



**Ontario
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**Ontario SPOR SUPPORT Unit
Response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic**

July 2020

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on society is unprecedented in modern times and will likely pervade our lives for years to come. Never before has it been more essential to mobilize Canada's research excellence and innovation toward improving the efficiency of the health system and the health of Canadians. In response, OSSU's research centres have pivoted their focus to tackling critical issues and unmet needs regarding COVID-19 utilizing patient-oriented approaches to health and health services research. Their work will have impacts that span local, provincial and national borders.

The research centres listed below receiving funding from OSSU as well as from other funding agencies that contribute toward the collective impact of their work. OSSU's funding model allows centres to nimbly respond to time-sensitive critical issues facing the health care system. Below, you will find some of the critical work underway at OSSU research centres to combat the COVID-19 pandemic:

Applied Health Research Centre

The Applied Health Research Centre (AHRC) is an academic research organization at the Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute of St. Michael's Hospital at Unity Health Toronto. The AHRC has expertise in clinical study design, pragmatic methodology, study operations and coordination, and biostatistics. The AHRC offers a comprehensive services package – a true one-stop-shop for patient-oriented clinical research.

Website: www.hubresearch.ca

AHRC is supporting 31 research projects ongoing or under development in critical questions regarding COVID-19 such as:

- the effectiveness of social distancing provisions and incentives;
- epidemiological studies of populations including children and residents of long-term care facilities;
- therapeutics for the prophylaxis and management of COVID-19;
- mental health impacts of COVID on patients and hospital staff;
- a study to definitively determine if high dose heparin versus low dose heparin can improve outcomes in hospitalized COVID-19 patients with established abnormal blood clotting; and
- a study entitled "*Direct Income Support and Advice Negating Spread of Epidemic COVID-19: a randomized controlled trial*" - measuring the effects on COVID exposure and adherence to physical distancing guidance.

Click [here](#) to learn more.



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Centre for Rural and Northern Health Research

The Centre for Rural and Northern Health Research (CRaNHR) is an academic and applied health research centre at Laurentian University (Sudbury) with a mandate to conduct interdisciplinary research on rural health, with a growing focus on Indigenous and Francophone populations, particularly in rural and northern communities.

Website: www.cranhr.ca

CRaNHR's work on the pandemic includes:

- providing data analysis and epidemiological support to the [Public Health Sudbury and Districts](#) on COVID-19 and related issues (complete, possibility of renewal);
- developing working models on health human capital planning for the [Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development](#);
- working with the Ontario Pharmacies Evidence Network (OPEN) to better understand vaccination capacity in Ontario;
- developed geographic definitions for COVID response on Manitoulin Island, Ontario;
- Rapid ad hoc health planning support for Ontario Health (north) and local Ontario Health Teams.
- supporting 14 research teams develop applications to CIHR and other funding organizations such as the Ministry of Health, [Physician Services Inc. \(PSI\) Foundation](#) and the [Northern Ontario Academic Medicine Association \(NOAMA\)](#)
- Funded projects:
 - Valuing Indigenous emotional wellness: Reviewing programs to enhance support for children in rural and remote communities [CIHR]
 - Understanding effective interactive digital content in support of mental health [MITACS]

Click [here](#) to learn more.

Clinical Trials Ontario

Clinical Trials Ontario (CTO) is improving the clinical trials environment in Ontario by streamlining research ethics review and other processes to conduct trials, developing resources for investigators and sponsors with respect to patient engagement with trials, and engaging patients and the public in recognizing the health and economic benefits of clinical trials.

Website: <https://www.ctontario.ca>

During the pandemic, CTO has:

- processed 56 COVID-19 clinical trials with an average Research Ethics Boards (REBs) approval time of 13 days;
- provided enhanced training resources, on boarding and extended Helpdesk hours to support research teams, sponsors and REBs in submitting and reviewing urgent applications for COVID-19 research;



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- disseminating pertinent information to the research community regarding REB requirements for COVID-19 submissions;
- launched a public [web portal](#) dedicated to COVID-19 resources and updates;
- begun planning for future updates to the system that will further enhance its tracking of research related to pandemics and other emergency situations

Click [here](#) to learn more.

