

# ➔ DRAFT SCHEDULE & PRESENTERS

## ICES Research Forum

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE:

**Advancing Health through Innovation**

Join us in person for the 2025 ICES Research Forum

📅 **OCTOBER 23, 2025**

📍 **CHESTNUT CONFERENCE CENTRE, TORONTO**

We are pleased to share the draft program for 2025. Additional session titles, descriptions and speakers will be added shortly.

10:00 – 10:15 AM

**REGISTRATION OPENS**

10:15 – 10:30 AM

**OPENING & PRAYER**

Elder **Wendy Phillips**, Bald Eagle Clan, Wasauksing First Nation

**Michael Schull**, ICES CEO

10:30 – 11:00 AM

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

**Mark Daley**, Chief AI Officer, Western University



11:00 – 12:00 PM

## MORNING PANEL

TOPIC:

**How will AI shape the future of ICES? Perspectives on the promise of AI for ICES**

MODERATOR:

**Michael Schull**, ICES CEO

PANEL MEMBERS:

- **Mark Daley**, Chief AI Officer, Western University
- **Vu Ngo**, C3LABS.AI Founder
- **Amol Verma**, ICES Scientist & Co-lead of GEMINI
- **Ferhana Khan**, ICES Director (Data Quality & Information Management)
- **Sean Twyford**, ADM, Strategic Policy, Planning & French Language Services

12:00 – 1:00 PM

## NETWORKING LUNCH & EXHIBITOR SHOWCASE

1:00 – 1:15 PM

## CONTENT TBD

1:15 – 2:15 PM

## RAPID FIRE SESSIONS

MODERATOR:

- **Michael Paterson**, ICES Core Scientist & Program Lead (Chronic Disease & Pharmacotherapy Research Program)

## PRESENTATIONS:

1. “Health and wellbeing of the Somali population in the Greater Toronto Area,” Applied Health Research Question (AHRQ) Program, **Lesley Plumptre**
2. “Outpatient follow-up during survivorship: A population-based study of prostate cancer survivors after first-line radiation,” Cancer Research Program, **Joshua Cerasuolo**
3. “Bridging the gap: Regional and rural-urban disparities in atrial fibrillation care and outcomes,” Cardiovascular Research Program, **Mohammed Shurab**
4. “Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on type 2 diabetes screening and incidence,” Chronic Disease and Pharmacotherapy Research Program, **Ghazal Fazli**
5. “Defining pre-emptive living kidney donor transplantation as a quality indicator,” Kidney, Dialysis and Transplantation Research Program, **Kyla Naylor**
6. “Effect of infertility on congenital anomalies: A population-based cohort study,” Life Stage Research Program, **Bailey Milne**
7. “Mental health service use among Canadian Veterans in Ontario: a retrospective cohort study,” Mental Health and Addictions Research Program, **Katherine St. Cyr**
8. “Advancing population health research methods for Hepatitis C among people who inject drugs in Ontario,” Populations and Public Health Research Program, **Zoë Greenwald**
9. “Trends colliding: Aging comprehensive family physicians and the growing complexity of their patients,” Primary Care and Health Systems, **Kamila Premji**

2:15 – 2:30 PM

**BREAK/MOVE TO BREAKOUTS**

2:30 – 3:30 PM

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS****1. From evidence to action: Using health data to drive legislative change**

- **Natasha Saunders**, ICES Senior Adjunct Scientist
- **Daniel Myran**, ICES Adjunct Scientist

**Description:**

This breakout session will explore how research using health administrative data can reveal emerging or underrecognized public health threats, generate evidence for intervention, and ultimately influence legislative change. The session will specifically focus on the challenges and strategies involved in translating data into legislative outcomes, particularly when strong industry opposition complicates the path from evidence to action.

Drawing on their work studying pediatric cannabis poisonings and firearm injuries Drs. Natasha Saunders and Daniel Myran will reflect on how research findings can catalyze legislative efforts. Their experiences offer a compelling look at how administrative data can uncover serious public health issues and how this evidence can be mobilized to inform regulations and legislation, despite political, economic, or industry resistance.

The session will begin with brief overviews of each research project, highlighting the methods used to analyze health administrative data and the major findings. It will then shift to a discussion of the complex process of legislative engagement, including how researchers collaborated with government agencies, advocacy groups, media, and professional organizations to translate findings into legislative conversations and action. Both presenters will share insights into how research findings gained traction and ultimately contributed to changes in public awareness and health policy dialogue.

