Ottawa: a patient partnership engine

An OR Black Box<sup>®</sup> to improve surgical outcomes, a patient navigator for Francophones and a matchmaking service for researchers and patient partners show that Ottawa is ‘walking the talk’ in patient partnership in research. Home to two OSSU Research Centres and more than half a dozen OSSU-funded research projects, Ottawa is a hotbed of patient partnerships in research. Read the highlights in this latest OSSU update and the full stories online.

Out-of-the-box thinking

An innovative project that brings aviation expertise to the operating room engaged patients from start to finish to ensure success.

Just like on airplanes, The Ottawa Hospital now has a “black box” in a surgical operating room that records conversations, captures video, monitors patients’ vital signs and more. The research project, led by anesthesiologist Dr. Sylvain Boet, aims to determine how to make surgery safer and more efficient by understanding where errors occur.

“We are lived experience experts and it’s that expertise that is important”

The Ottawa Methods Centre, an OSSU research centre, worked closely with OR Black Box<sup>®</sup> to improve surgical outcomes, a patient navigator for Francophones and a matchmaking service for researchers and patient partners show that Ottawa is ‘walking the talk’ in patient partnership in research. Home to two OSSU Research Centres and more than half a dozen OSSU-funded research projects, Ottawa is a hotbed of patient partnerships in research. Read the highlights in this latest OSSU update and the full stories online.

Francophone patient partners bring insights to health system navigation

Simone Dahrouge, from the Bruyère Research Institute in Ottawa, is the primary investigator on an OSSU IMPACT Award, which aims to develop tools and resources to enhance the navigation experience for Francophone patients. She spoke to us about the value francophone patient partners bring to her research.

Blood cancer trials benefit from patients’ lived experience

A novel approach to clinical trial design that integrates patient partners with leukemia may help Canadians with blood cancer. Read about how the GO-CART clinical trial protocol for life-saving therapy at The Ottawa Hospital — and an OSSU EMPOWER award recipient — partners with patients for success.
Like threads in woven fabric, patient engagement is becoming firmly entrenched at The Ottawa Hospital. “It is becoming part of the hospital’s DNA,” says Sean Fergusson, head of the Ottawa Methods Centre, OSSU’s Scientific Co-Lead and a key advocate for patient engagement in research at The Ottawa Hospital who has championed this cultural shift. Central to this culture change is CIHR’s Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR) framework, combined with OSSU’s leadership in moving the bar for researchers.

“SPOR provided a formal structure for patient engagement at the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute,” says Zarah Monfaredi, SPOR Program Facilitator, Ottawa Methods Centre. “OSSU and SPOR gave the foundation for us to support research teams engaging with patients for the first time. When teams are looking for examples of engagement in practice, OSSU’s IMPACT awards are fantastic case studies to share.”

A matchmaker between researchers and community members is how Michelle Quinlan describes her role at CHEO. Since November 2017, Michelle has been the inaugural Research Family Leader Program Co-ordinator, a position created by the Ontario Child Health Support Unit (OCHSU), an OSSU Research Centre.

Charged with embedding patients/ family members as Family Leaders on research teams, she is clearly having success. As a service for researchers, she ensures that screens in the hospital feature messages asking, “do you want to have family members involved in your research?” She then determines needs for the type of patient engagement on the research project, such as a Research Project Reviewer or a Research Project Advisor.

In 2019, 54 engagement requests have been completed or are in the queue, including the Care for Rare genetics program, mental health, robotics and research, complex care and more.

There is a waiting list for researchers to present to the Patient and Family Advisory Council (PFAC) for advice on their projects. “There is an obvious appetite for researchers to come to PFAC for advice, and the feedback from research teams on the value of these consults is always positive,” says Michelle.

Perhaps because CHEO is a children’s hospital, youth are keen partners in patient engagement. “A surprise that I would call a success is the interest from youth,” says Michelle. The appetite from youth with lived experience is really interesting, perhaps some have an interest in medical school and some want to give back. We have 16, 17, 18-year-olds who are either patients with recent experience at CHEO or some whose siblings have been involved in research.”

Read more.

Michelle Quinlan, CHEO “matchmaker”

A key partner is Claudia Hampel, the hospital’s first full-time patient engagement manager. She and Zarah work together to break down silos, integrating patient engagement into clinical and research activities, using a framework co-designed by the Patient and Family Advisory Council (PFAC) along with Zarah and the previous manager.

Support at the senior level has been critical to the team’s success.

“We also had full senior leadership approval of the program with board approval of the patient engagement framework,” says Claudia. “Everyone is dedicated to it at the senior level.”

Over the next two years, Claudia will support staff to adopt SPOR principles, with patient and family advisors helping staff to become comfortable with engaging patients in research. There is this incredible support system in our province and we are so lucky to have it,” says Zarah.

Read the full article.

It’s in the DNA

CHEO’s matchmaker

CLINICAL TRIALS

Congratulations to the Ontario recipients of CIHR SPOR Innovative Clinical Trial (ICT) Catalyst Grants. This initiative aims to build capacity and increase the intensity of ICT research.

• Dr. Lara Maria Giangragorio, University of Waterloo, Waterloo.
• Dr. Paul Karanicolas, Sunnybrook Research Institute, Toronto.
• Dr. Cynthia Lukker, McMaster University, Hamilton.
• Dr. Jonathan Maguire, St. Michael’s Hospital, Toronto.
• Dr. Nicole Olvid, CHEO Research Institute, Ottawa.
• Dr. Patricia Parkinson, Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto.
• Dr. Jennifer Simon, Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto.

Upcoming Events

Sep 9 – Nov 3
Virtual Masterclass, McMaster Health Forum, via WebEx

Jan – Mar, 2020
Virtual Masterclass, McMaster Health Forum, via WebEx

Oct 3 – 5, 2020
9th North American Conference on Integrated Care, Toronto

NEWS

Congratulations to Dr. Diana Ungrad, the new director of the Centre for Rural and Northern Health Research (CRNHR), an OSSU research centre.

Kudia to McMaster University’s Dr. Michael McQuillin, Associate Professor, School of Nursing and a champion for patient partnership with OSSU’s Research Centre at St. Mike’s. He was named a 2019 McMaster University Stalker in recognition of international impact in research and excellence in innovation in teaching and learning.

Congratulations to three new Tier 2 Canada Research Chair (CRC) recipients in the OSSU family!

Dr. Nev Paroush, St. Michael’s Hospital, who leads an IMPACT Award on essential medicines, is a CRC in Health Justice.

Dr. Tara Gomes, lead at OSSU research centre Ontario Drug Policy Research Network, St. Michael’s Hospital and an ICES scientist, is a CRC in Drug Policy Research and Evaluation.

Dr. Noah Ivers, an IMPACT Award recipient and researcher at Women’s College Hospital, is a CRC in Implementation of Evidence-based Practice

CONTACT US

OSSU and our partners are dedicated to building the capacity of CIHR SPOR Innovative Clinical Trial (ICT) Catalyst Grants. This initiative aims to build capacity and increase the intensity of ICT research.

To learn more, visit www.ossu.ca or contact ossu@ossu.ca.

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