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Guiding Principles for Research

These guiding principles provide an overarching umbrella for the conduct of research.

- Ethical issues underpin all areas, and ethical conduct is the first consideration.
- Acceptable evidence from research includes both qualitative and quantitative approaches.
- Interprofessional and intersectoral partnerships are preferred.
- Cultural and linguistic sensitivities are requisite.
- Participatory research is essential for the empowerment of individuals and communities.
- Vulnerable populations should be considered as a cross cutting theme where ever possible.

Four Pillars of Research

The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) categorizes health research into four broad pillars:

Biomedical

Research identifiable with this pillar of research involves cellular, body system, and whole body processes, as well as therapies or devices that may be used to improve health.

Clinical

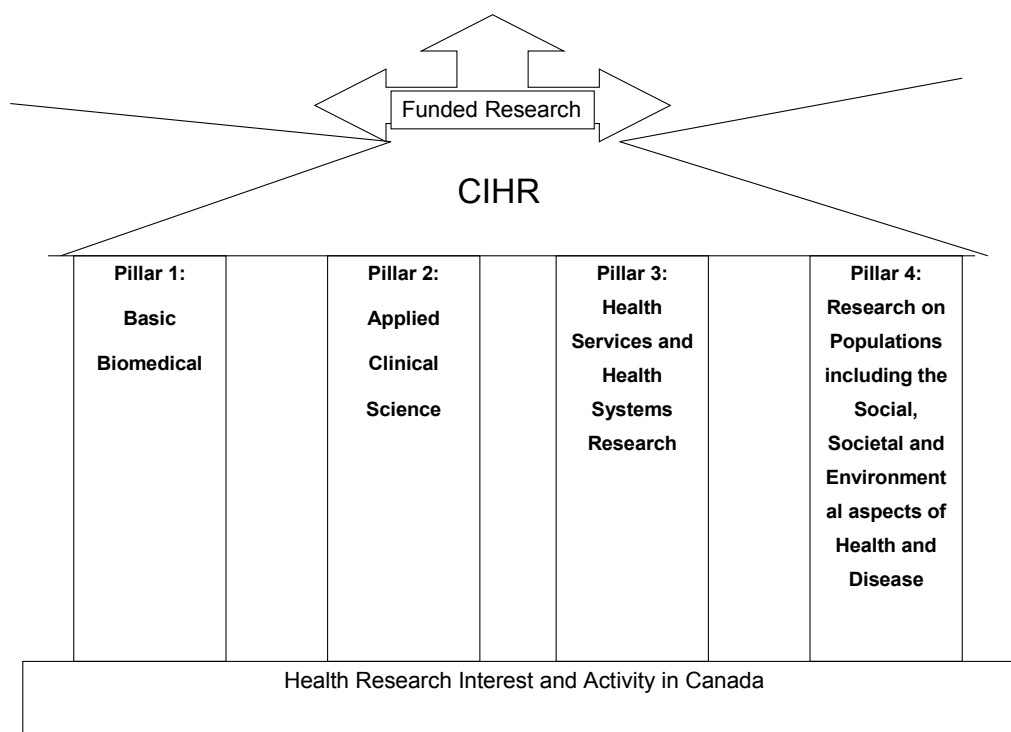
Clinical research on humans includes diagnosis and intervention through treatment, prevention, and health promotion.

Health Services

The way that health services are delivered, their quality and costs, and how they are received, are all issues for research in health services.

Social, Cultural, Environmental, and Population Health

Investigating how the oral health of populations, or sub-populations, is affected by the determinants of health is the goal and theme of the Social, Cultural, Environmental and Population Health.



Many topics are cross-cutting; that is, the same topic may be researched across all four pillars. Topics that cut across two or more pillars can be approached from different perspectives, from the cellular level to that of individuals and populations.

Research Themes

Thirteen themes of importance to the dental hygiene profession were identified through a literature review, key informant interviews and the two-day meeting of national and international stakeholders in dental hygiene held in April 2008.

- Population health
- Prevention
- Health literacy
- Evidence of an oral-systemic link
- The unique contribution of dental hygiene to oral health and research in oral health
- Vulnerable or high priority populations
- Access issues
- Technology
- Researchers in dental hygiene
- Evidence based practice
- Health human resources
- The public health system in oral health
- The educational credentialing system for dental hygiene in Canada