A central theme of the session will be the tension between evidence-based research and powerful countervailing interests, such as industry lobbying and political inertia. Presenters will address the real-world obstacles researchers face in influencing legislation and share insights into how partnerships, strategic communications, and advocacy can help bridge the gap between science and lawmaking.

Participants will leave with a deeper understanding of how health data scientists can contribute not only to public discourse but also to the legislative process, transforming robust research into tangible legal and societal outcomes.

## 2. Bringing data to life: Using innovative knowledge translation (KT) approaches to humanize data and communicate the ‘story’ of your research

- **Andi Camden**, ICES Fellow
- **Laura Ferreira-Legere**, ICES Senior Manager (Public & Community Engagement, Knowledge Translation)

### Description:

This session will use a combination of best practices and innovative case study examples to demonstrate strategies to strengthen KT when communicating research findings to broad audiences. Learn when to use these strategies, including public/patient/partner engagement, to bring administrative data to life.

## 3. Seeing data differently: Regression for image prediction and a path toward neural networks

- **Rinku Sutradhar**, ICES Senior Core Scientist

### Description:

This session bridges classical and modern approaches to prediction. We’ll begin with healthcare outcome prediction using familiar classical regression tools, extend those ideas to image classification, then transition to neural networks for more flexible image prediction. Finally, we’ll return to healthcare outcomes, applying neural networks to structured clinical data – highlighting how these predictive tools are interconnected and can generalize across domains.

## 4. Accessing data and analytics from ICES for a provincial or pan-Canadian perspective

- **Minnie Ho**, ICES Director (Data & Analytic Services)
- **Anne Hayes**, ICES Director (Partnerships HDRN)

### Description:

Looking for evidence to inform planning, policy, and program development? How about data to support scientific research discoveries? In this session we will shed light on the ways to access data and analytics from ICES, debunk some myths, and spotlight a new and exciting player in this space: Health Data Research Network!

## 5. Building future generations of First Nation, Métis and Inuit data scientists

- **Janet Smylie**, ICES Senior Adjunct Scientist
- **Dominique Legacy**, ICES Director (Indigenous Partnerships, Data & Analytics)
- **Oliver Manidoka**, ICES Coordinator (Indigenous Partnerships, Data & Analytics)

### Description:

This session will describe efforts to grow research capacity in Indigenous communities supported by the Indigenous Partnerships, Data and Analytics department at ICES, and through the IndigiNERDS program — a one year data sciences certificate program designed by and for Indigenous community members. IndigiNERDS builds on and centres pre-existing Indigenous knowledges and practices and includes four courses and an applied culminating project.

3:35 – 4:20 PM

### AFTERNOON PANEL

#### TOPIC:

**Research partnerships with people with lived experience: Perspectives on shifting paradigms**

### Description:

This panel discussion will explore how community organization perspectives and lived experience can complement traditional scientific inquiry and how research co-created through partnership can be mutually beneficial. The panel includes two ICES scientists and their research partners to discuss how to establish partnership and engagement, the reciprocal benefit to communities and the projects, and lessons learned together in their participatory approaches.

#### MODERATOR:

**Astrid Guttmann**, ICES Chief Science Officer

#### PANEL MEMBERS:

**Tara Gomes**, ICES Senior Core Scientist

**Ashley Smoke**, ODPRN Lived Experience Advisory Group

**Baiju Shah**, ICES Senior Core Scientist

**Kimberley Floyd**, WellFort Community Healthcare Centre CEO

4:20 – 4:30 PM

### **CLOSING & PRAYER**

**Michael Schull** & Elder **Wendy Phillips**

4:30 – 5:30 PM

### **RECEPTION**





Join us for refreshments and a chance to debrief on an incredible day of learning!

#### **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.



#### **FOLLOW US ON:**

-  [ICES Research Institute](#)
-  [icesontario.bsky.social](#)
-  [ICESOntario](#)
-  [icesontario](#)

#### **SUBSCRIBE TO OUR:**

-  [In Our VoICES podcast](#)
-  [ICES Quarterly Newsletter](#)
-  [ICYMI Weekly Newsletter](#)