Health System Performance Network

The Health System Performance Network (HSPN) is a multi-university and multi-institutional network of Ontario researchers working closely with policy and provider decision makers, to find ways to improve management of the health system. The network includes investigators, trainees and project staff developing high quality evidence that is relevant to health system policy development and decision making for performance excellence.

Website: www.hspn.ca

During the pandemic, HSPN has been:

- Creating customized team-specific quantitative and qualitative reports on readiness to implement integrated care for Ontario Health Teams.
- Developing a provider experience survey for evaluating system-wide quadruple aim evaluations.
- Developing a series of guidance documents on implementing population health management.
- Developing indicators and a Learning Health System developmental evaluation plan for implementation in Ontario Health Teams in the Fall.
- Participated in a paper in BMJ on the equity of COVID and the pandemic response: <https://www.bmj.com/content/369/bmj.m2149>
- And co-facilitated in a webinar with the International Foundation for Integrated Care that was focused on the centrality of integrated care in response to COVID that included two patient panelists <https://vimeo.com/423320621>

Through its association with the Institute for Better Health, HSPN is also:

- conducting local forecasting/trending of pandemic infections, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) usage, hospital capacity (e.g. ICUs, ventilators), and human resource capacity.
- worked on internal guidance documents for THP on a framework for opening to elective procedures as the pandemic continues (not as extensive as the Ontario Health report).
- undertaking analyses examining the outcomes of patients screened for COVID through in-person, virtual and drive through modalities (for individuals with both positive and negative test results).
- investigating novel PPE production streams – shields, masks, mask holders etc.
- rapidly launching new clinical trials on investigational products to treat or prevent COVID-19 disease progression.



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- launching many new research projects related to disease surveillance/epidemiology (e.g, in children), health service innovations (e.g, virtual care), patient/caregiver experience, AI/data modelling and others.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences

The Institute of Clinical Evaluative Studies (ICES) provides researchers, students and knowledge users with access to the largest and most comprehensive collection of health-related data in Ontario through ICES Data & Analytic Services (ICES DAS). ICES DAS offers several types of services to researchers who receive funding from the public sector including access to research-ready, linked health administrative data and analytic tools through a secure online desktop infrastructure.

Website: www.ices.on.ca

During the pandemic, ICES has:

- Conducting Applied Health Research Questions (AHRQs) to directly provide health system stakeholders with rapid analytics and evidence and researcher-led projects. To date, ICES has provided access to data or initiated studies related to COVID-19 for 72 projects. Titles of these projects are listed in table 1.
 - The first of these were rapid response AHRQs that have produced findings passed on to requestors in as short as 4 days
 - ICES has been providing daily reports to the provincial emergency Command Table on testing in Long-Term Care and Retirement Homes
 - ICES has been providing weekly reports to the Ministry of Health (MoH) on testing by key demographics in the province
 - ICES has provided the Chiefs of Ontario with weekly reports on testing in First Nations people
 - ICES has been providing weekly updates to other Indigenous leadership organizations, communities and health service providers.
- Obtaining key additional data:
 - Daily eHO/OH feeds of COVID test data linkable to ICES data repository (currently being received, cleaned and linked on a daily basis). The algorithm to clean these data has been made publicly available and adopted by key health system stakeholders such as the Ministry of Health (MoH).
 - Now receiving key outcome data (weekly feeds of hospital discharge and emergency department visit records for COVID-19 positive patients from the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI).
 - Now receiving weekly feeds of eCTAS (Electronic Canadian Triage and Acuity Scale) data from Ontario Health-Cancer Care Ontario.
 - Negotiating weekly feeds of Critical Care Information System (critical and intensive care unit data) expected to be received later this summer.



