**High Level Overview**

**What:** Phase 1 Clinical Trials Unit with an 8-bed capacity

**Where:** Mt. St. Joseph Hospital, 2nd Floor - 3080 Pr. Edward Ave., Vancouver, BC.

**Who:** Interim Medical Director – Dr. John Boyd, Email: John.Boyd@hli.ubc.ca

Research Operations Manager – Lena Legkaia, Email: P1CTU@providencehealth.bc.ca

**When:** The unit will be fully operational in May 2025

**Why:** To provide space and opportunity for sponsors and investigators who want to run non-cancer Phase 1 studies

**Details**

Mount Saint Joseph (MSJ) Hospital will soon become the only non-cancer Phase 1 Clinical Trials Unit (P1CTU) in Western Canada, thanks to an investment by the government of British Columbia.  On October 10, 2023, the BC Ministry of Health announced it is investing $4.2 million to establish an 8-bed unit at MSJ in Vancouver. Michael Smith Health Research BC announced it would provide $600 thousand to further support the unit’s operations and contribute to the establishment of an academic chair to provide overall clinical leadership of the CTU, scheduled to open in May 2025.

This new P1CTU will create significant opportunities for BC life sciences companies (Phase 1a) and PHC Investigators (Phase 1b), helping to generate high-quality jobs and training opportunities as well as retain critical intellectual property within the province. Importantly, BC patients will gain access to potentially life-saving therapeutics through clinical trials that were previously unavailable locally.

The P1CTU will operate through a collaborative hybrid model between PHC Research and the MSJ High Acuity Unit (HAU). This partnership, combined with rapid access to the HAU, will enhance participant safety. Highly trained research staff will ensure seamless protocol execution and generate robust, high-quality research data.

To ensure close monitoring of participants’ health, the unit is equipped with state-of-the-art medical technology, including continuous cardiac monitoring, crash cart, vital signs machines at each bedside, ECG machines, and a dedicated examination room with an exam table.

The P1CTU laboratory is fully equipped for sample processing, with a refrigerated centrifuge, -70°C and -20°C freezers, a 2–4°C sample fridge, and other essential lab equipment.

The unit also maintains its own supply of rescue medications to manage adverse events-. In collaboration with the pharmacy, the P1CTU is able to support and accommodate the rigorous requirement of Investigational Product (IP) management, preparation, and dispensation. There are dedicated areas for storage, a laboratory, a nurses’ station, and a multipurpose room that can also be used for examinations.

The unit consists of 8 participant beds spread across three rooms: two rooms with three beds each and one double room. For a comfortable overnight inpatient experience, participants have access to a lounge area featuring a kitchenette, dining table, couch, communal TV, and 24/7 staffing.

For healthy volunteer studies, the P1CTU is actively building a database of individuals interested in participating in clinical trials via the [REACH BC platform](https://reachbc.ca/project/847). As of May 2025, more than 150 individuals have registered.

Research staff are available to support investigators with protocol review, ethics submissions, contract and budget negotiations, staff scheduling, hospital department coordination, participant recruitment, and more.

To learn more or to schedule a visit to MSJ P1CTU, please contact the Research Operations Manager, Lena Legkaia, P1CTU@providencehealth.bc.ca.

Research Request form is available below if you are ready to submit your study for review.

