

2023 Annual Report



Edwin S.H. Leong Centre for Healthy Children



Edwin S.H. Leong Centre for Healthy Children
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

SickKids®



Improving equity in children’s health requires a breadth of talent. At the Edwin S.H. Leong Centre for Healthy Children, two world-class institutions—SickKids and U of T—come together to mobilize leaders who have the multidisciplinary expertise necessary to advance child health outcomes here, and around the world.”

—**Meric Gertler**
President, University of Toronto

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Message from the co-directors

This is an exciting time for the Edwin S. H. Leong Centre for Healthy Children. In 2023, we saw notable advancements in our research capacity, knowledge-sharing activities, community engagement and relationship building—all of which have led to a strong foundation as we grow the Centre and execute on our goal of increasing health equity among children.

We’re thrilled to announce two new hires this year. Dr. Arjumand Siddiqi joins us in the inaugural role of Edwin S.H. Leong Chair in Child Policy Research. An expert in how and why health inequalities change over time, Dr. Siddiqi brings her experience as a senior scientist at the SickKids Research Institute, her appointments in public policy and sociology at U of T as well as her Canada Research Chair experience in population health equity. We’re also joined by Priscilla Medeiros who is taking on the role of Knowledge Mobilization and Communications Specialist. Her engagement work includes sharing the Centre’s best practices and keeping communities involved across all stages of research.

Among the many high points of the year, one moment stands out: our inaugural symposium, “Seizing the Opportunity: Child Health Equity Research in Post-Pandemic Recovery.” This was an in-person event that brought leading local, national and international academics and policymakers together to explore how best to mobilize research to address inequalities in children’s health outcomes, including those exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Our keynote speaker—Dr. Cindy Blackstock, Executive Director of the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society—reminded us to reflect on the history of our relationships with First Nations communities and families to ensure that many of the things we already know—and have neglected to action—are moved into practice and policy. Dr. Blackstock, who has worked to successfully litigate the federal government on behalf of First Nations people who were subject to discriminatory child welfare practices, provided firsthand experience in the mission to rectify historical inequities among children. She inspired members to connect and collaborate in service of the health rights of all children.

Through ongoing investments in research, education and training, we are dedicated to realizing the Centre’s vision of harnessing interdisciplinary research to promote the flourishing of every child and family. As we look to the next year, we will continue to train the next generation of applied child health equity researchers, continue to build on the Trainee Hub, provide opportunities for funding and collaboration and recruit our final chair in data science. We are also excited to grow our relationships with those that will enable our child health equity vision. This includes data partners such as Statistics Canada, community agencies focused on child and family health, policy-focused groups such as the Fraser Mustard Institute for Human Development Policy Bench and other international institutes with similar goals—including those led by members of our international scientific advisory committee. We are extremely energized by our progress to date and the incredible community of likeminded people who join in the work we do at the Centre.

Sincerely,

Astrid Guttman
Co-Director, Edwin S.H. Leong Centre for Healthy Children

Eyal Cohen
Co-Director, Edwin S.H. Leong Centre for Healthy Children

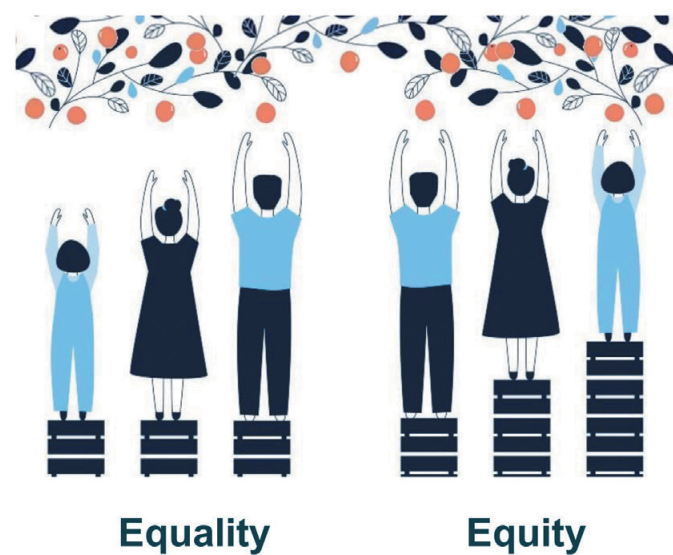
How health equity shapes a child's future

Childhood is a critical period in a person's life. This short but influential phase shapes lifetime potential for positive social connections, economic productivity, and good physical and mental health.

