

# SPOR update

Feb. 23, 2016



The Alberta SPOR Support Unit has a new visual identity as you can see in this SPOR Update. Created to help communicate the Unit's shared vision, mission and goals with key audiences, the Alberta SPOR SUPPORT Unit logo has a unique visual look and feel. The flower with one petal leaving represents a researcher's project germinating or taking flight. The logo incorporates the seven SPOR platforms in the petals of the flowers and embraces the theme of connectivity as well as movement with a person (or patient) at the center. You'll be seeing a lot more of the visual identity as the AbSPORU Platforms engage with the research community.

## **Consultation and Research Services: Helping researchers along the research path**

Researchers often come to the Consultation and Research Services Platform with an idea; they just require some assistance to make it a reality.

"Once a research application is assessed for services through the Alberta SPOR SUPPORT Unit Portal, we take the time to determine the researcher's true needs, says the platform's scientific director Dr. Yazid Al Hamarneh. An experienced researcher himself, Dr. Al Hamarneh shares his first-hand knowledge with others who need support. "Often more services are required compared to

what was originally anticipated. That's the value our platform brings. We can help discuss the available design options for a research study, identify and fine-tune needs and get the researcher to where they need to be. We can help every step of the way.”

Launched in December 2015, and led by Dr. Ross Tsuyuki, the Consultation and Research Services Platform offers a variety of services including design methods & consultation, sample size calculation, randomization, case report form & database development, project coordination data analysis and manuscript preparation. To learn more about the Consultation and Research Services Platform or to apply for services visit [absporu.ca](http://absporu.ca)

## **Connecting, Engaging and Capacity-Building – The focus of the 2016 Summer Institute**

The 2016 Summer Institute will take place for a few short days in Calgary (May 2-4 at the Westin), but the event is designed to create a lasting impact with those who attend. “The event will offer a concentrated experience for participants to engage with others interested in patient-oriented research” says Diane Aubin, PhD, Associate Director of the Career Development Platform. “The program will deliver a wide range of workshops, presentations and networking opportunities for patients, researchers, students, health practitioners and community members to connect, learn and work together, in order to expand patient-oriented research work across Alberta.”

Opening the event is Dr. Sara Davison who will share her own research experience in a presentation that will focus on the importance of patient-oriented research. Dr. Davison was recently named 2015 Edmonton Zone Medical Association Researcher of the Year for her work in palliative care, and has built her research agenda around patients' priorities.

Please visit the conference website to learn more and register for the 2016 Summer Institute.

## **Thanks and well wishes**

The Alberta SPOR SUPPORT Unit's steering committee, platform leads and secretariat would like to express its sincere gratitude to Dr. Sumit (Me2) Majumdar for his work as Joint Lead of the KT Platform from 2014-2016. Me2 recently stepped down as Joint Lead of the [Knowledge Translation \(KT\) Platform](#) in the Alberta SPOR SUPPORT Unit.

“We are profoundly grateful for Me2's leadership, time and contribution to the development of the KT Platform and the overall Alberta SPOR SUPPORT Unit since September 2014,” says Tim Murphy, Vice-President Provincial Platforms & SPOR Alberta Innovates – Health Solutions. The KT Platform,

led by [Dr. Lisa Hartling](#), will continue to build on the KT Platform's vision, offering services and resources to researchers.