



YEAR FOUR HIGHLIGHTS 2025

Building upon the national research infrastructure established during Phase 1 (2013–2020), the Canadian Children Inflammatory Bowel Disease Network continues to advance impactful, multi-centre research initiatives addressing key knowledge gaps in pediatric inflammatory bowel disease (IBD).

Beyond research, the Network's mandate now encompasses Education and Patient Engagement & Advocacy. Knowledge mobilization activities have expanded through strategic communications initiatives and global visibility is growing through strategic partnerships, an increasing social media presence and scientific presentations at international meetings.

Our membership continues to grow – we currently have 71 members from 12 academic centres across Canada, including 5 new members over the past year. There are 14 trainees, 9 PhD scientists, and 6 clinician scientists. While most members are gastroenterologists, we have surgeons, dietitians, and pharmacist members.

Changes to the Executive Committee – Dr. Eytan Wine completed his term in November. Dr. Eric Benchimol transitioned to Co-Chair along with Co-Chair Dr. Eileen Crowley, and Dr. Sally Lawrence joined the EC as Co-Chair Elect.



AMBITION

Enrollment into the Network's phase 2 Crohn's disease cohort ended early in Year 4 and as of February 1, 2026, all 257 patients have completed one year of biologic therapy, with data now ready for comparative analysis.

This unique cohort also supports optimization of biologic therapy through proactive therapeutic drug monitoring and offers the opportunity to refine endoscopic severity assessment via centralized colonoscopy video recordings.



MANUSCRIPTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Members continue to share the work being done through articles and presentations, in Canada and internationally. In 2025: four published manuscripts; eight presentations/posters at ESPGHAN, CDDW and more.



PARTNERED PROJECTS

Partnered projects allow us to investigate:

- the role of pathobionts in children with colitis
- predictors of response to anti-TNF therapy
- collection of intestinal resection biospecimens
- youth and parent preferences for treatments
- improving transition to adult care



EDUCATION & MENTORSHIP

Since 2021, we've been bringing network members together in nation-wide virtual seminars to identify research gaps and facilitate discussions about possible collaborative research ideas. We held four virtual education sessions in 2025.

As part of a collaboration with the TRIANGLE initiative, CCIBDN members actively serve as mentors, sharing expertise and guidance with emerging researchers.