Every person deserves a fair opportunity to attain a high level of health. According to Harvard's Human Flourishing Program, children and their families flourish when they live in a state in which all aspects of their life are good. In order for all children to flourish, then, we need to understand and address the social and demographic factors that lead to differences in health and well-being.

Where we are born and where we live, work and play have an important influence on our health, which the World Health Organization defines as “a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being”—meaning that health does not only consist of the absence of illness. Many factors outside the medical system play a role in early childhood development: genetics, access to nutritious food, family income, parental education, access to health care and housing all help determine whether a child is likely to have a healthy future.

That's what makes preventative measures and interventions at this phase of life so vital—they can have an outsized impact on individuals, families and whole communities as they help set



children up to flourish and enjoy a lifetime of physical, mental and social wellness. In this context, health equity research addresses the health needs of the whole population, while focusing on more vulnerable communities who face greater barriers to reaching a flourishing state—and greater risks for entering into an unhealthy state.

As the world's most diverse city, Toronto is the ideal place to study children and their families from a variety of backgrounds and circumstances in the local socio-political context. Solutions developed here have the potential for global impact; since Toronto is a world-leading health centre, other jurisdictions often look to our city-region and its institutions to lead the way. U of T is ranked as the world's second-most prolific university for health sciences research¹ and is renowned for its expertise in data sciences, health policy analysis, paediatrics and informatics. SickKids is a global leader in children's health care, Canada's most research-intensive hospital and the largest centre dedicated to improving children's health in the country.

With world-leading population-based data, scientists from a range of disciplines, deep child health clinical expertise and trainees from around the globe, the Edwin S.H. Leong Centre for Healthy Children is well situated to capitalize on these important assets. And by leveraging the rich data environments of Ontario and Canada, we can harness the potential of precision health and inform approaches that address health equity.

The partnership these two globally respected institutions have forged, through the Edwin S.H. Leong Centre for Healthy Children, uniquely positions them to address many of Canada's pressing child health concerns—such as rising rates of obesity, mental health challenges and widening inequality. These are issues that other countries, territories and urban centres are also experiencing. Therefore, by producing evidence-based research in Toronto, the Centre is not only contributing to brighter futures for Canada's next generation—we are also uncovering crucial findings that can help children everywhere.

¹ *Nature Index Annual Tables 2023*



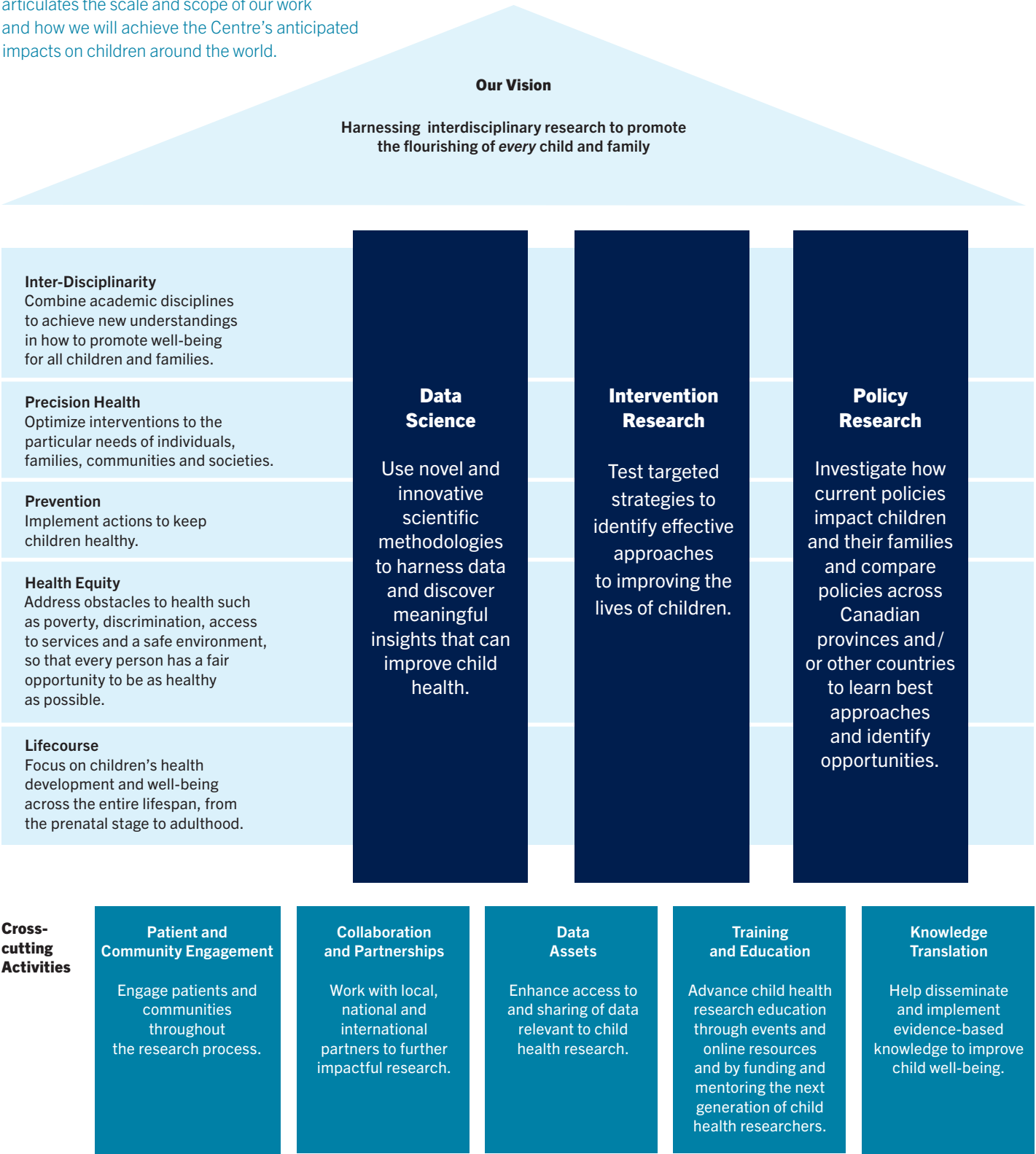
Child health is incredibly complex, with an individual's environment, genetics, access to health care and education, and so much more all playing a role. The Edwin S.H. Leong Centre for Healthy Children is able to take all of these factors into account in its work to design effective interventions for this short, but immensely influential, life phase."

