

# OHTN Report to the Board

Q2: July 1 – September 30, 2016

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## Collect, Analyze and Share Data on the Prevention, Engagement and Care Cascade

### Researching key issues for the HIV sector in Ontario

The knowledge synthesis team completed two new rapid responses in Q2:

- [Improving healthcare providers' face-to-face interactions with clients living with or at-risk of HIV](#) (OHTN). More than half of Canadians do not meet the minimum literacy requirements to manage their health needs, and this can interfere with their ability to fully understand HIV risk factors and treatment options. This review was designed to highlight key strategies for improving health literacy among people living with HIV.
- [Chest compressions and rescue breathing when administering naloxone in opioid overdose](#) (AIDS Bureau). There is little consensus on the use of chest compressions and/or rescue breathing in the case of opioid overdose. This review was completed to demonstrate the pros and cons of each strategy based on evidence from several jurisdictions.

### Making OHTN research more accessible

In Q2, the knowledge translation and exchange team launched the [OHTN research portals](#). The portals offer an easy-to-locate and accessible mix of research findings, FAQs, videos, fact sheets and publications. All of the research findings are organized by topic, including: the social drivers of HIV, priority populations, co-morbidities, community engagement, and interventions across the cascade. The KTE team will continue adding information to the portals as new findings emerge.

#### Impact

Making it easier for people across the HIV sector to find and use information produced by the OHTN.

## Invest in Research Leadership, Create Knowledge and Enhance Skills

### Supporting the Interdisciplinary HIV Parenting Research and Exchange Group

In Q1, the OHTN's Impact-Focused Research Program began supporting the Interdisciplinary HIV Parenting Research and Exchange Group (IHPREG) after the group's CIHR funding expired. In Q2, IHPREG met to discuss steps necessary to expand its mandate to include parenting (in addition to ongoing work related to pregnancy, support and resources for people living with and affected by HIV).

The OHTN's research funding team is now providing ongoing coordination support to IHRPEG as it develops new terms of reference and a new work plan. The OHTN is also helping to coordinate bimonthly meetings where the group can discuss projects and potential KTE activities.

#### **Impact**

Ensuring IHPREG can continue its important work around parenting and pregnancy for people living with HIV.

### **Assisting the Youth Cultural Intervention Project**

On August 12, the CIHR-funded Youth Cultural Intervention Project team – which includes stakeholders from legal, social service, HIV, and Indigenous organizations in Ontario – met at the OHTN to explore key components of a culturally-relevant intervention for Indigenous youth who may be in conflict with the law. The goal of the project is to explore interventions that may reduce incarceration rates among Indigenous individuals, and consequently reduce the risk of HIV and other bloodborne infections.

The project team reviewed an environmental scan of relevant programs and identified research gaps and next steps. The team's main recommendation was to create a youth advisory circle to help support the project and determine next steps. Jessica Demeria, the OHTN's Coordinator of Indigenous Initiatives, is now assisting with the recruitment of youth team members and helping to plan the next team meeting, which will occur in Q3.

### **Exploring the research priorities of people who use drugs**

In Q2, a summer student working with the OHTN's Impact-Focused Research Program conducted a comprehensive review of resources describing potential research priorities among people who use drugs in Ontario. Following this review, the research funding team: assessed the Peterborough Drug Strategy Report (which includes overviews of drug strategies in other parts of Ontario); identified potential partners and key stakeholders for further consultation; examined relevant OHTN Rapid Responses as examples of community-driven research; and documented completed research in the SHARE database and in the OHTN's own funding program history.

Based on this work, the next step will be to engage with communities of people who use drugs, and with those who support them, to refine, prioritize and validate research priorities going forward. This information will then be applied to OHTN decision-making about how to best address these priorities through funding mechanisms, research partnerships, grant submissions and other activities as appropriate.

#### **Impact**

Improving our ability to engage with and improve health and well-being among people who use drugs.

### **Evaluating the OHTN's Impact-Focused Research Program**

OHTN's research grant program is about making a difference in the lives of people living with and affected by HIV. In 2012, the OHTN Board implemented an "impact-focused" approach that aims to address the needs of populations most affected by HIV, and to engage these populations in the research process.

