Research in Fraser Health

Department of Evaluation and Research Services (DERS)

Fraser Health Board Quality Performance Committee | September 10, 2025

Dr. Kate Keetch, PhD | Director, DERS
Dr. Laura Housden, PhD, MN-NP(F) | Executive Director, NPs, Research and SFU SoM

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Why a Research Ethics Board report?

Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans (TCPS-2 or the Policy)

- Institutions must ensure that research conducted under their auspices or within their jurisdiction complies with this Policy through establishing a Research Ethics Board (REB) appointed via the **highest body** within an institution.
- Institutions must provide appropriate administrative resources to REBs (e.g., research ethics administration staff, a research ethics office) for the effective and efficient operation of the REB.
- Institutions *should* issue reports summarizing the institution's activities and initiatives relevant to the ethics review of research involving humans, its research ethics administration, and relevant research ethics education and training.
- Institutions that sign onto the *Agreement on the Administration of Agency Grants and Awards by Research Institutions,* as a condition of Tri-Council funding, are required to apply the ethical principles and the articles of this Policy.

FH Research Ethics Review – Corporate Policy

Reporting Relationship of the Fraser Health Research Ethics Board (FHREB)

- “The FHREB shall provide a report to the Fraser Health Board of Directors Quality Committee on its activities on an annual basis.”

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FHREB Membership

Co-Chairs:

- Dr. Stephen Pearce
  - SMH Cardiologist
- Lindsay Meredith, PhD
  - SFU Professor in Business Ethics

REB Ethics Office (administration)

- Manager, Research Ethics and Compliance
- Research Ethics Coordinators
  - 1 FTE multiple-site, 1 FTE single-site/clinical trials

Our **board composition** is compliant as mandated by Tri-Council Policy (TCPS-2)

Board composition & administrative supports

As of March 31, 2025, the FHREB was composed of 12 members.

VOTING MEMBER NAME FIRST LAST	HIGHEST DEGREES EARNED	PRIMARY SCIENTIFIC OR NONSCIENTIFIC SPECIALTY	AFFILIATION WITH INSTITUTION
*Stephen Pearce Male / Canadian Citizen	MD, FRCPC	Cardiology	Yes
*Lindsay Meredith Male / Canadian Citizen	PhD	Business, Ethics	No
** Anu K. Sandhu Female/Canadian Citizen	LLB	Law	No
** Tamsin Miley Female / Canadian Citizen	LLB	Law	No
Zhenyi Li Male / Canadian Citizen	PhD	Community Member	No
Kim Macfarlane Female / Canadian Citizen	BSN, MA	Tertiary Critical Care, Ethics	No
Bonnie MacKenzie Female / Canadian Citizen	BA	Community Member	No
Tim Leung Male / Canadian Citizen	PharmD	Pharmacy	Yes
Mickaël Francoeur Male / Canadian Citizen	MD, FRCPC	Emergency Medicine	Yes
Sarah Crowe Female/ Canadian Citizen	MN, PMD-NP(F), CNCC(C)	Critical Care	Yes
Samantha Pollard Female/Canadian Citizen	PhD	Research Methodology	Yes
***Rochelle Gellatly Female/ Canadian Citizen	PharmD	Pharmacy	Yes
* Co-chair ** Alternating Member *** Alternate Member			

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FHREB 2024-2025 Report Highlights

486 FHREB ethical approved studies	67% clinical 33% behavioural
157 new submissions	28 full-board review, 129 delegated review 50% multi-jurisdictional and 50% single-site
1270 post-approval activities (amendments, renewals, acknowledgements, close-outs)	
Timeline of FH ethical approval 30 days (median); provincial average 46 days (median)	

