



BC Ethics Harmonization Initiative

What's New:

- Key Accomplishments
- Working Groups
- Other Initiatives

What's Next:

- Provincial Research Ethics Platform (PREP) Launch
- Reciprocity Agreement Update
- Removing Barriers to Research

Mission & Goals

BCEHI aims to create efficient, coordinated, and high-quality processes that **support and encourage multi-jurisdictional human health research**.

The goal is to make BC a more attractive environment for research activity. We have implemented harmonized models that make the ethics review process more timely and efficient and allow researchers to submit a single ethics application, regardless of the number of BC jurisdictions involved in a project.

Harmonization also ensures the consistency and quality of ethics review, in compliance with TCPS-2, across all research ethics boards in BC. Overall, BCEHI will encourage more multi-jurisdictional health research and make BC a more competitive and innovative health research environment.

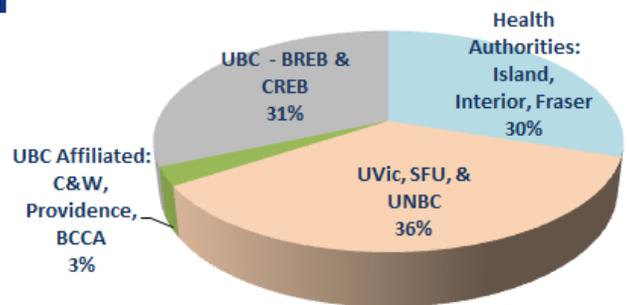
KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ⇒ Full acceptance of harmonized models for minimal risk and above minimal risk studies by partner institutions.
- ⇒ Quantified improvements in the research ethics review process, including improved communication between institutions and reduced duplication of effort for researchers, REB members, and support staff.
- ⇒ Creation of common behavioural and clinical research ethics application forms and guidance
- ⇒ Support the development and programming of the Provincial Research Ethics Platform (PREP)

Success In Numbers

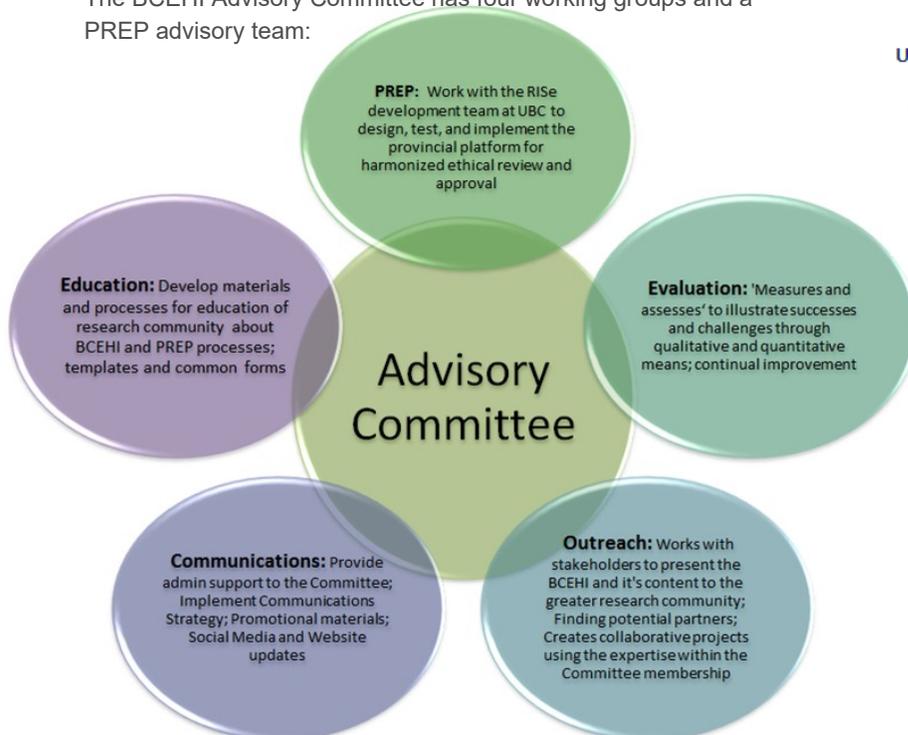
- ⇒ **73 harmonized studies** approved in the first half of 2017
- ⇒ Of those studies, **4 were above minimal risk**
- ⇒ On average, studies were approved in **36 business days**

Studies as Board of Record



Working Groups

The BCEHI Advisory Committee has four working groups and a PREP advisory team:



Other Initiatives

- ◇ **Advising on Provincial Projects**
The Advisory Committee has consulted during the development phase of provincial-scale projects to advise on best practices around the administration of ethics review
- ◇ **External Application of BCEHI Models**
BCEHI partners have successfully collaborated and conducted joint reviews with institutions outside of BC by applying the BCEHI models



What's Next?

Provincial Research Ethics Platform (PREP) Launch

MSFHR provided additional funding to the BCEHI in the Fall of 2016 to support the BCEHI partner organizations with ongoing management and sustainability of the BCEHI as well as the development of a shared technology platform for harmonized ethics review. The anticipated launch phase of the platform is Spring 2018.



“Thank you! This is wonderful news, and we are VERY grateful for the fast turnaround and for all of the quick and helpful responses to any questions that came up along the way. Compared to previous applications that I have made involving multiple jurisdictions, this has been extremely smooth.”

— Barbara Purves,
Associate Professor,
University of British
Columbia

Reciprocity Agreement Update

The BC Research Ethics Review Reciprocity Agreement was signed by all partner institutions in 2013 and provides the framework for the BCEHI. This agreement is set to terminate in April 2018 and the partners have chosen to re-enter negotiations to update some of the terms so they are in line with current practices and goals. This may involve including new partners in BC that are interested in joining the BCEHI efforts.

Removing Barriers to Research

The vision for the BCEHI continues to be one of collaboration, and working relationships with the goal being coordinated, efficient, and high quality research ethics review processes that support and encourage multi-jurisdictional human health research. The past year has resulted in several milestones being met that continue to demonstrate the effectiveness of this vision, and its ability to make BC a more attractive environment for research activity. We are looking forward to finding a permanent home for BCEHI, and the continued development of the platform, PREP.

Please complete this short (3-5 minute) survey to help us learn more about your experiences with BCEHI and how we can support you in the future:

<https://redcap.viha.ca/redcap/surveys/?s=8PRXJP9R7A>