

**RÉSEAU  
CANADIEN  
DES MALADIES  
RARES**



**CANADIAN  
RARE  
DISEASE  
NETWORK**

**~ Rare Lives, Shared Strength ~**

**Francois Bernier, Leanne Ward, and Ian Stedman**  
On behalf of the CRDN Steering Committee



**one child** ★  
**every child**



# Why a National Network?

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- **Lack of Comprehensive, National Approach:** Rare Diseases Drug Strategy addressing access to treatment, but not broader spectrum of challenges faced by patients
- **Fragmentation of Efforts:** Efforts at local and national levels but there is fragmentation and lack of coordination

**National leadership and coordination needed to catalyze and maximize rare disease (RD) efforts across Canada**





## Our Vision

Innovative care and research in Canada so that all patients and families affected by a rare disease are empowered to live their full potential.

## Our Mission

Establish a growing network that works across geographies and disease boundaries to **enable timely diagnosis** and **access to treatment**, and **facilitate best care, support and empowerment for patients and their families** in Canada, ultimately enhancing their quality of life.



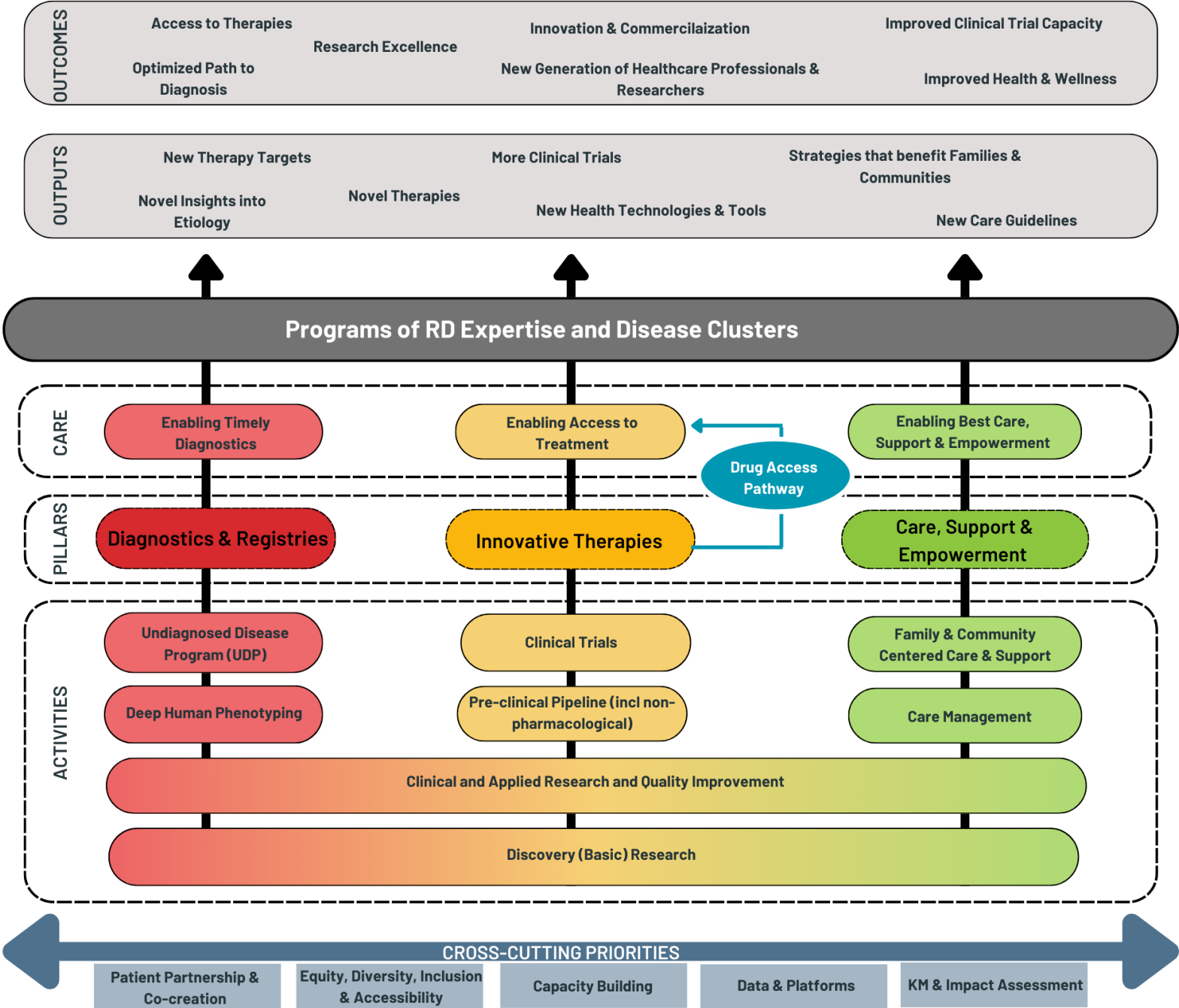
# About CRDN

## Pillars of our Work

- Diagnostics & Registries
- Innovative Therapies
- Care, Support & Empowerment
- National & International Collaboration



# A Research-To-Care Transformation Framework



# Collaborative Effort to Drive Impact

RÉSEAU  
CANADIEN  
DES MALADIES  
RARES



CANADIAN  
RARE  
DISEASE  
NETWORK

Centre universitaire  
de santé McGill  
Institut de recherche



McGill University  
Health Centre  
Research Institute

neuro

MDC  
MUSCULAR  
DYSTROPHY  
CANADA  
DYSTROPHIE  
MUSCULAIRE  
CANADA

NEWBORN SCREENING  
ONTARIO  
DÉPISTAGE NÉONATAL  
ONTARIO

RARE DISEASES  
MODELS and  
MECHANISMS  
NETWORK

CHU  
Sainte-Justine  
Le centre hospitalier  
universitaire mère-enfant  
Université  
de Montréal

Canadian  
VHL Alliance  
Connecting a Community of Warriors

Canadian  
Autoinflammatory  
Network



Réseau  
Auto-inflammatoire  
Canadien

AllforOne  
Canada's Precision  
Health Partnership

Children's Hospital  
London Health Sciences Centre

YORK U

genomics4rd

iRARE  
centres

Can-GARD  
Canadian Gene Cure Advanced Therapies for Rare Disease  
Gene Cure Canada  
Thérapies innovantes pour les maladies rares

