

## Research Security Presentations & Discussion

Stem Cell Network is committed to providing training and education to answer questions and build skills that enhance research security. The morning session will feature key experts to offer guidance and awareness to help researchers identify areas of risk and provide mitigation strategies to help protect intellectual property and scientific advancement from threat actors. The goal of this discussion is to introduce topics related to research security and offer suggestions and tools to safeguard federally funded research.

### Agenda:

10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Welcome & Introduction

Moderator: Jennifer Weese, Stem Cell Network

Presentations:

- CSIS: *Protecting Advancements in Canada's Lifesciences*
  - ISED: *Safeguarding your Research*
  - University of Toronto *Implementation*
- Q&A / discussion

### Moderator



**Jennifer Weese,**  
**Director of Special Projects, Stem Cell Network**

Jennifer is responsible for the development and implementation of operational processes related to research security, data management, privacy, and cybersecurity. Jennifer has over 15 years experience in IT Leadership, Operational Improvement, and Incident Preparedness.

### Presenters



**CSIS Academic Outreach and Stakeholder Engagement & CSIS Analyst**

### *Protecting Advancements in Canada's Lifesciences*

This presentation will examine elements of the threat: Who are the threat actors involved in this space and why are they targeting Canadian research? How are threat actors exploiting vulnerabilities in our R&D sector? What are the possible malign applications of Canadian research?

Canada is a global research leader, due to our world-class universities, public and private research organizations, and human talent. Canada's innovative reputation attracts threat actors: they exploit our principles of open science and collaboration; disregard Canada's laws and values; and disguise their role in serving a foreign state agenda to obtain valuable Canadian data, intellectual property (IP) and know-how. The life sciences sector – including genomics - is a significant target of hostile actors. In addition to the scientific value of advancements in this field, these technologies are also of interest to advance surveillance capabilities. Acquisition also raises concerns about possible use by those carrying out human rights abuses.



## ***Safeguarding your Research***

This presentation will discuss the policy framework that is being developed on research security, and the shared responsibility across the government, researchers, research institutions and research funders, to identify and mitigate any potential national security risks related to research.

### **Sinead Tuite**

**Senior Director, Digital Research Infrastructure Strategy, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada**

Sinead Tuite is a Senior Director in the Science Research Sector at Innovation, Science and Economic Development responsible for the development and implementation of the Digital Research Infrastructure Strategy, cybersecurity innovation in the post-secondary sector, and research security. Sinead previously worked as Director of Legislation Development for the Accessible Canada Act. Sinead also worked in various roles at the Privy Council Office and Health Canada, including an assignment at the World Health Organization. She has an undergraduate degree from Queen's University, Canada and a Master's degree in Social Policy from the London School of Economics.

### **Holly McCracken**

**Acting Director, Research Security, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada**

Holly McCracken is an Acting Director in the Science and Research Sector at Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada responsible for the development and implementation of policies and activities related to research security. Holly previously worked as a Manager of Canada's Digital Research Infrastructure Strategy, and worked in various roles at the Privy Council Office and Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. She has an undergraduate degree from the University of Ottawa and a Master's degree in Public Administration from Carleton University.



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### **Colin Swift**

**Business Development Officer - Industry Partnerships, University of Toronto**

### ***Research under a shifting focus***

In a changing geopolitical environment, researchers are no longer insulated from concerns over the motives and influences driving external partners. This is a significant departure from the collegial environment enjoyed by most academics. We'll discuss how to approach research at the intersection of your industry partner and your specific project.

Colin Swift has been working at the intersection of academia, government funders, and external (e.g. industry) partners since joining UofT in 2009, supporting academic researchers. In his current role, he liaises between prospective external partners, funding agencies (Mitacs, NSERC, etc), and the university investigators. Since last summer, he has been particularly engaged with the launch of the ISED National Security Checklist, in its pilot implementation with the NSERC-Alliance program.