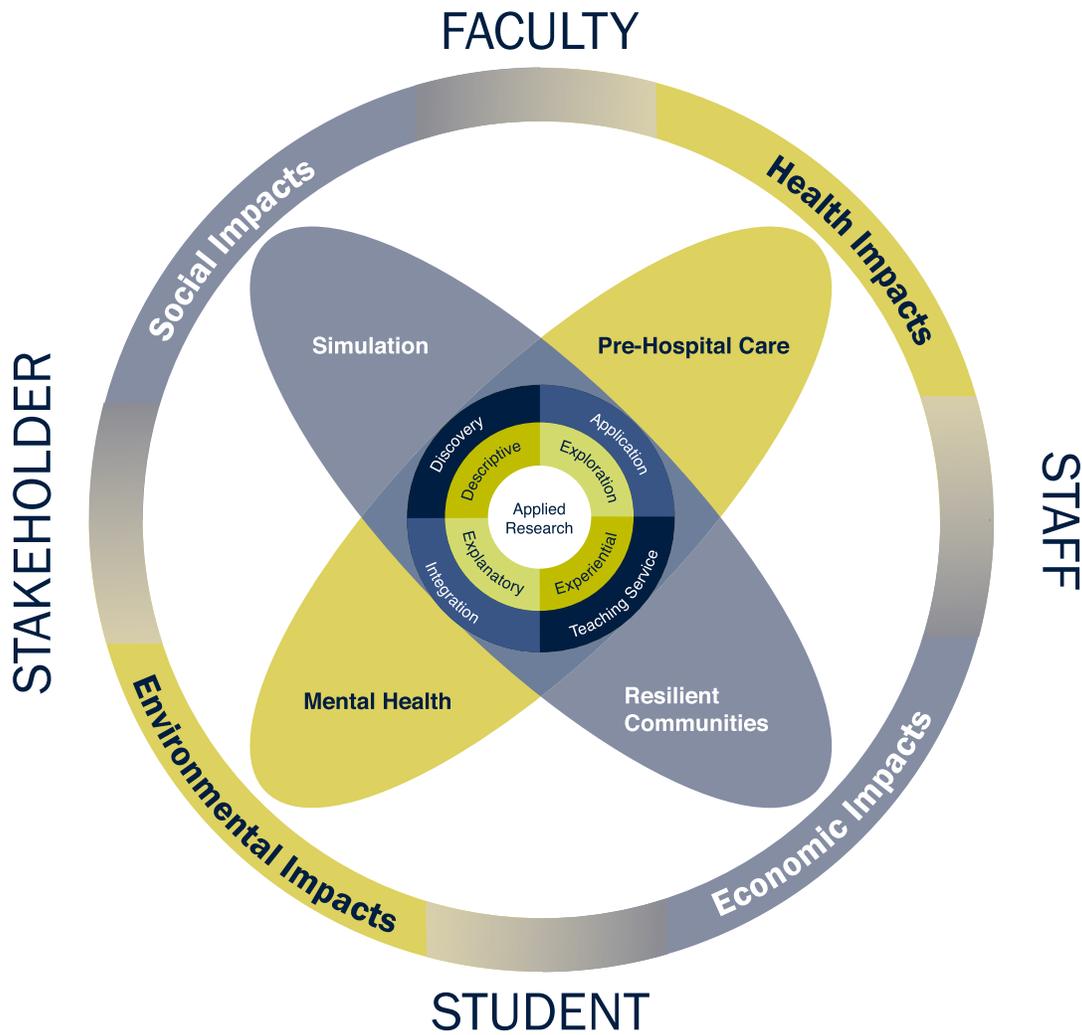


# ADVANCING JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY THROUGH APPLIED RESEARCH: JIBC'S RESEARCH PLAN



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**Dr Greg Anderson, PhD**  
Dean, Office of Applied Research & Graduate Studies

# Executive Message



Dr. Michel Tarko, PhD  
President and CEO

JIBC has a vision of safer communities and a more just society. This vision will be achieved through developing dynamic justice and public safety professionals through exceptional applied education, training, and research. Research involves the development and dissemination of new knowledge. Knowledge – understood as the creation and circulation of meaning – is the foundation of culture, both broadly and within a community of practice.

