Translating Health Services Research into Policy and Practice

First Global Symposium
ON HEALTH SYSTEMS RESEARCH
Science to accelerate universal health coverage

Dr. Colleen M. Flood
Scientific Director, CIHR Institute of Health Services and Policy Research
Canada Research Chair, Health Law and Policy
Faculty of Law, University of Toronto
My question is, do we make an impact?

Cartoon
CIHR and its 13 Institutes are committed to KT
The dollars and sense of population health

Study probes benefit of aerobics for diabetes

Type 2 diabetes is the most common form of diabetes. It affects people of all ages, including children. It is characterized by the body's inability to use insulin effectively, leading to high blood sugar levels. Worried about the rising prevalence of Type 2 diabetes, researchers are exploring various treatments to combat the disease.

Type 2 diabetes can be managed with lifestyle changes, such as regular exercise, a healthy diet, and weight management. Aerobic exercises, in particular, are known to help improve insulin sensitivity and overall health.

A new study has been conducted to investigate the potential benefits of regular aerobic exercise in managing Type 2 diabetes. The study found that participants who engaged in regular aerobic exercise had a significant improvement in insulin sensitivity and glucose control compared to those who did not.

The results of this study highlight the importance of incorporating regular aerobic exercise into the management of Type 2 diabetes. However, more research is needed to confirm these findings and to understand the long-term effects of aerobic exercise on diabetes management.

Ottawa biotech launches IPO

Adherex developing cancer drug

The shaving focus in federal health research funding is proving to be a boon for the University of Victoria. UVic has been awarded more than $4 million for research focusing on health-care technologies. The university hopes to use the funds to develop a new cancer drug that could be a game-changer for patients.

Adherex Technologies, a biotechnology company in Victoria, recently launched an initial public offering (IPO) to raise funds for its research and development efforts. The company is developing a new drug that could potentially offer a new treatment option for cancer patients.

Founded in 1996, Adherex is one of the few Canadian companies to develop a cancer drug. The company has been working on this project for more than two years and has already seen significant progress. It aims to get the drug approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) by 2021.

The company's drug is designed to target the root cause of cancer by using a novel approach. It has already shown promising results in early-stage trials and has the potential to improve the quality of life for cancer patients.
Crossing the valley of death

Translational Research: Crossing the Valley of Death. 
But there are significant hurdles in “ivory towers” to...

- Applied research
- Multi-disciplinary research
An example: Capacity challenges in Canada – Health Economists

- British Columbia: 2
- Québec: 2
- Atlantic Canada: 0
- Prairies: 6
- Ontario: 12
Canadian innovations (and innovators) in KT Science & Practice

Graham et al., 2006
PARTNERSHIPS for Health System Improvement
PHSI 101

- PHSI offers decision makers evidence-informed solutions to their most pressing questions

- Decision makers and researchers work together

- Projects are funded by CIHR and external partners (which applicant teams are required to find)

- New “partnership development funds” are available (dating money)
Improving funding decisions for new cancer drugs

“This study will be, in my judgment, the first definitive characterization of the way drugs are evaluated and scheduled in Canada. It may also raise the possibility that we could press towards more of a common standard...as opposed to 13 different solutions to a very simple problem.”

– Dr. Terry Sullivan, CEO, Cancer Care Ontario
Improving quality in long-term care

“This study is seminal. It has the potential to create groundbreaking cultural change within the long-term care sector. I can’t say enough about what this type of research does for the health care system.”

-Tim Burns, Director, Ontario Ministry of Health
The need: timely, policy-relevant, quality research evidence

- Expedited Knowledge Synthesis
- Best Brains Exchange
Best Brains Exchange

What is a Best Brains Exchange?
A one-day meeting that brings together the “best brains” of research and decision-making.

- Policy-makers define the topic and the event is tailored to their needs
- Informal
- CIHR guarantees excellence in an impartial way (no institute affiliation)
- Confidential
The most important key to success – a factor to encourage trust
Partners and topics

- Patient-centred care
- For-profit private delivery
- Access to healthcare in rural & remote regions
- Incenting health system performance
- Managing the surgical experience
- The data divide - improving drug coverage decisions
- Primary healthcare reform
Evidence-informed policy-making

"Now you hear our Deputy talk about CIHR all the time. He talks about the Best Brains and says that what we’re trying to do is accomplish fundamental change and that the Best Brains is helping us achieve this."

“We went from Best Brains into action really fast.”
The Evolution of Evidence on Tap: Evidence-informed Healthcare Renewal

In First Ministers We Trust
Debates will always happen ... our job is to ensure they are evidence-informed