

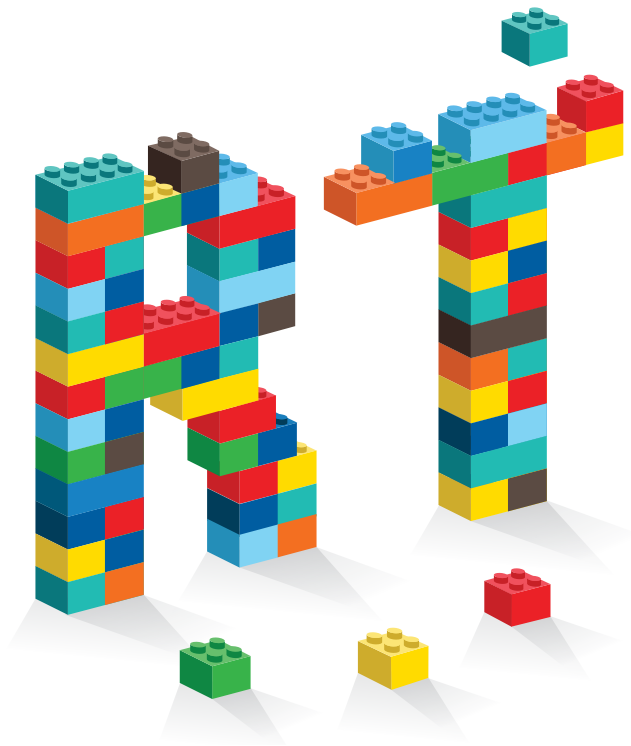


CANADIAN SOCIETY OF RESPIRATORY THERAPISTS

SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE DES THÉRAPEUTES RESPIRATOIRES

BUILDING THE RESPIRATORY THERAPY PROFESSION'S EVIDENCE BASE

As the national professional association for RTs, the CSRT has established a framework to guide the generation and development of evidence for the future. This framework outlines four key areas where research and other knowledge-building projects are most needed:



SYSTEM-LEVEL IMPACT OF RTS

RTs' impact on the healthcare organizations and systems

OPTIMIZING RT PRACTICES

RT practice at the level of clinical interaction

SCHOLARSHIP ON THE RT PROFESSION

Understanding the profession itself

RT EDUCATION

How RTs teach and learn

This framework was developed with the input of RTs across Canada over several years. The CSRT will use it to guide its operations, including its research grant program, knowledge mobilization fund, continuing professional development offerings, and other initiatives that drive evidence-informed practice.

Looking to implement the CSRT framework in your own practice? Here is some additional information that might help with your planning.

SYSTEM-LEVEL IMPACT OF RTS refers to evaluating the way in which RTs contribute widely to healthcare at organizational and system levels. Some examples of research priorities in this area:

- The roles, practices and impacts of RTs on rapid response teams, on patient safety, or in airway management and the effect on patient outcomes
- New roles, practices and impacts for RTs that could optimize workload for the institution
- The adoption, implementation and use of digital healthcare platforms and artificial intelligence in RT practice
- The impact of RT-specific measures of quality, efficiency, and value

SCHOLARSHIP ON THE RT PROFESSION refers to understanding the profession itself (its nature, theoretical basis, influences, perceptions of, standards, future direction). Some examples:

- The incidence, prevalence, risk factors, consequences, and management of RT burnout
- Optimal RT-to-patient ratios in different practice settings
- The practice profile of RTs in Canada and their impact on patient outcomes across clinical settings
- Perceptions of interdisciplinary colleagues on RT roles and values in patient care

OPTIMIZING RT PRACTICES refers to exploring, evaluating and building an evidence base regarding RT practices at the level of clinical interaction. Some examples:

- The strategies and impacts of RT-driven protocols
- The role, practice and impact of RTs practicing in the community as part of the interprofessional collaborative team
- RT use of advanced imaging or diagnostic technologies
- The strategies and impacts of RTs individualizing mechanical ventilation

RT EDUCATION refers to the theory and practice of how RTs teach and learn in formal and informal education environments. Some examples:

- The value of RT Clinical Educators
- The criteria and methods for selecting and evaluating students for admission to RT programs
- The facilitators and barriers of the transition of RT students into professional practice
- The practices and impacts of simulation-based learning in RT entry-to-practice education and continuing professional development

Looking for details on the research behind this framework? Want to see how Canadian RTs recently ranked these and other research priorities?

Dubois et al. 2021. The Respiratory Therapy Practice-Based Outcomes Initiative (RT-PBOI): Developing a framework to explore the value added by respiratory therapists to health care in Alberta. *Can J Resp Ther*. doi: 10.29390/cjrt-2021-010. [🔗](#)

Zaccagnini et al. 2024. Exploring knowledge gaps and research needs in respiratory therapy: A qualitative description study. *Can J Respir Ther*. doi: 10.29390/001c.91184. [🔗](#)

Quach, S. Zaccagnini, M. et al. 2025. Establishing research priorities for the Respiratory Therapy profession in Canada: A modified Delphi study. *Can J Respir Ther*. doi: 10.29390/001c.143703. [🔗](#)



The Canadian Society of Respiratory Therapists (CSRT) is the national professional association for respiratory therapists in Canada. For more information on the CSRT or the respiratory therapy profession, visit us at www.csrt.com.