



Data
Discovery
Better Health



May 2, 2024
#ICESforum**2024**

2024 ICES Research Forum



Strength of Numbers: Partnering for Impact

PROGRAM

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Ontario 
Ministry of HEALTH



The annual ICES Research Forum will take place on May 2, 2024. Once again this year it will be a free, virtual event.

The Research Forum brings together over 800 attendees, including community leaders, researchers, data experts, and decision-makers from various provincial and federal health system organizations and ministries. Together, we will explore how strong partnerships advance data intensive research and analytics, and improve the way data is used to inform care, policy and outcomes.

The program for 2024 combines notable speakers, moderated presentations and discussions, and insightful panels, offering many opportunities to learn and connect. For the first time, the day will also include dedicated Spotlight Sessions designed to support robust discussion and networking in a more informal format.

ICES is an independent not-for-profit research and analytics institute and registered charity with seven sites across Ontario. Formed in 1992, ICES is governed by a Board of Directors and guided by a Scientific Advisory Committee and a Public Advisory Council, representing diverse regions and communities across Ontario. ICES is powered by a community of research, data, and clinical experts. Many are practicing clinicians who understand the everyday challenges of healthcare delivery. Together, we produce insightful research and analytics that informs thoughtful policy www.ices.on.ca.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The ICES Research Forum is made possible through the support of our core funder, the Ontario Ministry of Health, as well as the Ontario SPOR Support Unit.



9:30 AM – 9:45 AM

OPENING PRAYER AND WELCOME

Opening Prayer

Elder Wendy Phillips, Bald Eagle Clan, Wasauksing First Nation

Welcome

Dr. Michael Schull, CEO, ICES

9:45 AM – 10:00 AM

INTRODUCTION AND MINISTER’S MESSAGE

Introduction

Dr. Kevin Smith, Board Chair, ICES

Minister’s Message

Hon. Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier | Minister of Health

10:00 AM – 11:15 AM

MORNING CONCURRENT PRESENTATIONS (3)

PRESENTATION 1: The mental wellness of citizens of the Métis Nation of Ontario before and during COVID-19: a mixed methods study: Preliminary results from a mixed methods study examining both health service administrative data and speaking directly with Métis citizens in Ontario to explore mental wellness before and during the pandemic will be presented. The experiences of mental wellness and unwellness among Métis citizens pre- and during the pandemic are critical to informing the development of Métis-specific programs and strategies to improve outcomes now and to prepare for future pandemics or other public health emergencies.

Moderator: Sujitha Ratnasingham, Director of Strategic Partnerships and the Interim Director, Indigenous Partnerships, Data and Analytics, ICES

Speakers: Tera Beaulieu, Founder and Director, Weaving Wellness Centre; Dr. Sarah Edwards, Staff Scientist, ICES; Abigail Simms (MPH), Epidemiologist, ICES, seconded to the Métis Nation of Ontario

PRESENTATION 2: Supporting community-driven research through ICES' Applied Health Research Questions: This session will provide an overview of ICES' efforts to promote analysis of its data by community organizations with highlights from a recent AHRQ request from the [Black Health Equity Working Group](#).

Moderator: Lesley Plumptre, PhD, Staff Scientist, ICES

Speakers: Cynthia Damba, Director, Health Analytics, Ontario Health Toronto; Laura Ferreira-Legere, Senior Manager, Public & Community Engagement, Knowledge Translation, ICES; Shelly-Ann Hall, Manager, Health Analytics, Ontario Health Toronto; Luke Mondor, Staff Scientist, ICES; Dr. Jennifer Rayner, Director of Research and Policy, Alliance for Healthier Communities

PRESENTATION 3: Leveraging Common Data Models for multi-jurisdictional research: This session will provide an overview of the types and characteristics of Common Data Models (CDM), examples of Canadian studies undertaken with CDMs, and highlight new statistical methods for analysis of observational data that were developed using a CDM.

Moderator: Dr. Michael Schull, MSc, MD, FRCPC, CEO and Senior Scientist, ICES

Speakers: Mahmoud Azimae, Director, Data Quality & Information Management, ICES; Michael Paterson, Scientist and Research Program Lead, ICES; Dr. Robert Platt, Professor, McGill University; Thérèse Stukel, Senior Core Scientist, Primary Care & Health Systems Research Program, ICES

11:15 AM – 11:30 AM

BREAK

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

CONCURRENT SPOTLIGHT SESSIONS (6)

We are pleased to introduce Spotlight Sessions at #ICESforum2024. These more informal sessions, on a wide range of topics, have been developed in response to your request for more networking and opportunities to ask YOUR questions.