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- Additional data from MoH on long-term care and retirement homes (such as pharmacy prescription data related to Long-Term Care Homes, addresses and occupancy lists of retirement homes and Long-Term Care Homes).
 - Negotiated the receipt of the Registered Persons Database Address Field from the MOH as monthly feeds to identify congregate living arrangements.
- Use ICES's section 45 authority under PHIPA to enable an external researcher who is responding to a question from the command table/Public Health Ontario (PHO) /MOH or other COVID related knowledge user to undertake a rapid analysis at ICES. No REB approval is needed under section 45. For example, this could support modelling analyses of several groups currently supporting the command table.
- For machine learning researchers, we would similarly use ICES's section 45 authority to enable machine learning (ML) researchers access to COVID-related datasets in the high-performance computing platform (HAIDAP) that ICES has built in partnership with Vector and HPC4Health. This model would allow for rapid data access and would be more flexible (enabling access to code repositories external to ICES) to accommodate ML researcher needs.
- Support for additional COVID-19 related initiatives
 - ICES providing significant support to the MoH Ontario Health Data Platform initiative through the provision of cleaned, curated and documented data to the platform where authorized.
 - ICES is also providing support to the research proposal intake process, and enabling the use of the ICES analytic platforms (e.g., Research Analytic Environment (RAE), ICES Data Analysis Virtual Environment (IDAVE), and the Health Artificial Intelligence Data Analysis Platform (HAIDAP)) for OHDP approved projects and researchers.
- developed COVID-19 models for First Nations in Ontario which have been presented to and used by the Chiefs of Ontario, the Ontario Regional Chief, and the First Nations leadership across Ontario;
- COVID-19 models for First Nations in two specific communities and one First Nations health authority and supported one other community to produce their own models;
- provided weekly reports on the testing and test results among First Nations people living in Ontario.
- developed COVID-19 models for the registered Métis population in Ontario, and weekly updates have been shared with Métis leadership organization
- started to develop COVID-19 reports for urban First Nations, Inuit and Métis populations across the province
- continue to build on and strengthen our earlier models for First Nations populations in partnership with Chiefs of Ontario and other researchers.
- remain responsive to communities' requests for COVID-19 research priorities
- provide support on a variety of different COVID-19-related projects, including: the tracking of COVID-19 in Indigenous populations; the impacts of health service provision and costs due to COVID-19 in First Nations populations; incidence and mortality of COVID-19; and strategies to support First Nations communities decision making during COVID-19.



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Click [here](#) to learn more.

INSPIRE – Primary Health Care OSSU

INSPIRE – Primary Health Care OSSU focuses on Primary Health Care (PHC) research, assisting Ontario researchers with primary health care-specific research consultation, knowledge translation and exchange (KTE), capacity building activities and patient engagement resources.

During the pandemic, INSPIRE-PHC OSSU:

- has responded to three Applied Health Research Questions (AHRQ) from health system partners;
- is supporting six primary care research studies related to COVID-19;
- leadership are participating in nine Ontario Health primary care committees/tables;
- provide external review on Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) guidance on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) use in Primary Care;
- Establishing a 9-12 patient group to support the patterns of primary care during COVID study;
- Participating in a CIHR funded tri-provincial study entitled the “PUPPY Study - Problems Coordinating and Accessing Primary Care for Attached and Unattached Patients Exacerbated During the COVID-19 Pandemic Year: A Longitudinal Mixed Methods Study with Rapid Reporting and Planning for the Road Ahead”

Click [here](#) to learn more.

McMaster Health Forum | Public and Patient Engagement Collaborative

The McMaster Health Forum | Public and Patient Engagement Collaborative co-produces and supports the use of patient-oriented research about system issues; elicits patient values to inform system decisions; designs and evaluates approaches to combining evidence and values with other influences on the decision-making process; and, involves the full range of policy-makers and stakeholders in all aspects of its work and supports their use of what’s learned through rigorous knowledge-translation approaches that are appropriate to the system level.

