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Strategy for Patient Oriented Research (SPOR) Canadian Data Platform

The SPOR CDP is a pan-Canadian initiative involving researchers and policy makers from every province and most territories in Canada. Initially proposed in 2014 and funded in 2018 (\$39 million over 7 years) by CIHR with matching funds from other jurisdictions, the network will enhance Canada’s capacity to analyze routinely collected government data in cross-jurisdictional research by leveraging strong existing national capacity and new advances in analytic techniques. The model allows data to remain within each provincial while being analyzed as if it were centrally located. All local access requirements and approval processes are respected and data never leave existing provincial or territorial boundaries. This advance opens up vast new opportunities to conduct large national and multi-jurisdictional epidemiological studies in Canada, and allows the opportunity to conduct natural experiments which take advantage of the diversity of policy and program implementation strategies that exist across the country. Related objectives will focus on enhancing and harmonizing the availability of government research data across provinces and territories, and streamlining access and approval processes.

Drs. Alan Katz and Lisa Lix will co-lead this initiative in Manitoba which was announced by the Honourable Ginette Petitpas Taylor, Minister of Health, on April 23rd, 2019. The project will be led by Dr. Kimberely McGrail at the University of British Columbia.