SPOTLIGHT SESSION A: Indigenous Partnerships, Data and Analytics:

ICES supports First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities, leadership, and organizations in their work to answer important health-related questions about their Peoples and communities. Our work spans a range of topic areas—from rates of wellness and illness to use of health services.

This session is intended for Indigenous communities and organizations, or those who work closely with them. In this session you will have the ability to ask questions around protection of Indigenous data at ICES, access to your Communities' or client's data at ICES, and capacity strengthening initiatives.

Speakers: Sujitha Ratnasingham, Director of Strategic Partnerships and the Interim Director, Indigenous Partnerships, Data and Analytics, ICES; Jessica Jordao, PhD, Senior Research Project Manager, ICES; Graham Mecredy, Staff Scientist, ICES

SPOTLIGHT SESSION B: To REB or not to REB, that is the question:

How to work with Data & Analytic Services? Let us count the ways: Data & Analytic Services (DAS) provides non-ICES researchers, students and knowledge users access to its linkable, population-level data.

This data has been used to make scientific and policy-relevant discoveries that have helped to inform the delivery of evidence-based healthcare in Ontario, across Canada and abroad. This session will provide information on the different ways you can work with DAS, its variety of offerings, and insight to its day-to-day operations.

Moderator: Minnie M. Ho, Director, Data & Analytic Services, ICES

Speakers: Diana An, Research Project Manager, ICES; Keresa Arnold, Research Project Manager, ICES; Stefana Jovanovska, Senior Research Project Manager, ICES; Michael Smith, Director, Privacy & Legal Office, ICES; Natalie Troke, Senior Epidemiologist, ICES

SPOTLIGHT SESSION C: Enhancing your research through multi-regional data: working with Health Data Research Network (HDRN) Canada:

HDRN Canada is a distributed pan-Canadian network that supports multi-regional data access for transformative and world-leading data use. At this session you will learn all about HDRN Canada by hearing directly from various leaders across the Network.

You will learn about how to engage with HDRN Canada through strategic engagement and partnerships and how to access data through the Data Access Support Hub (DASH) including hearing from selected member data centres (Alberta and New Brunswick). You will also hear about a few of HDRN Canada's major initiatives such as our emerging Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility (IDEA) Strategy, and the work of our Algorithms and Harmonized Data (AHD) Working Group including common data models. We will spend some time presenting and allow ample time for your questions and discussion.

Moderator: Anne Hayes, Partnership Manager, ICES

Speakers: Georgina Archbold, Operational Lead, Health Data Research Network Canada (HDRN); Dr. Jeff Bakal, PhD, Program Director Provincial Research Data Services, Alberta Health Services; Raquel Duchon, Senior Project Manager, Partnerships Portfolio, Health Data Research Network Canada (HDRN); Dr. Amy Freier, Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility Lead, Health Data Research Network Canada (HDRN); Jodi Gatley, Senior Project Manager, Partnerships Portfolio, Health Data Research Network Canada (HDRN); Jordan Hunt, Chair of Health Data Research Network (HDRN) Canada's Data Access Support Hub (DASH) Working Group, Lead DASH Central team; Dr. Ted McDonald, Professor, University of New Brunswick/NB Institute for Research, Data and Training; David Yang, Operations Manager, Health Data Research Network Canada (HDRN)

SPOTLIGHT SESSION D: An introduction to enhancing public & community engagement in research and analysis: This interactive session will allow participants to choose two out of three topic areas to explore on public and community engagement at ICES. The topics are intended to provide an introductory overview of the work of the Public & Community Engagement team at ICES and provide real examples of resources that were developed to build capacity and assist ICES scientists and project teams with meaningful engagement in research. The session will use polls and allotted time for questions and answers to help facilitate discussion.

Moderator: Laura Ferreira–Legere, Senior Manager, Public & Community Engagement, Knowledge Translation, ICES

Speakers: Elise Leong–Sit, Public & Community Engagement, Knowledge Translation Officer, ICES; Sabella Yussuf–Homenauth, Senior Public and Community Engagement, Knowledge Translation Officer, ICES

SPOTLIGHT SESSION E: New and innovative data uses at ICES: This spotlight session will highlight three new/innovative data uses at ICES, including their applications and access requirements.

Session leaders will discuss the newly available [Ontario Health Study](#) (OHS) data at ICES, which provides access to questionnaires, physical measures and blood samples for participants in the OHS; an ICES validated algorithm to identify individuals with a recent experience of homelessness using Ontario's healthcare administrative data; and the ICES-derived MOMBABY dataset and the Better Outcomes Registry and Network (BORN) data, which are two complimentary sources for Ontario perinatal data at ICES. Session attendees are encouraged to submit questions in advance as plenty of opportunity will be provided for discussion.

