs and researchers across Canada in the collaborative projects for the Digital Health Innovation Fund," says Josip Maras, National Director for the Digital Health & Discovery Platform. "Each brings a wealth of experience and skills; built by users for users, the Digital Health & Discovery Platform will accelerate precision medicine research and boost Canada's knowledge economy."

More information on funded projects and participating organizations is available at <https://www.dhdp.ca/projects>.

For more information, please contact:

Amanda Maxwell
Communications Specialist, DHDP
Terry Fox Research Institute
(778) 652-2590 | amaxwell@tfri.ca

About the Terry Fox Research Institute

Established in 2007, the [Terry Fox Research Institute](#) (TFRI) invests in world-class, collaborative cancer research teams and partnerships across Canada. Through its flagship research programs and national precision medicine initiatives, TFRI connects leading scientists, clinicians, and institutions to accelerate cancer discoveries and translate research into improved patient care. By leveraging Canada's research strengths and fostering collaboration at a national scale, TFRI supports innovative research aimed at transforming how cancer is detected, diagnosed, treated, and ultimately prevented.

About the Digital Health & Discovery Platform

The Digital Health & Discovery Platform ([DHDP](#)) is a pan-Canadian initiative led by the Terry Fox Research Institute, with a funding allocation of \$49 million through Innovation, Science and Economic Development (ISED) Canada. Please visit the following link for more details on the DHDP and our funding opportunity: [Digital Health Innovation Fund](#). Focused on improving health outcomes for Canadians by bringing together health researchers, AI and data scientists, and industry partners to advance precision medicine, the Digital Health Innovation Fund supports collaboration in secure health data sharing to accelerate research in precision medicine.

About Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada

[Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada](#) (ISED) works with Canadians in all areas of the economy and in all parts of the country to improve conditions for investment, enhance Canada's innovation performance, increase Canada's share of global trade and build a fair, efficient and competitive marketplace. We are the federal institution that leads the Innovation, Science and Economic Development portfolio.

Supplemental Information--Appendix A: Project and team details

1. Project titles and topics – see below
2. Supplemental information available online

1594	<u>An AI-driven multimodal spectroscopy platform for real-time bone cancer detection</u>	<i>Using AI-powered imaging to detect bone cancer early and improve patient outcomes in real time.</i> Partners: Qalam Health Solutions (Montreal), Applicare.AI (Laval), Research Institute of McGill University Health Centre (Montreal), Ontario Tech University (Oshawa)
1597	<u>FLARE: Federated Learning for Adherence, Risk, and Engagement in Clinical Trials</u>	<i>Using AI to improve patient adherence, safety monitoring and patient engagement</i> Partners: Curatio Networks Inc. (RxPx) (Vancouver), OPTT Health (Toronto), Providence Health Ventures (Vancouver), Byte Quest Solutions (Vancouver)
1601	<u>Building a Synthetic Data Network in Canada</u>	<i>Using privacy preserving synthetic data to connect hospitals across Canada and unlock faster insights to improve patient care.</i> Partners: University of Waterloo (Waterloo), McGill University Health Center (MUHC; Montreal), Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, University Health Network (Toronto), The University of New Brunswick (Fredericton), Canadian Personalized Healthcare Innovation Network (CPHIN; Waterloo), ZS Associates Canada Consulting ULC (Toronto), MDClone (Saint John, NB)
1603	<u>EvidaHealth Foundation: National Registry Infrastructure Enabling FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable), Federated, and Patient-Centered Real-World Evidence for Canada</u>	<i>Building a secure, patient-centred national registry infrastructure that enables health data to be used safely, responsibly, and collaboratively.</i> Partners: EvidaHealth Foundation (Rocky View County, AB), Medlior Health Outcomes Research Ltd (Calgary), Patient Voice Partners Inc. (Rocky View County, AB)
1608	<u>Causal AI to Predict First-in-Human Clinical Outcomes from Preclinical and Real-World Clinico-Genomic Data</u>	<i>Using AI and Canadian healthcare data to improve the success and safety of new cancer treatments.</i> Partners: Onco-Innovations (Calgary), Redwood AI Operations Inc. (Vancouver), Canada's Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre (Provincial program within the Provincial Health Services Authority; Vancouver), Centre de recherche du CHU de Québec-Université Laval (CRCHUQ; Laval)
1613	<u>Use of Canadian data, including Indigenous data, to train AI models on skin cancer and other dermatological diseases for early detection in primary care settings</u>	<i>Building a secure Canadian skin-health dataset so AI can help doctors spot high-risk cases sooner.</i> Partners: MetaOptima Technology Inc. (Vancouver), Indigenous Tech. AI Corporation (Ottawa)