The practice of scholarship distinguishes the efforts of formal educational institutions from workplace training and everyday learning. JIBC, as outlined in the “Scholarship at Justice Institute of British Columbia”, envisions scholarship as a series of functions that reframes research as discovery, affirms and strengthens the role of teaching, enriches and focuses service and application as contribution to one’s discipline and engagement with the broader community, and offers the concept of integration as a holistic, interdisciplinary mindset that fosters breadth as well as depth of understanding. Such a view of scholarship is expansive, integrative, and reflective of the rich roles that institutions such as the JIBC take in promoting, advancing, and seeding the disciplines and communities they serve.

Applied research and innovation, through faculty, staff and student scholarship, will enable JIBC in meeting its strategic goals of being relevant and impactful, increasing engagement and awareness, and creating exceptional learning, teaching and working environments.

This research plan will serve to guide our collective efforts and I invite all to participate in this endeavor as we work collectively in Advancing Justice and Public Safety through our applied research activities.



Dr. Greg Anderson, PhD  
Dean, Office of Applied Research & Graduate Studies

Scholarship forms the foundation of practice, training, and education. Thus, the Centre for Applied Research (CAR) takes the concept of scholarship as the central theme of its efforts in service of the profession, the practitioner, and their education and training. Scholarship fosters the development of new knowledge and new insights, influences field practice, informs policy, shapes and enriches curriculum, enhances pedagogical practices, and challenges the individual to become a full participant in her or his discipline and community.

Applied research, broadly defined, is one form of scholarship which involves the systematic application of scientific principles to solve practical, real-world problems that improve the human condition, or aid in the development and commercialization of products. Applied research uses the research community’s accumulated knowledge, theories, methods of inquiry and research practices for client or partner driven purpose, and most often engages stakeholders in the process.

Applied research and innovation at JIBC usually takes one of four forms — descriptive, exploratory, explanatory, or experimental.

- Descriptive research uses observational techniques to describe aspects of practice;
- Exploratory research seeks to isolate and explore some aspect of practice in greater depth or detail;
- Explanatory research develops theory to explain and understand phenomena;
- Experimental research evaluates purposeful interventions to validate and extend theory.

In support of the Strategic and Education Plans, the opportunity for JIBC is to conduct research through interaction with our stakeholders, faculty, staff and students that develops a descriptive base for its disciplines documenting what practice “is like”, and then extending its reach into developing broad based understandings and eventual theories of practice.

# JIBC Research Plan

Through exceptional applied education, training, and research, the Justice Institute of British Columbia provides the tools, skills and contextual awareness that enables justice and public safety professionals to be dynamic practitioners and effective guardians of public safety. Achieving this commitment requires collective and creative effort, working in concert with our communities, justice and public safety partners.

Guided by the Strategic Plan 2015-2020, and the Education Plan 2016-2020, this Research Plan outlines three directional goals to support the people, the professions, and the training and education practices that sit at the core of the mission and mandate of the Justice Institute of British Columbia.

## OUR RESEARCH PLAN GOALS

1. **To advance the knowledge, theory and practice supporting the justice and public safety professions**
2. **To examine the role and functions of, and the stressors on, justice and public safety practitioners**
3. **To provide evidence supporting the experiential learning used to create transformational learning environments**





### **OBJECTIVE 1**

#### **SUPPORTING PUBLIC SAFETY PROFESSIONS**

JIBC is committed to work with our stakeholders to identify present and future needs of their organizations, and to support their need for evidence that helps guide the decision making process. We support and advance our disciplines and communities of practices through applied research, social innovation, collaboration, and by exploring a variety of methods for funding the work required.



### **OBJECTIVE 2**

#### **SUPPORTING PUBLIC SAFETY PRACTITIONERS**

JIBC is committed to developing and evaluating proactive, evidence-informed solutions to issues and conditions that challenge the health and well-being of those dedicated practitioners and professionals who work tirelessly in support of public safety.



### **OBJECTIVE 3**

#### **SUPPORTING APPLIED, EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING PRACTICES**

At JIBC we purposefully approach education in applied and experiential ways, to ensure that our learners are job-ready and able to take on new career challenges. JIBC is committed to providing evidence of the efficacy of the training and education practices used, and to explore innovative and applied learning approaches and technologies that will facilitate student learning and success.

