

Family & Community Medicine | UPLEARN
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO | University of Toronto Practice and Community
Based Learning and Research Network

UPLEARN UPDATE

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

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

One aspect of UPLEARN, our collective primary care practice-based research network, is working with electronic health record (EHR) data. Importantly, EHR data belongs to patients, and health providers and organizations are custodians of this sensitive data. Working with such data is just one aspect of UPLEARN. It is also important to support continuous Quality Improvement (e.g., this data underpins [CareCanvas](#)) and research on trends in diseases and access to care, and this data is the foundation for [AI in primary care](#). In the coming months, we will be working with each site on a new approach that emphasizes local capacity building, using data to make QI easier, and transparency. I look forward to working with our patients, providers, and sites to make this happen.

HIGHLIGHTS

PRIMARY CARE ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN – WHAT IS THE DFCM DOING?

Researchers in the Office of Health System Partnerships, along with partners across Ontario, are supporting the [implementation and evaluation of Autoscribe](#), to assess its impact in alleviating burnout and improving patient-centered care. Relatedly, a recent report prepared by the Centre for Digital Health Evaluation at the Women's College Hospital found that [AI scribes show promising results in helping providers spend more time with patients and less time on paperwork](#).

Other resources on administrative burden:

[Navigating Admin Burden: Meaningful Digital Health Solutions for Community Family Medicine](#), presented by Chandi Chandrasena, Chief Medical Officer, Ontario MD, and Clare Liddy, Digital Clinical Lead, Ontario Health.

Other initiatives being undertaken by the Government of Ontario can be found [here](#), and include:

- Replacing fax machines to speed up diagnosis, referrals, and treatments while improving patient health information privacy.
- Expanding eServices to digitize more referral and consultation forms.
- Improving the eForms platform to use more digital tools that make it convenient for providers to autofill and share forms.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DR. AISHA LOFTERS APPOINTED AS THE INAUGURAL WADDINGTON FAMILY COMMUNITY RESEARCH CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Dr. Aisha Lofters, an Associate Professor with the DFCM, has been appointed to this exciting new role. UPLEARN will be working closely with Dr. Lofters to better understand and improve research capacity at key sites across the GTA.

CANADIAN PRIMARY CARE RESEARCH NETWORK (CPCRN) TRAINEE LEARNING SERIES 2025

The CPCRN has created a learning series specifically for any students, post-doctoral positions, and TUTOR-PHC fellows that are engaging with the CPCRN. The first session is taking place on March 18 and focuses on implementation science in primary care research, drawing upon the expertise of Dr. Noah Ivers, a world leader in providing performance measurement and feedback to clinicians to support quality improvement. Register [here](#).

NEW PROJECTS

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

- [Artificial Intelligence Automation to Improve Family Medicine Workflow](#), a three-part project to establish the foundation for developing future workflow automation tools.
 - Funded by: Family Medicine (FAFM & CFPC) - Temerty Innovation Grant - \$100,000 CAD.
 - Principal Investigators: Frank Rudzicz, Dalhousie University; Noah Crampton, DFCM, University of Toronto; Andrew Pinto, Unity Health 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).