Canada  
CNC-ARC

RQMO  
REGROUPEMENT QUÉBÉCOIS  
DES MALADIES ORPHELINES

Canadian Association  
of Pompe  
Association canadienne de Pompe

CHEO  
RESEARCH INSTITUTE  
INSTITUT DE RECHERCHE

CARE  
forRARE

NMD4C

BC  
Children's  
Hospital  
Research Institute

Alberta  
Children's  
HOSPITAL  
RESEARCH INSTITUTE

SickKids®  
RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE

The Ottawa  
Hospital  
Research Institute

L'Hôpital  
d'Ottawa  
Institut de recherche

CIHR IRSC  
Canadian Institutes of  
Health Research  
Institute of Genetics

Instituts de recherche  
en santé du Canada  
L'Institut de génétique

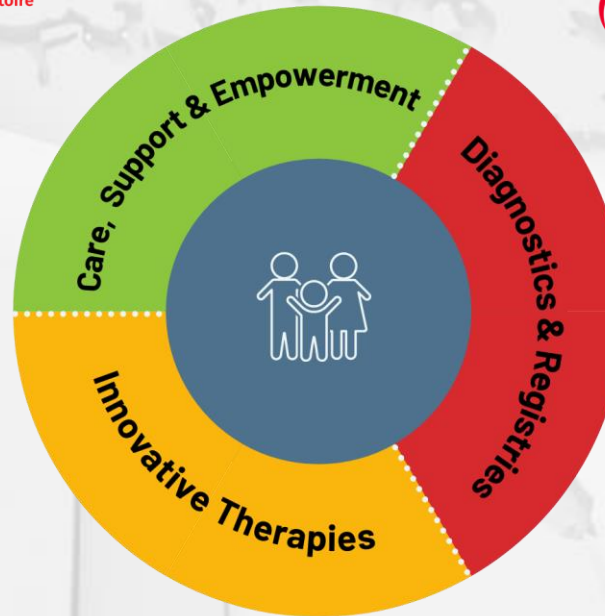
RareKids  
CAN

MICYRN  
better health for mothers and children