—**Ronald Cohn**
President and CEO, SickKids



Our framework

The Edwin S.H. Leong Centre for Healthy Children has developed a framework that articulates the scale and scope of our work and how we will achieve the Centre’s anticipated impacts on children around the world.



Key activities in Year 3

The following pages highlight the Centre’s achievements and activities in FY22/23, categorized according to the Centre’s core themes (**Data Science, Intervention Research** and **Policy Research**) and our cross-cutting activities (**Patient and Community Engagement, Training and Education, Data Assets, Collaboration and Partnerships,** and **Knowledge Translation**), as depicted in our framework. These efforts are collectively advancing our vision of harnessing interdisciplinary research to promote the flourishing of every child and family.

Core themes

Data Science

Leveraging data for child health equity

The Edwin S.H. Leong Centre for Healthy Children funded **four catalyst grants** in Year 3, all focused on the theme “Data Impact for Children’s Health and Equity.” This concentration was chosen to catalyze research projects that are leveraging existing data repositories to address pressing equity issues and the social determinants of health of children and adolescents in Canada.

These researchers, who include scientists at U of T, SickKids, McMaster University and Toronto Metropolitan University, are pursuing a range of projects, such as linking census and child welfare data to examine health and social outcomes for First Nations children and families, and using general population surveys to explore connections between a parents’ employment and their children’s mental health.

Recruiting the third Leong Chair

We are actively recruiting for the **Edwin S.H. Leong Chair in Data Science for Child Health Equity** and anticipate completing this important hire in Year 4. The Leong Chair in Data Science will help mobilize our efforts to advance child health equity research and capitalize on the potential of data analytics work to improve the lives and health of children everywhere.

Their appointment will complete the leadership team at the Centre, positioning us to fully capitalize on the growing momentum of our research projects and engagement activities as we move into the Centre’s midway phase.

Catalyst highlight:

Examining environmental impacts on youth pedestrian and cyclist safety

M. Anne Harris and Linda Rothman’s project examined how social and neighbourhood environments can affect children’s risk of road injuries, which are a leading cause of death in that age group. Their study leveraged the Canadian Census Health and Environment Cohorts (CanCHEC), combining census data with records of hospital visits and deaths in Canada. Their work was the first application of this new CanCHEC database to study the health impacts of inequities, such as access to safe environments, on children. It represents an important example of how linked data can be used to produce insights that can inform policies.

Intervention Research

Evaluating a system-wide model of care for children with complex needs

Children with chronic conditions and high-health needs often experience fragmented care. Our co-director, Eyal Cohen, led a clinical trial—Complex Care Kids Ontario (CCKO)—that evaluated a system-wide model of care that was rolled out across all of Ontario to address this challenge facing children with complex needs. The trial’s findings were published earlier this year as a series of three manuscripts.

