

# From discovery to impact

University of Toronto's  
Institutional Strategic Research Plan  
2024–2029

---

Presented by:

**Leah Cowen**

Vice-President, Research and  
Innovation, and Strategic Initiatives



# U of T's institutional strategic research plan 2024–2029

**U of T's Institutional Strategic Research Plan (ISRP)** is the primary document that expresses our core commitments to research excellence, providing direction for supporting scholarship by identifying strategic opportunities and enabling actions.

# Solving global grand challenges

Some of the challenges we will tackle over the next five years include:

- 1. Creating technology and sustainability solutions** to address critical environmental concerns due to climate change
- 2. Preparing for the next pandemic** by harnessing our strengths across multiple fields of research
- 3. Strengthening civil society and democracy** by creating spaces for respectful discourse, crafting solutions to disinformation and geopolitical challenges and advocating for equity and social justice



# Solving global grand challenges

4. **Developing leading-edge artificial intelligence technologies** with the corresponding ethical and legal structures to protect the best interests of humanity
5. **Promoting the humanities** and their essential function of imparting human values, languages and histories to future generations
6. **Pursuing medical innovations** to address the needs of an aging population and improve health and well-being
7. **Leading in regenerative medicine** that can design therapeutics with greater precision for individual needs





# Core research and innovation values

**The core research and innovation values underpin our institutional research and innovation strategy for the next five years.**

1. Pursuing research and innovation that solve global grand challenges
2. Advancing equity, diversity and inclusion
3. Promoting an environment that centres inclusive excellence and integrity
4. Enabling the pursuit of new fields of research and groundbreaking innovations
5. Building collaborations and partnerships with communities, organizations, industry and other universities
6. Working towards reconciliation with First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples and communities