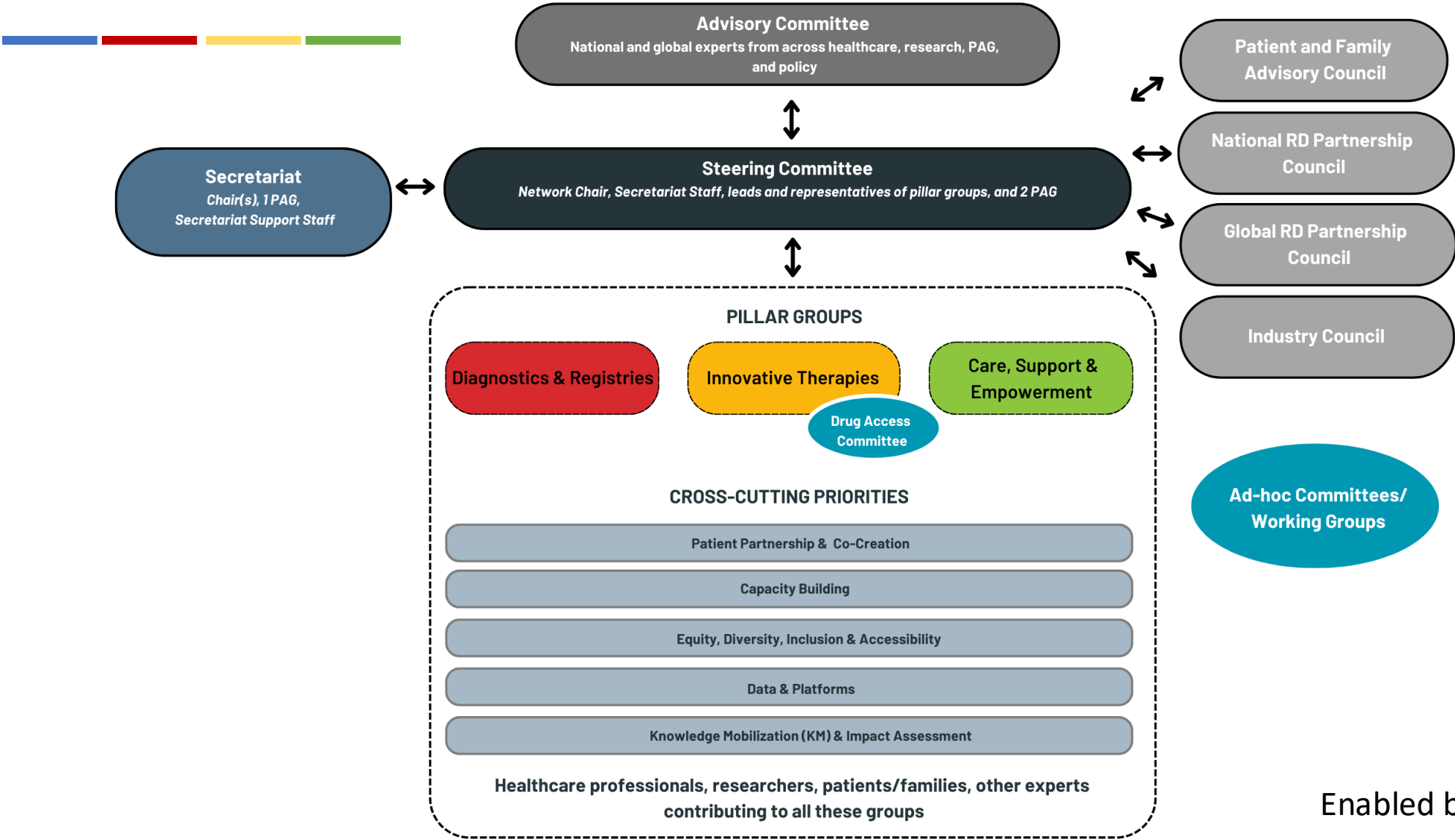
DEFEAT DUCHENNE  
CANADA

CORD

CNDR  
ORG  
Canadian Neuromuscular Disease Registry



# Governance





# Our Steering Committee Members



**Francois Bernier, MD**  
Alberta Children's  
Hospital,  
University of Calgary



**Durhane Wong-Rieger, PhD**  
Canadian Organization for  
Rare Disorders (CORD)



**Jim Dowling, MD, PhD**  
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University of Toronto



**Kim M Boycott, MD, PhD**  
Children's Hospital of  
Eastern Ontario (CHEO)  
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University of Ottawa



**Jacques L. Michaud**  
Centre de recherche du  
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Université de Montréal



