# ECHO Ontario Annual Report 2018/19

ECHO Ontario



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## Preface: A message from the ECHO Ontario Superhub

The ECHO Ontario Superhub is a collaboration between the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) and the University Health Network (UHN). Working with the ECHO Institute in New Mexico and the Ontario Ministry of Health, the Superhub promotes high-quality implementation of the ECHO model, and supports alignment and integration across the ECHO community and within Ontario's health care system.

ECHO programs throughout Ontario connect diverse primary care providers in every corner of the province, and are building a learning community that improves knowledge, confidence, practice and outcomes. The ECHO model helps meet important provincial priorities, including using innovation to efficiently integrate and align primary and specialty care, and to build provincial capacity to support equitable optimal care for patients in Ontario.

In 2018/19, there were **25** ECHO programs in Ontario, in the areas of autism, bariatric care, chronic pain, epilepsy, geriatric

care, mental health, opioid use and pediatric care. These programs were delivered through nine organizations: Baycrest, CAMH, CHEO, Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital, The Hospital for Sick Children, Ontario Bariatric Network, Ontario Epilepsy Network, St. Joseph's Care Group and UHN. This year, ECHO programs in Ontario collectively reached **1,891** diverse health care providers at **651** organizations (increases from 2017/18 of **118** per cent and **103** per cent respectively), showing significant adoption and integration of the ECHO model in the province. Additionally, this year the ECHO Ontario Superhub had the pleasure of delivering three separate trainings to **20** different ECHO teams from Ontario, and internationally.

We thank our funder, the Ministry of Health, for its support and dedication to continuous improvements within our health care system, and its commitment to equity of care for patients. The Ministry's funding of the ECHO project means that more health care providers will be empowered to provide the right care, in the right place, at the right time.

**Dr. Allison Crawford, MD, PhD** Co-Chair | ECHO Ontario Superhub



**Dr. John Flannery, MD** Co-Chair | ECHO Ontario Superhub



**Eva Serhal, MBA** Director | ECHO Ontario Superhub



Rhonda Mostyn, DC Member | ECHO Ontario Superhub



## ECHO Ontario Superhub

With the ECHO movement spreading quickly, Superhub sites have been developed with the support of the ECHO Institute to train and support the implementation of new ECHO projects, and connect existing ECHO projects. The ECHO Ontario Superhub, a collaboration between CAMH and UHN, serves new ECHO projects in Ontario and across Canada. In 2018/19, the ECHO Ontario Superhub supported the launch of **9** ECHOs within Ontario, **3** ECHOs outside the province, and **2** ECHOs outside Canada.



Along with training, the Superhub:

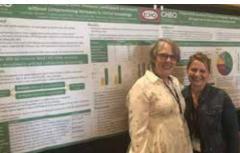
leads provincial ECHO initiatives:

- monthly ECHO Ontario collaborative meetings
- an annual ECHO Ontario conference
- strategic planning support for the growth of the ECHO model in Ontario

provides all existing, new and potential ECHO programs in Ontario with ongoing mentorship

leads the development and implementation of quality assurance and quality improvement frameworks for ECHO programs in Ontario

acts as an agent of the ECHO Institute to expand the ECHO model in Ontario





# Project ECHO in Ontario

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# What is Project ECHO?

**Project ECHO** (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) is an innovative "hub and spoke" education model that aims to help health care providers build capacity in the treatment and management of complex health conditions. The model leverages videoconferencing technology to connect specialists with primary care providers, increasing their knowledge and skills and enabling them to manage complex challenges in their communities.

Currently there are over 675 ECHO projects being delivered in 37 countries, and the model has recently been recognized by the American Medical Association as an innovative tool to build capacity within the health care system and improve patients' health outcomes. This year the ECHO (Expanding Capacity for Health Outcomes) 2019 Act was introduced in the U.S. Senate, building on the ECHO Act of 2016. The Act will establish a grant program to evaluate, develop and expand the use of technology-enabled collaborative learning and capacity building models.

People need access to specialty care for their complex health conditions. There aren't enough specialists to treat everyone who needs care, especially in rural and underserved communities.

