

# Meeting Highlights: Section of Researchers Council (SORC)

Date of Meeting: February 4-5, 2020

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## **1. SOR Blueprint 2 (2018-2023)**

The SORC created a Capacity Building action group. The purpose of the group is to connect the subject matter experts related to the actions set out in the Capacity Building Strategic Priority Area of the Blueprint 2. The group will share notes and brainstorm ideas for successfully implementing the actions.

An Evaluation working group for the SOR Blueprint 2 was struck at the September 2019 SORC meeting. The working group has met twice. They are going through all the Strategic Priority Areas of the Blueprint 2 to create metrics for evaluating actions and objectives. The working group will provide a status report to the SORC once a year, at the February Council meetings. The working group will also be taking on the role of monitoring and operationalizing the action plans set out in the Strategic Priority Areas of the Blueprint 2.

## **2. 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Section of Researchers (SOR)**

The SOR's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary is at FMF 2020. The SORC brainstormed ideas on ways to celebrate the milestone. Three small working groups were struck to work on videos for promoting the role of research in primary care. The videos will be short, about 3-4 minutes long, dynamic videos that can be repurposed for many goals and different audiences. The videos will be centred around the following topics: a) What is the evidence to support the role of family medicine in the healthcare system and what has family medicine research contributed to health care? b) Why is research an integral part of Family Medicine? How can family physicians participate in research? c) How does QI and research improve lives? The differences and similarities in QI and research in practice improvement would be highlighted. The SOR will also be working on a research promotional infographic as well as other celebratory ideas for the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

## **3. Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) advocacy update**

### **a. CIHR Primary, Home and Community Health Care Institute**

The advocacy efforts on the CIHR strategic planning process for an integrated primary, home and community health care Institute is on-going. Unfortunately, there has not been a lot of enthusiasm at CIHR for a new institute. Nevertheless, there may be a short window of opportunity before the CIHR strategic plan is finalized to continue the advocacy efforts, specifically around Plan B which is to advocate for increased primary care research support, such as support for research training, career support, research on healthcare needs of rural and remote communities, SPOR PIHCl network and PBRNs. An infographic was created to make the case for enhanced support of primary, home and community health care research and to highlight the measures that CIHR could take to grow and strengthen those areas of research. Francine Lemire scheduled some time on the Chapters' meeting agenda to discuss how the chapters can support the advocacy efforts. Copies of the infographic will be shared at the meeting.

### **b. Institute of Health Services and Policy Research**

The IHSPR is going through a strategic planning process. Rick Glazier joined the SORC meeting virtually to gather input from the Section for the IHSPR strategic plan. The SORC provided feedback and highlighted the top research priorities, which includes: EMR data access; support for primary, home and community health care research; advancing the research agenda around comprehensive care; and the provision of care in resource constrained environments as part of community-based care and HHR planning.

The IHSPR is currently broadly engaging communities, key stakeholders and patients to gather input on research priorities and to identify strategic direction. They launched an online survey which will be open until March 31, 2020. Therefore, the Research Department communicated information about the IHSPR surveys to the Section of

Researchers (SOR) members and other key stakeholders at the Departments of Family Medicine. The communication included key messages and the infographic created by the CFPC to advocate for increased primary care research funding. It also provided directions about how to complete the surveys.

#### **4. The CFPC's Practice Improvement Initiative (Pii)**

Pii continues to advocate for practice facilitators and has collaborated with provinces like Quebec, Alberta and BC, and experts in this area, to develop a practice facilitation advocacy guide. The guide has been drafted and it includes the ROI and the need to sustain funding for it. The guide to teaching QI is being finalized for the residency programs. The guide for teaching research is also underway and a consultant (Susan Phillips) has been hired to write the guide. The expected publication for both guides is May 2020.

There is growing interest from the departments of family medicine to use the Practice Improvement Essentials (PIE) workshops and PIE train-the-trainer workshop as a faculty development tool for QI. The workshops are currently offered through 7 departments of family medicine: Alberta, Laval, Manitoba, McGill, McMaster, Montreal and Saskatchewan. The Pii website has been updated to include resources. Further dissemination of the work will be done through poster presentations at FMF and other conferences. However, there are some challenges with low registration/participation in the workshops. There is a need for a culture shift from the ground up with emphasis on getting more family physicians into QI. The SORC suggested to have a workshop for the guides, to encourage educators and program directors to join.