In Q2, OHTN staff completed an evaluation of the program's performance in 2015 – 2016 to explore its outcomes and impact with respect to: priority populations; the prevention, treatment and care cascade; and research capacity building. The summary report, "[Creating Impact: OHTN Research Funding, 2015 –](#)

[2016](#),” provides key statistics, highlights changes in how research funding is allocated, and sets out examples of how OHTN research is helping to achieve the goals of the Ontario HIV/AIDS Strategy. The report will be used to provide feedback to OHTN stakeholders about the funding program through our community consultation processes, and will aid in strategic decision-making about the funding program’s future priorities.

## Enhance Education and Training Opportunities

### Connecting peer researchers across Canada

In Q2, we hosted one new edition of our popular online talk show, “What’s Hot with Peer Researchers?” The show, called “Close for Comfort,” looked at strategies for self-care and resilience in the face of illness, dying, death and grief. The show featured Rose Kangabe (Ontario-based peer researcher), Kecia Larkin (B.C.-based peer researcher), Winston Husbands (Senior Scientist, OHTN) and Ana Demetrakopoulos (Support Coordinator, AIDS Bereavement and Resiliency Program of Ontario). This episode had 41 attendees from across the country.

#### *Impact*

Continuing to look for ways to support and grow capacity among peer researchers across the country.

### Creating a one-stop shop for HIV resources in Ontario

Q2 saw the launch of the [HIV Resources Ontario](#) website, which was created by the OHTN in collaboration with a steering committee that included representatives from 10 member agencies and the AIDS Bureau.

The site contains over 110 resources from Ontario’s capacity-building agencies. The resources are available to everyone in Ontario HIV sector and can be searched by member agency, priority population or provincial strategy goal. The goal of the site is to provide a “one-stop shop” for existing resources and to prevent the duplication of resources. Agencies will continue to add resources on an on-going basis. Maintenance of the site has now been transferred to the Ontario AIDS Network.

#### *Impact*

Pooling HIV resources to create a reliable “one-stop shop” for Ontario’s HIV sector volunteers, staff members and Board members.

### Introducing a new, user-friendly OHTN website

In Q2, the knowledge translation and exchange team launched a [new version of the OHTN website](#). The new site is designed to make navigation simpler for HIV clinics and AIDS service organizations, and to ensure that clinics and ASOs have a clear sense of all programs and services offered by the OHTN.

## Help Build Systems of Effective Person-Centered Services

### Promoting health and wellbeing among Black communities in response to HIV

Q2 saw the launch of the research program led by Winston Husbands, the OHTN's new Senior Scientist. Winston's research is aimed at promoting health and wellbeing among African, Caribbean and Black communities in Ontario. Among the many activities in his program of research, Winston will be collaborating with a cross-section of African, Caribbean and Black stakeholders on three major initiatives:

- In collaboration with Black pastors and their congregations from six churches in Ontario, Winston and his team will be developing and testing an intervention (Black PRAISE) to reduce HIV-related stigma and raise awareness about HIV. The team finalized the intervention's content and logistics in September, and began implementing intervention activities and surveys in October and November. The follow-up survey is scheduled for February 2017, with in-depth interviews to be held in March 2017.
- Winston is also part of a team that is developing A/C Track to monitor HIV prevalence – along with associated behaviours, knowledge and systemic factors – in Toronto and Ottawa. A/C Track will also assess Black people's access to the healthcare system.
- Winston and his team are also involved in weSpeak, an initiative that aims to strengthen the involvement of heterosexual Black men in community responses to HIV. weSpeak will improve our understanding of how personal, interpersonal and structural conditions influence vulnerability to HIV among heterosexual Black men, and explore pathways to strengthening resilience to HIV. The team has already conducted one-on-one interviews and focus groups with self-identified heterosexual Black men in Ottawa, Toronto, London and Windsor. The next step will be the launch of a survey in these four cities in early 2017.

### Developing resource lists for OHTN Cohort Study participants

Working in collaboration with community-based organizations and OCS personnel at participating clinics, OHTN staff have developed community agency resource lists. These lists include agency and contact information relating to a variety of issues that might arise during an OCS interview, such as intimate partner violence, depression, smoking, childhood adversity and substance use.