### **Project ECHO**

empowers health care providers to use best practices

> reduces the need for specialist visits

improves the quality of specialty care in Ontario's primary and community care settings

ECHO trains primary care clinicians to provide specialty care services. This means more people can get the care they need. Patients get the right care when they need it, close to home. This improves outcomes and reduces costs.



## **ECHO Ontario** Dedicated to building a sustainable health care system

## Mission

To build capacity through virtual communities of practice for health care providers in Ontario that will increase access to specialized health care, improve patient outcomes and create health equity.

## **Vision** A virtual community advancing the best health care in Ontario.





# How we are building a high-quality, connected health care system

ENGAGE

ECHO Ontario **engages** system leaders, patients and health care providers to build a community of practice. Through this community we share knowledge to improve the health care of Ontarians.

### INTEGRATE



ECHO Ontario co-ordinates the **integration** of the ECHO model into the Ontario health care system to create equitable health care access and efficiencies.

### **IMPACT**



ECHO **impacts** the lives of patients, the practice of providers and the quality of the health system. ECHO Ontario achieves improved, measurable health care and patient outcomes through research, quality improvement and education.





## ECHO timeline

2014

Ontario's first ECHO program was launched at UHN and Queen's University, focusing on chronic pain and opioid stewardship. CAMH received funding shortly thereafter to implement a Mental Health ECHO in partnership with the University of Toronto.

## 2019

25 ECHO programs across 9 organizations are now operating in Ontario, and reached 1,891 health care providers in 2018/19.

ECHO was started in New Mexico by Dr. Sanjeev Arora

2004

8 ECHO programs across
4 organizations were funded and launched in Ontario.
2 of the organizations (UHN and CAMH) collaborated in launching the ECHO Ontario Superhub to support new and existing ECHOs in Ontario.





# ECHO programs in Ontario

**Organization:** Baycrest (in collaboration with North East **Specialized Geriatric Centre)** 

#### **ECHO Programs:**

- Care of the Elderly
- Care of the Elderly—Long-Term Care

ECHO Care of the Elderly focuses on improving the quality of care of older adults in Ontario, by increasing the knowledge and skills of primary care providers in meeting this population's health care needs.

### **Organization:** Centre for Addiction and Mental Health

### **ECHO Programs:**

- Mental Health
- First Nations, Inuit and Métis Wellness
- Addiction Medicine and Psychosocial Interventions (in collaboration with St. Michael's Hospital)
- Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (in collaboration with Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre)
- Trans and Gender Diverse Healthcare
- Psychotherapy
- Complex Patient Management

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ECHO Ontario Mental Health at CAMH and the University of Toronto (ECHO ONMH) is an education and clinical capacity-building model that aims to support evidence-based management and treatment of mental illness and addictions in Ontario, reducing disparities in access to specialty care and variation in quality of care throughout the province.

### **Organization:** CHEO

#### **ECHO Program:** Child and Youth Mental Health

ECHO Ontario Child and Youth Mental Health is a collaborative learning program through which primary care providers (PCPs) and mental health clinicians work together to care more effectively for children and adolescents with mental health problems. The program aims to change the diagnostic, prescribing, treatment and referral practices of PCPs, by providing them with evidence-based best practice guidelines and treatment recommendations, and linking them to community mental health agencies and services in their own regions.



# ECHO programs in Ontario

#### **Organization:** Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital

#### ECHO Program: Autism

ECHO Ontario Autism aims to build province-wide community capacity and the ability to screen, diagnose and manage children and youth with autism spectrum disorder in Ontario. By doing so, the program hopes to reduce wait times for specialized care by ensuring that access to specialized care is reserved for the most complex cases.

**Organization:** Ontario Bariatric Network (OBN) (Guelph General Hospital, Humber River Hospital, Kingston Health Sciences Centre, St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton, The Ottawa Hospital, Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre, Toronto Western Hospital)

#### ECHO Program: Ontario Bariatric Network

ECHO OBN aims to build capacity in primary care providers to provide evidence-based specialty care, by linking them with an interdisciplinary team of specialists from seven Bariatric Centres of Excellence across Ontario to share best practices in postbariatric care and obesity management. **Organization:** Ontario Epilepsy Network (Hamilton Health Sciences and McMaster Children's Hospital, Kingston Health Sciences Centre, London Health Sciences Centre and the Children's Hospital, The Ottawa Hospital, CHEO, The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto Western Hospital)

ECHO Program: Epilepsy Across the Lifespan

ECHO Epilepsy Across the Lifespan connects providers in Ontario with interdisciplinary teams that include an epileptologist, a nurse practitioner, a pharmacist, a social worker and a community agency representative to share evidenceinformed knowledge that will help in treating and managing patients with epilepsy.