#### **5. EMR Data Access**

The issue of EMR data access for the purposes of QI and Research continues. There is a movement to switch from local servers to Application Service Provider (ASP) where the data are held solely by the vendor. This method will make data extraction difficult as it is fully under the control of the vendors and at a cost. Data transmission from local servers works well and data can be accessed and extracted seamlessly on a weekly basis. This is similar to processes that are carried out in the U.K. Unfortunately, the future of EMR access is increasingly moving towards ASP leaving researchers with limited resources.

There is an initiative at the national level around EMR access. Mike Green is chairing the group which includes CFPC, CIHI, CFHI, CPCSSN, PICHIN, Diabetes Action Canada, patient groups and other players who will be invited to join. The group is working to have a collective action on data integration use around primary, home and community care database. The group will develop a data strategy over the next 6 months. The strategy report will create an opportunity for key stakeholders to collaborate in order to put together a coalition case for data development, access and sustainable funding.

The SORC suggested that the CFPC continue its advocacy efforts in finding a solution to the EMR data access issue. Perhaps the CFPC Chapters could help with the advocacy by lobbying with the provinces. The Research Department will work on putting an advertisement in CFP to raise awareness to the EMR access issue with members.

#### **6. Strategies for enhancing SOR membership benefits**

Claudia Zuccato Ria – Executive Director, Foundation for Advancing Family Medicine (FAFM) attended the SORC meeting to discuss strategies for enhancing the SOR membership benefits through FAFM. The SORC is focussed on the goal of enhancing the benefits of SOR membership and providing value to members.

The SOR brainstormed ideas with Claudia, which included: earmark donations by SOR members to research; scholarships to support around the wicked questions; sourcing for financial partner(s) for research support outside of CIHR; early baseline funding for the new concept of PBLNs; subsidized membership subscription for student associate members and associate members to cover FMF registration fees. The SORC will continue to work with Claudia around the ideas that were discussed.

## **7. North America Primary Care Research Group (NAPCRG) and Robert Graham Centre**

### **NAPCRG**

The President of NAPCRG/Director of Robert Graham Centre, Jack Westfall and the new Executive Director of NAPCRG, Julie Sutter attended the SORC meeting. They discussed the importance of a continued partnership between the CFPC and NAPCRG in order to continue to help with the exchange of information and ideas about issues faced in both countries around primary care research. In terms of capacity building, NAPCRG put in a grant for conference support, specifically related to big data and how to move big data into the primary care research world.

They highlighted the values of the various programs at NAPCRG that more Canadians can take advantage of, such as the Patient and Clinician Engagement Program (PaCE).

### **Robert Graham Centre**

The Robert Graham Centre has a year long fellowship as well as a Visiting Scholar's program for medical students, residents, junior and senior faculty members. Canadian researchers are welcome to visit and work on projects. It provides a unique opportunity to do research or comparative studies. The Visiting Scholar programs provide accommodation and a small stipend.

## **8. SORC Action Groups**

### **a) Research Community of Practice (RCOP) Action group**

The online forum was created and is hosted via the *NAPCRG Connect* website. However, there has been some technical glitches that prevent smooth navigation within the microsite. The RCOP project team will be meeting with NAPCRG and Higher Logic (developers of the microsite) to discuss alternative options and how to resolve the technical issues.

### **b) Family Medicine Forum Research Committee (FMFRC) Action Group:**

The group continues to explore ways to make FMF Wednesday even more engaging and relevant, not only for researchers but also for members at large. The FMFRC is planning on providing more robust ethical guidelines for presenters at FMF 2020 around ethics application.

### **c) Action Group for Advocacy in Research (AGAR):**

The group has been very active under the leadership of Brian Hutchison, preparing the case for a Primary Care research institute within CIHR and other primary care research priorities.

### **d) PBRN Action Group:**

The action group is promoting PBRNs, including advocating for sustained funding to help them grow, and also transforming them into learning networks in which research and QI become synergistic. The term Practice Based Learning Networks (PBLNs) has been used. This group is also working on the EMR data access issue.

### **Key Issues with related Backgrounders attached**

No

**Indicate the date(s) and locations of next meeting(s):** September 15-16, 2020 at CFPC

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