

Dr. Katherine Kavanagh graduated from medical school at the Memorial University of Newfoundland. She moved to Winnipeg for her internship, before moving back to Newfoundland for her training in Internal Medicine. After completing her training in Cardiology at Dalhousie, Katherine moved to Calgary and became the first ever Cardiac Electrophysiology Fellow at the University of Calgary. After then completing a research fellowship with Dr. Ray Ideker at Duke University, Katherine joined the University of Alberta as an Assistant Professor in 1990. We were fortunate to recruit her to join the group at the University of Calgary in 2004.

Katherine started as a wet-lab researcher with peer-reviewed funding from the Medical Research Council (before CIHR was founded), the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada, and the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research. As her career progressed, Katherine shifted her career focus to residency and fellowship training. She served as the EP Fellowship Director for the University of Calgary from 2004-2011. She stepped down from this position to become the Cardiology Training Director in 2011, and Katherine remained in this role until 2024.

While Katherine no longer ran her own research program, her passion for the importance of research never waned. In her time in Calgary, Katherine has been a tireless advocate for clinical research. She makes it a point to think about clinical research studies and how to optimize enrollment of our patients. She was highly involved in numerous seminal Canadian studies over the years. These range from AF-CHF (run by the Universite de Montreal) to the BRUISE and BRUISE 2 studies (run by the University of Ottawa) to the REFINE and REFINE-ICD studies (run by the University of Calgary). Between these passion projects, Katherine would work tirelessly to enroll participants for the many lead and device projects that have occurred over the last 20 years.