# ECHO programs in Ontario

# **Organization:** St. Joseph's Care Group (in collaboration with The Ottawa Hospital)

ECHO Program: Chronic Pain and Opioid Stewardship (North)

ECHO Chronic Pain and Opioid Stewardship North builds capacity, knowledge, and confidence in primary care in rural and remote communities in Northern Ontario. The ECHO focuses on complex patient management in chronic pain and opioid stewardship.

#### Organization: The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids)

#### **ECHO Programs:**

- Paediatric Pain
- Paediatric Obesity Management
- Paediatic Complex Care
- Paediatric Palliative Care (in collaboration with CHEO)

Paediatric Project ECHO delivers four programs that build a community of practice to provide educational support and expertise to interdisciplinary health care professionals. The goal of these programs is to improve providers' knowledge and confidence and to translate learning into practice.



#### **Organization:** University Health Network (UHN)

#### **ECHO Programs:**

- Chronic Pain and Opioid Stewardship
- Liver
- Rheumatology

ECHO Ontario at UHN delivers these three programs, which build primary care providers' capacity to diagnose, treat and manage patients.

#### To learn more about these ECHOs, visit www.echoontario.ca



# 2018/19 at a glance



**SECTION 2** 

## Our collective reach this year

651 Health care organizations ↑ 331 providers from FY 2017-18 **1,891** Health care provider participants ↑ 1,027 providers from FY 2017-18

## Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) Reached all provincial regions

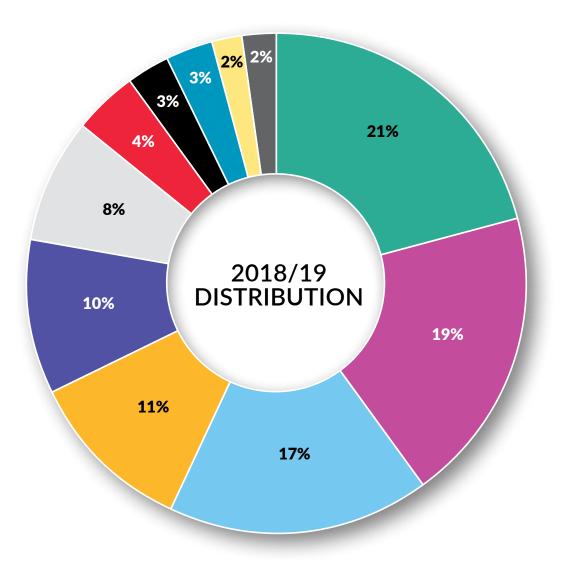
# Decisions...

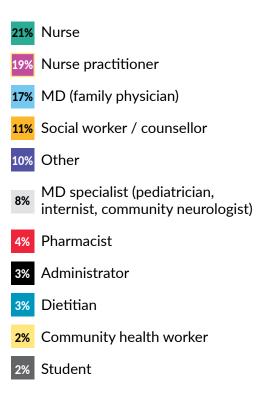
- How should we be recru
- Where should we be re-
- What stakeholders to c
- What tools/resource
   Who decides

Note: there may be some duplication across ECHO organizations, as we were only able to account for duplicates *within* organizations, not across organizations. Therefore, individuals that participated in multiple ECHO organizations might be represented twice in this number.



