

OSSU UPDATE



Ontario SPOR SUPPORT Unit Newsletter

Winter 2016

CURRICULUM FOR PATIENT-ORIENTED RESEARCH (POR)

In collaboration with John Lavis at the OSSU Research Centre "Harnessing Evidence and Values for Health System Excellence" and collaborators at the Ottawa Methods Centre and the Institute for Health Policy, Management and Evaluation (IHPE), OSSU has developed a curriculum on leadership for POR.

Bringing together stakeholders for shared learning

The focus of the curriculum is on the conduct and use of patient-oriented research (POR) - and specifically the related knowledge, attitudes and skills required by multiple stakeholder groups to deliver effective POR. The course will bring together representatives from four key groups - patients, decision makers, health professionals and researchers - and provide them with the skills to be leaders in POR in Ontario.



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TARGETED IMPACT AWARDS

Award in Pharmacare and Prescription Drug Accessibility

ODPRN The Ontario Drug Policy and Research Network (ODPRN), an OSSU Research Centre, has led the development of a "CLEAN Meds RCT" IMPACT Award. The project will look to measure the effects of providing carefully selected essential medications at no charge on medication adherence, prescribing appropriateness, health outcomes and health care costs using a randomized controlled trial. The Award PI's are Dr. Nav Persaud (St. Michael's Hospital) and Dr. Baiju Shah (ICES).

Award in Home and Community Care

HSPRN Dr. Maureen Markle-Reid and Dr. Carrie McAiney (McMaster University) have been awarded the Home and Community Care IMPACT Award by The Health System Performance Research Network (HSPRN) OSSU Research Centre. Their project will be on "Home & Community Care with a focus on transitions between institutional and community care settings".

Awards in Child and Youth Health

OCHSU The Ontario Child Health Support Unit (OCHSU) ran their Strengthening Workshop for applicants to the OCHSU IMPACT Awards who had passed successfully through the LOI stage. The workshop brought together researchers and OSSU Research Centres to discuss collaboration on high quality proposals for patient-oriented research in Prevention; High burden child health care in the hospital, community and at home; and Child health system integration, sustainability and patient safety.

COLLABORATING FOR IMPACT

Partnering on funding for a demonstration project

OSSU is co-funding a study on the temperature of dialysis fluids and its effect on patients. The study is also being supported by the Ontario Renal Network, a dialysis company and potentially another charity funder.

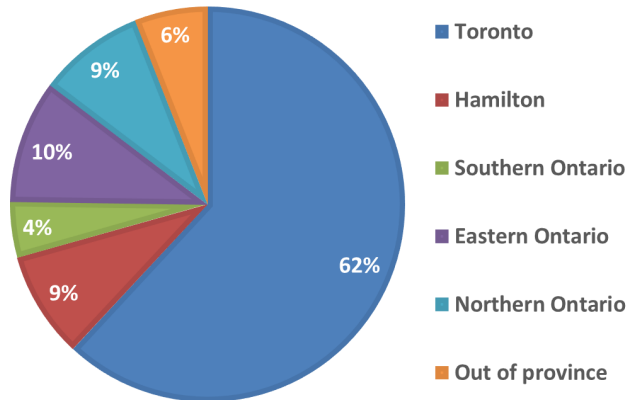
The project is led by Dr. Amit Garg, Mr. Ahmed AlJaishi and Dr. Chris McIntyre (ICES and London Health Sciences) Centre. There is research to suggest that lowering the temperature of dialysis fluids can protect the heart and brain during the dialysis process, leading to lower mortality and complications from kidney disease treatments.



ICES' OSSU DATA PLATFORM

ICES' Data & Analytic Services (DAS) platform was developed with support from OSSU in March 2014. DAS works with researchers outside ICES and provides: access to encoded, risk-reduced datasets created from ICES' data holdings; analytic support; and complete data analysis and report-writing services. In the last year, DAS has received and managed over 100 requests for data access or analytic services. The majority of requests are for data only, but a significant proportion are for analytical services. Since its inception, DAS has worked with researchers across Ontario (see Figure 1) and beyond.

Figure 1.
Geographic distribution of principal investigators' primary affiliation for requests received for ICES Data & Analytic Services.



Topics covered in DAS requests have reflected a variety of patient-oriented research needs including: assessing care provision, chronic disease, and methods support. DAS is now becoming used in increasingly sophisticated ways by researchers, such as combining services, importing investigator-held data from across Canada and requests for restricted datasets.

OSSU EVENTS

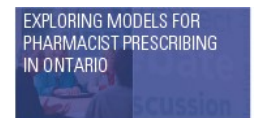
Upcoming events linked to OSSU include:

- Chiefs of Ontario research strategy workshop, Feb 22
- Patient partnership workshop, Mar 4
- Best Brains on Data and Trials, Mar 22/23
- OSSU POR leadership course, Apr 18-20
- CAHSPR Conference, May 9-12
- Pragmatic trials workshop, June

TRANSLATING POR

Engaging patients and citizens in health policy

The McMaster Health Forum, part of OSSU's Research Centre in "Harnessing Evidence and Values for Health System Excellence", has been working on a number of efforts to bring the patient voice to evidence-informed decision making for the health system in Ontario. This includes citizen panels informing work on pharmacist prescribing models, and priority setting for home and community care in northeastern Ontario.



McMaster
HEALTH FORUM



IN BRIEF

Barer-Flood Prize

John Lavis, co-lead of the OSSU Research Centre "Harnessing Evidence and Values for Health System Excellence", is the co-winner of the 2015 CIHR Barer-Flood Prize in Health Services and Policy Research; for his efforts to ensure high-quality research is used in decisions about health systems. The prize is awarded to a Canadian researcher who has had a transformative impact through health services and policy research.

Dean of Social Sciences at McMaster University

Dr. Jerry Hurley, Co-Lead of the OSSU Research Centre in "Harnessing Evidence and Values for Health System Excellence", is the new Dean of McMaster's School of Social Sciences.

OSSU and Healthy Debate

OSSU's partnership with HealthyDebate.ca has led to the first stories on OSSU, including covering patient engagement and the use of peer support workers in the health system.

Punjabi Community Health Services

Executive Director of OSSU, Vasanthi Srinivasan, spoke at the January meeting of the Punjabi Community Health Services Group in Brampton, briefing on how to work with OSSU.

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