## Focus on Excellence

Drawing on existing programs of research, and faculty and staff expertise, we will take advantage of opportunities to engage in research grants, contracts and contribution agreements in four domains – **Simulation, Pre-hospital Care, Mental Health,** and **Resilient Communities** – each broadly defined but connected by their focus on support for professions, practitioners, and education practices. Opportunities beyond this scope will be considered (as time and resources permit) so long as they support the vision, mission and mandate of the institution.



Simulation

Prehospital  
care

Mental  
health

Resilient  
communities

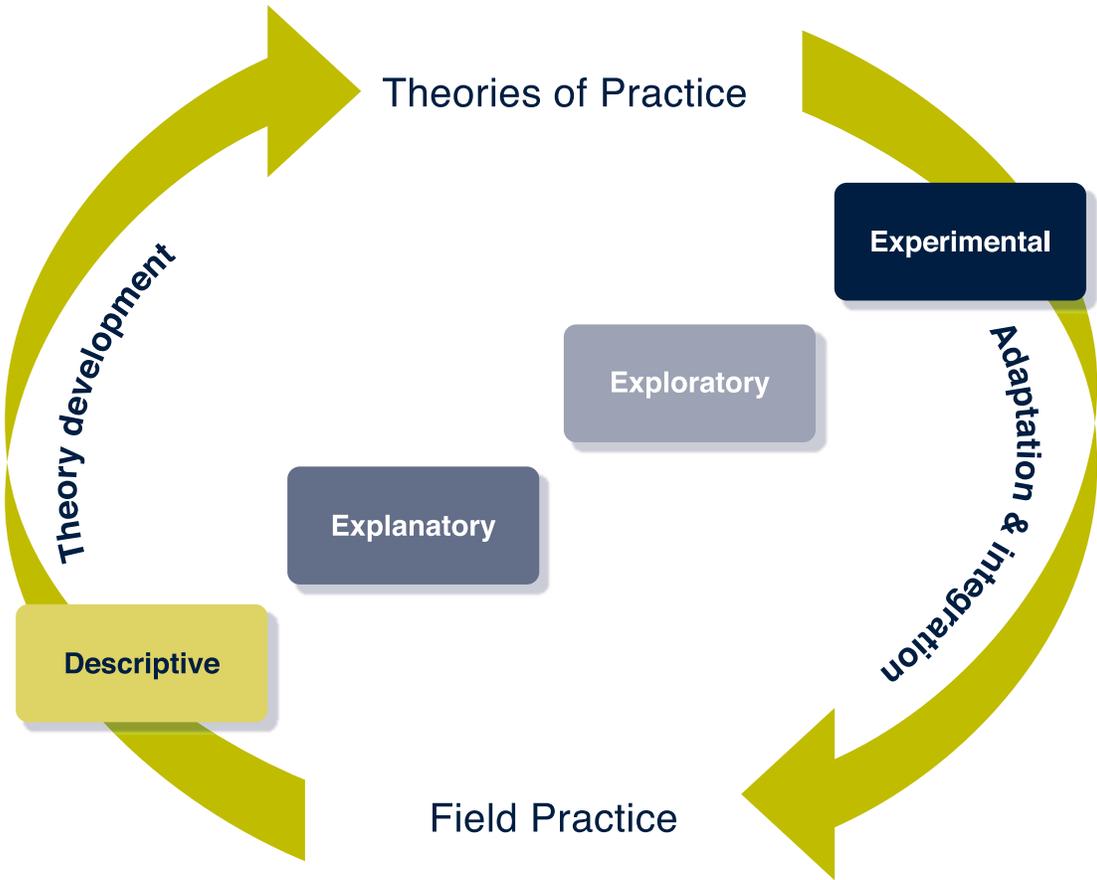
# Advancing the Disciplines

JIBC’s disciplines are unique in that they span a wide range of public safety, health, and community resilience disciplines, rarely have a true academic home outside of JIBC (eg. medicine and nursing are taught at university, not paramedicine), and the research focussing on these disciplines is often through the lenses of other disciplines (eg. much research on policing is from the perspective of law or criminology). Thus, much of the research “on” or “about” these disciplines is from external researchers with theoretical frameworks that may not be adequate for understanding these fields.