Moderator: Erin Macdonald, Director, Research and Analysis, ICES

Speakers: Dr. Victoria Kirsh, Scientific Associate, Ontario Institute for Cancer Research; Alison Park, Algorithms and Data Harmonization Epidemiologist, HDRN-Canada, ICES; Dr. Salimah Shariff, Staff Scientist, ICES Western

SPOTLIGHT SESSION F: Get the inside scoop on how to join the ICES research community: Are you a researcher interested in becoming part of the ICES network? If so, this session will provide you with information and the opportunity to ask questions about the different ICES scientist, trainee and student routes that are available to researchers who would like to become affiliated members of the ICES community. This session will also cover how to conduct ICES research and analytic projects, including the ICES data, resources and supports that are available to researchers at all seven ICES sites across Ontario.

Moderators: Ferhana Khan, Interim Director, Research and Analysis, ICES; Melissa Stamplecoski, Portfolio Management Specialist, Science Office, ICES

Speakers: Dr. Jennifer Flemming, Associate Professor of Medicine and Public Health Sciences, Queen's University; Britney Le, Site Lead Analyst, ICES Western

12:30 PM – 1:00 PM

LUNCH BREAK

1:00 PM – 1:45 PM

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

[Dr. Tara Kiran](#), Vice-Chair Quality and Innovation, Department of Family and Community Medicine, University of Toronto and Senior Adjunct Scientist, ICES.

Dr. Kiran will reflect on what the [OurCare](#) team heard from patients and the public across Canada, on how we can shape a better healthcare system.

Dr. Kiran is the Fidani Chair in Improvement and Innovation at the University of Toronto. A family doctor and renowned primary care researcher, Dr. Kiran investigates how changes in the healthcare system impact patients, particularly the most vulnerable.

In her research and practice, she develops and tests solutions to make healthcare more inclusive and more effective.

Much of Dr. Kiran's research has evaluated how primary care reforms have impacted quality of care. She also leads research to directly improve quality of care including initiatives to measure and reduce care disparities, engage patients in health service improvement, and support physicians to learn from data. In 2022, Dr. Kiran launched [OurCare](#), a national initiative to engage the public in co-creating the blueprint for a stronger, more equitable primary care system in Canada. She practices family medicine at the St. Michael's Hospital Academic Family Health Team, is a Scientist at the MAP Centre for Urban Health Solutions at St. Michael's Hospital and is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Medicine and the Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation at the University of Toronto.

1:45 PM – 2:45 PM

AFTERNOON PANELS (2)

PANEL DISCUSSION 1: Broader data, better health: research perspectives on linking social and health data: This panel session will provide an interjurisdictional perspective on the opportunities and challenges of linking social and health data for research and population-based analytics.

Moderators: Dr. Astrid Guttman, Chief Science Officer and Senior Scientist, ICES

Speakers: Dennis Culhane, Dana and Andrew Stone Professor of Social Policy University of Pennsylvania/SP2; Ruth Gilbert, Professor of Clinical Epidemiology, UCL GOS Institute of Child Health; Yona Lunsky, Scientific Director, Azrieli Adult Neurodevelopmental Centre, CAMH; Dr. Marcelo Urquia, Associate Professor, Department of Community Health Sciences at the University of Manitoba

2:45 PM – 3:00 PM

BREAK

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

PANEL DISCUSSION 2: Broader data, better health: exploring the policy impacts of linking social and health data: This panel session will build on the previous panel discussion by exploring how integration, linkage and analysis of data from across health and social domains can contribute to better government policy development and/or evaluation in Ontario.

Moderator: Dr. Michael Schull, MSc, MD, FRCPC, CEO and Senior Scientist, ICES

Speakers: Dr. Michael Hillmer, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ontario Ministry of Health / Ministry of Long-Term Care; Dr. Dirk Huyer, Chief Coroner, Office of the Chief Coroner; Dr. Fiona Kouyoumdjian, Associate Chief Medical Officer of Health, Ontario Ministry of Health; Erica Ren, Chief Data Officer, Immigration, Refugee, and Citizenship Canada; Aki Tefera, Assistant Deputy Minister, Enterprise Data Stewardship Division, Ontario Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery

4:00 PM – 4:15 PM

CLOSING REMARKS AND CLOSING PRAYER

Closing Remarks

Dr. Michael Schull, CEO, ICES

Closing Prayer

Elder Wendy Phillips, Bald Eagle Clan, Wasauksing First Nation

Reserve your seat at this free, virtual, national dialogue.

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