

Research and Knowledge Translation Newsletter

EXPLORING LEARNING HEALTH SYSTEMS

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In recent years, the topic and interest around Learning Health Systems has increased due to a renovated concern to re-identify useful “thinking and action oriented” frameworks that allows for an optimization of the use of evidence and knowledge for decision-making. This interest is being supported by regional and national institutions such as the [BC SUPPORT Unit](#), [Health Research BC](#), the [CIHR](#), and other national and international health organizations.

This attempt tries to overcome the seemingly disassociated levels of addressing the knowledge to action gap. In this case, LHS acts as a bridge between implementation of a proposed intervention and the contextual elements such as barriers and enablers of change (pillars) at the meso and macro levels, that in many instances fall outside of the scope of a given project. The LHS framework as explored by [Menear et al \(2019\)](#), involves

thinking and action modes that are reflected in continuous cycles of learning that might be understood as: Practice to Data (P2D), Data to Knowledge (D2K), and Knowledge to Practice (K2P) as intrinsic learning cycles feature that produce focalized evidence that is timely discussed to orient change in clinical or operational practice.

Importantly, the approach of LHS proposed by BC SUPPORT Unit and CIHR involve the active participation of different stakeholders in the identified problem such as clinicians, patients, health administrators and subject matter experts, therefore assembling interdisciplinary and inter-professional learning communities that work as partners. Through a LHS, it is intended that stakeholders working as partners are continuously engaged through advances and results of a →

planned intervention and serve as agents for systemic change that supports broader contextual enablers (such as tech, ethical, policy and scientific, and more) capacity pillars for future projects.

Below are some useful clarifications proposed by the BC SUPPORT Unit:

WHY SHOULD HEALTH AUTHORITIES USE PATIENT-ORIENTED LEARNING HEALTH SYSTEMS?

This approach has many possible benefits¹:

- Improve patient outcomes and experiences
- Optimize the use of knowledge and evidence for decision-making
- Reduce health system costs

WHAT IS NEEDED TO BUILD A PATIENT-ORIENTED LEARNING HEALTH SYSTEM IN OUR HEALTH AUTHORITIES?

Health authorities are already starting to implement patient-oriented learning health systems. All health authorities have many of the building blocks needed to support this approach. This includes data systems, clinical knowledge, patient advisory groups and teams focused on research, system optimization, evaluation, and quality improvement²

¹ Learning Healthcare System. Retrieved Feb 1, 2023 from <https://learninghealthcareproject.org/background/learning-healthcare-system/>

² With Information from BC SUPPORT Unit from: <https://healthresearchbc.ca/bc-support-unit/info-and-resources/patient-oriented-learning-health-systems/>

If you are interested or know someone who might be interested to discuss the idea of a Learning Health System project, the BC SUPPORT Unit in partnership with Northern Health and UNBC might be available to support it. Some of the benefits of a Learning Health System project:

The [BC SUPPORT Unit](#) will provide ongoing supports to projects across the three cycle areas (Practice to Data, Data to Knowledge, and Knowledge to Practice). In particular:

- Support in developing the LHS process design.
- Helping teams engage with diverse patients and communities to improve health evidence.
- Helping teams access, use and analyze data for continuous learning.
- For some projects, the Unit may also be able to provide additional funding.
- Project reps will be able to participate in a provincial LHS Community of Practice (CoP) to share with and learn from others working in this area.
- Projects reps will have the opportunity to present to LHS CoP/Working Group (WG).

Interested to discuss an idea, email:
research@northernhealth.ca
or hri@unbc.ca

ADDITIONAL SUGGESTED READINGS:

A framework for value-creating learning health systems

Author: Matthew Menear, Marc-André Blanchette, Olivier Demers-Payette and Denis Roy

<https://health-policy-systems.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12961-019-0477-3>

Embedding Research in the Learning Health System

Author: Robert J. Reid

<https://www.longwoods.com/content/24724/healthcarepapers/embedding-research-in-the-learning-health-system>



FDIM: THANK YOU & RECORDING LINKS

B.C.'s health research month (May) is designed to educate, inform, inspire, stimulate, and transform. Every year, Island Health and collaborators such as Northern Health, work to bring together researchers, students, patients and healthcare providers, decision-makers and members of the public to learn, share ideas and spark health innovations. 2023 marked the eleventh year of Five Days in May, and the second one where NH participated through taking part at the planning committee, extending the invite to northern speakers and moderators, and to identify interested patient-partners. All of these actions contributed to a successful month of high-quality presentations and discussions.

Five Days in May recordings are available, select the appropriate day and click the link to access to the recorded panel or event.