At some sites, the resource list will be used as back-up following referral to a social worker; at other sites, the list will be given directly to participants. Creating lists for each site is part of the OCS's commitment to advancing best practices and clinical care for all participants.

#### *Impact*

Creating an overview of local community-based agencies to improve support for OCS participants.

## Promote Employee Engagement and Learning within the OHTN

### Staff arrivals

In Q2, the OHTN welcomed Penny Krilis-Galanis as Senior Director of Human Resources. In this role, Penny will have a range of responsibilities, including: developing the annual strategic HR plan; supporting line managers in all aspects of onboarding, retention and succession planning; supporting staff professional development; and serving as a trusted resource person for all staff members on employee relations matters.

### Staff departures

In Q2, Mark Gilbert, Director of the OHTN's Applied Epidemiology Unit, accepted the position of Medical Director of Clinical Prevention Services at the B.C. Centre for Disease Control in Vancouver. The process of hiring a new Director for the Applied Epidemiology Unit is now underway.

## Publications (2016-17) - Second quarter

*This list includes the work of OHTN funded scientists as well as in-house researchers and staff (bolded below), as they contribute to the academic literature in accordance to the goals of Ontario's HIV/AIDS Strategy. From July 1, 2016 – September 31, 2016, **42 papers** were published.*

### Improve the health and well-being of affected populations

1. Anema A, Fielden SJ, Shurgold S, Ding E, Messina J, Jones JE, Chittock B, Monteith K, **Globerman J, Rourke SB**, Hogg RS. [Association between Food Insecurity and Procurement Methods among People Living with HIV in a High Resource Setting](#). Plos One. 2016;11(8):e0157630.
2. Durbin A, Sirotich F, **Antoniou T**, Roesslein K, Durbin J, Lunskey Y. [Unmet needs among men with human immunodeficiency virus in community mental health care: a cross-sectional study](#). AIDS Care. 2016;28(7):878-83.
3. Emlet CA, Harris L, Furlotte C, **Brennan DJ**, Pierpaoli CM. [‘I'm happy in my life now, I'm a positive person’: approaches to successful ageing in older adults living with HIV in Ontario, Canada](#). Ageing and Society. 2016:1-24.
4. Hottes TS, Gesink D, Ferlatte O, **Brennan DJ**, Rhodes AE, Marchand R, Trussler T. [Concealment of Sexual Minority Identities in Interviewer-Administered Government Surveys and Its Impact on Estimates of Suicide Ideation Among Bisexual and Gay Men](#). Journal of Bisexuality. 2016:1-27.
5. Ion A, Wagner AC, **Greene S**, Loutfy MR. [HIV-related stigma in pregnancy and early postpartum of mothers living with HIV in Ontario, Canada](#). AIDS Care. 2016 Jul 20:1-8.
6. Loutfy M, Johnson M, **Walmsley S**, Samarina A, Vasquez P, Hao-Lan H, Madhlabi T, Martinez-Tristani M, van Wyk J. [The Association Between HIV Disclosure Status and Perceived Barriers to Care Faced by Women Living with HIV in Latin America, China, Central/Eastern Europe, and Western Europe/Canada](#). AIDS Patient Care and STDS. 2016;30(9):435-44.
7. Myers B, Sorsdahl K, Morojele NK, Kekwaletswe C, **Shuper PA**, Parry CD. ["In this thing I have everything I need": perceived acceptability of a brief alcohol-focused intervention for people living with HIV](#). AIDS Care. 2016:1-5.
8. Robinson S, **Gardner S**, Loutfy M, **Light L**, Tharao W, **Rourke SB**, Burchell AN. [Sexual behaviors among women living with HIV in Ontario, Canada](#). AIDS Care. 2016:1-6.
9. **Rueda S**, Mitra S, Chen S, **Gogolishvili D**, **Globerman J**, Chambers L, Wilson M, Logie CH, Shi Q, Morassaei S, **Rourke SB**. [Examining the associations between HIV-related stigma and health outcomes in people living with HIV/AIDS: a series of meta-analyses](#). BMJ Open. 2016;6(7):e011453.