1616	<u>CONNECT – Collaborative Effort to Optimize Diabetes Care Through LLM-Enabled Clinical Decision Support</u>	<i>Privacy-preserving artificial intelligence that combines real-world clinical data, genomic risk scores and trusted guidelines to support safer, more personalized diabetes treatment decisions.</i> Partners: Omnimed (Cookshire-Eaton, QC), Optithera (Montreal), Université de Montréal (Montreal)
1625	<u>AI-Enabled Biomarker Discovery and Therapeutic Monitoring in Neurodegenerative Disease</u>	<i>Using secure, standardized health data and AI to uncover biological signals that can improve how brain diseases are studied and monitored.</i> Partners: Nanil Therapeutics Inc. (Calgary), Linearis Labs Inc. (Pointe Claire, QC)
1626	<u>Scaling Medication Safety and Enriching Data Interoperability Across McGill University Health Centre</u>	<i>Standardizing medication data to prevent dosing errors and unlock AI-ready health research across hospital networks.</i> Partners: NURA Medical Inc. (Montreal), DT CONSULTING GROUP (Brossard, QC), McGill University Health Centre (Montreal)
1630	<u>Multi-Omics Data to AI Disease Signature Discovery</u>	<i>Using AI to predict which cancer treatments will work best for patients with lung, breast, or colorectal cancer by analyzing their genes, proteins, and metabolism together.</i> Partners: Linearis Labs Inc. (Quebec City), MRM Proteomics Inc. (Montreal), Simmunome Inc. (Montreal), Centre Hospitalier Universitaire- Général Juif University Health Centre- Jewish General (Montreal), Nova Scotia Health (Halifax)
1635	<u>Multi-Institutional VR-Enabled Digital Health Platform Integrating Imaging Biomarkers and EHR Data for Precision Care</u>	<i>Using secure AI and virtual reality to turn medical images and health records into better treatment decisions, and diagnoses.</i> Partners: Luxsonic Technologies, Inc. (Saskatoon), Voronoi Health Analytics Incorporated (Vancouver), Sunnybrook Research Institute (Toronto), Memorial University of Newfoundland (St. John's, Nfld), Saskatchewan Health Authority (Regina)
1641	<u>Federated Learning for Eye Health: Advancing Vision AI Models Through the DHDP Data Infrastructure</u>	<i>Enabling faster, smarter vision care across Canada through real-world AI and secure data sharing.</i> Partners: Eyecarex Technologies INC (Vancouver), Asgarpour Professional Optometric Corporation (Calgary), 1114397 BC LTD (Kaien Island Optometry & Prince Rupert Optometry)
1645	<u>Care4Mind: Advancing Mental Health through a pan-Canadian Learning Health Ecosystem</u>	<i>Care4Mind: Connecting Canadians to timely, tailored mental health support through smart technology.</i> Partners: University of Toronto (Toronto), Omni Health Nexus (North York, ON), Canadian Primary Care Research Consortium (CPCRC), Open Up (Oakville, ON), Toronto Metropolitan University (Toronto)

1650	<u>TACKLing the Heterogeneity challenge in Dementia using Artificial Intelligence (TACKL-HD-AI)</u>	<i>Using AI to understand variability in causes of dementia and clinical presentations.</i> Partners: Sunnybrook Research Institute (Toronto), Douglas Research Institute, McGill University (Montreal), University of Laval (Laval), JN Nova Pharma Inc (Ottawa), Enlace Bio AI (Kingston, ON)
------	--	--