MAY 2, 2023

FDIM Opening & Welcome

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/10228456/video/823417146>

Indigenous-Led Research: Fostering Wellness, Strengthening Knowledge

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/10228456/video/825654002>

Determinants of Indigenous Health in Canada: Ongoing Work and Research Opportunities

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/10228456/video/823450971>

MAY 9, 2023

Advancing Care and Technology to Improve Quality of Life for Seniors

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/10228456/video/825258596>



MAY 16, 2023

Climate Change Adaptability: Meeting Risks and Building Resilience

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/10228456/video/827429319>

MAY 23, 2023

Mitigating Burnout and Promoting Psychological Health & Safety for Healthcare Providers

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/10228456/video/829863348>

MAY 30, 2023

Harm Reduction for Hardly-Reached People and Places

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/10228456/video/831947365>

FDIM Closing Forum: Reflections & Connections

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/10228456/video/831960832>

Interested to present your research or project next year?

Email:

research@northernhealth.ca or marcelo.bravo@northernhealth.ca



CALL FOR ABSTRACTS: 2023 NORTHERN BC RESEARCH AND QUALITY CONFERENCE.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE: HEALTH IN THE NORTH



The call for abstracts for the 2023 [Northern BC Research and Quality Conference](#) is now open! You are invited to submit abstracts (up to 300 words) on topics of health research, evaluation or quality improvement initiatives revolving around the conference theme and one of more of the sub-themes:

- Workforce Recovery and Rebuilding
- Mental Health and Substance Use
- Cultural Safety and Health Equity
- Health and Environment
- Healthcare Across the Lifespan
- Innovative Healthcare, Technology and Data Quality
- Indigenous Health and Wellness
- Team-Based Primary
- Co-Creating Healthcare for All Care
- Accessibility to Healthcare

KEY DATES

Abstracts closing date
July, 18, 2023

Anticipated notice of decision
August 31, 2023

Conference dates
Nov 7-9, 2023

LOCATION

University of Northern British Columbia,
Prince George Campus
(virtual options available)

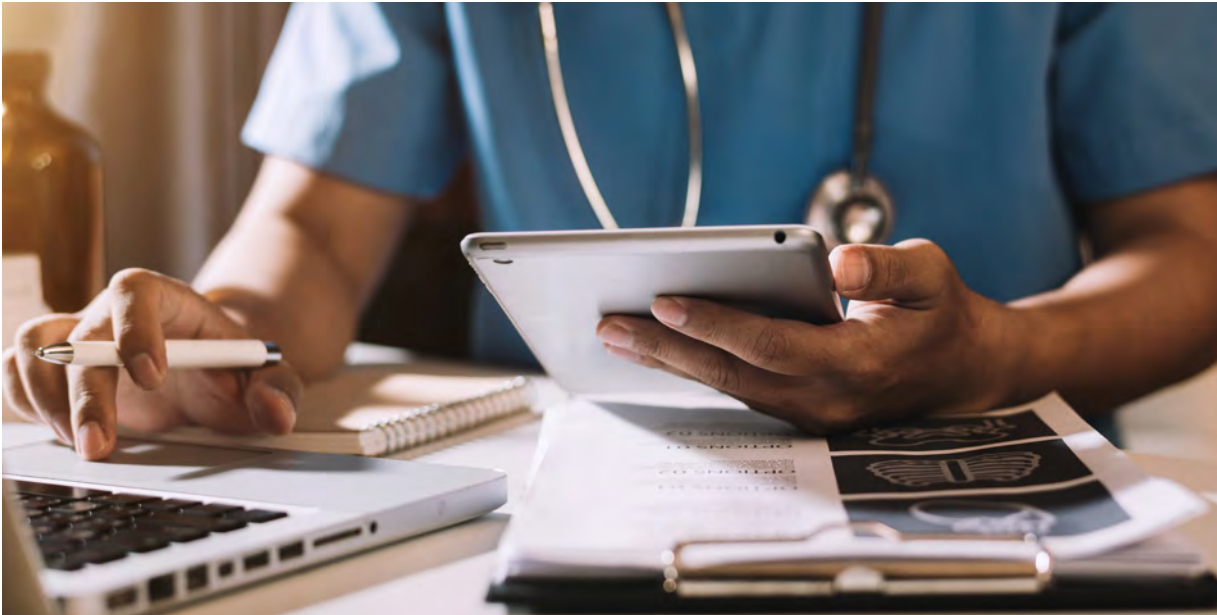
Abstract Submission Form: <https://www2.unbc.ca/health-research-institute/northern-bc-research-and-quality-conference>

More information about the Conference, including future programming can be accessed here: <https://www2.unbc.ca/health-research-institute/northern-bc-research-and-quality-conference>

QUESTIONS

Please email: hri@unbc.ca or research@northernhealth.ca





NH AND UNBC MOU IN ACTION: SUPPORTS FOR RESEARCH CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

As part of the ongoing work of the MOU between NH and UNBC, the Research and Knowledge Translation working group invites interested staff, clinicians, physicians, faculty or trainees to submit requests for financial support for workshops that develop and enhance

the research capacity in the Northern region.

