



PRISM

THE PROGRAM FOR INNOVATION
IN SCHOLARSHIP AND MEDICINE

The **Program for Innovation in Scholarship and Medicine (PRISM)** is an innovations laboratory that aims to stimulate creativity and foster a culture of innovation within the Cumming School of Medicine (CSM). As part of PRISM there are two main streams: design thinking and quality improvement. ***Re-Imagining Medical Education (RIME)*** is a stream within PRISM that fosters innovation through design thinking – its solutions are developed to challenging problems and fresh ideas are prototyped into successful products. Design thinking is an established approach to user-centered design, which emphasizes engaging the end-user in the process from designing the question to prototyping solutions. Individuals who conduct design thinking projects under this lab will gain valuable exposure to the design thinking tools and techniques, further building capacity for innovation locally. Appropriate projects for this lab include those where pain points are clear, but solutions may not be apparent, and the goal is to further develop the right question, so we can find, test, and implement the right solution.

The second main stream of PRISM focuses on the use of quality improvement as an approach to catalyzing change. Given the rise of QI in healthcare and medical education, this lab will serve as a central hub for teaching QI to current and future health professionals. This lab will be home to several established QI curricula and support QI projects that focus on leading to a sustainable improvement or change. Finally, in recognizing that faculty capacity is one of the most commonly cited barriers to QI, this lab will aim to generate QI competencies across faculty within the University of Calgary, including “QI champions” who lead QI in their own contexts.

There is some overlap between design thinking and QI, but both spectra within PRISM have a shared goal: to make things better. We believe each has their value depending on the problem and goals of each initiative. For clear problems with potential solutions that have known benefit, the QI lab may be most appropriate. For issues where both problem and solutions are unclear, the design thinking lab can help flesh out these components. Irrespective of which stream is deemed to be more appropriate for a given project, students and collaborators will be provided access to a network of mentors to take their projects to the next level.

The PRISM provides a space to try things out, learn from failure, and engage users in creating sustainable solutions that are impactful and valuable to the medical education community. The PRISM aligns with all three foundational commitments of Eyes High: sharpen focus on research and scholarship, enrich the quality and breadth of learning, Integrate the university within the community. Having already partnered with groups such as Civic Innovation YYC, the City of Calgary, and the Calgary Airport Authority, we recognize the importance of being an institution embedded in the fabric of our city. By challenging the status quo with novel ideas and approaches to medical education, and creating collaborative partnerships with the greater community, we aim to improve the integration of our students, faculty, and partners within the community.