The trial examined the impact of partnering both a nurse practitioner and a pediatrician with families to provide them with intensive care coordination and comprehensive care plans in a structured complex care clinic. Upon publication, the study was highly praised for successfully implementing a large-scale, multisite clinical trial that included complicated interventions, required the committed participation of patients and their families, and relied on detailed medical informatics and data infrastructure.

Its robust evaluation has informed the expansion of Ontario’s complex care model to many more clinics and sites across the province, with a goal that all children in Ontario who have complex care needs will have access to a structured complex care clinic within 100 kilometres of their homes. The Provincial Council of Maternal and Child Health—the relevant policy arm of the Government of Ontario, which provides evidence-based and strategic leadership for perinatal, newborn, child and youth health services in the province—has partnered with Edwin S.H. Leong Centre researchers to ensure that data collection and reporting is embedded in the operations of these clinics to support further evaluation.

The CCKO model of care has garnered substantial interest in other jurisdictions. The program has hosted visitors from dozens of hospitals in North America as well as 13 different countries, all interested in adapting elements of the CCKO model in their own health systems.

Researchers have since begun a new trial focused on how to expand this CCKO model to encompass an individual’s transition from receiving care as a child to continued care as an adult. This project is a close partnership between Leong Centre researchers, the Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR), and the Provincial Council of Maternal and Child Health.

Advancing applied research through the Edwin S. H. Leong Chair in Child Health Intervention

Catherine S. Birken, the Edwin S.H. Leong Chair in Child Health Intervention, has continued her important work over the past year, with her research projects leading to 43 published manuscripts, including 13 in which she was senior author.

One of Birken’s ongoing research projects is HeLTI Canada (the Healthy Life Trajectories Initiative), a trial focused on preconception that aims to improve the health and well-being of Canadian children, with these positive impacts continuing into adolescence and adulthood.

HeLTI was funded by CIHR and developed in partnership with research teams from Canada, India, China and South Africa and in collaboration with the World Health Organization to address the increasing rates of obesity, chronic diseases and mental illness around the world. Four harmonized trials are being conducted across the globe, each focused on improving the health and well-being of pregnancy-planning women and their partners from preconception onward. This initiative will help researchers better understand how to prevent children and their families from later developing obesity and chronic diseases. Birken is co-principal investigator for the Canadian trial, which is the first in the country and one of the largest in the world. It will follow Canadian families to examine long-term child health at age five.

Over the course of Year 3, Birken and her colleagues streamlined and accelerated their online recruitment for the Canadian study, with over 2,400 women now set to participate along with 700 of their partners and 700 sibling children. This robust pool includes a diverse variety of participants and will enable family-level analysis.

Birken’s team at TARGet Kids!—a primary care, practice-based research network that advances child health research—has also continued to publish in leading journals, present their work at national and international meetings, and mobilize the knowledge they have gathered through community partners.

Beyond her research activities, Birken has been developing the next generation of researchers and advocates in applied research by serving as a primary supervisor or faculty mentor for numerous students, postdoctoral fellows, new clinician researchers and residents in the Department of Paediatrics’ research program.

Policy Research

Appointing the Edwin S.H. Leong Chair in Child Policy Research

In collaboration with U of T’s Dalla Lana School of Public Health, we recruited our second chair this past year and appointed **Arjumand Siddiqi** as the inaugural **Edwin S.H. Leong Chair in Child Policy Research**.

Siddiqi is a professor and division head of epidemiology at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, where she holds the Canada Research Chair in Population Health Equity. She also holds appointments in sociology, public policy and women and gender studies at U of T, as well as adjunct professorships at Harvard University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

As a social epidemiologist, Siddiqi brings a wealth of expertise to the Centre and a deep commitment to the intersection of child health equity research and the impact of policies on population health. Her research focuses on understanding the nature and causes of health inequities, with a particular emphasis on how they are influenced by social policies and other societal conditions.

Siddiqi frequently speaks to and works with stakeholder institutions, including federal, provincial and local governments and international agencies. She was also a member of the World Health Organization Commission on Social Determinants of Health.

Her multidisciplinary expertise on health equity and policy, international renown and engagement experience will be significant assets to the Centre as we pursue evidence-based interventions that can improve the lives and health of all children—and help translate these findings into concrete policy action here in Canada and around the world.

Some of Siddiqi’s current work includes an analysis of Canadian census-linked mortality data to understand connections between race, immigrant status and health, as well as a Canadian community health survey that will help researchers understand relationships between race, experiences of discrimination and mental health outcomes. She is also developing a conceptual framework encompassing what causes racial inequities in maternal mortality rates.