The ultimate goal of JIBC is to have research practitioners bring issues from their field of practice to inform theories and conceptual frameworks that are then adapted and integrated

back into the field practice where they are once again evaluated and modified. To allow this iterative approach, research at JIBC usually takes one of four forms: descriptive, exploratory, explanatory, or experimental.

The opportunity for JIBC is to conduct research that develops a descriptive base for all of its disciplines – that describes what practice “is like” – as a starting point in order to develop a broad based understanding of the disciplines and eventual theories of practice.

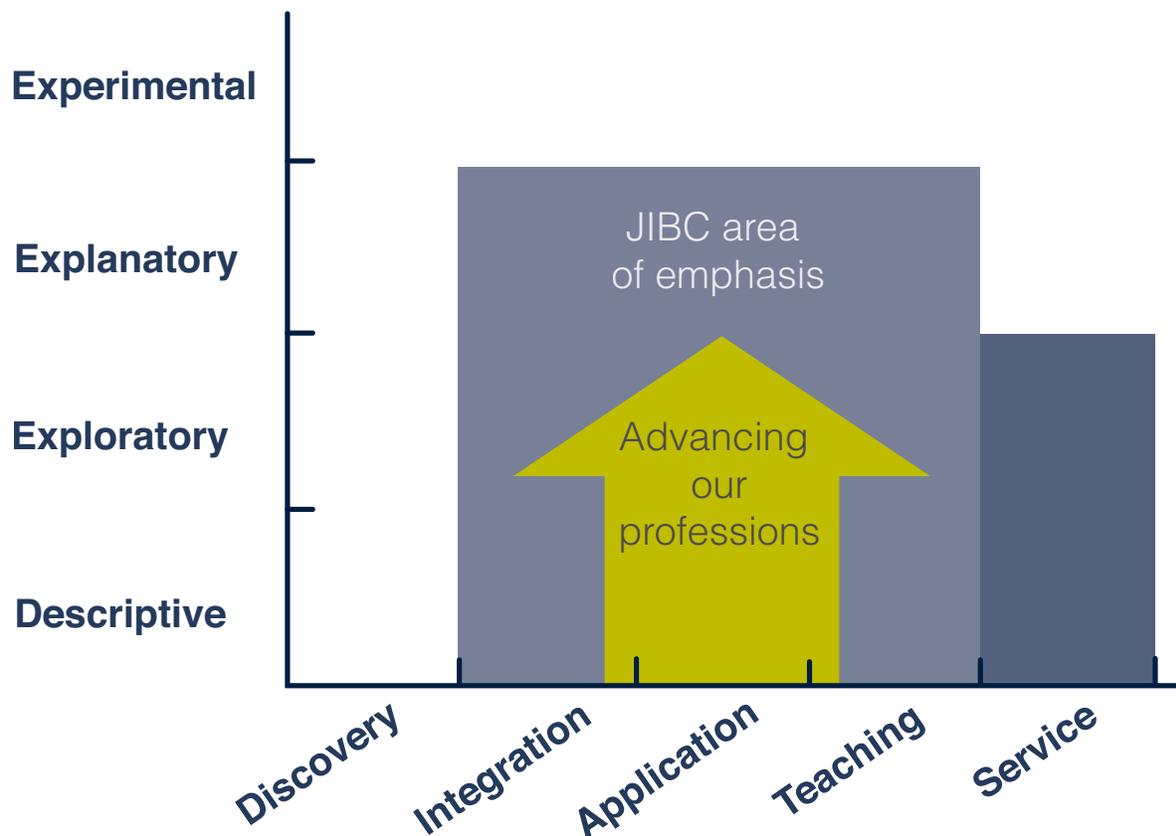


# Research Emphasis

Descriptive research uses observational techniques to describe aspects of a discipline or practice – for example, describing the demographics of firefighters. Exploratory research seeks to isolate and explore some aspect of a discipline or practice in greater depth or detail – eg. noting patterns of early death from heart disease or cancer. Explanatory research develops theory to explain and understand the phenomenon observed – e.g. relating exposure to noxious environments or stress with the development of cancers. These explanations then become the contextual basis for conducting experimental research to validate and extend the theory and to test interventions – e.g., use of a self-contained breathing apparatus to reduce exposure.