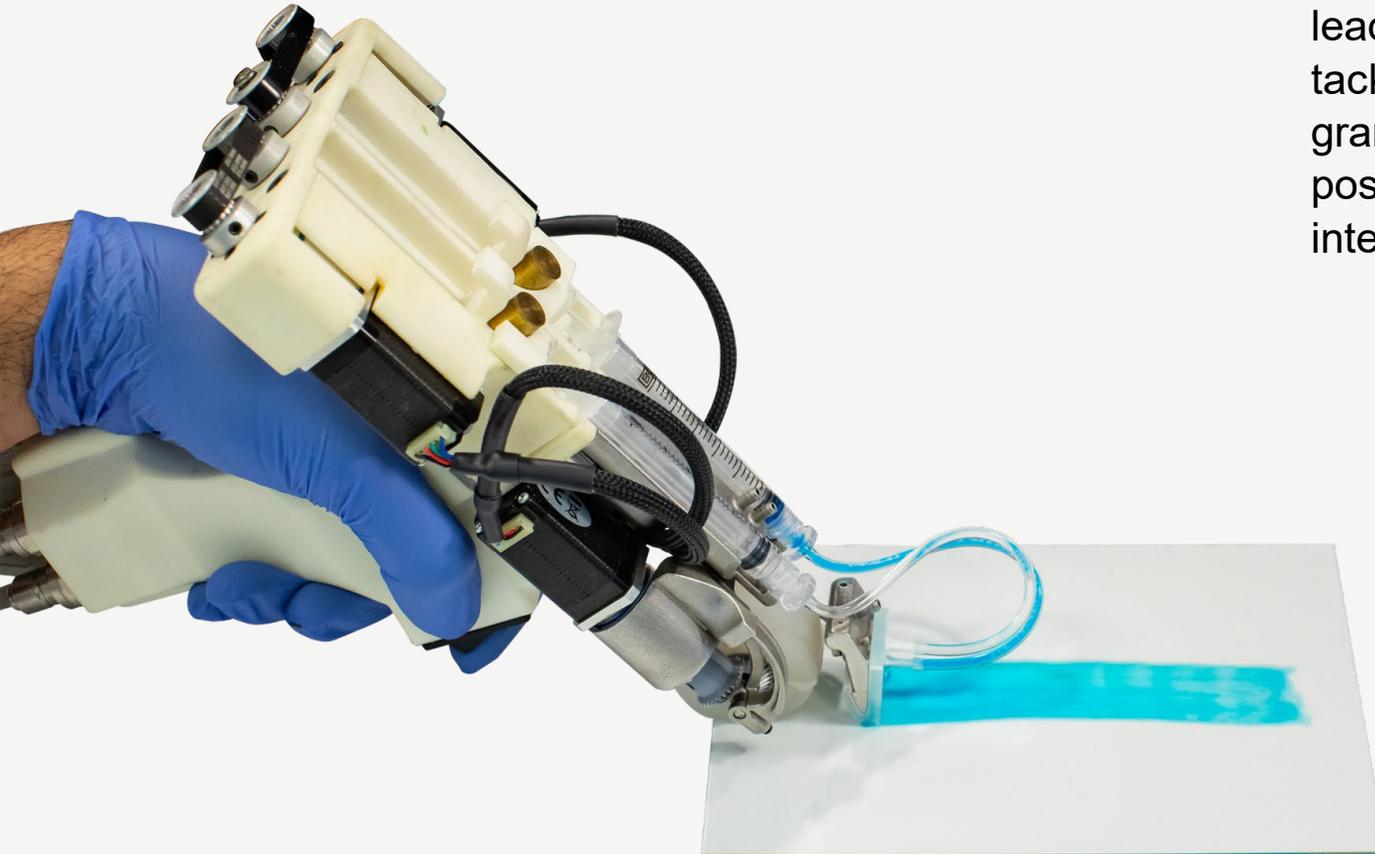
# Strategic objectives

**Our strategic objectives will inform and propel U of T's research and innovation and performance measures over the next five years.**

1. Lead nationally and globally in research and innovation
2. Provide institutional supports to empower scholars to do their best research
3. Enable, train and support the next generation of researchers and innovators
4. Promote all stages of research from idea to discovery, translation and impact
5. Cultivate an environment to leverage opportunities and foster collaboration and partnerships



# 1. Lead nationally and globally in research and innovation



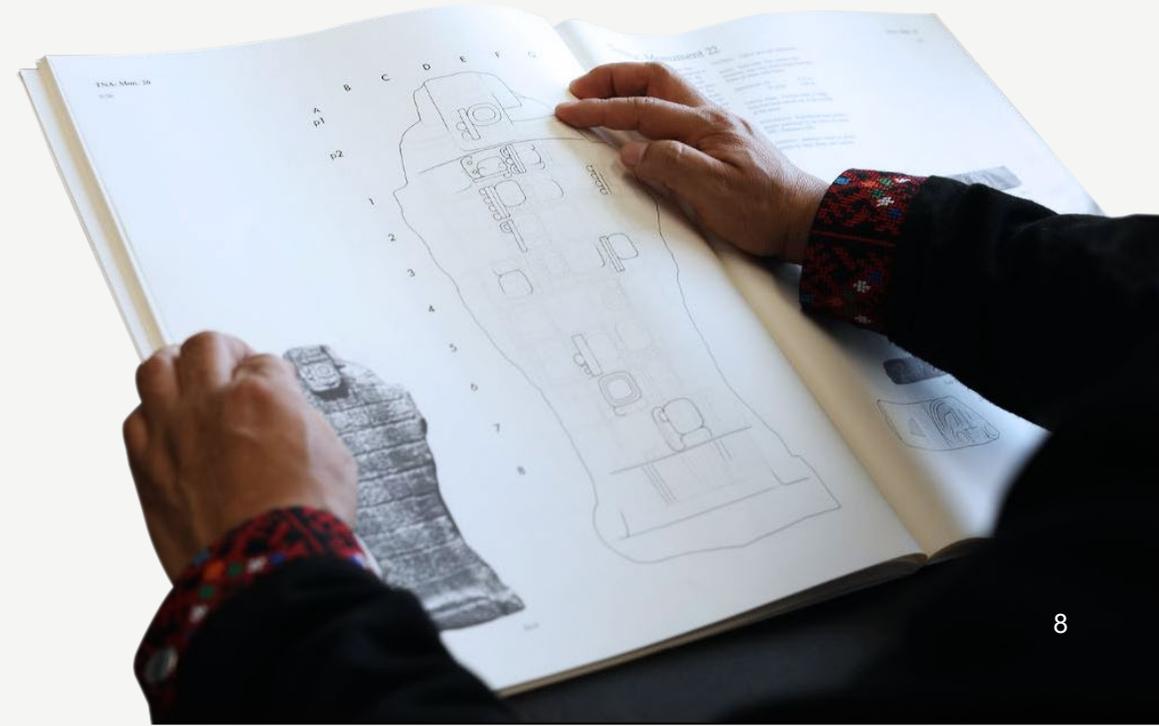
## We will:

- Advocate, shape and respond to new government research initiatives and priorities
- Engage as a global leader dedicated to tackling the world's grand challenges and positively impacting the international community
- Lead initiatives that incorporate equity, diversity and inclusion, and centre reconciliation with First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples and communities into our research and innovation ecosystem
- Foster collaborative research across global teams and facilitate multidisciplinary collaboration at U of T and partner hospitals

