Rehabilitation Science Research Network for COVID

TEMERTY FACULTY OF MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Rehabilitation Science Research Network for COVID
Terms of Reference for Advisory Committee

Introduction

The Rehabilitation Science Research Network for COVID is leading an international collaborative to enable research innovation and excellence in COVID-19 rehabilitation[i] 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 **activities and outcomes** are focused on 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.

Governance

The Network was established in 2022 with funding from the Temerty Faculty of Medicine. The Network leadership includes an interprofessional rehabilitation co-directorship model. The Co-Directors are guided by a multi-stakeholder Advisory Committee and report to the Executive Chair of the Rehabilitation Sciences Sector of the University of Toronto.

Guiding Values and Principles

The Rehabilitation Science Research Network for COVID believes that 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.

Roles and Responsibilities of Advisory Committee Members

Primary roles and responsibilities of Advisory Committee Members are to:

- Advise on the leadership and vision for the overarching direction of the Network;
- Guide the strategic directions and activities in consultation with the Network members and staff.
- Work collectively and with other Network stakeholders, members, and staff (directors, program coordinator) as appropriate to review, revise and pursue emerging and existing research priorities in COVID-19, disability and rehabilitation.
- Advise on partnerships, research activities and funding opportunities to facilitate increased coordination and enhanced opportunities for the Network and research on COVID-19 disability and rehabilitation;
- Participate in biannual meetings of the Advisory Committee to provide guidance and vision on research activities through the Network in Canada and internationally;
- Advise on process for review / approval of applications for the Network funding initiatives including the trainee stipend / award as appropriate;
- Advise on process for review / approval of applications for catalyst funding as appropriate;
- Facilitate the dissemination of funding opportunities to eligible faculty and trainees (with Rehabilitation Sciences Institute (RSI), Rehabilitation Sciences Sector) within the Network;
- Support the translation of Network activities, research knowledge, progress and findings on COVID-19 disability and rehabilitation to clinical, research, policy, and community-based audiences; and
- Evaluate the process and outcomes of implementing the Network strategic plan and implementation strategy.

Membership

Members of the Advisory Committee will include local, national and international expertise spanning COVID-19 rehabilitation research including (but not limited to):

- Persons with lived experiences of COVID-19 and caregivers of persons with lived experiences of COVID-19 (min of 1 person living with; and 1 caregiver)
- Dean representative from the Temerty Faculty of Medicine
- Rehabilitation Sciences Sector Chairs and RSI Director (and/or designate) (min of 2)
- Advancement Representative from the Temerty Faculty of Medicine
- RSI trainee (MSc or PhD or PDF)
- Clinical and research leaders in COVID-19 rehabilitation research

Persons with lived experiences will receive a stipend for their representation and contributions to the Committee that may include but are not limited to: attendance at advisory committee meetings, guidance on Network KT activities, strategic planning, research priorities, decisions regarding funding applications). Membership will be for a two-year term, renewable once.
Membership will be reviewed on an annual basis for diversity across the stakeholder groups, COVID continuum of care (e.g. acute, long COVID) and representation across rehabilitation professions.

Meeting Frequency

The Advisory Committee aims to meet online or in-person or hybrid (as feasible) approximately 2 times per year in addition to specific individual consultations / research initiatives with the Network. Individual communication among Advisory Committee members and the broader Network community of practice will occur as needed.

[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.