

## UTOPIAN Primary Care Trials Group – Session 15 *Minutes*

Wednesday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021, from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Zoom teleconference

Item	Topic	Minutes	Action	Responsible
1	Introductions (Andrew Pinto)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Andrew Pinto introduced those present via Zoom and on the phone</li> </ul>		
2	Review and approval of March 31, 2021, draft meeting minutes (All)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minutes of the previous meeting were approved by those present</li> </ul>	Approved	All
3	Presentation: Actionable lessons from the CLEAN Meds RCT (Nav Persaud)	<p><b>CLEAN Meds RCT – Study Rationale:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Life-saving treatments and other essential medicines are out of reach for some. Canada is the only high-income country in the world that publicly funds healthcare services but not medicines</li> <li>The purpose of the CLEAN Meds randomized controlled trial is to measure the effects of distributing essential medicines for free</li> </ul> <p><b>Lessons for Primary Care Trialists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Codesigned by a community guidance panel</li> <li>Involving community members who have been affected or know someone who has been affected, proved to be extremely helpful in knowledge exchange with decision makers - i.e., it gives decisions makers confidence that the issue is important to people and that the study was done considering outcomes that were important to people who were affected</li> </ul> </li> <li>Tackling a Big Issue <p>Make it count! - since a trial requires a lot of time intensive work to get the project funded, running and achieve results, make it count by focusing on a big issue.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>E.g., CLEAN Meds RCT – 2-year trial = 7+ years of work</li> <li>Results can help inform public policy</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stories/Qualitative work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Stories: allowed patients to tell their personal stories of how the interventions improved their access to medicine and some of the ways that impacted them.</li> <li>○ Early on, they opted for having a film crew follow a small number of patients (3 participants from the intervention group and 3 participants in the control group)</li> <li>○ To watch these videos, visit <a href="http://www.cleanmeds.ca">www.cleanmeds.ca</a></li> <li>○ Telling patient stories through film has been very useful in communicating with decision makers and funders</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Outcome primary care <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ For the CLEAN Meds study, we were talking about adherence to medications that were proven to be effective (e.g., treatments for blood pressure or HIV/AIDS) where there is not a big controversy in whether or not people are better off if they take these medications</li> <li>○ There is a tradeoff in selecting a population that is a higher risk. The results are less generalizable</li> <li>○ Choosing a relatively healthy population poses a challenge for primary care trials because it is difficult to power a study to a health outcome like mortality, heart attacks or strokes and make it feasible. All the while, wanting to select an outcome that is important.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Building team <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Important to have fair and transparent process for deciding who is part of team</li> <li>○ E.g., Co-Investigators should be representative of the study population with respect to gender</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
4	Expansion to Ontario Primary Care Trials Network (Andrew Pinto)	<p>POPLAR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 7 PBLNs in primary care across Ontario have come together (6 academic PBLNs across departments of family medicine in Ontario and the Alliance for Healthier Communities – Ontario’s CHCs)</li> <li>• Purpose: to give rise to a provincial EMR database that will support research efforts for QI and health systems study</li> <li>• Funded by the Ministry of Health</li> <li>• Shared leadership across 7 networks</li> <li>• Andrew and Dee Mangin co-chair the Clinical Research Group</li> </ul> <p>Ontario Primary Care Trials Network:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Starting in the Fall of 2021, we will expand the PCTG to include members from the other networks. This group will become the Ontario Primary Care Trials Network</li> <li>• Goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Better efficiency, increasing the number of clinics that are research ready to engage in trials and more connections between investigators</li> <li>○ All the while maintaining the principles that guide our work: research studies are of importance to</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		

		primary care, are answering important primary care questions, are engaging and build capacity		
5	Clinical Trials update (Aashka Bhatt)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SARTAN-AD: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Looks at the hypertensive medications proving protective benefits in slowing down Alzheimer's disease (and mild to moderate cognitive decline)</li> <li>○ We have updated the new protocol and eligibility criteria</li> <li>○ Currently, reconsenting physicians at UTOPIAN sites to increase our patient recruitment numbers</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Advanced Care Planning (ACP): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Recruitment is closed. UTOPIAN recruited 125 patients to this project</li> <li>○ Received a 9-month extension and additional funding awarded by PCORI to help understand how to sustain ACP practices at participating sites and how to engage patient partners further in dissemination activities</li> </ul> </li> <li>• SPIDER: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Feasibility phase was in Toronto, the RCT phase is managed by OPEN (Ottawa)</li> <li>○ Considering running this through POPLAR as the learning collaborative is now virtual</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
<b>Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.</b>				
<b>Next meeting: June 17, 2021; 4:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. (virtual)</b>				