UPLEARN UPDATE

Family & Community Medicine | **UPLEARN**
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO | University of Toronto Practice- and Community-Based LEarning And Research Network

In this issue: Message from Andrew Pinto, UPLEARN Director – Highlights – New Projects – How to Get Involved

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

The team at UPLEARN is excited to start 2025 by launching this newsletter as a way to provide regular updates to providers, patients, researchers and administrators across our network. UPLEARN is **our** primary care practice-based research network. It emerges from our collective efforts and exists to help us all answer questions that would be very hard to answer if we worked alone. These questions can be part of research (e.g., What is the most effective way to treat acute COVID?), quality improvement efforts to improve care, and can relate to education or policy. With the Department of Family and Community Medicine (DFCM) Research Program team, we are supporting faculty and residents translate their Ideas 2 Proposals (I2P), and will repeat this course annually (intake will happen each fall). A key focus for 2025 is advancing ways to work with the data generated by our work in primary care, and to build a foundation for new AI tools that are emerging to reduce administrative burdens. Please propose your projects (here) and get involved!

HIGHLIGHTS

The UPLEARN Director and team members team will soon have completed visits to all 15 hospital sites affiliated with the DFCM. During these visits, we surveyed attendees about their research interests. We identified some of the top research areas of interest from the sites as follows:

- Tools to reduce administrative burden

- How to improve collaboration and coordination of care between specialists and primary care

- How to ensure adherence to the most up-to-date clinical guidelines

- Improving care, access, and health outcomes for equity-deserving populations

- Preventative care (esp. cancer screening, vaccinations)

NEW PROJECTS

Recent projects that have been approved by the UPLEARN Site and Community Council.

- **Pandemic Preparedness Engaging Primary Care and Emergency Departments (PREPARED)**, funded by Canada Biomedical Research Fund. Principal Investigator – Andrew Pinto, Unity Health Toronto.

- **Feasibility and Initial Implementation of Office Smartphone-based Retinopathy Screening in Canadian Primary Care Practices**, funded by the D.M. Robb Community-Based Research Grant. Principal Investigator – Michelle Greiver, Department of Family and Community Medicine, University of Toronto.

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!

- Would you like to join the UPLEARN Site and Community Council? Please get in touch with Andrew Pinto (andrew.pinto@utoronto.ca).

- Have other questions about UPLEARN and how to get involved? Please get in touch with Jamie Wang, Research Project Coordinator (jamie.wang@utoronto.ca).