Website: www.mcmasterforum.org

During the pandemic, the McMaster Health Forum and the PPE Collaborative:

- has developed a new rapid-response model to support health- and social-system decision-makers with very short turn-around times. Browse the [rapid evidence profiles](#) or join the [upcoming webinar](#) to learn more about this model;
- has, along with its partner at the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute, developed and will continuously maintain a [guide to COVID-19 evidence sources](#);



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- jointly co-leads the secretariat for the [COVID-19 Evidence Network to support Decision-making](#) (COVIDEND) - to help those already supporting decision-making to find and use the best evidence that is already out there (i.e. to support the evidence-demand side) and to help reduce duplication in and better coordinate the evidence syntheses, technology assessment and guidelines being produced (i.e., to support the evidence supply side). This network is working to support policymakers in low-, middle- and high-income countries working to address [public-health measures](#); [clinical management](#); [health-system arrangements](#); and [economic and social responses](#) to COVID-19;
- is also supporting the establishment of a COVID-19 Evidence-Coordination Mechanism to support the Ontario Ministry Emergency Operations Centre (MEOC).
- Is supporting the establishment of a 10-member community advisory board (CAB) for the CONvalescent Plasma for Hospitalized Adults with COVID-19 Respiratory Illness (CONCOR-1) Trial which will provide advice on key aspects of trial recruitment and implementation
- Contributed to the patient engagement design aspects of 3 CIHR COVID-19 proposals and 2 internal McMaster University COVID-19 proposals focused on providing opportunities for patients to inform health system decision making and public policy related to pandemics
- Consulted with patient partners to discuss the challenges associated with their roles during the COVID-19 pandemic

Click [here](#) to learn more.

MIRA | Collaborative for Health & Aging

The MIRA | Collaborative for Health & Aging brings together world-class researchers from the McMaster Institute for Research on Aging (MIRA) and the McMaster School of Nursing's Aging, Community and Health Research Unit (ACHRU) with a mandate to support optimal aging in Ontario through capacity building and advance Ontario's health care system by using an integrated, coordinated, and people-centred approach. The collaborative seeks to address the unique needs of older adults and their caregivers through resources, consultation supports, data access, and technical services in patient-oriented research in aging. Website: <https://mira.mcmaster.ca/research/research-centres/mira-collaborative-for-health-aging>

During the pandemic, the MIRA | Collaborative on Health & Aging:

- opened an additional offering of a free online course entitled "*Caregiving Essentials Course*" to support caregivers; providing content to the [McMaster Optimal Aging Portal](#) that helps older adults stay active and engaged while practicing physical distancing. The course also won a 2020 Program Award from the Canadian Association for University Continuing Education;
- published guidelines for providers caring for [COPD patients](#) in the Canadian Journal of Respiratory, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine;



