

## Better health. Better health care.

The O'Brien Institute for Public Health at the University of Calgary supports excellence in population health and health services research, realizing the benefits of such research by informing community, policy and health-practice stakeholders.

As an Institute, we share a vision of "better health and health care," reflecting our two priority research areas of improved population health and enhanced health systems performance.

The institute's success in brokering broader external relationships, with provincial and national interest groups, policy makers, research agencies, the media, philanthropists, and community stakeholders, further extends the reach and impact of our members' significant research outputs.



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# Better policy through health economics

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**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY**  
O'Brien Institute for Public Health  
Health Economics Research Group



Health economics is a broad discipline that supports health policy. It includes how best to measure patient outcomes, including quality of life, how to assess patient preferences for different types of health benefits, costing analyses, and methods to assess whether we get value for money from our health care investments. It also includes studies on how best to pay doctors, how to fund health-care systems, and the implications of different health-care insurance systems.

The Health Economics group at the O'Brien Institute for Public Health is comprised of motivated researchers and educators working to raise the profile and expand the reach of health economics at the University of Calgary. We collaborate with partners in research, health



**Dr. Deborah Marshall**  
Co-director



**Dr. Braden Manns**  
Co-director

and government to train the next generation of health economics researchers, build links with policy-makers, and increase research capacity in health economics in Alberta.

### **Training The Next Generation**

We have developed and expanded a graduate

training program to build capacity of highly skilled personnel to support research capacity and support policymakers working in health economics. We offer additional educational opportunities for our members and University of Calgary students.

### **Building Links Between Health Economists And Policymakers**

In a needs assessment of health-care policymakers in Alberta conducted in 2015, there was a notable lack of linkages between health economists and those who can use data from health economists. We have built links with Alberta Health Services and Alberta Health, ensuring that research in health economics informs health policy. We also link with provincial

stakeholders through monthly seminars, skills development workshops, and research symposia.

### **Building Research Capacity**

Since 2014, our group of health economists has doubled. We collaborate with many other researchers and research groups across Alberta, both inside and outside the health-care system, and we have developed costing resources to assist other Alberta researchers on how to measure and assess value for money in the context of innovative treatments or strategies being considered for implementation within Alberta.

### **Would You Like To Learn More?**

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