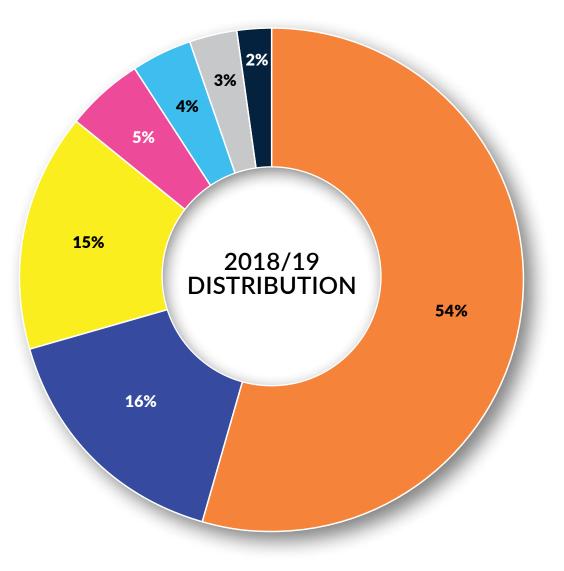
# Participants by profession





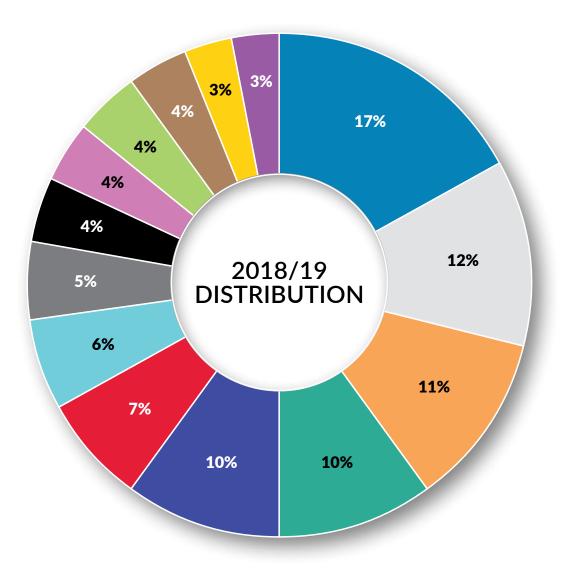
The interdisciplinary nature of participants is a key success factor for ECHO programs across Ontario. A wide range of disciplines helps integrate different perspectives to enhance the overall quality of care.

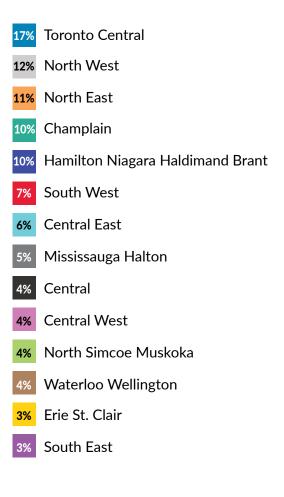
# Participants by practice type





## Participants by practice LHIN





Working together to support a highperforming health care system in Ontario



# **Enabling integration within the health care system:** Linking hospitals, communities, organizations and providers

## The problems

- Transition of care between health care services in Ontario is fragmented, complex and difficult to navigate.
- Patients are often required to manage various complex treatment plans from diverse providers.



## Our impact

- ECHO links providers from various practice settings (e.g., primary and tertiary) to provide diverse recommendations for care.
- Many ECHO programs link providers across the continuum of physical and mental health care, and integrate patient care navigators to help support integrated and relevant recommendations that support optimal patient care.

IN 2018/19, ECHO ONTARIO REACHED **1,891** PROVIDERS FROM **651** ORGANIZATIONS ACROSS **14** LHINS. ECHO BUILDS A COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE THAT LINKS DIVERSE HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS, TO SHARE AND BUILD KNOWLEDGE AND REDUCE FEELINGS OF ISOLATION.



"The case showed the practical challenges faced because of the barriers to getting the child help, which actually we see more often than you might think. So often parents have no idea how to navigate the system and often may have challenges themselves. I do see a socioeconomic care gap, where affluent well-educated parents can access help more readily and parents with less education or other challenges may simply be unable to cope and the child falls through the cracks. I'm impressed with how the presenter [a pediatrician] moved quickly to get this child on help lists. I do hope connections to services in their new city will happen quickly. Some of the participants mentioned they could recommend pediatricians there for the family to see, and I thought that was really helpful."

