

Happy holidays from the Alberta SPOR SUPPORT Unit

Dec. 23, 2016

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The Alberta SPOR SUPPORT Unit (AbSPORU) would like to thank our partners and collaborators, as well as researchers and patients for working together to achieve the goals of Canada's Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research. Our Unit has achieved great milestones. We supported over 100 research projects, provided training and capacity building events to 1,600 people and reduced the wait time for health data from three months to five weeks. 2017 will be even better as we continue to build on our vision to advance knowledge to improve patient health and health care.

AbSPORU services during the holidays

Researchers are welcome to submit questions or an application for AbSPORU support services during the holidays however any submissions received between December 26, 2016 and January 2, 2017 will be reviewed when the office re-opens on January 3, 2017. Information can be found at absporu.ca

Strategic Clinical Networks: Finding the value of AbSPORU

Strategic Clinical Networks (SCNs) are creating improvements within focused areas of health care in Alberta from addiction and mental health to cancer. For Dr. Catherine Chan, Scientific Director of the Diabetes, Obesity and Nutrition SCN, it's been helpful to turn to the Alberta SPOR SUPPORT Unit for support. This includes seeking the guidance of the Patient Engagement Platform for a grant application to show how the patient perspective was being taken into account on their research project. "Lots of us have done research on patients, we just haven't done research with patients", says Chan. "It was helpful to get the advice of experts in patient engagement to give us direction". She also accessed the services of the Methods Support & Development Platform who helped with methodology support, navigating ethics and strengthening their analysis plan which saved her project time and resources. "The beauty of AbSPORU is they're a one stop shop. They have expertise, resources and connections. If they can't help you directly, they know who can. My advice to researchers is to engage them early on projects, as they can bring a lot of value," says Chan. Read more about the [Diabetes, Obesity and Nutrition SCN](#).

Knowledge Translation Platform: Making a difference for researchers

Dr. Janine Giese-Davis, Associate Professor, Oncology at the University of Calgary has found that connecting with the Alberta SPOR SUPPORT Unit has made an immense difference in her understanding of knowledge translation (KT) and helping improve her grant applications. “Last year when we submitted an application for a Canadian Cancer Society Research Innovation grant, the reviewer did not like the KT section we had written,” says Giese-Davis. “I did not blame them, we were struggling with what to write”. That’s when she heard about services available through the Alberta SPOR SUPPPORT Unit. The team had really tight timelines and worked with Gabrielle Zimmermann of the KT Platform to receive the guidance needed to develop an end-of-grant KT plan which helped them to create a much clearer application. “I am so grateful I found the Alberta SPOR SUPPORT Unit KT Platform”, says Giese-Davis. The KT Platform has experts in knowledge translation and knowledge synthesis who can help researchers with systematic reviews, scoping reviews to identify key concepts, theories and knowledge gaps in their research, implementation science and more. To apply for services visit absporu.ca

Congratulations

Congratulations to Dr. Michael Hill, AbSPORU Pragmatic Clinical Trials Platform Lead, who recently received the Heart and Stroke Foundation Award of Merit, the highest honour for a volunteer. [Watch the CTV News Story on Dr. Hill.](#)

Newsletter Survey open until December 31, 2016

Thank you to those who have already taken part in our newsletter survey. For those who have not responded there is still time to participate in a short [two minute survey](#) to help make our newsletter better. Those who complete the survey are eligible to win a prize.