

MSSU SUPPORT FOR COVID-19 RESEARCH

The Maritime SPOR SUPPORT Unit (MSSU) increases local capacity for patient-oriented research and helps move evidence into practice.

We recognize that COVID-19 research is a priority. We are here to help.

HOW WE CAN HELP

Our team can lend their expertise, free of charge, to Maritime researchers undertaking COVID-19 research. Requests will be supported as capacity allows.

Below are some examples of how our team can help.

Research Methods

Our research staff have expertise in quantitative and qualitative research methodology, and can:

- Assist with pragmatic clinical trial design and methodology, including sample size calculation.
- Help with observational study design and methodology (e.g., to identify high risk populations, determinants of specific adverse outcomes, etc.).
- Assist with planning and statistical analysis of quantitative data.
- Review and recommend appropriate outcome measurement.
- Assist with survey design.
- Support the understanding of methods and analysis provided in evidence syntheses/recent research.

Project Management / Knowledge Brokering

Our Research Project Managers can:

- Coordinate research activities.
- Facilitate collaboration with other researchers.
- Connect you with local policy- and decision-makers.

Evidence Synthesis

Our Evidence Synthesis Coordinator can:

- Perform a quick literature search and provide a list of 5 - 10 references, with a rapid turn-around.
- Perform a thorough background search and inventory of approximately 20 to 30 references, within one week.

More comprehensive evidence summaries or environmental scans may be supported in coordination with national evidence synthesis groups such as the SPOR Evidence Alliance. Timelines may vary.

Knowledge Translation

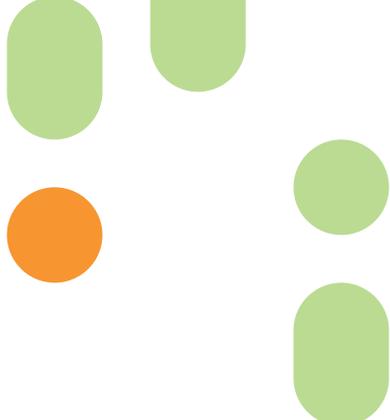
Our Knowledge Translation Coordinator can:

- Help take evidence and apply best methods for communicating policy changes or evidence to your target audience.
- Help develop tools to tailor the communication of evidence to different audiences (i.e. plain-language summaries, briefing notes).
- Facilitating the exchange of knowledge between producers and knowledge users.

Patient & Public Engagement

Our Patient Engagement Coordinator can:

- Help recruit Patient Partners or community representatives to feedback on your recruitment methods, communication materials, or to be a member of your research team.



EXAMPLE TOPICS & SUPPORTS

SAMPLE RESEARCH TOPICS

Our expertise are broadly applicable to patient-oriented research across several topics including but not limited to:

- Patient and public perception around health care resource allocation (*an example below*).
- Public understanding and perception of key public health messages.
- Assessment of the impact of physical distancing on mental health.
- Psychosocial and demographic predictors of adherence to public health messaging.

If you are studying a different aspect of COVID-19, please reach out to see how the MSSU can help.

IN PRACTICE: POSSIBLE MSSU SUPPORTS FOR A PROJECT

Topic: Public Perception of the allocation of scarce health care resources in a pandemic

Research Methods	Assist in designing a recruitment strategy and online survey to solicit patient perspectives and public values allocation of scarce resources.
Project Management/ Knowledge Brokering	Identify researchers with expertise in this topic area (e.g., health ethics) and coordinate formation of a research team.
Evidence Synthesis	Provide a list of references to existing literature and published protocols for allocation of scarce resources.
Knowledge Translation	Synthesize key messages for decision-makers and the public to inform policy and disseminate key findings.
Patient and Public Engagement	Assist in recruiting patient partners to provide a diverse perspective on framing questions around resource allocation and reviewing research outputs.

REQUEST SUPPORT

To request support with your research, complete the online form at <http://www.spor-maritime-srap.ca/request-research-consultation> or email us at info@mssu.ca.