

April 14th, 2022



This departmental acknowledgement was suggested by Dr. Ron Gottesman, who was a mentor to and advocate for many among us. Ron was so proud of the work and accomplishments of his team in the PICU, which he always inspired and supported.

As an academic pediatric healthcare centre, we aim to be national and international leaders in initiatives to create new knowledge, develop innovative educational opportunities, and promote novel, innovative approaches to clinical care in order to improve health outcomes for children. This week's DA highlights the outstanding efforts and success of Dr. Patricia Fontela for her visionary leadership in establishing three innovative research and training networks in Critical Care Medicine / Pediatric Critical Care Medicine. To lead one large collaborative study is great; to lead three is truly

remarkable. Patricia has successfully led the Pediatric Critical Care Medicine investigators at the Canadian Critical Care Trials Group to establish these networks of excellence.

Patricia is the Co-PI of the Sepsis Canada Interdisciplinary Training Platform, which was awarded \$1.4 Million over 6 year by the CIHR in Sept. 2021. The Sepsis Canada Training Program uses an innovative learner-centered and outcomes-based approach that will allow trainees to develop research, professional, and personal skills at their own pace, collaborate with others, and become lifelong learners. Her success in this initiative inspired her to go further.

In Feb. 2022, Patricia (principal applicant) and her team were awarded \$2.4 million from the CIHR to support the Life-Threatening Illness National Group (LifTING) Research Training Platform, a collaborative effort with Toronto and UBC which aims to improve research on life-threatening diseases by training multidisciplinary researchers, patient and family partners, and community citizens on research methods, knowledge, skills and attitudes related to health services, interprofessional collaboration, and Equity, Diversity, and Inclusiveness.

Patricia has clearly been a grant-writing machine in the past 6 months. In March 2022, she was part of the executive team awarded \$6 million over 3 years from the CIHR for the Pediatric Outcome imProvement through CoORdination of Networks (POPCORN). This network is anchored in COVID-related studies, but will also result in the establishment of a national research infrastructure for Pediatric Critical Care Medicine and a shared national database of demographic, physiologic, laboratory and outcomes data. Patricia will lead the creation and implementation of this database.

Establishing these types of large consortia takes a relentless optimist who acts as scientific director, politician, and cheerleader in equal measures. Please join me in congratulating Patricia on her outstanding work!

Have a great long weekend.

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