### Promote sexual health and prevent new Infections (HIV, HCV, STI)

10. Deonaraine A, Ogilvie G, Montgomery C, Makaroff S, Holgersson N, Grennan T, **Gilbert M**, Wong J. [Trends in Syphilis Partner Notification Among Gay, Bisexual, and Other Men who Have Sex With Men in British Columbia, 2010 to 2013](#). Sexually Transmitted Diseases. 2016;43(8):489-93.
11. Khairandish A, Shani K, **Brennan DJ**. [Health Equity Implications of Excluding Boys and Vulnerable Young Men from Ontario's HPV Immunization Program](#). University of Toronto Medical Journal 2016: 93(3): 35-38.
12. MacFadden DR, **Tan DH**, **Mishra S**. [Optimizing HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis implementation among men who have sex with men in a large urban centre: a dynamic modelling study](#). Journal of the International AIDS Society. 2016;19(1):20791.

13. Ramachandran S, **Mishra S**. [How do HIV-negative individuals in sub-Saharan Africa change their sexual risk behaviour upon learning their serostatus?](#) A systematic review. Sexually Transmitted Infections. 2016 Aug 17.
14. O'Byrne P, **MacPherson P**, Roy M, Orser L. [Community-based, nurse-led post-exposure prophylaxis: results and implications](#). International Journal of STD and AIDS. 2016 July 12.
15. Rajchgot J, Siemieniuk RA, Sivachandran N, Murphy P, Sharp A, Cicci A, **Bogoch, II**. [Feasibility of HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis as Part of Routine Care in Toronto, Canada](#). Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. 2016;72(3):e80-1.
16. **Remis RS**, Liu J, Loutfy MR, Tharao W, Rebbapragada A, Huibner S, Kesler M, Halpenny R, Grennan T, Brunetta J, Smith G, Reko T, **Kaul R**. [Prevalence of Sexually Transmitted Viral and Bacterial Infections in HIV-Positive and HIV-Negative Men Who Have Sex with Men in Toronto](#). Plos One. 2016;11(7):e0158090.
17. Smith N HT, Moody C, Willis AC, Faaborg Anderson M, Blais M, **Adam BD**. [A cognitive behavioral group intervention to reduce HIV risk behaviors among HIV negative young gay and bisexual men](#). Cognitive and Behavioral Practice. 2016;23(3):398-411.

#### **Diagnose HIV infections early and engage people in timely care**

18. Flowers P, Riddell J, Park C, Ahmed B, Young I, Frankis J, Davis M, **Gilbert M**, Estcourt C, Wallace L, McDaid LM. [Preparedness for use of the rapid result HIV self-test by gay men and other men who have sex with men \(MSM\): a mixed methods exploratory study among MSM and those involved in HIV prevention and care](#). HIV Medicine. 2016 Aug 5.
19. Kesselring S, Cescon A, Colley G, Osborne C, Zhang W, **Raboud JM**, Hosein SR, Burchell AN, **Cooper C**, Klein MB, Loutfy M, Machouf N, Montaner J, Rachlis A, Tsoukas C, Hogg RS, Lima VD. [Quality of initial HIV care in Canada: extension of a composite programmatic assessment tool for HIV therapy](#). HIV Medicine. 2016.
20. **Rachlis B**, Bakoyannis G, Easterbrook P, Genberg B, Braithwaite RS, Cohen CR, Bukusi EA, Kambugu A, Bwana MB, Somi GR, Geng EH, Musick B, Yiannoutsos CT, Wools-Kaloustian K, Braitstein P. [Facility-Level Factors Influencing Retention of Patients in HIV Care in East Africa](#). Plos One. 2016;11(8):e0159994.
21. **Rachlis B**, Naanyu V, Wachira J, Genberg B, Koech B, Kamene R, Akinyi J, Braitstein P. [Identifying common barriers and facilitators to linkage and retention in chronic disease care in western Kenya](#). BMC Public Health. 2016;16:741.