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- published guidance for Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, Speech-Language Pathologists and Assistants on [Rehabilitation for Patients with COVID-19](#) from the School of Rehabilitation Science, McMaster University;
- provided content for a publication entitled “[Being Prepared in the Time of COVID-19](#)” for The Conversation Starter (Institute for Healthcare Improvement);
- presented as part of 10 webinars for audiences including the McMaster Health Forum, Diabetes Action Canada, OSSU, and Pallium Canada on topics including the use of big data to understand the COVID-19 pandemic, long-term care in Ontario, hospital-to-home transitions, and engaging with patients and caregivers while social distancing measures and visiting restrictions are in place (see ACHRU activities below);
- partnered with the Hamilton Public Library to offer talks for community members on aging research, beginning with “[Navigating Life During Personal Disruption,](#)” which will be offered both live and through the library’s YouTube channel;
- contributed to a [COVID-19 Rapid Evidence Profile #3](#) (27 April 2020) on asymptomatic screening to identify COVID-19 case and to prevent transmission;
- contributed to development of a toolkit, fact sheets and resources for identifying vulnerable home care patients – available from Big Data and Geriatric Models of Care: title: [DIVERT-CARE, Supporting Home Care Cardiorespiratory Patients during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#);
- Created the [COVID Caregiver Back-Up Plan](#) tool, to support primary caregivers to communicate important information about caring for their loved ones, especially in situations where their regular caregiving schedule has been interrupted or altered;
- participated in various [news articles](#) and media interviews for radio and television with local and national reach;
- launched CLSA-COVID Study: National Study Collecting Data on Aging Adults’ Experience during COVID-19;
- provided 3 research projects with catalyst funding through the Labarge Centre for Mobility in Aging COVID-19 Grant;
- supported 8 research project applications to various funding agencies and organizations.
- ACHRU activities:
 - Webinar: Gannan R, Maybee A, Smith M. OSSU Patient Partners Webinar | Patient partnership and COVID-19 Research in Ontario. OSSU. July 9, 2020.
 - Webinar: Ganann R, Beleno R. Engaging Patient and Public Research Partners in the Aging, Community & Health Research Unit (ACHRU) Community Partnership Program for Diabetes Self-Management for Older Adults – Canada. Diabetes Action Canada. July 8, 2020.
 - Webinar: Whitmore C [Trainee]. 2020 CLSA Webinar Series: Engaging in Research on Aging: How trainees and researchers connect with the Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging. CLSA. June 30, 2020.
 - Invited Presentation: Markle-Reid M. Optimizing hospital to home transitions for older adults with stroke and multimorbidity: A pragmatic effectiveness-implementation trial of an integrated transitional care intervention. Hamilton/Burlington Stroke Community Re-Engagement Network. Saint Elizabeth Health Care, Hamilton, ON. June 12, 2020.



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- Webinar: Gauvin FP, Markle-Reid M, McAiney C, Ganann R. Part 2 – Insights from the COVID-19 Response. McMaster Health Forum Top Ten Webinars. June 11, 2020.
- Webinar: Gauvin FP, Markle-Reid M, McAiney C, Ganann R. Part 1 - Older Adults with Complex Health and Social Needs. McMaster Health Forum Top Ten Webinars. June 9, 2020.

Click [here](#) to learn more

Ontario Brain Institute

The Ontario Brain Institute (OBI) is pioneering an open-source, “team science” approach to brain health. OBI integrates the will, knowledge and resources that creates new connections across research, commercialization and care.

Website: www.braininstitute.ca

During the pandemic, OBI has:

- hosted an online conversation with CAMH experts about coping with the stress of the COVID-19 pandemic and tap into the power of being present.
- participated in a TVO.org interview with Yona Lunsky, director of the Azrieli Adult Neurodevelopmental Centre at CAMH, about how mindfulness can help those with autism — and the ways in which the COVID-19 pandemic may be affecting the mental health of people with autism and their families.
- hosted a webinar entitled “Taking Care of Body, Mind & Soul in the COVID-19 Pandemic” for people living with or caring for those with cognitive or motor problems from Alzheimer’s disease, MCI, Parkinson’s disease, ALS, Frontotemporal dementia, Stroke or Aging.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

Ontario Child Health SUPPORT Unit

The Ontario Child Health SUPPORT Unit (OCHSU) – led by The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids) and the Children’s Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO) –provides patient-oriented clinical research and data management support to researchers to enhance capacity in child health clinical research in Ontario.

Website: www.ochsu.ca

During the pandemic, OCHSU:

- has supported Family Leaders to completed 28 project reviews on proposed CHEO COVID-19 research projects being submitted for funding;