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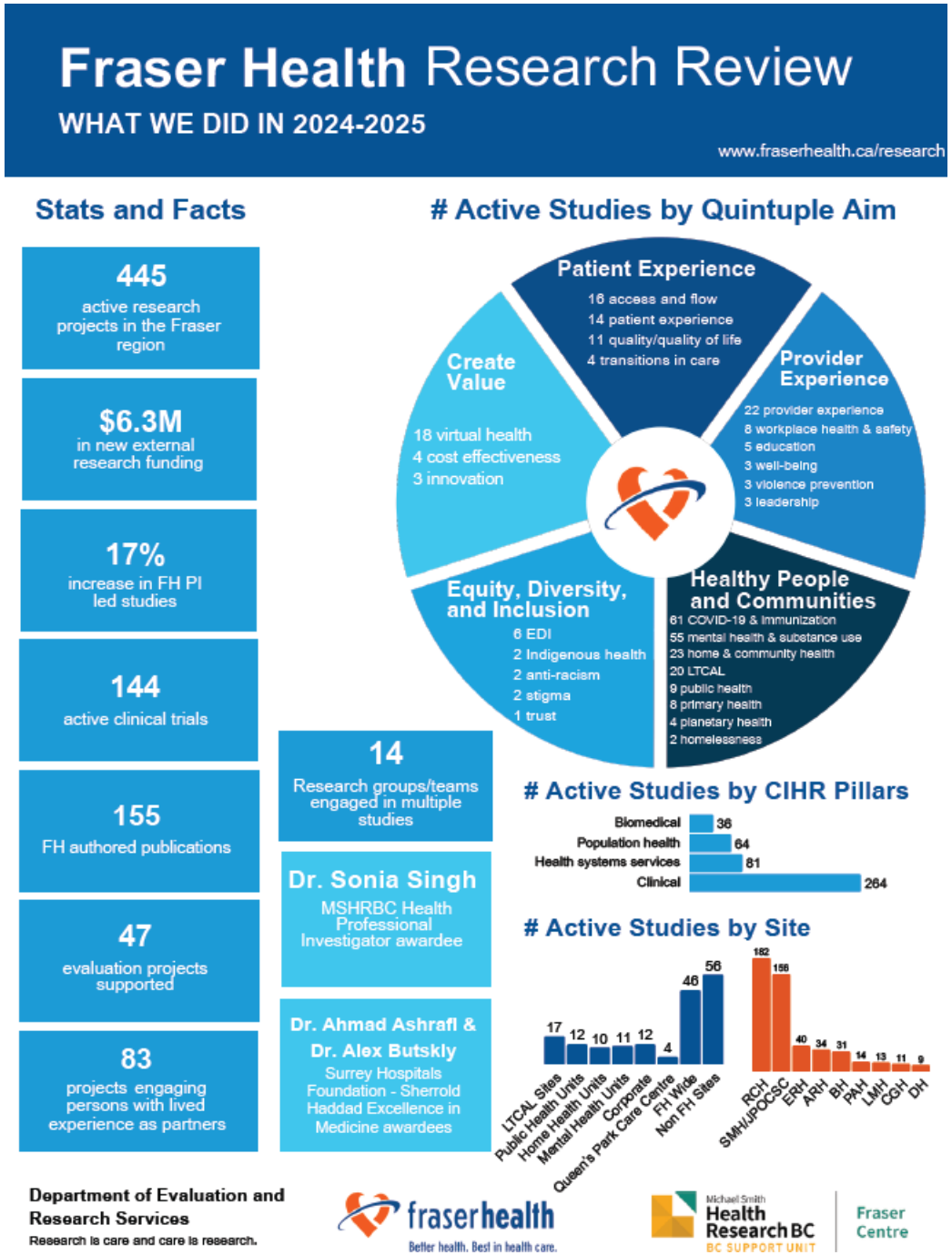

426%

return on investment in 2024/2025

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How DERS and research adds value to FH

Clinical research

Patients receive cutting-edge, evidence-based treatments by participating in potential life-saving clinical trials – when standard of care treatments don't work; offers hope; contributes to quality care

Retention and Recruitment

Attracts key talent particularly medical staff specialists when we are amid a HHR crisis

Medical Learners

Research curriculum and projects are requirements for UGME/PGME

Accreditation

Required research and evaluation components for ethics, library, pharmacy and ongoing quality improvement activities

Return on Investment

2024/2025 revenue generated was $6.3 million in new funding with ROI = 426%

Equity

Ensures inclusion of Fraser Health's diverse population and patient base in data collection projects that feed into key government funding and policy decisions

FH Priorities/OKRs

In-house expertise and capacity for evidence generation

Enables "research is care" by supporting clinical sites/units/programs to conduct research and evaluation as important drivers of quality improvement and innovation in the system

Partnerships

Increased academic profile and strengthened partnerships with universities, research institutions, hospital foundations, funding agencies, community, and industry

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Here is what I need from you…

Continue to advocate and support research as a valued and integrated part of Fraser Health!