#### **Improve the health, longevity and quality of life for people living with HIV**

22. Alam C, Whyte-Allman SK, Omeragic A, **Bendayan R**. [Role and modulation of drug transporters in HIV-1 therapy](#). Advanced Drug Delivery Reviews. 2016;103:121-43.
23. Balfour L, Wiebe SA, Cameron WD, Sandre D, Pipe A, **Cooper C**, Angel J, Garber G, Holly C, Dalgleish TL, Tasca GA, MacPherson PA. [An HIV-tailored quit-smoking counselling pilot intervention targeting depressive symptoms plus Nicotine Replacement Therapy](#). AIDS Care. 2016:1-8.
24. Buchacz K, Lau B, Jing Y, Bosch R, Abraham AG, Gill MJ, Silverberg MJ, Goedert JJ, Sterling TR, Althoff KN, Martin JN, Burkholder G, Gandhi N, Samji H, Patel P, **Rachlis A**, Thorne JE, Napravnik S, Henry K, Mayor A, Gebo K, Gange SJ, Moore RD, Brooks JT. [Incidence of AIDS-Defining Opportunistic Infections in a Multicohort Analysis of HIV-infected Persons in the United States and Canada, 2000-2010](#). Journal of Infectious Diseases. 2016;214(6):862-72. **(OCS data)**



25. **Cooper C**, Naggie S, Saag M, Yang JC, Stamm LM, Dvory-Sobol H, Han L, Pang PS, McHutchison JG, Dieterich D, Sulkowski M. [Successful Re-treatment of Hepatitis C Virus in Patients Coinfected With HIV Who Relapsed After 12 Weeks of Ledipasvir/Sofosbuvir](#). *Clinical Infectious Diseases*. 2016;63(4):528-31.
26. Doyle MA, Singer J, Lee T, Muir M, **Cooper C**. [Improving treatment and liver fibrosis outcomes with metformin in HCV-HIV co-infected and HCV mono-infected patients with insulin resistance: study protocol for a randomized controlled trial](#). *Trials*. 2016 July 20;17(1):331.
27. Isitman G, Lisovsky I, Tremblay-McLean A, **Kovacs C**, Harris M, Routy JP, Bruneau J, Wainberg MA, Tremblay C, Bernard NF. [Antibody-Dependent Cellular Cytotoxicity Activity of Effector Cells from HIV-Infected Elite and Viral Controllers](#). *AIDS Research and Human Retroviruses*. 2016;32(10-11):1079-88.
28. Islam EA, Shaik-Dasthagirisahab Y, **Kaushic C**, Wetzler LM, Gray-Owen SD. [The reproductive cycle is a pathogenic determinant during gonococcal pelvic inflammatory disease in mice](#). *Mucosal Immunology*. 2016;9(4):1051-64.
29. Jenabian MA, Costiniuk CT, Mehraj V, Ghazawi FM, Fromentin R, Brousseau J, Brassard P, Belanger M, Ancuta P, **Bendayan R**, Chomont N, Routy JP. [Immune tolerance properties of the testicular tissue as a viral sanctuary site in ART-treated HIV-infected adults](#). *AIDS*. 2016 Sept 24.
30. Kim CJ, **Walmsley SL**, **Raboud JM**, **Kovacs C**, Coburn B, Rousseau R, Reinhard R, Rosenes R, Kaul R. [Can Probiotics Reduce Inflammation and Enhance Gut Immune Health in People Living with HIV: Study Designs for the Probiotic Visbiome for Inflammation and Translocation \(PROOV IT\) Pilot Trials](#). *HIV Clinical Trials*. 2016;17(4):147-57.
31. Klein MB, Althoff KN, Jing Y, Lau B, Kitahata M, Lo Re V, 3rd, Kirk GD, Hull M, Kim HN, Sebastiani G, Moodie EE, Silverberg MJ, Sterling TR, Thorne JE, Cescon A, Napravnik S, Eron J, Gill MJ, Justice A, Peters MG, Goedert JJ, Mayor A, Thio CL, Cachay ER, Moore R. [Risk of End-Stage Liver Disease in HIV-Viral Hepatitis Coinfected Persons in North America From the Early to Modern Antiretroviral Therapy Eras](#). *Clinical Infectious Diseases*. 2016;63(9):1160-7. **(OCS data)**
32. Kozlowski HN, Lai ETL, Havugimana PC, White C, Emili A, Sakac D, Binnington B, Neschadim A, McCarthy SDS, **Branch DR**. [Extracellular histones identified in crocodile blood inhibit in-vitro HIV-1 infection](#). *AIDS*. 2016;30(13):2043-52.
33. Lee Y, Dizzell SE, Leung V, Nazli A, Zahoor MA, Fichorova RN, **Kaushic C**. [Effects of Female Sex Hormones on Susceptibility to HSV-2 in Vaginal Cells Grown in Air-Liquid Interface](#). *Viruses*. 2016;8(9):241.
34. Money DM, Moses E, Blitz S, Vandriel SM, Lipsky N, **Walmsley SL**, Loutfy M, Trottier S, Smaill F, Yudin MH, Klein M, Harris M, Cohen J, Wobeser W, Bitnun A, Lapointe N, Samson L, Brophy J, Karatzios C, Ogilvie G, Coutlee F, Raboud J. [HIV viral suppression results in higher antibody responses in HIV-positive women vaccinated with the quadrivalent human papillomavirus vaccine](#). *Vaccine*. 2016;34(40):4799-806.
35. O'Neill TJ, **Raboud JM**, Tinmouth J, **Rourke SB**, **Gardner S**, **Cooper C**, **Rueda S**, **Hart TA**, Rachlis A, Burchell AN. [Burden and risk factors for gastrointestinal symptom distress in HIV patients in the modern antiretroviral era](#). *AIDS Care*. 2016:1-12.
36. Thorne A, Chowdhury F, Singer J, Keynan Y, Fowke KR, **Cooper C**. [Comparison of hemagglutination inhibition and microbead array assays for the measurement of influenza antibody levels in HIV-infected adults](#). *Vaccine*. 2016;34(31):3584-91.