-Participant, ECHO Ontario Autism



# **Innovating care delivery:** Leveraging technology to deliver more integrated and efficient services

## The problems

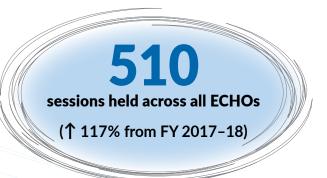
- Providers are faced with managing prevalent complex medical conditions with limited access to specialist care, updated training or best practices.
- While care from an integrated team is a best practice standard, barriers exist that limit the potential for teams to be co-located.



## Our impact

- ECHO uses multi-point videoconferencing to connect specialists to front-line providers around the province, increasing access to high-quality care and training, regardless of location.
- ECHO technology increases the ability for diverse providers all over Ontario to participate simultaneously in learning and sharing.

ECHO ONTARIO COLLECTIVELY DELIVERED **17,995** HOURS OF CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION (CME) CREDITS IN 2018/19, AN INCREASE OF **144%** ON THE PREVIOUS YEAR.





# Participants are feeling supported and less isolated in this collegial, evidence-based learning environment.

"[My favourite part of the program is] having a panel of seasoned experts right there in the most accessible and non-intimidating setting. They were beyond helpful and understanding and supportive. Truly the best CME I have ever done."

#### -Participant, ECHO Ontario Epilepsy

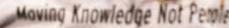
"I found this to be an incredibly helpful program—these are sessions I could otherwise not access given my geographic location—kudos!

-Participant, ECHO Ontario Paediatrics

"Really enjoyed the collegiality—it breaks down the isolation and allows us to be aware of environments that are sometimes different from our own, with other challenges."

#### -Participant, ECHO Ontario Child and Youth Mental Health

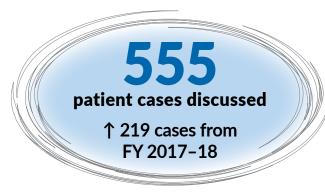
"What a positive difference ECHO Ontario [Mental Health] . . . had on my work supporting clients with complex needs. It was so beneficial to have easy access through video and teleconference to a community of therapists and other allied health professionals in addition to the expert ECHO team of psychiatrists, psychologists and social workers. This allowed for rich discussion and practical suggestions to aid in my current work with clients with complex needs." —Participant, ECHO Ontario Mental Health



# **Improving patient experience and outcomes:** Enabling better care, locally

## The problems

- Patients throughout the province, most notably in underserved communities, have limited access to specialist-level care.
- Patients often have long wait times to see specialists, leading to delays in diagnosis and treatment.



## Our impact

- ECHO increases providers' capacity to deliver care locally, by connecting specialists with providers throughout Ontario to provide comprehensive recommendations for treatment.
- Sessions are delivered regularly, and recommendations are provided in a timely manner to the entire community of practice.

"I FEEL NOW THAT A PATIENT CAN COME INTO MY OFFICE AND I CAN MAKE A REASONABLE ESTIMATE ABOUT THE PROBABILITY [THAT] THIS PERSON HAS AN INFLAMMATORY ARTHRITIC CONDITION, MAYBE EVEN AN ISSUE OF TREATMENT TO MAKE A CLEAR DIAGNOSIS, CERTAINLY [TO] MAKE A MUCH MORE COHERENT ATTEMPT AT DIAGNOSING THEM." —Participant, ECHO Rheumatology





"I've been on medication for a long, long time, and I've learned to live with it. . . . There's an opioid crisis in Canada . . . and [the government's] initial solution was . . . to knock [everybody] off this medication. Maybe this is my opportunity to prove that, hey, listen . . . I have chronic pain, I need what I'm taking . . . and I'm not wrongly taking [it]. I'm hoping the ECHO program will go a way to help manage the pain and maybe put me in a better light where people can understand my situation better and I can get better treatment."

-Patient of Participant, ECHO Ontario Chronic Pain

# **Generating efficiencies within the health care system:** Doing more with less

## The problems

- Moving patients from their local communities to access specialist care can be costly and may disrupt daily routine (e.g., missed work, child care needs).
- Direct patient consultation may improve care for one patient, but does not improve capacity for providers to deliver care.