## 2. Provide institutional supports to empower scholars to do their best research

### We will:

- Modernize and scale critical institutional research and innovation administrative services and systems
- Maintain research infrastructure and space, including core facilities
- Educate U of T community members on the standards of research ethics, safety and integrity
- Ensure the professional development of our faculty and staff in research and innovation



### 3. Enable, train and support the next generation of researchers and innovators

#### We will:

- Support trainee research opportunities and their engagement in innovation and entrepreneurship activities
- Increase participation and success rates of underrepresented groups in internal and external research funding, research awards and honours and entrepreneurship programs
- Advocate for the necessary supports from government for the next generation of researchers and innovators



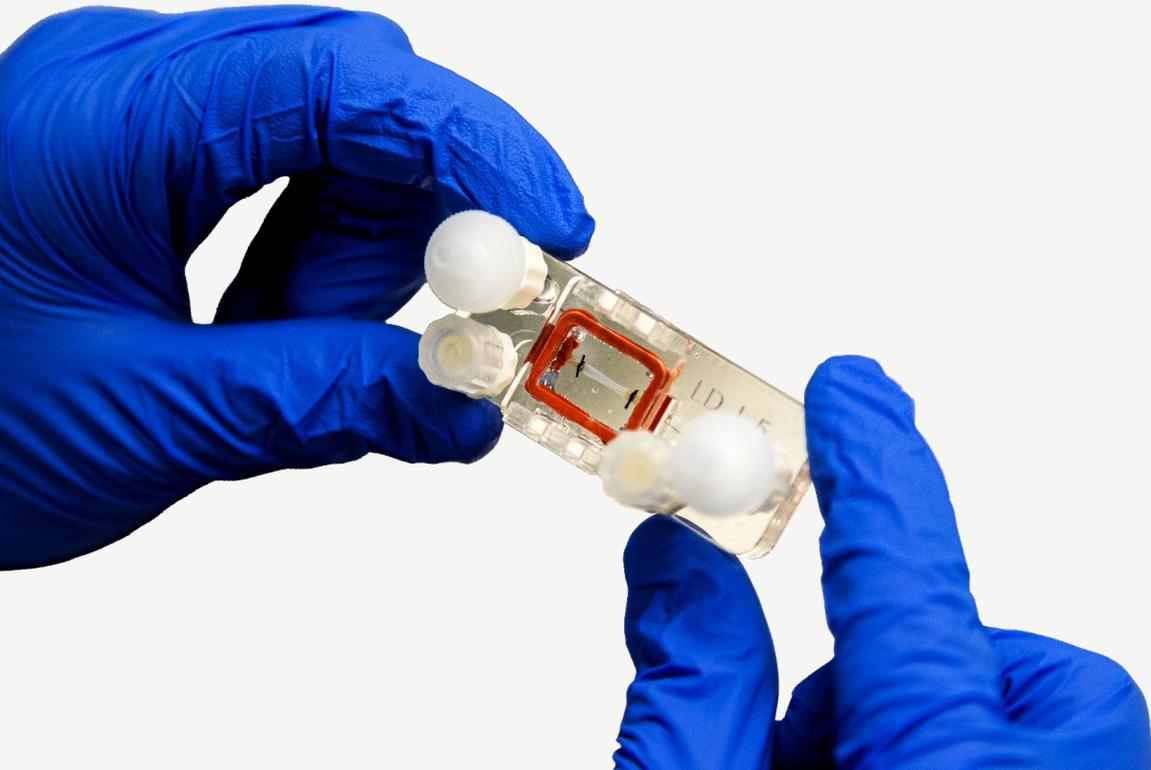
# 4. Promote all stages of research, from idea to discovery, translation and impact

## We will:

- Promote the impact of U of T research and innovation activities to local and global audiences
- Support opportunities for students to participate in a wide variety of entrepreneurial events and activities enabled through research partnerships that span the globe
- Provide stories of impact by U of T researchers and innovators to top global media outlets
- Advocate for increased government support for research and researchers at all stages of their careers



