



Rehabilitation Science Research Network for COVID Terms of Reference for Membership & Partnership

Introduction

The Rehabilitation Science Research Network for COVID is leading an international collaborative to enable research innovation and excellence in COVID-19 rehabilitation¹ research. The Network aims to advance evidence-informed rehabilitation assessments, interventions, and models of care delivery to prevent or mitigate disability and optimize health and well-being across the illness trajectory among persons with lived experiences, including persons living with acute COVID-19, persons living with Long COVID and their caregivers.

The Rehabilitation Science Research Network for COVID is located in the Rehabilitation Sciences Sector, in the Temerty Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto. The Network engages persons with lived experiences, caregivers, researchers, clinicians, educators, trainees, representatives from community organizations, and policy stakeholders with an interest in COVID-19 rehabilitation research.

Activities and Outcomes of the Network

The Network prioritizes the following activities as they relate to COVID-19 rehabilitation research:

- Generating evidence and advancing knowledge in COVID-19 rehabilitation science;
- Mobilizing knowledge transfer and exchange on rehabilitation research related to COVID-19, clinical practice and service delivery among persons with lived experiences and affected by COVID-19, including acute COVID-19, and Long COVID, researchers, caregivers, clinicians, educators, trainees, representatives of community organizations and policy stakeholders in Canada and internationally;
- Establishing new and strengthening existing research collaborations and partnerships locally, nationally and internationally in the field of COVID-19 rehabilitation;
- Fostering mentorship and training in COVID-19 rehabilitation research among faculty and trainees;
- Identifying new and emerging priorities in COVID-19 rehabilitation research and practice and;
- Establishing a plan for sustainability and growth as an international research collaborative to address priorities in COVID-19 rehabilitation research.

Guiding Values and Principles

The Rehabilitation Science Research Network for COVID believes forming partnerships and exchanging knowledge among individuals and organizations experiencing disability related to COVID-19 is an important step in bridging widespread clinical knowledge with a strong research foundation on COVID-19 rehabilitation.

The Network emphasizes interdisciplinary and participatory community-engaged approaches to collaboration, embedded with an equity diversity and inclusion lens. The Network aims to build on the enthusiasm of individual members to facilitate the advancement of research ideas and activities related to COVID-19 rehabilitation research through the principles of meaningful involvement of persons with lived experiences and affected by COVID-19, including acute COVID-19, Long COVID, and their caregivers.

Aim of Network Partnerships and Memberships

Network partnerships and memberships aim to facilitate knowledge transfer and exchange, build and strengthen collaborations, and identify emerging research priorities in COVID-19 rehabilitation research.

Membership & Partnership

Members and Partners of the Network may include individuals (members) or organizations (partners) with an interest in COVID rehabilitation research. This may include (but is not limited to) individuals with lived experiences, caregivers, researchers, clinicians, educators, trainees, policy stakeholders, and representatives from community organizations and networks locally, nationally or internationally.

Activities of Network Members & Partners

Activities of Network Members may include (but are not limited to):

- Participating in ongoing discussions, research, capacity building activities and funding opportunities to facilitate increased coordination and enhanced opportunities for research on COVID-19 rehabilitation;
- Receiving Network communication electronically with opportunities to engage in the Network's activities;
- Participating as a member and/or planning of the Network in knowledge translation events / meetings and participating in translation and implementation of research activities through The Network at the UofT, provincially, nationally, and internationally as appropriate;
- Participating in the review of applications for the Network funding initiatives (trainee stipend; catalyst funding) as appropriate;
- Facilitating the translation of research knowledge, progress and findings on COVID-19 disability and rehabilitation to clinical, research, policy, and community-based audiences;

Terms of Membership & Partnership

- Membership and Partnership applies to individuals and organizations interested in COVID rehabilitation research, who express interest in joining the Network, and who support and participate in the objectives of the Network.
- Membership & Partnership is voluntary.
- There are no membership or partnership fees to join the Network.
- The Network is committed to equity, diversity and inclusion. Members and Partners will demonstrate commitment and determination for inclusion and support membership participation and accommodate episodic disability and fluctuating health challenges.
- Partnerships with Organizations may be recognized on Partners and the Network's website / webpage.
- Membership ceases automatically when members express an interest to leave the Network, or when members do not support the objectives of the Network.
- The Network is funded by the Temerty Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto. The Network is not driven by profit, but by dedication to the Networks vision, objectives, values and principles.

Conduct - Partners and Members will act in good faith, with honesty, integrity and probity. Partners and Members will adopt values and principles of The Network which include:

- Collaboration



- Partnership
- Evidence informed approaches to research, practice and education
- Non-discrimination
- Inclusion
- Meaningful engagement of communities living with and affected by COVID

Meeting Frequency

The Network Membership aims to meet online approximately 1-2 times per year. In addition, members are invited to specific meetings or knowledge translation events related to research initiatives within the Network. Communication with individual members in the Network will occur as needed. Members of the Network also may work collectively with each other to review, revise and pursue emerging and existing research priorities in COVID-19, disability and rehabilitation.

ⁱ Rehabilitation refers to any service or provider that aims to improve or sustain function and well-being and/or to prevent or mitigate disability, which may include physical, mental-emotional, and cognitive impairments, difficulties carrying out day-to-day activities and challenges to social participation and inclusion.