**Gail Ouellette, PhD**  
iRARE Centre, RQMO



**Lawrence Korngut, MD**  
Hotchkiss Brain Institute,  
University of Calgary



**Angela Genge, MD**  
Montreal Neurological  
Institute – Hospital,  
McGill University



**Jonathan Pratt**  
Regroupement Québécois  
des maladies orphelines  
(RQMO)



**Craig Campbell**  
Children's Hospital LHSC,  
Western University



**Leanne Ward, MD**  
Children's Hospital of  
Eastern Ontario (CHEO)  
Research Institute,  
University of Ottawa



**Ian Stedman, PhD**  
York University



**Thierry Lacaze-  
Masmonteil, MD, PhD**  
University of Calgary;  
Maternal, Infant, Child  
and Youth Research  
Network (MICYRN)



**Deborah Marshall, PhD**  
Alberta Children's Hospital  
Research Institute (ACHRI),  
University of Calgary



# Our Story Thus Far

## Global Positioning

CRDN gathering  
global attention

ERDERA



## Strategic Plan Engagement

Targeted engagement  
sessions (n=12) with  
33 experts to co-  
develop strategic plan

## Townhall & Public Consultation

Overview of strategic  
plan presented to over  
150 attendees and  
launched feedback  
survey

Feb 2024

March 2024

May 2024

Jun-Aug 2024

Sep 2024

Oct 2024

## Public & Website Launch

Public launch of CRDN  
on RD Day



## ERDERA NMG Co- Leadership

ERDERA NMG co-  
leadership with  
RareKids-CAN

## Partnership Explorations

Meetings and  
exploration of  
collaborations



# Co-Development of Our Strategic Plan



## STEP 01



## STEP 02



## STEP 03



## STEP 04

### STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT

May – August 2024

Targeted engagement sessions (n=12) with a select but diverse group of 33 experts, resulting in >900 minutes of meaningful dialogue

### VIRTUAL TOWNHALL

31 October 2024

Overview of draft strategic plan presented to broader community and launch of community feedback survey

### COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

October – November 2024

Widely distributed public survey to gather extensive feedback from the broader community over a 1-month period

### REVIEW & APPROVAL

December – January 2025

Review and approval by CRDN Steering Committee, broad dissemination, and moving into implementation

**Note:** Interested parties will have an opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed strategic plan between October 31 to November 30, 2024.

## 01 Diagnostics & Registries

**Goal 1.1:** All RD patients will receive the right diagnostic test at the right time regardless of where they live in Canada

**Goal 1.2:** Genetic diagnostic laboratories across Canada will integrate resources and best practice guidelines to ensure high-quality GWS for patients

**Goal 1.3:** All families with diagnosed and undiagnosed RDs will have access to relevant registries for secondary research and re-contact

**Goal 1.4:** RD diagnostics and research will be a political priority and sustainably funded

**Goal 1.5:** Canada will be a world leader in RD mechanism discovery and translation of new technologies into the clinic

## 02 Innovative Therapies

**Goal 2.1:** Canada will lead in the discovery and validation of novel therapeutic targets and treatments for RD patients

**Goal 2.2:** All RD patients, regardless of their age, location, or social determinants of health, will have equitable access to clinical trials and innovative therapies

**Goal 2.3:** Innovative therapies will be readily integrated into clinical practice to improve patient care and outcomes

**Goal 2.4:** Canada will be recognized globally for its RD clinical trials and market potential, thereby attracting investment and accelerating access to life-changing therapies

## 03 Care, Support & Empowerment

**Goal 3.1:** All RD patients, along with their families and caregivers, will be aware of and have equitable access to the resources and supports they need

**Goal 3.2:** All individuals affected by RDs will be empowered and engaged in meaningful opportunities in research and beyond

**Goal 3.3:** All RD patients and their families will receive the mental health and wellbeing support they need regardless of their location or social determinants of health

**Goal 3.4:** Canada will have a unified RD community that creates comprehensive care and support systems for RD patients and their families

## 04 National & Global Collaboration

**Goal 4.1:** Canada will have a unified national approach to RD that drives innovation and improves care for all RD patients

**Goal 4.2:** Canada will be recognized as a key global player in RD research and knowledge exchange, benefiting patients worldwide





# Diagnostics & Registries

# Pillar 1 – Diagnostics & Registries

## Patient Journey through diagnosis



“It’s a waiting game, but you tell a mum to wait when she’s waited 15 years. It’s difficult. – Nuria

“People began to ask which side of the family it came from...It was a difficult time for us as parents. – Alexa

“We went around, travelling across the entire city to find a nursery for our son. It was impossible to have him accepted. – Gaston