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- has, through the SickKids Patient Engagement in Research Team, facilitated either access to the RFAC (Research Family Advisory Council) or provided a patient advisor to research teams. In total 6 projects have reached out for formal input from family advisors.
- completed three systematic reviews on N95 mask decontamination using UV, heat and chemical disinfectants. The reports were delivered to the Office of the Chief Science Advisor of Canada, by request.
- OCHSU has provided support to 12 grant applications to CIHR and other funding agencies. Eight of the submitted grants were funded - \$1,166,497.
- Three papers published, one accepted:
 - O'Hearn, K. et al. Efficacy and safety of disinfectants for Decontamination of N95 and SN95 Filtering Facepiece Respirators: A Systematic Review. OSF Preprints, doi:10.31219/osf.io/ct6m8 (2020) <https://osf.io/ct6m8/>
 - O'Hearn, K. et al. Decontaminating N95 masks with Ultraviolet Germicidal Irradiation (UVGI) does not impair mask efficacy and safety: A Systematic Review. OSF Preprints, doi:10.31219/osf.io/29z6u (2020). <https://osf.io/29z6u/>
 - Gertsman, S. et al. Microwave-and Heat-Based Decontamination of N95 Filtering Facepiece Respirators (FFR): A Systematic Review. OSF Preprints 10.31219/osf.io/4whsx, doi:10.31219/osf.io/4whsx (2020). <https://osf.io/4whsx/>

Click [here](#) to learn more.

Ontario Drug Policy Research Network

The Ontario Drug Policy Research Network (ODPRN) is a collaboration between researchers and drug policy-makers across Ontario that aims to respond rapidly to the need for high-quality, timely, relevant and scientifically rigorous research to support drug policy decisions. The network's core mandates are to: generate scientifically sound evidence related to real-world drug utilization, safety, effectiveness, and costs of drugs in Ontario; and, develop partnerships for cross-provincial comparisons of drug safety and utilization.

Website: www.odprn.ca

During the pandemic, ODPRN has:

- Engaged with members of the ODPRN Citizens' Panel (CP) and Lived Experience Advisory Group (LEAG) to discuss the impact of COVID-19 to Ontarians and identify potential research questions;
- Initiated a project on the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Drug Utilization in Ontario and engaged with 4 members from the ODPRN's CP who will be incorporated as project team members;
- Initiated a project on the Changing Patterns of Opioid Agonist Therapy Use and Associated Outcomes during the COVID-19 Pandemic in Ontario and engaged with a patient representative from the LEAG who will be incorporated as project team member;
- Initiated a project on the Real-World Cardiovascular Safety of Hydroxychloroquine for the Treatment and Prevention of COVID-19 Infection;



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- Initiated a project on Statins and Alpha-1 Receptor Blocker use and the Risk of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Related Harms;
- In response to a request from the Ontario College of Physicians (OCP), initiated a project on the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Prevalence of Pharmacist-Prescribed Opioids in Ontario.
- Participated in a CBC News article entitled "[Coronavirus a 'wake-up call' for Canada's prescription drug supply](#)" discussing how Canadian pharmacies are limiting how much medication can be dispensed to try to prevent shortages

Click [here](#) to learn more.

Ottawa Methods Centre

The Ottawa Methods Centre (OMC), a sub-unit of the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute, provides expert methods consultation to provincial researchers and/or decision makers planning or currently involved in POR-related projects. OMC's robust infrastructure of services includes a specific focus on patient engagement wherein we offer training, mentorship, and conduct specialized methods research. We offer a range of other services including research design and methodology support, data management and big data analytics, statistical consultation and health economics, and knowledge syntheses, knowledge translation, and evidence implementation support

Website: <http://ohri.ca/ottawamethodscentre/>

During the pandemic, OHRI:

- Internal Grant Review: We have facilitated the placement of a patient partner on the Research Panel where, alongside clinicians, scientists, and hospital experts, they reviewed incoming proposals for internal funding and determined which projects had the greatest impact. Recommendations from the Research Panel were then reviewed for allocation of available internal funding. We have also had two patient partners curate a story about their experiences of dealing with COVID-19, which were circulated to all members of the Research Panel.
- Research Team Partnerships: Now that funding has been allocated, all successful applicant teams have been given the option to partner with patients. So far, we have had two consultations with teams and plan to facilitate more (for internal and external funding sources) in the coming weeks.
- provided support to 26 research teams submitting applications to CIHR, Ontario MOH and other funding agencies.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

The Knowledge Translation Program

The Knowledge Translation Program (KTP) works with researchers to develop a strategy to put knowledge into practice at both the clinical and policy level. By focusing on the processes through which