In the future, Siddiqi would like to develop a national hub for monitoring and evaluating major indicators of racial health inequities at the population level, such as infant, child, maternal and adult mortality rates. As an inventory of all administrative data sources available at the national and provincial levels, the platform will enable researchers to look for patterns and changes in these important indicators and test a variety of questions related to health outcomes. This Canadian hub could then grow to incorporate data from peer countries, significantly expanding the scope and scale of its utility as a research tool.



Cross-cutting activities

Patient and Community Engagement

Launching key resources

Our dedicated Knowledge Mobilization and Community Engagement Specialist initiated a comprehensive engagement program in fall 2022 to advance community-engaged learning and research for the Centre’s members, staff, trainees, community partners and other stakeholders.

These efforts included the launch of a:

- **Community Engagement Series**, with webinars featuring community-engaged research
- **Trainee Hub**, which provides monthly workshops and mentorship to Centre trainees as they plan and implement community-engaged research
- **Consultation service** that supports the Centre’s members as they develop their community engagement and knowledge translation plans, with 26 such consultations taking place in Year 3
- **Online library** of community engagement resources
- **Collaboration Hub**, an online service that connects researchers and community partners to build collaborative research partnerships

One of the Centre’s critical goals is to produce learnings informed by community-engaged research, with this embedded work leading to the development of effective interventions that communities here and around the world can implement to support better child health. This array of new resources at the Centre is spurring the collaborations and connections necessary to make this goal a reality.



Health-care institutions and policymakers around the world rely on the evidence-based research produced by Temerty Faculty of Medicine and SickKids to inform their programs and policies. That means the research we’re pursuing here in our local context can be translated into action across the globe—ultimately leading to better health outcomes for children everywhere.”

— **Patricia Houston**

Interim Dean, Temerty Faculty of Medicine, U of T Vice Dean Medical Education, Temerty Faculty of Medicine, U of T Interim Vice Provost, Relations with Health Care Institutions, U of T Professor, Department of Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine, U of T

Training and Education

Funding the next generation of researchers

We’ve continued to provide robust supports to trainees, who represent the future of child health equity research—and who are already pursuing vital research projects in collaboration with more senior members of the Centre.

In Year 3, this funding encompassed:

- **Four Leong Fellows**, postdoctoral research fellows supervised by a Leong Centre co-director or chair
- **Two Leong Scholars**, who were co-funded with the SickKids Research Training Centre and also received CIHR Doctoral Research Awards, which are granted to high-calibre doctoral students in Canada to recognize and promote their research excellence
- **Five Leong Studentship Awards**, which provide operational funding to graduate students, postdoctoral research fellows, and clinical trainees to support their projects
- **Seven students** participating in Temerty Medicine’s summer programs in the Department of Paediatrics, which enabled them to work on a range of child health projects

By supporting the training and education of these emerging researchers, the Centre is not only helping to produce research today but ensuring a strong future for child health research far beyond these scholars’ current projects.

Given the collaborative nature of many of these initiatives, these funding programs are also an opportunity for us to continue developing relationships with colleagues at U of T’s Temerty Faculty of Medicine and the SickKids Research Training Centre, as we work together to mentor the next generation and advance their promising research.

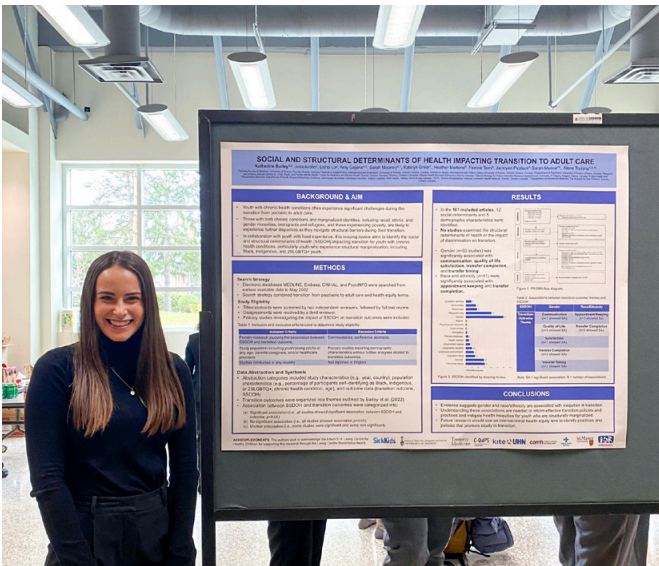


Today’s practices in child health care are built on the foundation of yesterday’s research. I am excited by the activities happening now at the Edwin S.H. Leong Centre, which are moving us closer to making better child health—for all children—a reality. That’s the power of academic research and collaboration.”