37. Tinmouth J, Peeva V, Amare H, Blitz S, Raboud J, Sano M, Steele L, **Salit IE**. [Progression From Perianal High-Grade Anal Intraepithelial Neoplasia to Anal Cancer in HIV-Positive Men Who Have Sex With Men](#). Dis Colon Rectum. 2016;59(9):836-42.

**Ensure the quality/effectiveness of provincially funded HIV programs & services**

38. Buchan S, Muldoon KA, Spaans JN, Balfour L, Samson L, Walker M, **Cameron DW**. [Increasing Number and Proportion of Adverse Obstetrical Outcomes among Women Living with HIV in the Ottawa Area: A 20-Year Clinical Case Series](#). Canadian Journal of Infectious Diseases & Medical Microbiology. 2016.
39. Hull M, Shafran S, Wong A, Tseng A, Giguère P, Barrett L, Haider S, Conway B, Klein M, **Cooper C**. [CIHR Canadian HIV Trials Network Coinfection and Concurrent Diseases Core Research Group: 2016 Updated Canadian HIV/Hepatitis C Adult Guidelines for Management and Treatment](#). Canadian Journal of Infectious Disease and Medical Microbiology. 2016 July 4.
40. **Loutfy M, Greene S**, Kennedy VL, Lewis J, Thomas-Pavanel J, Conway T, de Pokomandy A, O'Brien N, Carter A, Tharao W, Nicholson V, Beaver K, Dubuc D, Gahagan J, Proulx-Boucher K, Hogg RS, Kaida A. [Establishing the Canadian HIV Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health Cohort Study \(CHIWOS\): Operationalizing Community-based Research in a Large National Quantitative Study](#). BMC Medical Research Methodology. 2016;16(1):101.
41. **Mishra S**, Boily MC, Schwartz S, Beyrer C, Blanchard JF, Moses S, Castor D, Phaswana-Mafuya N, Vickerman P, Drame F, Alary M, Baral SD. [Data and methods to characterize the role of sex work and to inform sex work programs in generalized HIV epidemics: evidence to challenge assumptions](#). Annals of Epidemiology. 2016;26(8):557-69.
42. Ng R, **Kendall CE**, Burchell AN, Bayoumi AM, Loutfy MR, **Raboud J**, Glazier RH, **Rourke S, Antoniou T**. [Emergency department use by people with HIV in Ontario: a population-based cohort study](#). CMAJ Open. 2016;4(2):E240-8.