“A diagnosis may be bad news, it may be very bad news or it may be no news. But all of that’s OK and there’s help and support for whatever spectrum you end up on. – Peter

# Pillar 1 - Members

## Pillar Lead:



**Kim M Boycott**  
Children's Hospital of  
Eastern Ontario (CHEO),  
University of Ottawa

## Pillar Members:



**Gregory Costain**  
Sick Kids Hospital,  
University of Toronto



**Taila Hartley**  
Care4Rare



**Lawrence Korngut**  
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**Bhavi Modi**  
BC Children's Hospital,  
University of British Columbia



**Jillian Parboosingh,**  
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**Beth Potter**  
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**Myriam Srouf**  
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**Jodi Warman Chardon**  
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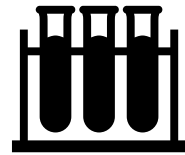
# Pillar 1 – What We Hope to Achieve

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## Reducing the time it takes to identify rare diseases



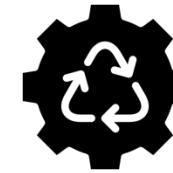
All rare disease patients will receive the right diagnostic test at the right time regardless of where they live in Canada



Genetic diagnostic laboratories across Canada will integrate resources and best practice guidelines to ensure high-quality genome-wide sequencing (GWS) for patients



All families with diagnosed and undiagnosed rare diseases will have access to relevant registries for secondary research and re-contact



Rare disease diagnostics and research will be a political priority and sustainably funded



Canada will be a world leader in rare disease mechanism discovery and translation of new technologies into the clinic

## Benefits:

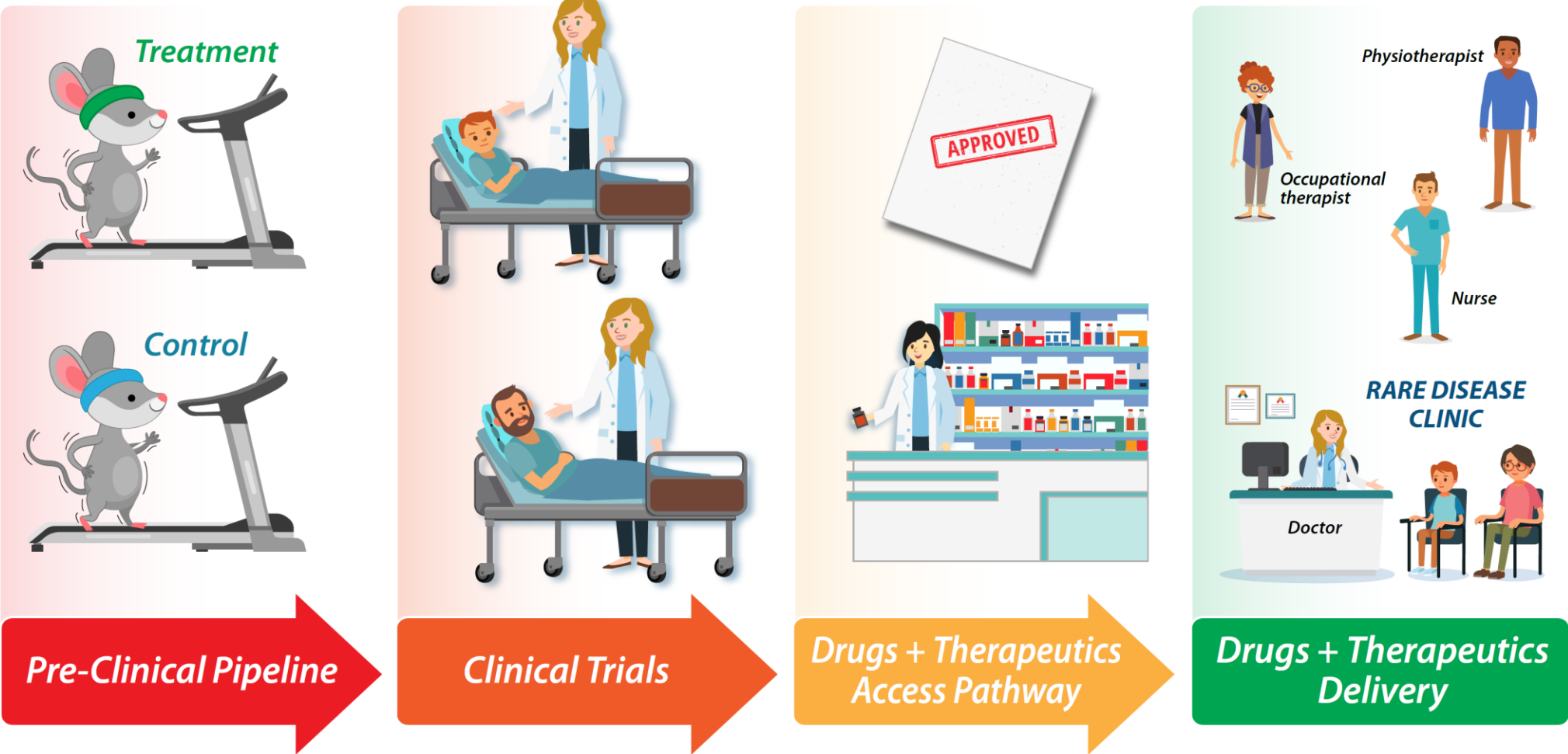
- Improved healthcare provider knowledge **and** wider use of high-quality genetic testing
- Faster, more accurate diagnoses **and** access to relevant registries