— **Meredith Irwin**

Chair, Department of Paediatrics, U of T
Chief of Paediatrics, SickKids

Training and Education (continued)



Leong Fellow highlight:
The importance of nutrition to school readiness

As a Leong Fellow, Jessica Omand worked with Catherine S. Birken at SickKids and the TARGet Kids! research network for three years, exploring the relationship between early life exposures and a child’s school readiness. In one of six published papers, Omand and her team found that children in their second year of kindergarten who were at high nutritional risk were four times less likely to be ready for school entry. As a follow-up to this project, Omand plans to leverage linked data to assess whether early life nutrition is associated with academic achievement scores.

Knowing that school plays a crucial role in fostering healthy child development, particularly for children living in low-income households, Omand hopes that her research will pave the way for tailored nutrition interventions that foster healthy development and help children succeed in school—and in life.

Leong Scholar highlight:
Intervening at preconception

Kate Braddon—a Leong Scholar, registered dietician, and master’s student at U of T and SickKids—was awarded the “Top Clinical Nutrition Presentation” at the Department of Nutritional Sciences Research Day Poster Competition in fall 2022. Her presentation explored the risk of children developing eating behaviours and food preferences that can lead to obesity, and the role of the preconception period in shaping these outcomes.

Braddon’s work found that a higher maternal preconception body mass index (BMI) is indeed associated with higher nutritional risk in children. This finding suggests that the preconception period could be an effective time to develop and test preventative interventions aimed at improving children’s nutritional development—ultimately helping to address rising rates of obesity in youth.

Leong Studentship highlight:
Transitioning from paediatric to adult health care

Katherine Bailey, a Leong Centre studentship recipient and fourth-year MD student at Temerty Medicine, is researching the impact of health equity on an individual’s transition from paediatric to adult care. Under the supervision of Alène Toulany, an Adolescent Medicine Physician at SickKids, she is identifying the social and structural determinants of health that impact this care shift for youth with chronic health conditions. This often-challenging transition can result in adverse health outcomes, including increased emergency department visits and hospitalizations and worsened health status.

Their findings—which are set to be published in *Pediatrics*—suggest significant racial, ethnic and gender disparities in health outcomes during the transition to adult care, which have important implications for determining equitable transition policies such as individualized transition interventions and equity-focused quality improvement initiatives.

Data Assets

*Growing data access capacity at the
Edwin S.H. Leong Centre for Healthy Children*

In Year 3, the Centre significantly grew its data access capacity, making it easier for researchers to find and leverage existing data sets in their child health research. We hired a dedicated Research Coordinator, who has already supported multiple principal investigators at the Centre with their data collection and analysis, helping to streamline this often time-consuming process. We also launched a free Data Consultation Service, through which a data expert—who is also an epidemiologist at ICES (formerly the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences)—offers our researchers customized help navigating the available sources of child and family health data in Canada.

*Raising awareness and usage of available data
with Statistics Canada*

We’ve maintained our important partnership with Statistics Canada (StatCan), which is introducing more researchers to the vast amount of data on child health equity available through StatCan.

Our joint Speaker Series continued in Year 3, with the goal to educate our communities on the ongoing work happening at StatCan and the Edwin S.H. Leong Centre, while also providing valuable networking opportunities to build connections between our institutions.

These presentations were well-attended and featured a range of speakers and topics over the past year, including:

- **Kathy Georgiades**, the Dan Offord Chair in Child Studies and associate professor at McMaster University, who provided an overview of available data sources to generate evidence on child and youth mental disorders in Canada
- **Laura Gibson**, an analyst at the Canadian Centre for Education Statistics at StatCan, who presented on the Education and Labour Market Longitudinal Platform, which includes data related to postsecondary students and apprenticeships
- **Petros Pechlivanoglou**, a scientist at SickKids and an assistant professor at U of T’s Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation, who explored the socioeconomic impact of preterm birth on individuals and their families
- **Shikha Gupta**, an analyst at StatCan’s Centre for Population Health Data, who introduced audience members to available data sets such as major health surveys, administrative health data and integrated health data that can support child health research in areas like morbidity, mortality, mental health and educational attainment

During Year 3, series speaker Pechlivanoglou also supervised Asma Ahmed, a postdoctoral fellow at SickKids who secured funding from U of T’s Data Sciences Institute to study intergenerational social mobility in preterm birth using StatCan data. This work will contribute to our understanding of how people move up or down the socioeconomic ladder compared to their parents as they age and the relative impact of preterm birth on that mobility.



