Alberta Primary Care Research Networks

COMMUNIQUÉ

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The ‘Alberta Primary Care Research Networks Communiqué’ is a biannual newsletter highlighting upcoming events and opportunities from five Albertan community-based primary care research networks. The intent of this publication is to engage clinicians, researchers, and interested stakeholders in Alberta and to highlight the work that is being done to promote and support primary care research. We encourage you to share this document with your colleagues.

-Cliff Lindeman AB SPOR PIHCIN Coordinator

Quote of the Issue:

‘The art of medicine consists in amusing the patient while nature cures the disease’ - Voltaire
AB SPOR PIHCIN

ALBERTA STRATEGY FOR PATIENT ORIENTED RESEARCH PRIMARY AND INTEGRATED HEALTHCARE INNOVATION NETWORK

www.alberta-spor-pihcin.com

NETWORK INFORMATION

The SPOR PIHCIN is a network of networks that aims to develop interprovincial primary care research through national SPOR PIHCIN funding opportunities.

We have clinical, research, and policy expertise to support new approaches to the delivery of primary and integrated health care across the care continuum.

News

- The Alberta SPOR PIHCIN continues to develop the provincial and national community-based primary care research infrastructure

Ongoing projects

- ‘Improving Care and Outcomes of Patients with Chronic Kidney Disease Managed in Primary Care’
- ‘Characterizing High System Use Across the Primary-Tertiary Care Continuum’
- ‘Validation of Administrative and Primary Care Electronic Medical Record Derived Frailty Algorithms’
- ‘Building Wellness and Resilience in Multi-Generational Indigenous Households: A Scoping Review’
- ‘Policies and Program Innovations that Connect Primary Health Care to Social, Community and Public Health Services in Canada: A Comparative Policy Analysis’
- ‘Evaluating the comparative effectiveness of geriatrician-led models of care for improving patient and healthcare system outcomes: A systematic review and network meta-analysis’

Call to Action

Do you have an innovative primary care research question or project idea? We can help you find the answer or refer you to someone who can! Contact the AB SPOR PIHCIN Coordinator Cliff Lindeman for more information: clindema@ualberta.ca, or comment on the AB SPOR PIHCIN discussion forum.

FEATURED RESEARCHER

Dr. Tyler Williamson

Tyler is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Community Health Sciences at the University of Calgary. His interests lie in administrative data and chronic disease surveillance. Tyler is currently leading a six-province SPOR PIHCIN project which aims to describe high system use in electronic medical record data. Tyler is a member of the Southern Alberta Primary Care Research Network (SAPCReN) and intends to continue to use Canadian Primary Care Sentinel Surveillance Network (CPCSSN) data to inform his research.
EnACt

ENHANCING ALBERTA PRIMARY CARE RESEARCH NETWORKS

EnACt is currently supporting multiple primary care research projects, a sample of these are listed below. For more information on these or other EnACt projects please contact Tanya Barber, Research Coordinator: tkbarber@ualberta.ca

News

Congratulations to Dr. Scott Garrison & team on their successful CIHR SPOR Innovative Clinical Trials grant that will spread the BedMed Initiative to BC & MB. The BedMed initiative is a pragmatic clinical trial exploring anti-hypertensive medication timing in hypertensive adults. It is housed within the Pragmatic Trials Collaborative led by Dr. S Garrison, with an aim to engage primary care providers in answering important clinical questions with trials designed for minimal impact on workflow. Actively recruiting patients and physicians.

http://pragmaticatrials.ca/bedmed/

Ongoing Projects

Bridging the Valley of Death – with Toward Optimized Practice (TOP)

Moving successful pilots among "early adopters" to the mainstream is where many innovations get trapped – the "valley of death". Exploring the mental models of mainstream teams to learn how they approach the work of change will inform strategies needed to bridge the valley.

Scaling Up Chronic Disease Management* (CDM) – with TOP

How CDM is done is a "bright spot" in Alberta upon which we can secure "early wins" in our journey towards the Patient’s Medical Home. Understanding how different practices - early adopters and mainstream - think about and operationalize CDM will guide successful CDM implementation.

- Nurse Practitioners (NPs) in Alberta – Dr. T. O’Rourke – Understand and inform the expansion of the NP role in Alberta.
- Health Outcomes and Family Physician Patient Volumes – Dr. T. McDonald – Examining physician patient volumes in fee-for-service family physician practices.