## Our impact

- ECHO uses technology to move knowledge, not patients, so the cost to the system is minimal.
- ECHO uses a one-to-many model, so knowledge and information are disseminated to a larger network of individuals—like crowdsourcing for health care.

IN 2018/19, ECHO HELPED MOVE KNOWLEDGE, NOT PATIENTS, POTENTIALLY MINIMIZING TAXPAYER COSTS FOR PATIENT TRAVEL THROUGH PROGRAMS LIKE THE NORTHERN HEALTH TRAVEL GRANT PROGRAM.





# Future directions



# **SECTION 4**

# Future directions for ECHO Ontario

## Focus on quality

Conduct ongoing quality improvement efforts to enhance ECHO programs, further enhancing impact for patients and providers.

## Foster growth

Support new and existing organizations in expanding ECHO delivery for in-demand topics, in order to reach more health care providers across the province.

## Support transformation

Collaborate with provincial stakeholders to integrate ECHO as a core offering in the transforming Ontario health care system.

## Strengthen the ECHO Network

Continue to build a network of ECHO programs in Ontario that share learning, best practices and operational efficiencies in support of our collective impact.



"We used the materials to teach other PCPs and practitioners within our office. We are creating a resource with all of the screening tools for each PCP. We are also piloting some changes in how we use screening tools while clients are in reception to provide more efficient care. We are more confident in our work, more willing to try something ourselves before enlisting a specialized service."

-Participant, ECHO Ontario Child and Youth Mental Health



# Appendix



## Leadership teams

## Baycrest (in collaboration with North East Specialized Geriatric Centre)

Dr. David Conn – Physician Lead Dr. James Chau – Physician Lead Dr. Sid Feldman – Physician Lead Dr. Andrea Moser – Physician Lead Lisa Sokoloff – Program Director Navena Lingum – Program Coordinator (Baycrest) Shaen Gingrich – Program Coordinator (NESGC)

#### **Centre for Addiction and Mental Health**

Dr. Allison Crawford - Co-Chair Lina Mohri - Co-Chair Dr. Sanjeev Sockalingam - Co-Chair Stephanie Cassin - Co-Lead - Cognitive Behavioural Therapy ECHO Dr. Wiplove Lamba - Co-Lead - Addiction Medicine & **Psychosocial Interventions** Dr. Christopher McIntosh – Co-Lead – Trans & Gender Diverse Healthcare ECHO Dr. Shellev McMain - Co-Lead - Dialectical Behavioural Therapy ECHO Dr. Lisa Richardson - Co-Lead - First Nation. Inuit and Métis Wellness FCHO Dr. Peggy Richter – Co-Lead – Obsessive Compulsive Disorder ECHO Dr. Kathleen Sheehan - Co-Lead - Complex Patient Management ECHO Eva Serhal – Program Director

#### CHEO

Dr. William Gardner – Co-Lead Dr. Kathleen Pajer – Co-Lead Josee Blackburn – Program Manager

Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital Dr. Melanie Penner – *Lead* Dr. Evdokia Anagnostou – *Co-Lead*  Dr. Jessica Brian – Co-Lead Salina Eldon – Project Manager

#### **Ontario Bariatric Network**

Dr. Mehran Anvari – Project Lead Dr. Vanessa Boudreau – Project Co-Lead / Lead - St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton Dr. Scott Cassie – Lead – Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre Dr. Stephen Glazer – Lead – Humber River Hospital Dr. Nicole Kolozsvari – Lead – The Ottawa Hospital Dr. Natasha Pereira-Hong – Lead – Guelph General Hospital Julia Skiadaresis – Co-Lead – Toronto Western Hospital Dr. Sanjeev Sockalingam – Lead – Toronto Western Hospital Dr. Boris Zevin – Lead – Kingston Health Sciences Centre Daina Mueller – Clinical Coordinator