There are new dedicated small grants of up to \$1,500 each to support the delivery of research-enabling workshops. Eligible expenses can be applied towards:

- Travel
- Fee or honorarium for workshop facilitator(s), moderator(s) or expert(s)
- Venue booking and catering
- Workshop supplies
- Additional (required supports)

Do you have an idea in mind, or want to discuss a specific proposal? Send us an email: research@northernhealth.ca or hri@unbc.ca

BC NEIHR – BC NETWORK ENVIRONMENT FOR INDIGENOUS HEALTH RESEARCH: PILOT PROJECT GRANTS

BC NEIHR's Pilot Project Grant will provide up to 5 grants to Indigenous (First Nations, Métis or Inuit) early career researchers to improve the competitiveness of Indigenous Researchers in CIHR and other research competitions. There are 2 streams

- One year; \$15,000 (non-renewable); or
- One year; \$20,000 (non-renewable) for Patient Oriented Research-focus stream*

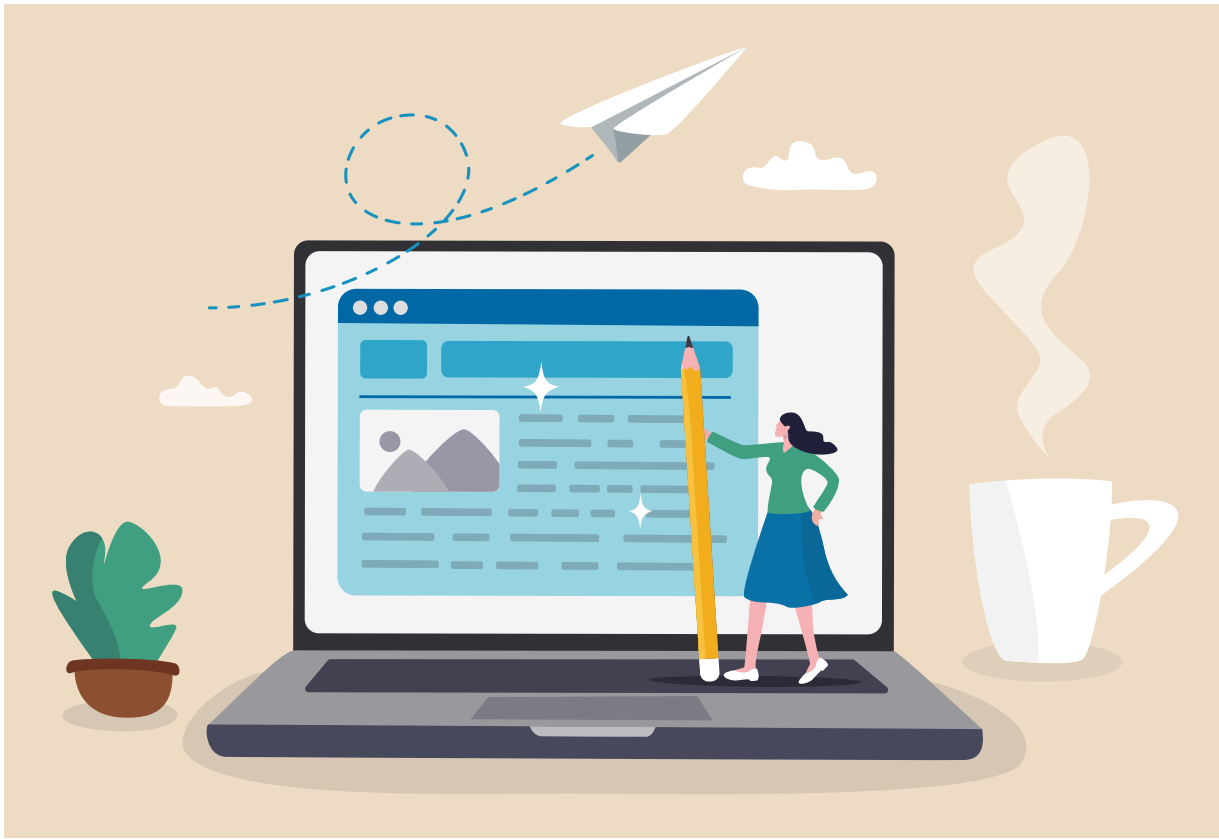
For more information and resources, visit:

onlineacademiccommunity.uvic.ca/bcneihr/pilot-project-grants/



WOULD YOU LIKE TO WRITE AND PUBLISH A SHORT ARTICLE?

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The Research & Knowledge Translation Newsletter is accepting articles for future editions. We are open to all areas of health research and knowledge translation as well as evaluation, data analytics, quality improvement or innovation projects.

If interested to include an article or to share information about an upcoming event, email: research@northernhealth.ca