EnACt is an infrastructure dedicated to engaged scholarship and supporting primary care research – in and on practice – across Alberta

EnACt is led by Dr. Lee Green, Alberta Innovates Translational Health Chair

EnACt’s team includes:

Tanya Barber, Research Coordinator; Nicole Olivier, Clinical Study Coordinator; Matt Taylor, Data Manager; and Dorna Sadeghi, Research Assistant

www.primarycareresearch.ca
CPCSSN-AB
CANADIAN PRIMARY CARE SENTINEL SURVEILLANCE NETWORK IN ALBERTA

http://alberta.cpcssn.ca/

CPCSSN is Canada’s first multi-disease surveillance system based on primary care electronic medical record (EMR) data. CPCSSN collects de-identified health information from electronic medical records in the offices of participating primary care providers - who we call sentinels. Sentinels receive data updates about their patient panels compared to other primary care practices in their region and the rest of the province. A copy of the data is sent to the regional network server for use in regional, provincial and national surveillance and research. CPCSSN includes de-identified data on more than 1.5 million patients and nearly 1,200 primary care sentinels (family physicians, nurse practitioners, and community pediatricians) across the country.

CPCSSN-AB
CPCSSN-AB is a collaboration of the two CPCSSN networks in Alberta: Southern Alberta Primary Care Network (SAPCReN) and Northern Alberta Primary Care Network (NAPCReN). In Alberta, there are over CPCSSN 350 sentinels. The CPCSSN-AB networks currently extracts EMR data from Wolf, Med Access, Healthquest, and Telin and are developing the capacity to process data from Practice Solutions and Accuro.

Ongoing Projects

- The implementation of the ‘CPCSSN Data Presentation Tool’ in primary care clinics to enhance the surveillance, prevention and management of chronic disease
- Diabetes Action Canada (DAC) patient registry for advanced clinical trials
- Older Adults with Dementia and their use of Acute Care Services in Alberta

Call to Action
To learn more about CPCSSN-AB data or for information on becoming a CPCSSN sentinel, please contact Kim Duerksen (NAPCReN) info@napcren.ca/ or Boglarka Soos (SAPCReN) info@sapcren.ca/.
The Northern Alberta Primary Care Research Network (NAPCReN) is a practice-based research network that participates in the Canadian Primary Care Sentinel Surveillance Research Network (CPCSSN).

Dr. Donna Manca from the University of Alberta is the NAPCReN Director.

NAPCReN’s team includes: Kimberley Duerksen, Research Coordinator; Allison Boileau, Research Assistant; and Brian Forst, Data Manager.

More information can be found at www.napcren.ca.

Network News

NAPCReN is actively recruiting primary care providers to participate in CPCSSN. NAPCReN recruits primary care providers from Red Deer to northern Alberta. NAPCReN can now also act as an information manager for participating CPCSSN sentinels. As such, we are able to facilitate practice quality improvement initiatives as well as participation in research projects, including data matching/linking projects. If you would like to participate in CPCSSN or would like more information please contact NAPCReN at info@napcren.ca.

NAPCReN hosted a workshop at the 63rd Annual Scientific Assembly (ASA) March 4, 2017 at the Rimrock Resort in Banff titled, ‘Quality Improvement and Clinical Decision Support: How the CPCSSN Data Presentation Tool (DPT) Can be Used as a Resource’. Approximately 40 people attended the workshop about how to earn MainPro+ credits through the College of Family Physician Canada (CFPC) “Linking Learning” using the CPCSSN DPT. The overall response to the workshop was excellent, and if you would like more information on how to earn MainPro+ credits using CPCSSN DPT, please contact Kim Duerksen at: kduerksen@ualberta.ca.

Ongoing Projects

NAPCReN is currently participating in the implementation of the CPCSSN data presenting tool (DPT) project. This project offers many benefits to sentinels. It allows primary care providers and organizations to obtain valid information about their patient panels and clinic populations to create chronic disease registries!
The Southern Alberta Primary Care Research Network (SAPCReN) hosts the Canadian Primary Care Sentinel Surveillance Network (CPCSSN) in southern Alberta and undertakes epidemiological and health services research studies to answer questions deriving from practice.

Dr. Neil Drummond from the University of Alberta is the SAPCReN Director and the team includes Stephanie Garies, Assistant Director, Larka Soos, Data Manager & Rebecca Miyagishima, Research Assistant. More information can be found at www.sapcren.ca

Network News

- Recent highlights include the completion of a study of diabetes outcomes in rural practice in southern Alberta and the start of an analysis of adolescent drug use data from the Kootenay health region in British Columbia.

- We held a very successful network general meeting in November at the University of Calgary and hope to make this an annual event from now on.

- Stephanie Garies (SAPCReN-CPCSSN Assistant Director) will return from maternity leave in May. Congratulations to her on introducing Smith as the newest SAPCReN participant.

- Marta Shaw (SAPCReN-CPCSSN research assistant) will be leaving to start her own maternity leave and then to finish her PhD and then to start medical school.

Call to Action

We're currently recruiting family physicians for studies into complex chronic disease and high system use, the use of acute care by older adults with dementia, and deprescribing of PPIs and benzodiazepines. Please contact info@sapcren.ca for more information about these studies.

Upcoming Events

SAPCReN will be arranging annual site visits to participating clinics to promote discussion and conversation surrounding primary care projects and to provide an update on active projects. For more information please contact Rebecca Miyagishima: rcleonar@ualberta.ca