CTN+ Scientific Priorities

CTN+ Version 1.0: 20 FEB 2025

Principles that are included in all themes:

- Focus areas are HIV, STBBIs, and emerging infections in key populations, including;
  i. Indigenous Peoples
  ii. Gay, bisexual and other Men who have sex with men (GBM)
  iii. People from countries with a high prevalence of HIV/STBBIs
  iv. People with mental health challenges
  v. People who use drugs (PWUD)
  vi. Women (cis and transgender women)
  vii. Children affected by HIV and STBBIs
  viii. Gender minorities
  ix. People with episodic vulnerabilities (for example, prisoners)
  x. People with disabilities
- A renewed commitment to Reconciliation, community engagement, breaking down stigma, and incorporating lessons-learned from the COVID-19 pandemic as the CTN+ will continue to provide an inclusive, positive, and collaborative environment for all communities; and
- Partnering with key population, public health, advocacy, and service organizations.

1) **Prevention and Testing**
   a. Developing and testing interventions for STBBI prevention and harm reduction
   b. Developing and testing strategies for early detection of HIV, HCV, HPV, syphilis, and other STBBIs

2) **Optimizing Health Outcomes**
   a. Understanding the role of inflammation, major organ dysfunction, antiretroviral agents, genetics, the microbiome, viral co-infection, alcohol, drug use, mental health, behavioural and/or social factors on health outcomes, and elucidating novel treatment targets
   b. Intervention strategies to improve health outcomes for persons living and aging with HIV, STBBIs, and emerging infections

3) **Cure**
   a. Innovative approaches to cures for HIV and STBBIs; this may include, but is not limited to, strategies to impact immune activation and depletion of viral reservoirs

4) **Methods**
   a. Advancing innovative trial methods that involve priority populations;
   b. Advancing implementation science methods to enable scale up of successful models of care in other settings

However, all innovative research that advances the field will also be considered.