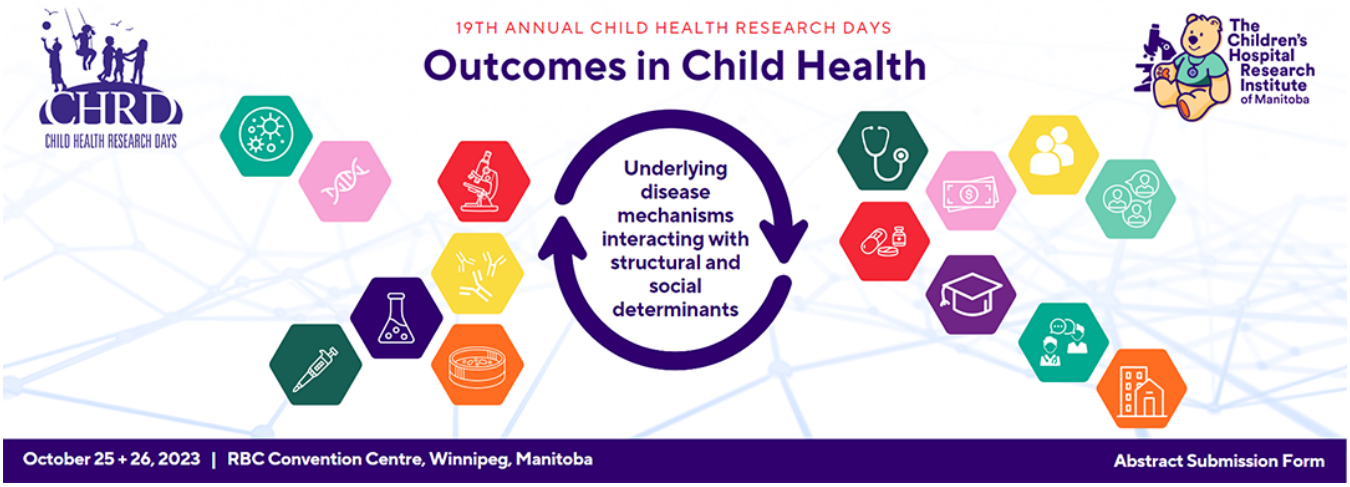

CHRD 2023: Abstract Submission Form

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Research Category
Community Health / Policy

Role in the project
Write Abstract

Title
Collaboration Station: A Knowledge Exchange Living Lab Platform for Pediatric Development and Rehabilitation Research

Background
Living labs are user-centered, open innovation ecosystems used to integrate research and innovation for various purposes. While popular in the aged care sector, pediatric and family focused living labs used to support family-centered research and innovation have not been developed.

Objective
The objective of this research is to explore potential utility of pediatric and family living lab as knowledge exchange platforms aimed at improving patient and participant involvement in research.

Methods
In 2019, we partnered with the Rehabilitation Centre for Children at the Specialized Service for Children and Youth Centre (SSCY), to co-develop the first childhood disability living lab- Collaboration Station. In 2020, an exploratory sequential mixed methods study was conducted with families and clinicians to determine the priority functions and objectives of the lab, and a participant advisory group was established to guide lab development using storytelling in 2021. We built the virtual platform in 2022 and are now commencing a 6-month longitudinal storytelling study with families who have accessed services at SSCY.

Results
Foundational research highlighted family's desire for higher research engagement and persistent needs for information sharing with other neurodiverse families. The COVID-19 pandemic undermined family's opportunities to connect through shared lived experience, providing support for a story-based knowledge exchange hub for the sharing of lived experiences. Familial preferences directly informed the development

of Collaboration Station – including its name and associated logo – and user-centered design sprints ensured platform acceptability for users. Recruitment is currently underway for the longitudinal storytelling and usability study.

Conclusion
Collaboration Station exemplifies how a partnered research approach can aid in developing strategies and infrastructures well aligned with family needs and clinical objectives. The long-term sustainable nature of the platform will enable expansion towards additional knowledge translation and family centered care objectives using rapid and user-centered design.

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