The editorial process is a social process

Whether you want to be or not, you are marketing yourself with every submission. Your target audience is the editor. Put your best foot forward in every interaction, no matter what the journal’s response is.

Pinpoint and convey a message

Define the main message of your research before you start writing your paper, and then put the message in your cover letter too. This is different than the article title or study objective; it’s the key ‘headline’ takeaway for readers.

Each journal has a tone, style and character

– align yourself to them

Each journal has an editorial character and a set of priorities and visions. To select the right journal for your work, try to find a match between your work and topics the journal has published on in the past.

Be ‘Canada proud,’ or at least ‘Canada loud’

Many international editors don’t know the specifics of Canada’s health-care system, so spell it out in your work. For example, be more explicit about describing our health-care model as universal.

Leverage all opportunities to get published

Journals publish commentaries, perspectives, and series, in addition to studies. Look at the different ways you can get published on a topic and seize those opportunities.

A message from Art Slutsky, vice-president, Research

The potential for research across all of our organizations has never been greater. Since we embarked on this shared journey together, I’ve been delighted to see that there is excitement for research and knowledge translation at all three sites that make up the network. Through the different shapes and sizes it comes in, research can unite us. It can be informed by our clinical excellence and ultimately it can improve our ability to deliver the best possible care to our patients. It is a bridge that will bring us closer together.

Through Our Shared Purpose, there is great opportunity to continue to expand on existing research and launch new studies that span across our sites. Some of you have already gotten a head start, like the Pediatrics research programs at St. Joseph’s Health Centre and St. Michael’s Hospital, laying a foundation for collaboration. Efforts to implement research appointments across sites and the creation of a joint Research Ethics Board are also underway to enhance our union and ground research across the network in the values that brought us together in the first place.

The opportunities for us to share knowledge and science will make our network and our health system stronger. Some of us are focused on research, some are focused on education, while others are focused on clinical work, but ultimately the goal is to improve patient care. No matter what our job descriptions are, or which site we sit at, our clinical work is critical to enhance our research, and our research is critical to enhance our clinical excellence. As you’ll see in this newsletter, we have a lot to be proud of, and a lot to look forward to. I can’t wait to see what we accomplish together!
Our research enterprise is divided into two centres: The Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute, which focuses on clinical and health services research, and the Keenan Research Centre for Biomedical Science, which focuses on basic and translational science research. A new network will mean access to a broader pool of patients and more brain power.

We have focused on improving clinical outcomes along the full continuum of care. From clinician-driven research to longitudinal studies on patient outcomes, research has collaborated with education, learning, and organizational development. Research at Providence has maintained a patient-centred approach. Our Shared Purpose will give opportunities to further explore research that has a direct impact on patient care.

Our research focus is clinical and observational. There are researchers embedded into different parts of the hospital, working on research in areas such as cardiology, emergency medicine, family and community medicine, oncology, nephrology, pediatrics, the ICU, and surgery. Research at St. Joseph’s is continuing to expand and work in partnership with the new network.

Linda Karnay is an Oncology Research Nurse at St. Joseph’s Health Centre. She has been conducting clinical trials in oncology for 12 years. Her research has focused on areas such as bone treatment for patients with multiple myeloma and a study exploring immunotherapy as a treatment for metastatic pancreatic cancer. With the new network, we can only grow and gain more insight and knowledge from having a larger pool to access,” Karnay says.

A newly discovered gene helps grow blood vessels when it senses inadequate blood flow to tissues, suggests recent research from the Keenan Research Centre for Biomedical Science of St. Michael’s. Led by Dr. Philip Marsden and Dr. Jeffrey Man, the study set out to better understand how blood vessels regulate the delivery of blood and nutrients to tissues and organs, and how to improve healing after injury caused by inadequate blood flow.

Our research is BETTER together

Across Providence, St. Joseph’s, and St. Michael’s, there is great interest in research and outstanding work already underway. Together, this work can be even stronger. Take a look at what research looks like at the three sites, some of the highlights from each, and how some groups have already started to work together. As our partnership grows, more collaborations in research within our network will arise, bringing us closer together.

Due to great interest in research at Providence, a team of clinicians developed the Research Interest Group to support staff in research. The group represents 11 professions and aims to build research capacity and engage clinicians to conduct research, says Rachel Devitt, Professional Practice Leader in Occupational Therapy, who leads the group. They have supported frontline studies with unique collaborations and are continuing to expand.

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“New collaborations spark new ideas and will only continue to enhance the impact of our research,” she says.

Leadership Update

After 11 years as executive director of the Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute of St. Michael’s Hospital, Dr. Andreas Laupacis will step down at the end of March. Dr. Patricia O’Campo, who holds the Chair in Intersectoral Solutions to Urban Health Problems and is a researcher at the LKSKI, will become interim executive director.

“I have been privileged to see outstanding research produced by the LKSKI and to support the institute’s impressive growth over the years,” Dr. Laupacis says. He is starting a new role as lead of Patient Involvement in the University of Toronto’s Department of Medicine. He will continue to be based at the LKSKI and St. Michael’s, working as a scientist and palliative care physician.

As the former director the Centre for Urban Health Solutions, Dr. O’Campo is looking forward to working with scientists across LKSKI and the network.

“New collaborations spark new ideas and will only continue to enhance the impact of our research,” she says.
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5. What’s the secret to getting published in the journal of your dreams? Dr. Jocalyn Clark is an executive editor at the Lancet, and she has some advice that will put you on the right track. We sat in on one of her talks in Toronto recently to get her top tips for getting published.

   To learn more about Dr. Clark’s work, you can follow her on Twitter @JocalynClark.

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The opportunities for us to share knowledge and science will make our network and our health system stronger. Our strength is grounded in the excellent clinical care we deliver. Some of us are focused on research, some are focused on education, while others are focused on clinical work, but ultimately the goal is to improve patient care. No matter what our job descriptions are, or which site we sit at, our clinical work is critical to enhance our research, and our research is critical to enhance our clinical excellence. As you’ll see in this newsletter, we have a lot to be proud of, and a lot to look forward to. I can’t wait to see what we accomplish together!