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knowledge is effectively translated into changed decision making, KTP plays a critical role in enabling the creation and delivery of outcome-based learning experiences, and ultimately improved health outcomes

Website: knowledgetranslation.net

During the pandemic, the KT Program:

- Conducted a rapid review entitled "[*COVID-19 in Older Adults in Long Term Care*](#)" to identify infection protection and control measures for adults aged 60 years and older in long-term care settings. This project was commissioned by the Infection Prevention & Control of the World Health Organization (WHO) Health Emergency Programme.
- Conducted a rapid review entitled "[*Risks Associated with COVID-19 in Children with Brain-Based Disabilities*](#)" to understand if children with brain-based developmental disabilities more likely to develop COVID-19, and have complications or poorer outcomes following infection?
- Updated a review entitled "[*Transmission of Acute Respiratory Infections During Aerosol Generating Medical Procedures: Update of 2011 CADTH Systematic Review*](#)". The report provides an overview of the 2011 CADTH report and presents a synthesis of updated findings.
- Conducted a rapid scoping review entitled "[*Safety and effectiveness of dose-sparing strategies for seasonal influenza vaccine: Rapid scoping review of fractional dosing of the intramuscular influenza vaccine*](#)"
- Conducted a rapid review entitled "[*Safety and effectiveness of dose-sparing strategies for seasonal influenza vaccine: Rapid review of intradermal administration of the inactivated influenza vaccine*](#)"
- Conducted a rapid scoping review entitled "[*Rapid scoping review of the effectiveness and safety of treatments for COVID-19 and other coronaviruses that cause serious respiratory tract infections*](#)"
- Conducted a review entitled "[*Efficacy and safety of treatments \(antivirals and antibodies\) for coronavirus \(CoV\)*](#)"
- Conducted a review entitled "[*Digital Health Interventions for the Prevention, Detection and Management of Mental Health Problems in People with Chronic Diseases*](#)"
- Conducted a review entitled "[*Testing for Asymptomatic COVID-19: A rapid systematic review and jurisdictional/ healthcare organizational scan*](#)"
- Conducted a review entitled "[*Rapid and Point-of-Care Diagnostic Test for SARS-COV-2 \(COVID-19\): A Rapid Summary*](#)"
- Conducted a review entitled "[*Risk of Acquiring COVID-19 Associated with Singing in a Choir: A Quick Response Report*](#)"
- Conducted a rapid review entitled "[*Preventing the Transmission of Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) in Older Adults Aged 60 Years and Above Living in Long-Term Care: A Rapid Review*](#)". This was commissioned by the Canadian Frailty Network.
- Created a policy briefing for the Royal Society of Canada entitled "[*Restoring Trust: COVID-19 and The Future of Long-Term Care*](#)"
- Prepared an article for the Royal Society of Canada entitled "[*What's Missing from Discussions on Nursing Homes*](#)"



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- Prepared an article for the Royal Society of Canada entitled “[*Unintended Consequences*](#)”

Click [here](#) to learn more.

Population Health Research Institute

The Population Health Research Institute (PHRI) is an internationally-recognized global health research institute of McMaster University and Hamilton Health Sciences specializing in large clinical trials and population studies. Originally formed with a focus on cardiovascular disease and diabetes, PHRI’s research areas have broadened to include population genomics, perioperative medicine, stroke, thrombosis, cardiac surgery, renal disease, obesity, and other areas. PHRI has developed expertise in epidemiology, population health, clinical trial methodology, and patient and citizen engagement in research, as well as in the examination of biological, social, and environmental determinants of health.