# Innovative Therapies

# Pillar 2 – Innovative Therapies

## Effective, Innovative Therapies





# Pillar 2 - Members

## Pillar Lead:



**Leanne Ward,**  
Children's Hospital of  
Eastern Ontario (CHEO),  
University of Ottawa

## Pillar Members:



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Western University



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Eastern Ontario (CHEO)  
Research Institute



**Thierry Lacaze-Masmonteil**  
University of Calgary;  
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**Breanne Stewart**  
RareKids-CAN



**Risini Weeratna**  
National Research  
Council (NRC)



**Durhane Wong-Rieger**  
Canadian Organization  
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(CORD)

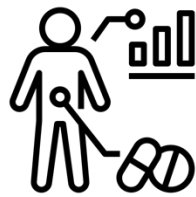
## Pillar 2 – What We Hope to Achieve

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### Expanding treatment possibilities



Canada will lead in the discovery and validation of novel therapeutic targets and treatments for rare disease patients



All rare disease patients, regardless of their age, location, or social context, will have equitable access to clinical trials and innovative therapies



Innovative therapies will be readily integrated into clinical practice to improve patient care and outcomes



Canada will be recognized globally for its rare disease clinical trials and market potential, thereby attracting investment and accelerating access to innovative therapies

### Benefits:

- More treatment options and better access to innovations
- More consistent, quality care closer to home



# Care, Support & Empowerment

# Pillar 3 – Care, Support, & Empowerment





# Pillar 3 - Members

## Pillar Lead:



**Ian Stedman**  
York University

## Pillar Members:



**John Adams**  
Canadian PKU and Allied  
Disorders (CanPKU+)



**Jillian Banfield**  
Canadian Institutes for  
Health Research – Institute  
of Genetics (CIHR IG)



**Brad Crittenden**  
Canadian Association  
of Pompe



**Deborah Marshall**  
University of Calgary



**Homira Osman**  
Muscular Dystrophy Canada



**Gail Ouellette**  
iRARE Centre, RQMO



**Stephen Parrott**  
Kidney Cancer Canada  
Board



**Jonathan Pratt**  
Regroupement Québécois  
des maladies orphelines  
(RQMO)



**Nicola Worsfold**  
World Duchenne  
Organization

# Pillar 3 – What We Hope to Achieve

## Supporting patients and their families



All rare disease patients, along with their families and caregivers, will be aware of and have equitable access to the resources and supports they need



All individuals affected by rare diseases will be empowered and engaged in meaningful opportunities in research and beyond



All rare disease patients and their families will receive the mental health and wellbeing support they need regardless of their location or social context



Canada will have a unified rare disease community that creates comprehensive care and support systems for rare disease patients and their families

### Benefits:

- Greater awareness and more equitable access to resources
- Greater patient empowerment, knowledge sharing, and sense of community

# How to Be Involved

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1. Read the **proposed strategic plan** from:

<https://canadianrdn.ca/public-consultation-on-the-canadian-rare-disease-network-proposed-strategic-plan/>

- Summary of goals and strategies for each CRDN Pillar

2. Submit your feedback through the **online survey**:

[https://survey.ucalgary.ca/jfe/form/SV\\_4YOIL6DCpCvKYey](https://survey.ucalgary.ca/jfe/form/SV_4YOIL6DCpCvKYey)

- Provide feedback through a combination of free-text and multiple-choice fields



**Online feedback deadline: November 30, 2024**