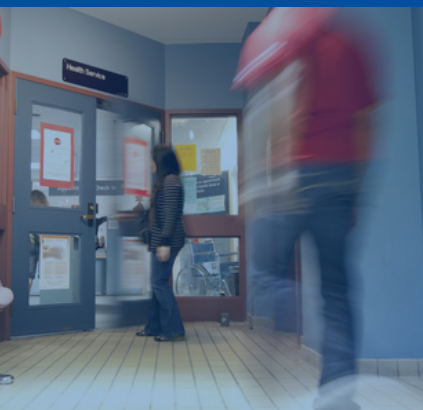




Family & Community Medicine
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

OFFICE OF HEALTH SYSTEM PARTNERSHIPS

IGNITING CHANGE IN PRIMARY CARE
FOR BETTER HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



dfcm.utoronto.ca/ohsp

The Office of Health System Partnerships (OHSP) is a solutions workshop within the University of Toronto's Department of Family and Community Medicine, the largest department of family and community medicine in the world and home to the World Health Organization Collaborating Centre on Family Medicine and Primary Care.

OHSP brings people together to solve complex problems, drawing on the collective expertise of 2,000+ academic family physicians, researchers, health system leaders, clinicians, learners, patients, and community partners to find bold, pragmatic solutions to strengthen primary care and improve the health of our communities.

Together, we are working toward a clear goal:

Every person is attached to a responsive and high-quality primary care team.

Every primary care team is designed in partnership with its community.

WHAT WE KNOW

Around the world, health systems are struggling. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated pre-existing cracks, brought new issues to the surface, and placed enormous strain on healthcare workers and resources, which put the health and well-being of patients and care providers under threat. Access to care is a dominant challenge at every level, and health inequities loom large.

To address this reality, we must look to the foundation of every health system: primary care.

- We know all high-performing health systems are based on a solid foundation of primary care - the first and most frequent type of care most of us need and receive.
- We know when people have a lasting and trusting relationship with a primary care clinician and/or team, they stay healthier for longer.
- We know health systems with strong primary care yield better population health outcomes and improved health equity at a lower cost.
- We know primary care is even stronger when it is meaningfully integrated into public health, social policy and is built in partnership with communities – a whole-of-society approach the World Health Organization (WHO) calls “Primary Health Care”.
- We know everyone has a fundamental right to health, everyone deserves access to primary care, and everyone needs it.
- We know that, right now, this is not the case. But solutions are within reach.

Rebuilding our health systems—locally, within Ontario, across Canada, and globally—depends on rapid improvements to primary care and embracing the whole-of-society primary health care perspective. This means exploring new ideas, adapting existing models of care and investing in them to achieve a clear goal:

Every person is attached to a responsive and high-quality primary care team.
Every primary care team is designed in partnership with its community.

WHO WE ARE

OHSP is a solutions workshop within the University of Toronto's Department of Family and Community Medicine (DFCM), the largest department of family and community medicine in the world and home to the World Health Organization Collaborating Centre on Family Medicine and Primary Care.

We draw on the collective expertise of 2,000+ academic family physicians, researchers, health system leaders, clinicians, learners, patients, and community partners to find bold, pragmatic solutions to strengthen primary care and improve the health of our communities.

OHSP's leadership team is deeply embedded in the health system, bringing together local, provincial, national, and global expertise, and a deep understanding of primary care practice and policy.

We believe that by catalyzing practical, data-driven thought leadership, we can shift how healthcare systems work and how clinicians practice, to improve the health of our communities.

OHSP leadership team



Dr. Danielle Martin
Chair, DFCM



Dr. Tara Kiran
Vice-Chair, Quality
and Innovation,
Fidani Chair in
Improvement and
Innovation
DFCM



Dr. Noah Ivers
Scientific Lead

WHAT WE DO

OHSP engages in health system leadership, policy development, strategic advice, focused research and analysis on urgent health system problems, evidence-based interventions, advocacy, and public engagement – always based in evidence with a focus on equity.

OHSP brings people together to solve complex problems in primary care.

OHSP brings together a world-class team of researchers and system leaders in academic family medicine and primary care, clinicians, patients, and community partners.

We make time and space to think. Together, we seek to uncover and understand the root causes of problems in primary care and help solve them - we imagine possibilities, contemplate unintended consequences, and wrestle with the far-reaching impacts of decisions.

OHSP is a space for open-minded enquiry, dialogue, leadership, and action.

OHSP is a platform for policy impact.

Our urgent goal is policy impact that will improve primary care within Canada and around the world. We use evidence to influence policy and practice, to accelerate positive change at the policy and health services delivery levels.

Together, we solve complex problems by identifying policy issues, undertaking situational analyses, synthesizing, and translating evidence, researching, and evaluating new ideas, making recommendations that influence local, provincial, national, and global health policy – and, when we can, implementing those recommendations in partnership with others.

OHSP builds relationships, community, and leadership.

We leverage the collective expertise of 2,000+ academic family physicians, researchers, and health system leaders in our academic department, and draw on the diverse expertise of patients, community partners, thinkers, and doers from a wide range of disciplines and sectors from across Canada and around the world. We recognize that solutions often emerge from mutual learning and by sharing thoughts and perspectives beyond our own.

OHSP is an expression of DFCM's 2022–2027 Strategic Plan and its commitment to build relationships, community, and leadership to ensure family doctors and primary care can help deliver on the promise of a healthy, high-performing, and more equitable health care system.

HOW WE WORK



We promote and support the participation of primary care clinicians and learners in health system leadership to strengthen primary care through policy solutions, quality improvement initiatives, and health system integration strategies. Together, we develop, implement, evaluate, synthesize, translate, and share evidence to support better, more equitable, primary care.

Evidence drives our work.

Evidence—in all its forms—is the foundation of our work at OHSP. We recognize there are different paradigms of evidence and many ways of knowing.

We are radically transparent.

We publicly communicate what we learn, even if it challenges established assumptions or understanding of an issue.

We embrace the tools of change.

- **Research:** We do rapid turnaround research and knowledge synthesis on important questions related to primary care.
- **Knowledge translation:** We disseminate what we learn to inform and enable Learning Health Systems that continuously and routinely study and improve themselves.
- **Education:** We train learners on system improvement and engage them in helping to solve problems in primary care.
- **Quality improvement:** We use data to evaluate and systematically guide, design, implement, spread, and scale improvements in the quality, safety, and delivery of primary care.
- **Thought leadership:** We deliver authentic guidance, using our collective experience and insight to inform the biggest questions about how to rebuild primary care.
- **Public engagement:** We bring together thinkers and doers from a wide range of disciplines and sectors including academics, clinicians, patients, the public, communities and community organizations, businesses, governments, and other stakeholders to solve problems in primary care.

GET IN TOUCH

Email: dfcm.communications@utoronto.ca

Visit: dfcm.utoronto.ca/office-health-system-partnership

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