Website: <http://www.phri.ca/>

During the pandemic, PHRI has launched and received funding for several COVID-19 projects, including these initiatives (please see website for details):

- Post Discharge After Surgery Virtual Care with Remote Automated Monitoring Technology (PVC-RAM) Trial
- Anti-Coronavirus Therapy (ACT) to prevent COVID-19 disease progression: a clinical trial platform to rapidly evaluate whether several commonly available interventions can be repurposed for treating COVID-19
- Assessing Coagulation Biomarkers to Accelerate the Discovery of Effective Therapies for COVID-19 (ACT-COAG)
- PURE SARS-CoV-2, examining factors that affect the risk of infection and long-term health effects of getting infected by COVID-19

Click [here](#) to learn more.

Women’s College Hospital: Women’s Xchange

Women’s Xchange (WX) is a research knowledge translation and exchange centre within Women’s College Hospital that aims to support women’s health research in academic and community settings and helps to disseminate those findings across the province of Ontario. The team offers support to researchers to enhance the integration of sex and gender in their research by reviewing proposals during the pre-funding and post-funding phases and providing feedback or recommendations on every element of the proposed study or project.

Website: <http://womensxchange.womensresearch.ca/>

During the pandemic, WX:



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- developed an infographic with Ontario Network of Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Treatment Centres (SADVTCs), highlighting the other global pandemics and rates of violence against women with additional information on how to access their services during this time
- published an article entitled “Modified Routine Cardiac Imaging Surveillance of Adult Cancer Patients and Survivors During the COVID-19 Pandemic” found in the *JACC CardioOncology*;
- published a paper entitled “The Missing Pieces of the COVID-19 Puzzle” found in *JAGS*, looking at the intersection of sex and age and its importance in informing our understanding of COVID-19 through exploring publicly available international data;
- published a paper entitled “Increasing the Visibility of Older Women in Clinical Research” currently in press in *The Lancet*, illustrating that there is a gap in the consideration of the unique health needs of older women in clinical research;
- published an Op-Ed in the Toronto Star entitled “To help combat COVID-19, we need better data to benefit all” (<https://www.thestar.com/opinion/contributors/2020/04/15/to-help-combat-covid-19-we-need-better-data-to-benefit-all.html>);
- developed two new modules to add to The Health Researcher's Toolkit;
- developed a list of suggestions and resources on Social Connectedness Suggestions – the document was distributed to over 100,000 members of the Retired Teachers of Ontario (RTOERO);
- distributed an REB approved survey of >5,000 members of the RTOERO identifying how and to what extent the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted older adults, particularly in terms of social isolation and loneliness;
- examined Ontario-wide COVID-19 data on vulnerable residents in LTC homes to identify strategies to improve outcomes going forward;
- launched a study using provincial COVID-19 databases to examine excess COVID deaths (related to measures such as physical distancing, or due to lack of access to usual healthcare) among different groups of vulnerable older adults, in order to target resources to where they are most urgently needed to prevent future deaths;
- Participating in the launch of a study on the impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable populations led by Dr. Bayoumi at St. Mike’s
- Participating on a study to adapt digital safety planning tools for women in abusive relationships led by Dr. O’Campo at St. Mike’s
- published an Op-Ed in the Toronto Star entitled “Family caregivers will be key during the COVID-19 pandemic” on the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on family caregivers (<https://www.thestar.com/opinion/contributors/2020/03/31/family-caregivers-will-be-key-during-the-covid-19-pandemic.html>);
- Invited member on the Long-Term Care Staffing Study Advisory Group (Ontario Ministry of Health) to provide strategic advice on staffing in the long-term care sector across the province of Ontario;
- invited member of an expert panel for a federal Task Group on COVID-19 in long-term care homes; this group has been convened to provide practical advice to the Government of Canada on the topic of long-term care homes;



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- published a blog post on the Canadian Family Physician entitled “Uptake of virtual primary care visits during COVID-19”;
- supported 15 grant applications;
- developed EDI content for the NFRF Transformation proposal submitted by Dr. Lewis
- established the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion across Women’s Working Group (EDIWWG) to establish harmonized and consistent approaches to considerations of equity, diversity and inclusion across the organization during the current COVID-19 pandemic and beyond;
- participated in all OSSU meetings and related activities.

Click [here](#) to learn more.