UPLEARN UPDATE

In this issue: Director's Note – Highlights – How to Get Involved

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

UPLEARN is our collective primary care practice-based learning and research network. It exists to help us achieve goals and initiatives that would be impossible for any single person or site to accomplish. UPLEARN is the infrastructure to help us with research, Quality Improvement (QI), education initiatives and scholarship, community engagement and policy evaluation. In the last few weeks I've had the chance to meet with colleagues who are deeply engaged in QI and education scholarship. Our UPLEARN Site and Community Council is helping us to engage community members from across our sites in approving projects, and I look forward to this group helping researchers with new project ideas. On the policy side, we look forward to deeper collaboration with our unique [Office of Health System Partnerships](#) at this crucial time in the history of Ontario's primary care system.

Collecting, processing and analyzing data from primary care electronic medical records is one aspect of our work. In the past 6 months we have made progress on establishing what we call a LOcal primary care data Cleaned And Linkable (LOCAL) dataset at one UPLEARN site. We are now beginning discussions at an additional 6 sites. LOCAL datasets consist of data that extracted from the EMR (or a copy of it), and processed using a national standard. The LOCAL dataset can then be used for QI, research, education or local organizational purposes, with the appropriate approvals. All data is kept on site at this stage. While we have a long way to go, we look forward to collaborating with clinicians, patients and system leaders on advancing this collective work.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **IDEAS TO PROPOSAL (I2P) COURSE: SPOTLIGHT ON I2P WINNERS (PART 3 OF 3)**

The DFCM Research Program and UPLEARN are proud to feature more detail on each of the three winning proposals from the 2025 I2P Course. For our third and final spotlight (in no particular order), a summary of the following project:

'**Engagement of family doctors in Ontario with Asian patients in advance care planning care**', presented by Han Yan (Unity Health Toronto) and Zhimeng Jia (Sinai Health System) Within the province of Ontario, the elderly Asian population is growing in size and yet there are gaps to the delivery of end-of-life (EOL) care. To address this problem upstream, we will study the phenomenon of how primary care physicians engage with their Asian and non-Asian patients for Advanced Care Planning (ACP). This project will utilize a quantitative aim to highlight any disparities with documentation of ACP within primary care settings and also implement a qualitative aim to discover barriers and challenges to delivering satisfying and safe EOL care for patients and their families.

Congratulations again to Han and Zhimeng!

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

- Do you have a project or proposal you would like to submit for UPLEARN support and partnership? Please go through the UPLEARN intake process to submit your request!
- Have other questions about UPLEARN and how to get involved? Please get in touch with Jamie Wang, Research Project Coordinator (jamie.wang@utoronto.ca).

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