



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO

RESEARCH ALERTS



Institutional Strategic Initiatives – Upcoming Workshops

January 20, 2020 • Reply to [Jonathan Turner](#)

[Institutional Strategic Initiatives](#) (ISI) at the University of Toronto are large-scale, cross-divisional initiatives that support interdisciplinary teams of our researchers and partners to address grand challenges and pursue bold ideas that require true collaboration and the integration of various disciplinary research approaches. The institutional goal is to improve our capacity to seed, develop, implement and support such initiatives.

ISI Workshops provide opportunities for researchers to come together to determine what the foundations could be for these initiatives. Over the next few weeks the following workshops have been scheduled. If you would like to receive more information about a workshop, please contact strat.initiatives@utoronto.ca including your name, academic unit, your research area and which workshop you would like to learn more about.

- Beyond Therapy: Community-Engaged Arts Research Creation as a Method for Social Wellness, January 24, 2020.
 - Arts-based research has indicated that arts engagement improves social wellness by cultivating fellowship and enhancing community-centered knowledge. Against perceptions of the arts as a supplementary health intervention, Beyond Therapy leads with the tenet that high-quality arts experiences catalyze human interactions crucial to wellness.
- Gender and the Economy, February 4, 2020.
 - GATE's goal is to support research and its translation into practice to change the conversation on gender equality. This will be done through research grants, digital storytelling, public events, involvement with corporate and government policy makers, and student engagement.

Academic scholarship has fresh ideas to propose that can have a substantial impact on social justice, economic growth and prosperity.

- Healthcare Robotics Interdisciplinary Collaboration, February 12, 2020.
 - From less invasive surgical robots that speed recovery time, to rehab robots that make real-time therapy adjustments, to carebots that support independent living, healthcare robots are poised to revolutionize healthcare delivery while improving health outcomes and access to quality care, particularly for decentralized healthcare in under-served regions and countries.
- Plastics, February 19, 2020.
 - [Canada's Plastics Science Agenda](#) (CAPSA) is a call to coordinated action on plastics science priorities. It is designed to help all Canadian researchers and research funders understand the key plastics science needs in Canada. By proposing several goals and activities that range from the short term to the longer term, it will also serve as a roadmap for guiding Canada's scientific efforts towards a zero plastic waste future, supporting the Canada-wide Strategy on Zero Plastic Waste and Action Plan, as well as Canada's commitments under the Ocean Plastics Charter.
- Materials Acceleration Platforms: AI/Robotics/Computation for accelerated discovery, February 20-21, 2020.
 - The technologies that will shape our future, by addressing climate change, reducing energy consumption and solving health problems, require the discovery of new, advanced materials. While conventional approaches to discover new materials take decades, advances in artificial intelligence and robotics present an opportunity to accelerate the discovery of materials by 10x.
- Mental Health for Youth and Students, TBD.
 - The University has identified Youth/Student Mental Health as a critical institutional strategic priority area. One of the next steps from the [Mental Health Task Force](#) was a recommendation that we utilize our expertise in mental health research at the university to establish an institutional strategic research initiative focused on student mental health. We are holding workshops to explore how scholars at U of T, and its partner institutions, can work across units and disciplines to research at a systemic level the features of academic institutions that promote and/or inhibit wellness.

Information on how to develop ISIs, ISI support programs, connecting with upcoming ISI workshops, and templates can be found at

<http://www.research.utoronto.ca/isi>.

Distributed to: Workshops & Events, Vice Dean / Vice-Principal Research, Student, Staff, Social Sciences, Research Funding Opportunities, Physical Sciences and Engineering, Information & Communications Technology, Humanities, Health & Life Sciences, Faculty Research Facilitator, Faculty, Ethics Committee Members, Departmental Research Facilitator, Departmental Business Officer, Dean / Principal, Chair / Academic Director, CAO / CFO, Animal Care Committee Members