Recognition:

- ✓ Reinstate providing a letter of recognition to the FHREB Co-chairs annually
- ✓ Establish opportunities for the Board Quality Performance Committee to connect to the larger DERS team and researchers annually

Sustainability:

- ✓ Ensure continuity of infrastructure for research services

Accountability:

- ✓ Endorse having the annual FHREB report and annual Fraser Health Research Review report publicly facing on our website at fraserhealth.ca/research

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Questions?

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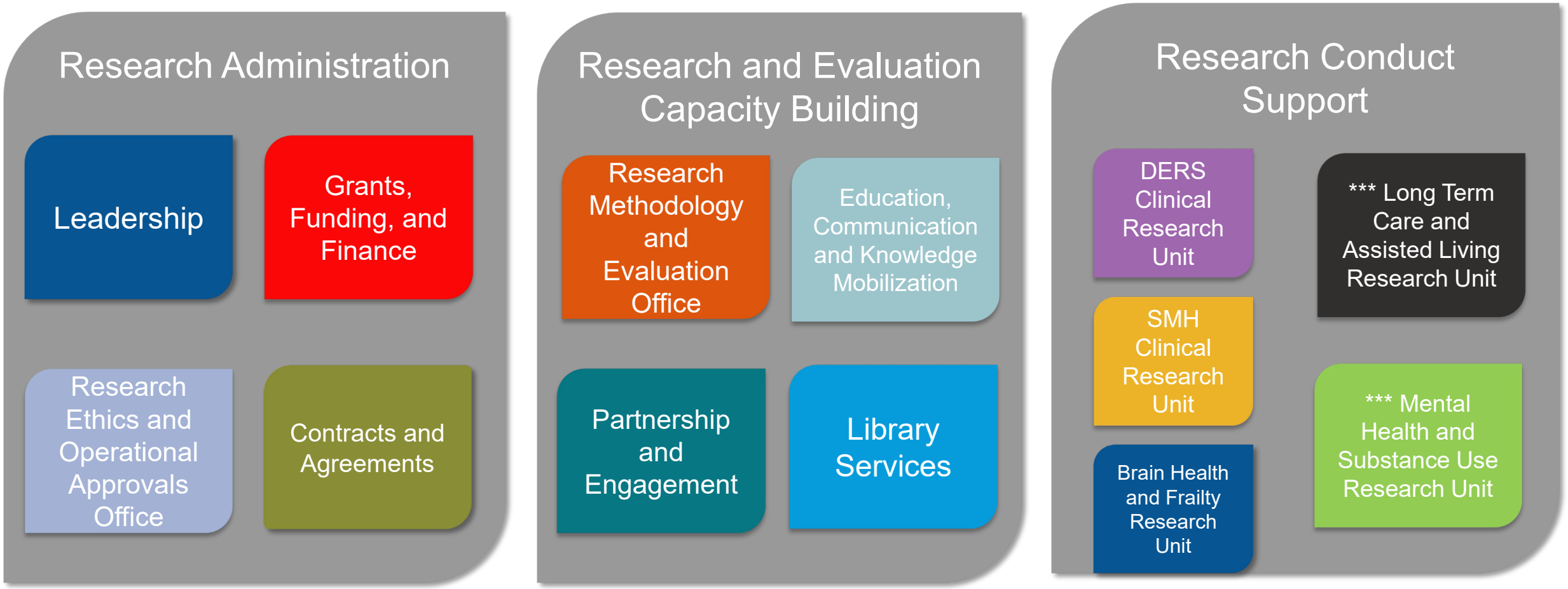
What DERS does…