



Research & Scholarship

A Knowledge Hub and Facilitator of Best Practices

One of the goals of the Office of CEPD is to advance research in continuing education, fostering two of our key values – life-long learning and critical inquiry and scholarship.

The Office has established itself as a knowledge hub for the research, design and delivery of innovative, accredited, outcome-based continuous learning experiences for healthcare professionals – to enable the delivery of Better Education. Better Outcomes™. We recognize the importance of leveraging innovative education techniques and drawing upon research to accelerate knowledge transfer and enable healthcare professionals to make better decisions around the care and treatment of their patients – and ultimately drive improved health outcomes.

It is effective, *outcome-based* course program design and delivery that converts learning into action, to address priority health issues. Through our knowledge hub, Course Directors have access to key research, which ensures that important health issues and learning best practices are identified, understood and addressed in program design and delivery. We believe that better teaching leads to better learning, and in turn better care being delivered – in other words, improved health outcomes for patients.

Knowledge Translation Program

The Joint Program in Knowledge Translation at the Keenan Research Centre, the Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute of St. Michael's Hospital focuses on continuing education and professional development research in *knowledge translation*. The program's mandate is to identify new best practices in learning so that they can be quickly adopted at the clinical level by healthcare professionals. By focusing on the processes through which knowledge is effectively translated into changed clinical practices, the Knowledge Translation Program plays a critical role in enabling the creation and delivery of outcome-based learning experiences, and ultimately improved health outcomes.

Knowledge Sharing through the Research in Continuing Education Task Force

The Research in Continuing Education Task Force (RICE) was created to promote a continuous learning *environment* of *knowledge sharing*, consistent with the Office's goal to advance research in continuing education. The task force is comprised of an inter-professional team with an interest and/or expertise in continuing education and professional development and knowledge translation. Participants represent learning sciences, faculty development, international health, and a broad range of health science departments.

The task force also provides leadership in the design, implementation and evaluation of an innovative, inter-professional, evidence-based faculty development program in best practices in continuing education hosted by the Centre for Faculty Development. Through this knowledge sharing, we are enabling Course Directors to be better able to deliver outcome-based continuing education courses and programs, thereby ultimately enabling healthcare professionals to deliver improved health outcomes.

We also foster an open environment for peer-based *knowledge sharing* through a community of practice in continuous learning experiences.



Knowledge Transfer through Educational Consulting Services and Literature Database

The Office recognizes the important role we can play in supporting Course Directors with the research, design, development and measurement of their courses and programs – to ensure they are delivering Better Education. Better Outcomes™

Two key *knowledge transfer* services are available to Course Directors, *free of charge*: access to the Research and Development Resource Base (RDRB), as well as Educational Consulting services.

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Research and Development Resource Base (RDRB)

The RDRB (www.rdrb.utoronto.ca) is a self-serve literature database and best practice resource which focuses specifically on continuing education, continuing professional development, faculty development and knowledge translation in healthcare. It is an extensive, world-class resource and database, which is maintained and updated to reflect global best practices. It is supported by the following key bodies:

- Alliance for Continuing Medical Education (ACME)
- The Society for Academic CME (SACME)
- Journal for Continuing Education in Health Profession (JCEHP)
- Canadian Association for Continuing Health Education (CACHE)
- The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC)
- the Joint Program in Knowledge Translation at the Keenan Research Centre, the Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute of St. Michael's Hospital
- the Office of CEPD, University of Toronto Faculty of Medicine

This database, and the services of an Information Specialist who manages it, is available to Course Directors *free of charge* to support them in identifying and leveraging best practices in continuing education for design and delivery of their courses.

To learn more about the services of our Information Specialist, or for assistance with the RDRB, please contact: rdrb.cepd@utoronto.ca

Educational Consulting Services

Further recognizing the importance of applying best practices in course identification, design, development, delivery and measurement, the Office also offers free access to Educational Consulting experts to advise Course Directors on best practices in continuing education and professional development, program development/design (needs assessment, objectives, education/learning formats), evaluation strategies and other essential components of accreditation/sponsorship - all consistent with delivering outcome-based continuous learning experiences. Please also refer to our Accreditation brochure.

To learn more about our Educational Consulting services, please contact: educationalconsulting.cepd@utoronto.ca

The Benefits to Course Directors

By leveraging the Office's knowledge hub, Course Directors will be better enabled in their roles:

- They will have access to best practices and expertise for health issues identification, course design and program execution
- They will be better able to *identify* courses that address priority health issues, and ultimately drive better public health outcomes
- They will be able to *develop* better programs based on best practices in continuing education and professional development
- They will be able to *deliver* better courses that are outcome-based learning experiences
- They will *enhance their reputations* as Course Directors, driving increased participation and possibilities for advancement

Our Commitment to Research

The Office has a long-standing record for making significant contributions to the world of literature in continuing education research and scholarship. In addition to the RDRB, this includes the following:

- **Continuing Education R&D Grants:** the Office's Research and Development Fund supports projects that directly relate to the planning, implementation, delivery and evaluation of continuing education for healthcare professionals, including pilot funding for further research (three submission dates each year, with up to 5 grants of \$5,000 each awarded annually)
- **Education Development Fund (EDF):** supports education program and curriculum development in undergraduate, postgraduate and continuing education in the Faculty of Medicine



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Awards

The Office also provides access to U of T Faculty of Medicine grants for travel and continuing education R&D, and eligibility for the following U of T Faculty of Medicine continuing education awards. Award recipients are acknowledged each year at the Annual Educational Achievement Celebration hosted by the Faculty of Medicine.

- David Fear Fellowship Awards for study leaves
- Colin R. Woolf Awards of excellence for teaching, innovation and long-term commitment to continuing education
- Fred Fallis Award of excellence for distance education
- Dave Davis CEPD Research Award

Partnering in Research

The Office also has close affiliated relationships with several other Centres of Excellence in education research and development, including:

- Keenan Research Centre, the Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute
- The Peter A. Silverman Centre for International Health (PASCiH)
- The Wilson Centre for Research in Education
- The Centre for Effective Practice
- The Centre for Interprofessional Education (IPE)
- The Centre for Faculty Development (CFD)
- The Department of Health Management Policy and Evaluation (HPME)
- The Centre for Patient Safety
- SIMone

Follow Us On:

To learn more about the Office's extensive research and Scholarship offerings, and how they might benefit you, please contact: researchandscholarship.cepd@utoronto.ca

Stay CONNECTED with the greater CE community, keep up-to-date on news, activities, recent developments, and contribute to our ongoing blog dialogue at: connect.cepdutoronto.ca



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The Office of Continuing Education and Professional Development delivers Better Education. Better Outcomes. The Office of CEPD, as part of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto has a long-standing global reputation for innovation, leadership and excellence in continuing education and professional development. Our knowledge hub spearheads the research, design and delivery of innovative, accredited outcome-based continuous learning experiences for healthcare professionals. Faculty Course Directors have access to innovative education techniques and research to accelerate knowledge transfer, while healthcare professionals and international institutions/associations who take our programs are enabled to make better decisions around the care and treatment of their patients. For more information visit: www.cepd.utoronto.ca/.

