

Call for Experts in Child Health Studies

The **Maternal Infant Child and Youth Research Network (MICYRN)** invites interested candidates to apply for **membership to an Expert Group** in their child health sub-speciality area.

MICYRN is a federal not-for-profit, charitable organization founded in 2006 to build capacity for high-quality applied health research. The network formally links 21 maternal and child health research member organizations based at academic health centres in Canada; is affiliated with more than 30 practice-based research networks; provides support to new and emerging teams; and has established strong national and international partnerships.

MICYRN is developing a process to provide expert advice consultation to improve child health.

Groups of experts (methodological or clinical) will be established to provide strategic feasibility advice to individual requests from profit (industry) or non-profit (academic consortia and investigators) in conducting feasible, innovative, and scientifically sound pediatric clinical trials. A second aim of this call is to develop a database of investigators to be contacted to participate as a site for future study opportunities.

[Conect4children \(c4c\)](#), a European Union funded, pan-European consortium is currently developing similar expertise groups. The future intention is for MICYRN and c4C expert groups to cross-pollinate, thereby providing the child health community with an international pool to utilize for scientific depth, richness, and site participation for prospective observational and interventional studies.

Who should apply?

- Individuals with relevant methodological or clinical expertise in a specific (child health) field and who are currently active in their field of expertise.
- Individuals enthusiastic to contribute to building a pan-Canadian expert group in their field.

We aim for diversity, including representatives from different career levels and a wide range of clinical subspecialties. If you are a clinician-investigator or clinician-scientist specializing in a specific patient population or research method, but with no extensive experience in research, we still invite you to apply.

What am I expected to do?

1. Provide advice on methodology or clinical aspects of child health interventional trials or large-scale observational studies. When requests for advice or site participation come to MICYRN, the leadership team will reach out to the expert group members for their

availability and desire to consult or participate on a project. For those who are available and interested, an ad hoc “strategic feasibility advice group” may be formed. These groups may also include clinical experts, patients, and parents.

2. Contribute to the development of a standing expert group in your area or mentor young and emerging investigators.
3. Participate in workshops and seminars hosted by MICYRN to discuss topics within your area of expertise.
4. Support the expert lead with the creation of guidelines and contribute to white papers
5. Be available for three years as an expert member, with the possibility to renew membership for an additional three-year term.

How will I benefit?

1. Involvement in the design of child health observational or interventional studies resulting in academic enhancement and recognition (trial steering committee or DSMB membership, presentation at webinars or conferences, contributions to grants, manuscripts, development of educational materials, mentorship, and others). Requests from Industry are usually compensated.
2. Opportunity to work with your expert group on innovative studies.
3. Increase the volume of observational or interventional study participation opportunities for your site or institution.
4. Expand your network and visibility with international groups including the EU expert groups established by c4c.

How is my information handled?

Your information will be stored in a secure electronic database. Access to the database will be limited to the internal MICYRN team and will not be publicly available for others to access or view.

How will I be contacted?

When a request is received from industry or academia, the MICYRN team will search the database for appropriate experts that match the inquiry. The MICYRN team will send an email to the identified expert(s) and provide details about the request. If an individual is interested in obtaining more information, the MICYRN team will connect the expert(s) via email with the requesting individuals.

How to apply?

Please complete the questionnaire [HERE](#).