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## POGO RESEARCH UNIT (PRU)

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### History

The need for a research agenda addressing underemphasized but important areas of investigation was identified by POGO in 1994. In 1996, the establishment of the POGO Research Unit was approved by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) to facilitate a better understanding of childhood cancer control and improve outcomes for children with cancer.

Four pillars of research were identified as the appropriate foci of PRU activity and remain relevant today.

### The Four Pillars of Research

#### **Epidemiology**

To understand patterns and trends in childhood cancer in order to ready the system for future demand for services, explore causation and identify strategies for prevention.

#### **Health Services**

To identify methods of care delivery that optimize treatment outcomes and to assess their impact on access to services, staffing requirements and other key measures.

#### **Economics**

To determine effective ways to deliver care, maintain quality of life and minimize the burden of illness on children, families and health care providers.

#### **Survivor Status/Quality of Life**

To evaluate health outcomes of survivors and identify interventions to ensure the best possible quality of life and wellness for survivors.

### PRU Projects

As of August 2009, the PRU has supported over 55 research projects, representing over 225 investigators from more than 50 institutions.

For more information about PRU projects, please visit our website at [www.pogo.ca/research](http://www.pogo.ca/research).

### POGO Chair in Childhood Cancer Control

POGO established the first POGO Chair in Childhood Cancer Control at the University of Toronto in 2000. The Chair facilitates opportunities to link with the academic community and provides opportunities for collaboration with students. The current Chair, Dr. Mark Greenberg, is also the Medical Director of POGO and is positioned to provide leadership both in the evolution of childhood cancer control research and in the application of research to policy development and practice

### Training Opportunities

The provision of training opportunities for clinician researchers and new academics from diverse disciplines involved in pediatric oncology is an integral component of the PRU vision, within both intramural and extramural research.

## Funding Opportunities

### Fellowship Program

PRU Fellowships are awarded to applicants: working toward a PhD; pursuing post doctoral experience; or to licensed clinicians and health care practitioners of any discipline working in the field of pediatric oncology.

### Seed Funding Grant

Seed Funding Grants are offered each year to facilitate or support feasibility studies, self-contained studies or the development of grant applications.

### Open Operating Grant

The PRU's Open Operating Grant focuses on Ontario-based projects that involve at least three tertiary centres, may be time-sensitive and/or fall outside of the priorities of typical funding sources.

Visit us at [www.pogo.ca](http://www.pogo.ca) for more details regarding PRU funding opportunities.

## POGONIS 2.0

Much of the PRU's research data is provided by the Pediatric Oncology Group of Ontario Networked Information System (POGONIS 2.0). POGONIS 2.0 is a relational database and registry capturing selected, standardized data on all childhood cancer cases in Ontario from the POGO tertiary centres that care for children with cancer. It is a unique resource for the study of the epidemiology of childhood cancer in the province, for surveillance and evaluation and for facilitating the assembly of cohorts for investigation in multiple research projects.

## Privacy

In November 2005, POGO was designated a 45.1 entity under the Personal Health Information Protection Act (PHIPA, 2004). This designation allows POGO to collect, use and disclose personal health information for the purpose of "analysis or compiling statistical information with respect to the management of, evaluation or monitoring of, the allocation of resources to or planning for all or part of the health system, including the delivery of services" (PHIPA, 2004). This designation also enables POGO to link with other provincial databases, thereby augmenting its capacity to address research questions and supply valuable information for policy and program planning

## Governance and Management

The PRU is managed by Dr. Mark Greenberg, POGO's Medical Director and the POGO Chair in Childhood Cancer Control, who reports to the POGO Board of Directors. The PRU Steering Committee guides the activities of the PRU.

## Funding

The PRU is funded by three sources: the MOHLTC, POGO fundraising, and an endowment fund that supports the work of the POGO Chair in Childhood Cancer Control.

## Contact

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