

## **Poster Number 23**

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#### **Engagement of frontline health care professionals in child health clinical research at tertiary pediatric facilities**

**Kristy Wittmeier**, University of Manitoba; **Tanya Kozera**, University of Manitoba; **Geert t' Jong**, University of Manitoba; **Jill Patterson**, University of Manitoba; **Doris Sawatzky-Dickson**, University of Manitoba; **Cheryl Rockman-Greenberg**, University of Manitoba

#### **Background:**

Frontline health care professionals (HCPs) play a key role in determining the success of clinical research in academic pediatric centres.

#### **Objective:**

The purpose of this study was to understand barriers and experiences relating to research participation in a local sample of child health HCPs.

#### **Methods:**

HCPs working in pediatrics at Children's Hospital (CH), St. Boniface General Hospital (SBGH) and Specialized Services for Children and Youth (SSCY) were invited via email to complete an online anonymous survey (SurveyMonkey®). Exclusion criteria: Ambulatory/Community/ Subspecialty pediatricians at CH, SBGH, SSCY, exclusive employment in private clinics, Leadership Team members and Managers. Survey questions addressed: i) demographics ii) knowledge, attitudes/opinions toward pediatric clinical research and iii) participation in research.

#### **Results:**

210 surveys were completed (response rate ~33%). The majority of respondents were 26-40 years (57.6%) and female (92.4%). 39% were nurses, 7% physicians and 53% other HCPs (e.g. PT, OT, dieticians, physician assistants); 56.7% worked full time. 65% had taken 0-1 course on clinical research methods. 67.6% of respondents were unfamiliar with Children's Hospital Research Institute of Manitoba (CHRIM). The vast majority felt research is key to advance patient care and are interested in participating in clinical research, but lack of time was a common barrier. 81% felt that tertiary centres should be leaders in pediatric clinical research.

#### **Conclusion:**

Frontline HCPs are strongly supportive of clinical research in pediatric centres; 61.4% had participated in such research but few have received specific training. We recommend the strategic plans of HSC/SBGH and Child Health/Women's Health Programs increase awareness, opportunities and address logistical issues to improve HCPs' participation in pediatric clinical research. Finally, there is a need to improve awareness and presence of CHRIM and other Foundations supporting child health research within our academic tertiary centres.