Collaboration and Partnerships

Collaborating with child health colleagues

Our members continue to actively collaborate with numerous groups to increase the reach of the Centre’s work and build connections across the child health field. Our partnership with StatCan has encouraged deeper relationships between StatCan and Centre researchers and significantly improved awareness of the availability of Canadian child and family health data, with promising implications for the use of this data in child health research studies at U of T and SickKids.

Edwin S.H. Leong Centre for Healthy Children representatives also currently sit on the following committees and advisories:

At the Hospital for Sick Children

- SickKids Research Institute Executive
- SickKids Mental Health Strategy Advisory Committee
- SickKids Enterprise Data Governance Committee
- SickKids Health Equity Data Advisory Group
- ICES Executive Team

At Provincial, National and International Institutions

- TARGet Kids! Parent and Clinician Team
- Governing Council at the Provincial Council of Maternal and Child Health
- UBC Children’s Hospital Research Institute External Advisory Board
- University College London/Great Ormond Street Hospital Institute for Child Health International Advisory Board

Knowledge Translation

Hosting high-reach, high-impact events

In Year 3, the Centre continued to build on the success of its educational events, which bring together leading child health experts to raise awareness of their ongoing work and provide opportunities for collaboration and engagement.

We hosted **seven Leong Centre Rounds** with Child Health Evaluative Sciences (CHES), the largest research program at the SickKids Research Institute. This ongoing lecture series provides a prominent platform where researchers, community members and policy users can showcase how they are making an impact on child health equity. The events spanned a diverse array of topics, such as the impact of food insecurity on child health care, how to improve outcomes for pregnant people and their infants affected by the opioid crisis, and an overview of UNICEF Canada’s research and data work related to child well-being.

After the success of our inaugural symposium in November 2022, we have initiated discussions with the Precision Child Health initiative at SickKids regarding a community engagement symposium, which we anticipate will take place in 2024.

These opportunities for dialogue and knowledge sharing—which draw both national and international participants—are enabling academics, practitioners and policymakers to collaborate in their efforts to improve child health outcomes here in Canada and around the world.



Looking ahead

In Year 4, the Centre will actively expand its international reach and continue to build our Canadian partnerships as we pursue our mission to help reduce inequities in child health and ensure all children thrive.

Building and strengthening partnerships within Canada

In our fourth year, we will continue to initiate new and strengthen existing relationships with various teams across SickKids and U of T as well as with national programs, including U of T's Dalla Lana School of Public Health; SickKids Precision Child Health initiative, the SickKids Centre for Global Child Health, the SickKids Research Institute and various equity, diversity and inclusion initiatives across the hospital; the Fraser Mustard Institute for Human Development Policy Bench; the Edwin S.H. Leong Centre for Healthy Aging at University of British Columbia; and StatCan.

Charlotte Moore Hepburn, a faculty paediatrician at SickKids and Associate Professor of Paediatrics at Temerty Medicine, is also currently developing a collaborative policy initiative that would bring together Temerty Medicine's Department of Paediatrics, SickKids and ENRICH, a national training platform funded by CIHR focused on child health.

This new partnership would pursue work that directly contributes to more positive outcomes for infants, children, youth and families in Canada and train the next generation of perinatal and child health leaders through an applied advocacy skills building program.

Expanding our global reach

The Edwin S.H. Leong Centre for Healthy Children is also planning to actively expand its international reach through a variety of new global initiatives, connections and partnerships.

We are currently developing an international partnership proposal with universities and affiliated research institutes that are leaders in child health equity research and training, including the University of Melbourne, University College London, the University of British Columbia and Aarhus University.

This partnership would allow us to pool resources—thereby increasing access to knowledge, equipment and expertise that may not be available at each individual institution—and create a network of highly skilled research experts. Through this network, we plan to host international training exchanges for PhD students and postdoctoral fellows to enhance their research activities by exposing them to methodologies and areas of expertise that are uniquely available at specific institutions.