#### **Ontario Epilepsy Network**

Dr. Carter Snead - Co-Chair/Lead - Toronto Dr. Elizabeth Donner - Co-Chair/Lead - Toronto Dr. Jorge Burneo - Co-Chair/Lead - London Dr. Kirk Nylen - Co-Chair Dr. Andrea Andrade - Lead - London Dr. Esther Bui - Lead - Toronto Dr. Lysa Boisse Lomax - Lead - Kingston Dr. Tad Fantaneanu - Lead - Ottawa Dr. Ayman Hassan - Lead - Ottawa Dr. Kevin Jones - Lead - Hamilton Dr. Rajesh Ramachandrannair - Lead - Hamilton Dr. Arezoo Rezazadeh - Lead - Ottawa Dr. Michelle Shapiro - Lead - Hamilton Dr. Sharon Whiting - Lead - Ottawa Anastasia Vogt - Program Manager

#### St. Joseph's Care Group

Dr. Bryan MacLeod – *Medical Co-Lead* Dr. Patricia Poulin – *Research Lead* Dr. Tim Larocque – *Manager* 

#### The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids)

Dr. Jennifer Stinson - Overall Project Lead Dr. Eval Cohen - Co-Lead - Paediatric Complex Care ECHO Michelle Ho - Co-Lead - Paediatric Complex Care ECHO Dr. Julia Orkin - Co-Lead - Paediatric Complex Care ECHO Dr. Jill Hamilton - Co-Lead - Paediatric Obesity Management ECHO Rebecca Noseworthy - Co-Lead - Paediatric Obesity Management ECHO Dr. Naivi Sun – Co-Lead – Paediatric Pain ECHO Jennifer Tyrrell - Co-Lead - Paediatric Pain ECHO Dr. Adam Rapoport - Co-Lead - Paediatric Palliative Care ECHO (SickKids) Dr. Christina Vadeboncoeur - Co-Lead - Paediatric Palliative Care ECHO (CHEO) Dr. Kevin Weingarten - Co-Lead - Paediatric Palliative Care ECHO (SickKids) Dr. Chitra Lalloo - Research Lead Dr. Adam McKillop – Program Manager Annie Jiwan – Project Manager

#### **University Health Network**

Dr. Ruth Dubin – Co-Lead – ECHO Chronic Pain / Opioid Stewardship Dr. Andrea Furlan – Co-Lead – ECHO Chronic Pain / Opioid Stewardship Dr. Jordan Feld – Co-Lead – ECHO Liver Dr. Hemant Shah – Co-Lead – ECHO Liver Dr. Claire Bombardier – Co-Lead – ECHO Rheumatology Dr. Amanda Steiman – Co-Lead – ECHO Rheumatology Dr. John Flannery – Lead – Operations Rhonda Mostyn – Project Manager

ECHO Ontario is a collaboration of deeply caring, enthusiastic and engaging teams. We'd like to acknowledge and extend a thank you to all the ECHO Ontario operations and hub teams that have contributed to the ongoing success of this project.

## Publications

Babineau, J., Zhao, J., Dubin, R., Taenzer, P., Flannery, J. F. & Furlan, A. D. (2018). The Embedded Librarian in a Telehealth Continuing Medical Education Program. *Journal of Hospital Librarianship*, 18 (1), 1–14.

Crawford, A., Gratzer, D., Jovanovic, M., Rodie, D., Sockalingam, S., Sunderji, N., ... & Thomas, Z. (2018). Building ehealth and telepsychiatry capabilities: Three educational reports across the learning continuum. *Academic Psychiatry*, 42 (6), 852–856.

Furlan, A. D., Zhao, J., Voth, J., Hassan, S., Dubin, R., Stinson, J. N., ... & Flannery, J. F. (2018). Evaluation of an innovative tele-education intervention in chronic pain management for primary care clinicians practicing in underserved areas. *Journal of telemedicine and telecare*, https://doi.org/10.1177/1357633X18782090.

Serhal, E., Arena, A., Sockalingam, S., Mohri, L. & Crawford, A. (2018). Adapting the consolidated framework for implementation research to create organizational readiness and implementation tools for project ECHO. *The Journal of Continuing Education in the Health Professions*, 38 (2), 145.

Sokoloff, L., Feldman, S., Moser, A. & Conn, D. (2019). ECHO Care of the Elderly–Using Technology to Build Capacity of Primary Care Providers in Long-term Care. *Journal of the American Medical Directors Association*, 20 (3), B10–B11.



## ECHO Ontario

