

# Finding Research Synergies in Respiratory Disease Prevention and Care



Hosted by Legacy for Airway Health and the BC Respiratory Health Network  
January 18 and 27, 2022

## Background

Legacy for Airway Health (LAH) hosted 2 interactive sessions of **Finding Research Synergies** in January 2022. These events helped launch the **BC Respiratory Health Network (BCRHN)**, a new initiative to accelerate translation of respiratory research and to enhance interdisciplinary collaborations for improved respiratory health outcomes.

The goal for this **first BCRHN event** was to learn more about the full spectrum of research(ers) that support respiratory health in BC, as well as to identify researchers' key challenges related to improving respiratory health.

**Finding Research Synergies** was hosted and facilitated by **Dr. Karen Rideout** (BCRHN coordinator).

Speakers included **Dr. Chris Carlsten** (Director, LAH) and **Dr. Aneisha Collins-Fairclough** (LAH Research Associate).

**Dr. Laura Struik** (UBC Okanagan) and **Dr. Mohsen Sadatsafavi** (UBC) shared reflections on their experiences of collaborating and networking with LAH to enhance their translational research programs.

### Finding Research Synergies in Respiratory Disease Prevention and Care

Legacy for Airway Health hosted  
**2 Interactive sessions**

- January 18, 2022
- January 27, 2022

with participation from  
**23 Researchers doing 4 types of respiratory health research**

- Biomedical
- Clinical
- Health systems
- Population health

representing  
**11 Institutions**

- BC Cancer
- BC Centre for Disease Control
- BC Children's Hospital
- BC Lung Foundation
- Child Health BC
- National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health
- Providence Health
- Simon Fraser University
- University of BC
- UBC-Okanagan
- Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute

who gathered to discuss  
**3 Objectives**

- Identify gaps in evidence and knowledge translation
- Articulate challenges/enablers to impactful research
- Map the landscape of respiratory research in BC

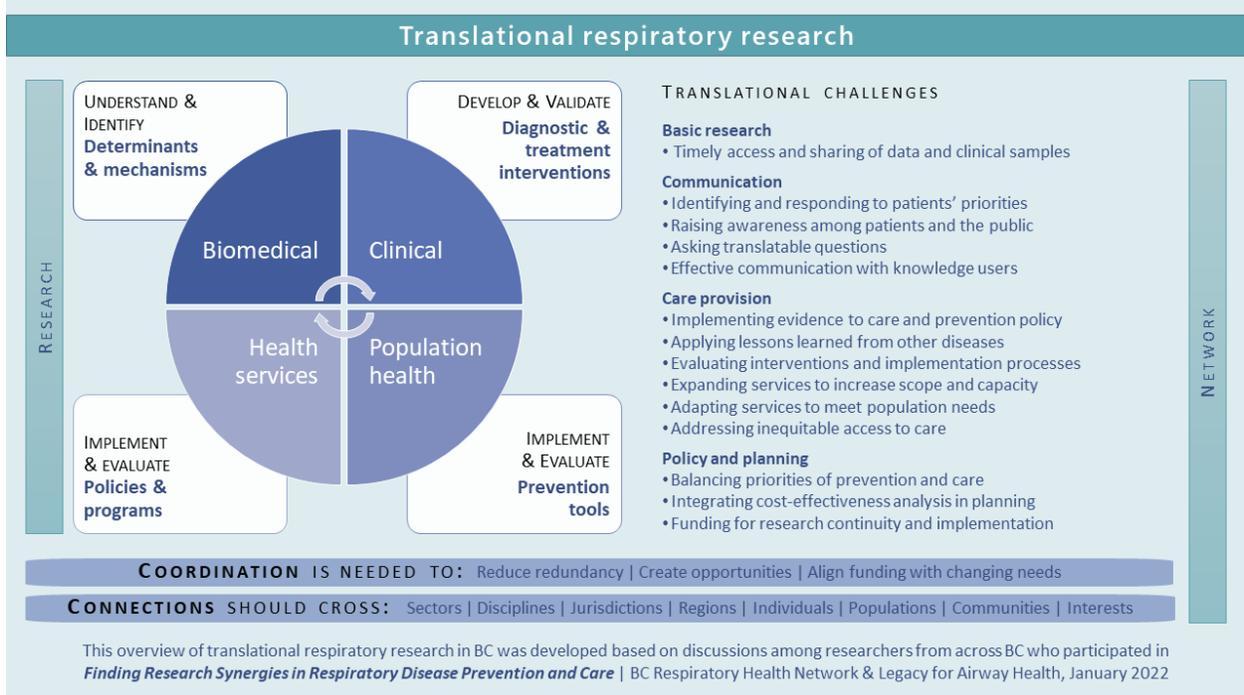
## Interactive sessions

Each session of **Finding Research Synergies** included 3 facilitated breakout sessions about strengthening research and its translation to action:

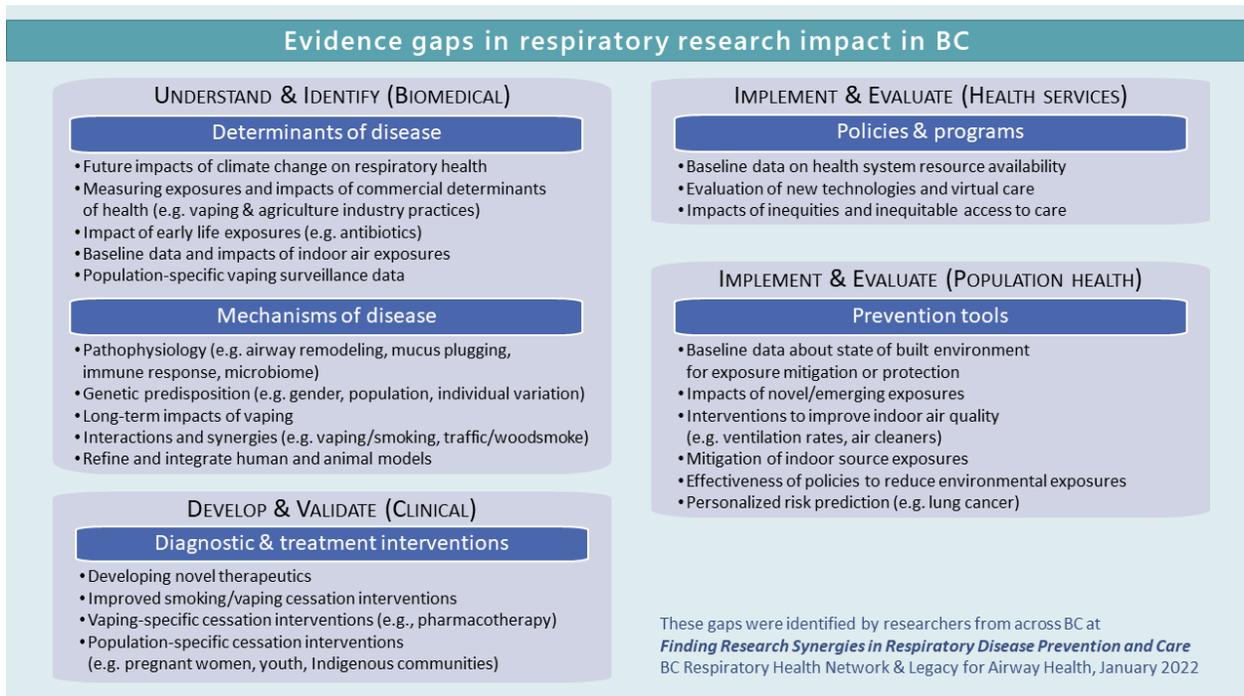
1. What knowledge gaps need to be filled to prevent or improve care for respiratory disease?
2. What challenges or enables the translation of your research?
3. What kind of connections are needed to enable research and translation?

# Finding Research Synergies in Respiratory Disease Prevention and Care

Below is a summary of the types of research being done by the participants and the challenges they face in its translation to policy, programs, or clinical practice. **Networks** such as BCRHN can help address translational challenges and serve as coordinating and connecting bodies that strengthen all stages and types of research.



