



HIBAR Research Alliance

www.hibar-research.org

Addressing Society's Critical Problems While Strengthening Academic Excellence

The mission of the [HIBAR Research Alliance](#) is to help universities deepen collaborations between university-based researchers and non-academic partners, in order to speed development and application of breakthrough knowledge to address society's pressing problems. Today's universities can and should engage more deeply with the research and innovation ecosystem, to boost academic excellence while simultaneously better contributing to solving society's critical problems.

The HRA invites individuals, from all areas of the research and innovation ecosystem, to participate in its activities aimed at catalyzing cultural and structural change within universities so they can be active partners in the larger innovation ecosystem.

What is HIBAR research?

Highly Integrative Basic and Responsive (HIBAR) research is a fairly new term for a time-honored subset of use-inspired basic research projects that are led by expert teams whose collective experience spans the gamut from very basic research in universities to very applied development outside the university system. HIBAR projects have a long history of profound breakthroughs. The advent of the transistor is an often-cited 20th century example and the development of CRISPR-Cas9 gene-editing technology is a fascinating modern one. Researchers in all fields, including social sciences, humanities, science, engineering, and medicine, have much to offer in the collaborations that are central to HIBAR projects. [This short video](#) explains HIBAR research.

What is the HIBAR Research Alliance?

The HIBAR Research Alliance (HRA) is a diverse network of both individual contributors and organizations, all of whom recognize that progress toward solving society's critical problems can be greatly accelerated by integrating basic and applied research within individual research projects, and this integration is more effectively achieved when university-based researchers and non-academic researchers work together as equal partners. The HRA facilitates collaborative action through existing and emerging networks in the research and innovation community in order to help achieve the cultural and structural changes within universities to enable more HIBAR research.

Why should universities do more HIBAR research?

Contributors to the HIBAR Research Alliance believe that the time is ripe for significant increase of university participation in HIBAR projects, from the current level of about one project in twenty today, to about one in five by 2030. This increase in HIBAR research will better address today's many daunting societal challenges and will better align with the desire of many individuals and organizations, both within and outside of academia, that feel compelled to contribute to solving them. Universities have an important role to play in enabling more impactful research.

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What is needed to encourage more HIBAR research?

Increasing the number of HIBAR research projects requires a key shift in the culture of the university system. Today, practices of promotion, tenure, and peer review unintentionally discourage HIBAR research, and these and other practices impede the development and implementation of partnerships with other parts of the innovation ecosystem. The academic culture within universities needs to adapt to better encourage HIBAR research, and the changes must also further strengthen the commitment to research excellence and academic freedom. Through a coordinated combination of bottom-up, top-down, and cross-sector action, this can be achieved.

How does the HIBAR Research Alliance coordinate its activities?

Most activities of the HRA are conducted by small, focused working groups comprising individual contributors from a wide range of organizations and interests, including but not limited to the HRA member organizations. These Collaborative Action Groups (CAGs) identify and coordinate activities that are necessary to implement the cultural and structural changes needed to increase the quantity and quality of HIBAR research projects. Current CAGs are focusing on these topics:

- Making Changes in Academic Incentive Systems
- Facilitating HIBAR Research Across Disciplines
- Cross-Organizational Cooperation
- Building Awareness and Understanding of HIBAR Research
- Metrics and Assessment of HIBAR Research

Each CAG has assembled several small, short-term task groups, each focusing on a specific task with a clear and near-term deliverable. The task group arrangement makes it practical for an individual contributor to find one or more specific tasks that suit their interests. This enables them to participate on a flexible basis as their schedule allows, and asynchronous work makes it more practical for people in different time zones to collaborate on HRA activities.

Who is eligible to contribute to HRA activities?

HRA activities are open to all interested contributors, regardless of whether they are associated with an organization that is an institutional member of the HRA.

What are the benefits of contributing to HRA activities?

HRA contributors, from all areas of the research and innovation ecosystem, can:

- Learn more about HIBAR research – including how to conduct it, and how to encourage it;
- Connect with other researchers and research leaders working to advance HIBAR research;
- Experience working in a respectful, creative, and collaborative online environment; and
- Make a valuable societal contribution by catalyzing and conducting more HIBAR projects.

How can you learn more?

To learn more about how to contribute to HRA activities, here's how you can connect with us:

- Email us at hibar.research.alliance@ubc.ca
- [Sign up for one of our information sessions](#)
- [Join our mailing list](#) so that we can share activity updates and notices of events