

NOVEMBER ABSPORU UPDATE

Nov. 30, 2017

Happy Holidays from the Alberta SPOR SUPPORT Unit

The Alberta SPOR SUPPORT Unit would like to thank the University of Alberta, the University of Calgary, the University of Lethbridge and Athabasca University as well as Alberta Health, Alberta Health Services and our health system partners who helped us advance the goals of Canada's Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research this past year.

For those interested in submitting an application for support services during the holidays please note that any submissions to the AbSPORU portal from December 25, 2017 to January 1, 2018 will be reviewed when the office re-opens January 2, 2018. You can still submit requests and questions during this time. Information can be found at absporu.ca

AbSPORU Audit and Feedback event highlights methods to improve patient outcomes

Sharing the important role audit and feedback plays in improving patient outcomes was the focus of a recent Audit & Feedback event hosted by the Alberta SPOR SUPPORT Unit Knowledge Translation Platform, October 19-20, in Calgary. The event included two international and 10 national presenters and attracted over 110 participants from six provinces in academia, policy, health sciences and more to share how data can be used to improve patient outcomes and enhance our health care system. "This conference was a good opportunity to learn in practical terms about evidence-based approaches, human factors, and research opportunities in this new field, but perhaps more importantly from an Alberta perspective, it was a chance to connect and network, hopefully enabling us to approach audit and feedback in a coordinated, thoughtful manner within the province," says Bruce West who works with the DIMR data analytics group at Alberta Health Services.

Audit and feedback, also called score cards or report cards, involves accessing administrative data and measuring it against best practice to see if there are gaps in care or system performance. This allows physicians and those who administer the health care system to look for opportunities for improvement. In Alberta, the Health Quality Council of Alberta, Alberta Strategic Clinical Networks, and the Physician Learning program and others use audit and feedback as a tool to improve patient and system outcomes on a regular basis. For those interested in Knowledge Translation, audit and feedback is an important tool to help close the gap between what we know and what we do.

AbSPORU: Sharing our story with the SPOR National Steering Committee

On October 29, Tim Murphy, of the Alberta SPOR SUPPORT Unit was asked to share the Alberta

approach to meeting the objectives set out by CHIR's Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research. As the first Unit established in Canada, AbSPORU has accumulated success stories in its approach to delivering programs and services for researchers. Rather than offering research operating grants, the unit develops services and builds patient-oriented research capacity through training and professional development in clinical trials and patient engagement. Our approach is as a collaborative partner with our post-secondary institutions (University of Alberta, University of Calgary, Athabasca University and University of Lethbridge), Alberta Health, Alberta's Strategic Clinical Networks, and other partners to deliver services through a one-stop shop portal complimented by various capacity building investments. Researchers visit absporu.ca where they are connected with one or more platforms. For researchers like Dr. Melanie Noel, an early career co-investigator with the SPOR Chronic Pain Network, AbSPORU has made a difference in their work. "Working with AbSPORU has helped me to think about my work differently, not only about knowledge translation but how to promote my research more broadly," says Noel. "The fact that there are PhD-level experts who can help you with grant applications and project planning is truly a gift to the research community." Learn more about absporu and its services at absporu.ca