## 5. Cultivate an environment to leverage opportunities and foster collaboration and partnerships



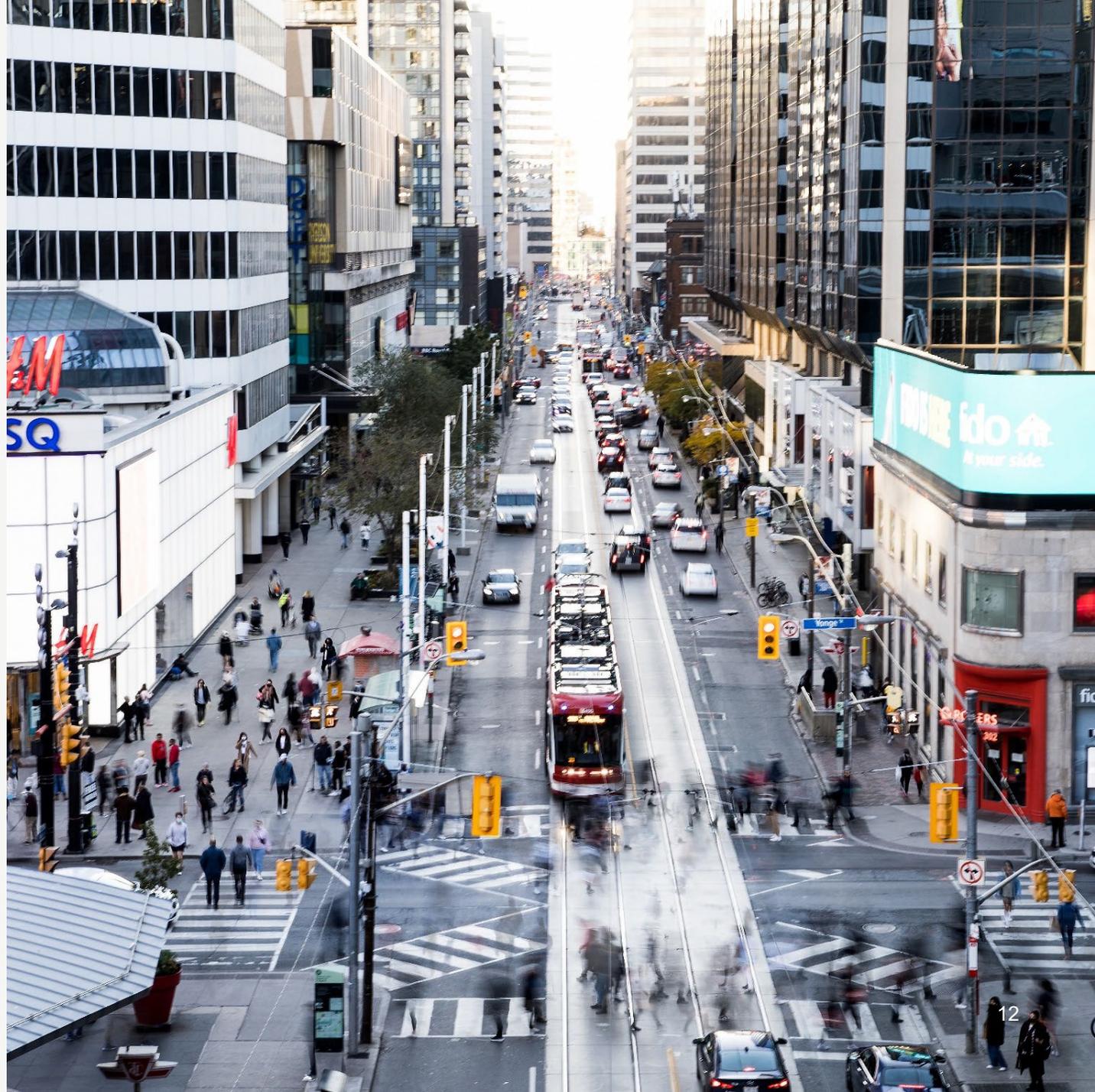
### We will:

- Diversify and expand partnerships into new regions, including the Global South
- Support multidisciplinary collaborations and partnerships between U of T researchers through Institutional Strategic Initiatives (ISIs) and other tri-campus collaborative initiatives
- Facilitate community-engaged research partnerships
- Increase industry-supported research and opportunities for students, trainees and researchers

# Research themes

**The research themes embody the strengths of the university.**

1. Expanding our fundamental knowledge of living organisms and the universe
2. Exploring cultures and communication
3. Advancing health and well-being
4. Innovating technology
5. Developing community, policy, pedagogies and governance





“

Few universities in the world can rival U of T's internationally recognized strengths in research, innovation and inclusive excellence.

**Professor Leah E. Cowen**

Vice-President, Research and Innovation,  
and Strategic Initiatives

[research.utoronto.ca](https://research.utoronto.ca)