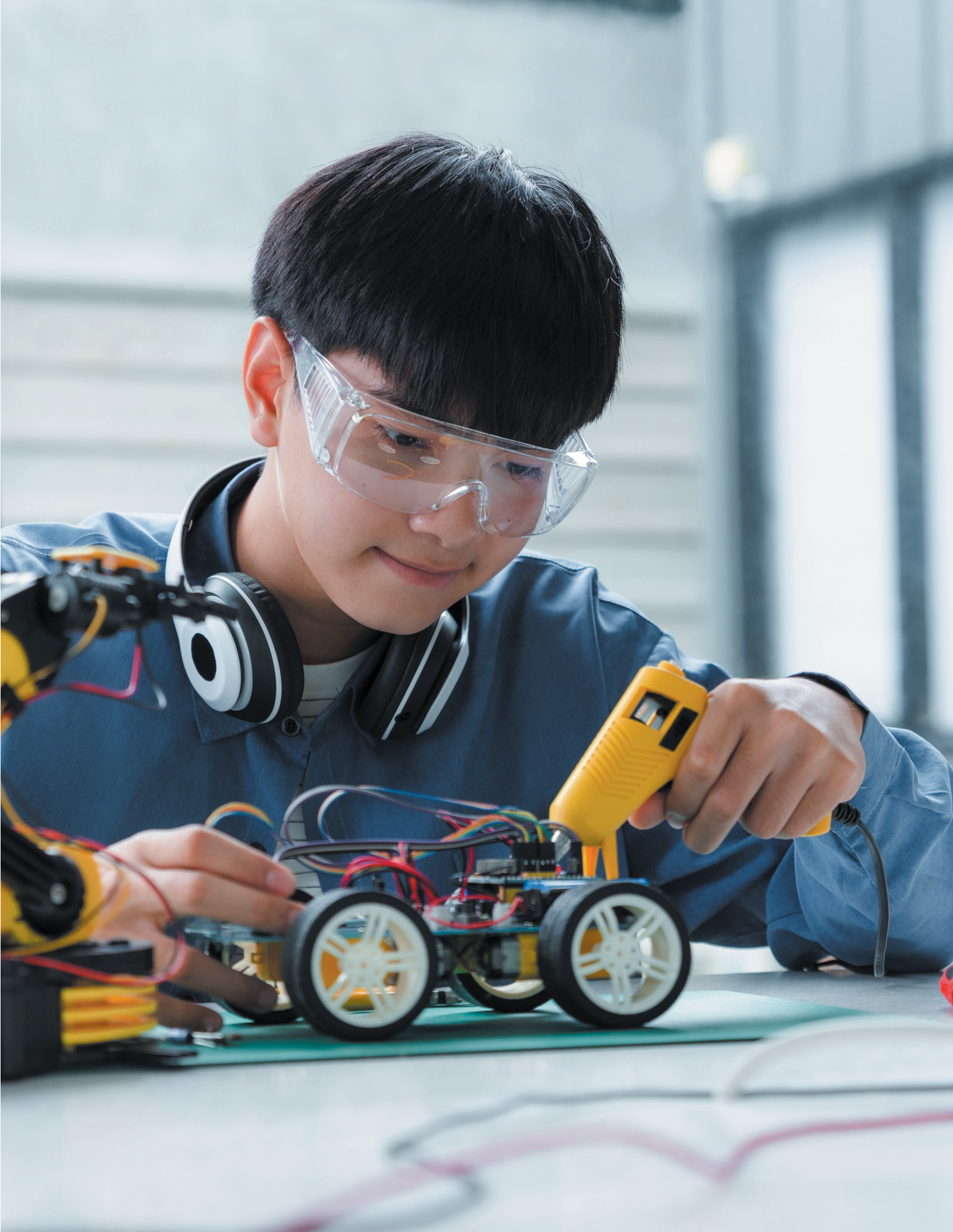
We have also initiated conversations with global leaders in child health equity to build an international network with research centres that have visions similar to our own. We plan to convene a meeting with these leaders during the global Pediatric Academic Societies (PAS) meeting, which will take place in Toronto in May 2024.

We will also continue to develop our growing connections with the National Centre for Child Health and Development in Tokyo, as well as with child health researchers at Hong Kong University and the University of Cambridge.

In fall 2023, the University of Cambridge invited Catherine S. Birken, the Edwin S.H. Leong Chair in Child Health Intervention, to give a lecture and attend meetings with researchers working in similar areas of nutrition and obesity. She met world-leading researchers spanning genomics to public health and began conversations about potential opportunities to collaborate, such as an international research training exchange.

Securing our long-term sustainability

As we advance into our midway phase, we are looking ahead towards the long-term sustainability of the Centre. These future-facing efforts include recruiting the Edwin S.H. Leong Chair in Data Science for Child Health Equity, which will complete our leadership team in Year 4, and exploring additional funding opportunities for the Centre such as team and infrastructure grants. This increased funding support will build on what has been made possible by your generous investment and ensure that the Centre will be able to continue its important work beyond the ten-year term of your gift.





Website: <https://leongcentre.utoronto.ca/>
X (Twitter): <https://x.com/LeongCentre>
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/leongcentre>

The information in this report is current as of April 2023. Please see our website for updated information, including the latest research, news and events from the Edwin S.H. Leong Centre for Healthy Children.



Edwin S.H. Leong Centre for Healthy Children
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

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