Where Canada’s stem cell researchers are choosing to work

The Stem Cell Network (SCN) is committed to building a strong community of highly skilled researchers dedicated to advancing Canada’s standing as a global leader in stem cell research. Since 2001, SCN has provided specialized training to more than 3,000 highly qualified personnel (HQP) — also known as SCN trainees. SCN training activities often take place in partnership with other like-minded organizations. This collaborative approach has been key to delivering on SCN’s training mandate.

Training Tomorrow’s Research Leaders: An Impact Analysis of the Stem Cell Network’s Training Program examines the influence of this training program, tracking 1,500 trainees and categorizing them by employment area and when their training occurred. This fact sheet provides a snapshot of where SCN trainees found meaningful employment following their training and how they are contributing to Canada’s strong foundation of stem cell and regenerative medicine research.

Summary of Findings

58% of SCN trainees have progressed to work in universities, hospitals or research institutes

25% of SCN trainees are employed in the private sector, including biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies

+100 biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies, in Canada and across the globe, employ SCN trainees

Who are SCN trainees?
SCN trainees are highly trained individuals at the Masters, PhD and postdoctoral levels who have participated in SCN skills training, workshops, lab exchanges and events.
The report details where highly trained stem cell research professionals find employment both in Canada and worldwide. The results also underscore that, for nearly two decades, the Stem Cell Network has actively contributed to developing a solid network of researchers trained to undertake innovative stem cell research now and in the years ahead. This strong base of HQP is helping foster critical advancements in the field — research leadership that is making vital contributions to Canada’s economic and health sectors.

### Employment Sector Breakdown

- **58%** University/Hospital & Research Institute
- **19%** Biotechnology & Pharmaceutical
- **7%** Government & Legal
- **6%** Private Sector Companies
- **4%** Non-profit/Charity
- **2%** Medical Practice
- **1%** Self-Employed

Employment sectors where SCN trainees currently work.

### Top employers by sector

**University/Hospital & Research Institute**
- Ottawa Hospital Research Insitute
- University of Toronto
- University of Alberta
- Université de Montréal

**Biotechnology & Pharmaceutical**
- STEMCELL Technologies
- BlueRock Therapeutics
- GlaxoSmithKline
- Roche

**Government & Legal**
- Department of Justice Canada
- Health Canada
- Public Health Agency of Canada
- Gowling WLG
21% of recent SCN trainees (2016-2019) are employed in universities

46% of recent SCN trainees (2016-2019) are employed in hospitals and research institutes

Employment in Universities vs. Research Hospitals

Trainees were categorized into cohorts based on when they participated in SCN training.

A simple explanation for this data could be that individuals who completed their SCN training between 2016 and 2019 are able to more easily identify and confirm employment outside of the university system, where positions are limited and academic funding is difficult to secure. Another possible explanation is that translational and clinical research has become increasingly popular in research hospitals, which have increased investment in bringing novel therapies and technologies into the clinic.

The Stem Cell Network (SCN) is a national non-profit that supports stem cell and regenerative medicine research, training the next generation of highly qualified personnel and delivering outreach activities across Canada. SCN’s goal is to advance science from the lab to the clinic for the benefit of all Canadians. SCN has been supported by the Government of Canada since its inception in 2001. Valued at more than $100 million, in nearly two decades this strategic funding has benefited approximately 175 world-class research groups and 3,000 trainees.

Read the full report, Training Tomorrow’s Research Leaders: An Impact Analysis of the Stem Cell Network’s Training Program, at stemcellnetwork.ca/about-us/reports