While we envision advancing the discipline through engagement in applied research at each level described (Descriptive, Exploratory, Explanatory, Experimental), much of the foundational research is yet to be done in Canada, and an initial emphasis on Descriptive and Exploratory research may be required to better contextualize Explanatory/Theory-building and Discovery/Experimental research.

Putting the pillars of scholarship and types of research together, JIBC may best serve the professions trained by engaging in integration, application and teaching applied research that describes the professions, explores issues and patterns that are present, and provides explanation for such observations.



# Engagement

Contributions to applied research can involve students, faculty and a diverse set of stakeholders. Each activity may serve any profession, practitioner, or the way in which learning occurs (our three goals), or include overlap between two or all three.

We have defined Tier 1 activities as those that serve one goal, or areas where there is no overlap. Tier 2 activities address two of the goals, while Tier 3 activities address all three.

Some activities, by their nature, are Tier 1 (such as student led research looking at an issue in one profession). However, when possible, JIBC research priorities should address two or three strategic goals in areas of overlap (Tier 2 and 3), working in interdisciplinary teams, investigating topics that can be applied across disciplines, and creates opportunity for inter-professional practice and inter-professional dialogue.



## Scholarship at JIBC

Scholarship forms the foundation of practice, training, and education. Broadly defined, scholarship can be conceived as a series of functions that reframes research as discovery, affirms and strengthens the role of teaching, focuses service and application as contributions to one's discipline, and enriches engagement with the broader community.

Scholarship embraces the concept of integration as a holistic, interdisciplinary mindset that fosters breadth as well as depth of understanding. It is expansive, integrative, and reflective of the significant contribution that institutions such as the JIBC make in promoting, advancing, and seeding the disciplines, professions and communities they serve.

### Pillars of Scholarship

Discovery

Application

Integration

Teaching

Service

# Pillars of Scholarship

## ***Discovery***

The scholarship of discovery is the foundation of professional and educational practice. The JIBC uniquely assumes the viewpoint of the first responder in seeking practical solutions to real world problems. Through research and knowledge creation, the scholarship of discovery at the JIBC promotes social change and social justice. Within the context of the JIBC, the scholarship of discovery forefronts efforts to define, describe, and advance the disciplines and practices of justice and public safety.

## ***Integration***

The scholarship of integration advances justice and public safety practices through examination of existing knowledge (within specific communities of practice and across disciplinary structures) for the express purpose of creating new and/or uniquely synthesized perspectives. The commitment to provide services to keep communities safe coupled with the broad diversity of disciplines/professions involved, requires the integration of knowledge across multiple, overlapping fields and contexts.

## ***Application***

The scholarship of application involves the use of knowledge to solve problems for the public good. The scholarship of application encourages faculty to connect research in the areas of community and public safety with practice in the field environment and supports evidence informed practice.

## ***Teaching***

The scholarship of teaching is informed by and influences professional practice. The JIBC's applied learning model emphasizes comprehensive, integrative, experiential learning that fosters lifelong learning and the pursuit of expertise. It combines best practices and transformative spaces where interactions among learners, faculty, and field practitioners can be explored, documented, and better understood.

## ***Service***

The scholarship of service is a key pillar of professional practice in justice and public safety. Professionals can extend their knowledge and expertise in the service of society beyond traditional settings, and make meaningful contribution to their workplace, social, and cultural fabrics.

# JIBC Centre for Applied Research

## **VISION**

The Centre for Applied Research has a vision of establishing the Justice Institute of British Columbia as the lead justice and public safety research institution in Canada, helping keep communities safe through an active applied research agenda to support the people, the professions, and the training and education practices that sit at the core of the mission and mandate of the Justice Institute of British Columbia.

## **MISSION**

The Centre for Applied Research achieves this vision by developing new knowledge in emerging disciplines that informs best practice and public policy, enhances justice and public safety curriculum, leverages learning technologies and methodologies, and increases public awareness. The Centre for Applied Research is dedicated to advancing justice and public safety through the scholarship of discovery, application, integration, teaching, and service.

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