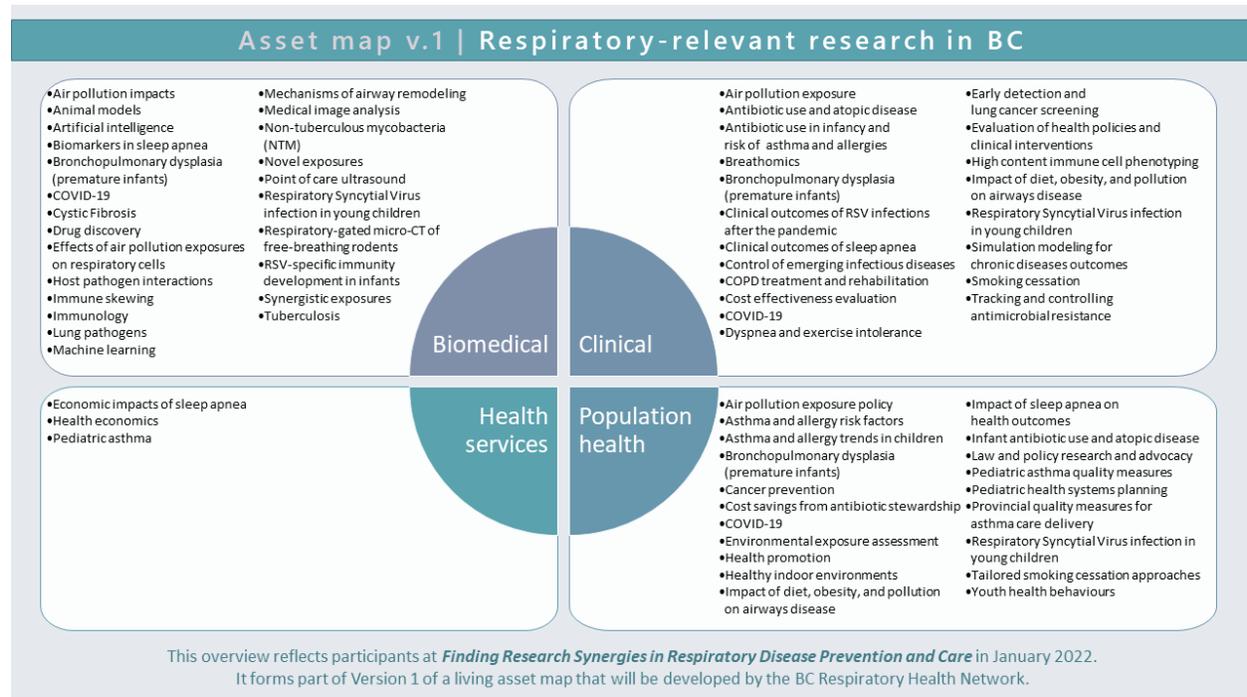
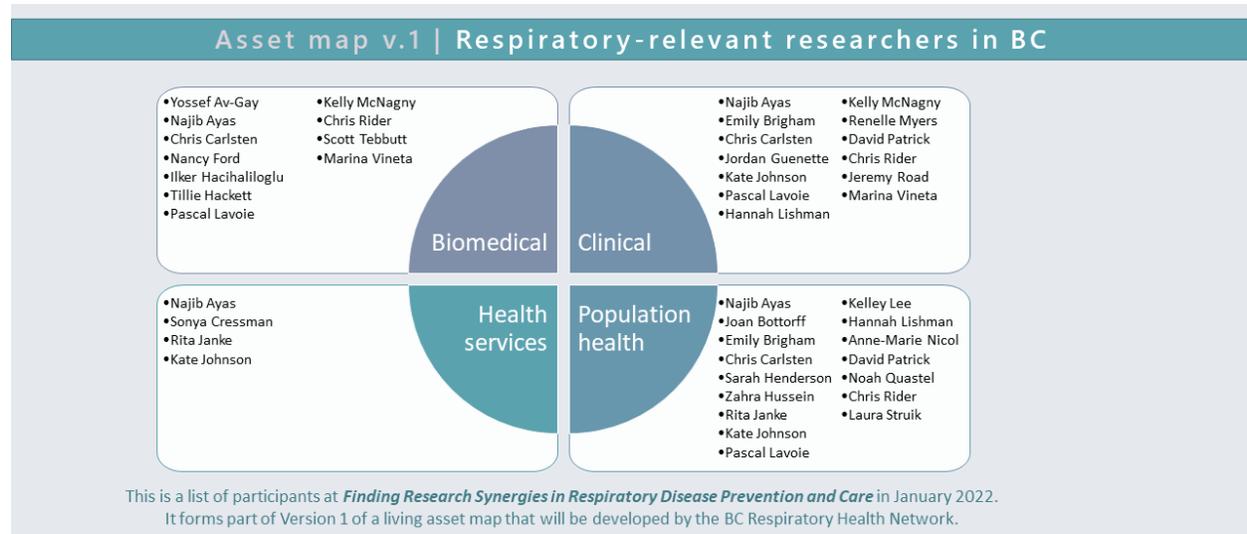
The following summary describes evidence gaps that were prioritized and shared by participants.



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## Respiratory research(ers) in BC

BCRHN hopes to build an [asset map](#) of respiratory health research and researchers in BC. These summaries of researchers and research foci, based on participation at **Finding Research Synergies**, forms [Version 1](#) of what we intend to become a living resource for researchers, knowledge users, and other partners.



## Next steps

The BC Respiratory Health Network will continue to engage stakeholders from across sectors as we formalize our goals and activities for 2022-2023. Next steps include a website and social media presence, continuing to identify partnerships and synergies, and planning follow-up events.

We invite you to join LAH at the **COPD and Asthma Care Summit Series** (March 15, April 4, April 29, May 30) to help inform a vision and action plan for improved COPD/asthma prevention and care in the Vancouver Coastal Health region. Register at <https://bit.ly/COPDandAsthmaSummit>.