

## 2017 Ted Freedman Award Submission

### Project Name: Digital Health F.A.C.T.S (*“Digital Health Faculty Associations Content & Training Simulation”*)

#### **The Innovation**

Association of Faculties of Medicine (AFMC), Association of Faculties of Pharmacy (AFPC), Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing (CASN) and Canada Health Infoway (Infoway) have formed a collaborative to advance eHealth in education by developing informatics competencies and associated resources to support faculty and students to advance digital health in Canada.

#### **The value of the Innovation as an agent of change**

Leveraging Infoway’s Change Management Framework and Peer Leader Networks, the FACTs program develops & promotes faculty to support their colleagues in preparing students to practice in a digitally enabled environment. These Faculty Peer Leaders act as change agents in medicine, nursing and pharmacy, providing hands on support and guidance to their peers as well as students to bridge the classroom and clinic settings.

Peer Leaders within the national Digital Health FACTs program are unique as they engage faculty and students in an interprofessional, collaborative patient centred care approach to:

#### **1. Scale & Spread of Digital Health within Faculties of Medicine, Nursing & Pharmacy in Canada**

Infoway recognized the need to support future clinicians to understand and integrate digital health in learning and practice. The first phase **“Next Generation: Clinicians in Training,”** laid the groundwork for the development of physician, nursing and pharmacy informatics competencies and conferred faculty and student eHealth awards.

Phase two created **“Faculty Peer Leader Networks,”** focused on eHealth educational resources with the inclusion of patient-centered consumer health resources. The physician, nurse & pharmacy Faculty Peer Leaders used a ‘peer-to-peer’ approach to facilitate dialogue around eHealth and informatics competencies along with emerging consumer health topics such as patient portals, telehealth, virtual communities and health-related smart phone Apps. Lastly, the informatics competencies and digital health resources developed were disseminated via 1-1 sessions, accredited webinars/workshops and conferences coast-to-coast.

#### **2. Interdisciplinary and Cross-Sectoral Approach**

AFMC, CASN & AFPC participated in an interprofessional, collaborative manner and openly shared knowledge, resources and lessons learned regarding their respective initiatives. The Faculty Association Collaborative met annually to discuss emerging digital health issues relevant to educators and students across all disciplines. Lastly, the FAC recognized digital health knowledge needed to span beyond the classroom, to bridge into the clinical environment and this aspect was incorporated into the initiative with preceptors and Peer Leaders in both faculty and direct care settings.

### **3. Practical learning for faculty and students to integrate digital health toward interprofessional, collaborative patient care**

Extensive engagement of Faculty Peer Leaders via face-to-face meetings, workshops & webinars led to the development of pharmacy, nursing and medical informatics competencies along with real life case studies for teaching and learning, which were shared at regional, national and international conferences within education, healthcare and digital health communities. Lastly, 'organic' dialogue and discussion emerged: student-organized, interprofessional Symposium events focused on the role of eHealth in education to contribute to better patient care.

#### **The evidence to substantiate the Innovation**

Infoway's internationally renowned "Benefits Evaluation (BE) Framework" has been 'built in' to the planning and implementation of the FACTs program. Adapting "access, productivity and quality" aspects of the BE framework, each FACTs project have planned and conducted evaluation activities. Focus groups, in-person/online surveys were utilized when engaging Faculty Peer Leaders, their colleagues/peers and students. Evaluation results and lessons learned were incorporated into subsequent project activities.

#### **The outcomes to substantiate the Innovation**

The vision to create a foundation of a "people project" across Canada to engage educators and students in digital health dialogue, learning and teaching is unfolding. A national FACTs program evaluation planning is underway to better understand the intersection of program/project management, clinical and academic expertise contributing to the advancement of digital health in the Faculties of Medicine, Nursing and Pharmacy. Project specific targets were achieved and evaluation results/outcomes & learnings have been shared across disciplines, with highlights including:

#### **AFPC**

- The "Pharmacy Educator Peer Leader Network (PEPLN)" facilitated the implementation of pharmacy informatics curriculum integration initiatives in 8/10 of Canadian pharmacy faculties. Over ½ of the students enrolled in pharmacy faculties participated in the integration and used the "Informatics for Pharmacy Students eResource" (e-Resource)
- 8-fold increase in number of faculty & students enrolled in online eResource:
  - August 2014: ~350 users from 3/10 pharmacy schools, prior to PEPLN workshop
  - June 2015: e-Resource had +2800 individuals at 9/10 Faculties of Pharmacy enrolled, with two pharmacy technician schools

#### **CASN initiatives:**

- 87% of nursing colleagues agreed that by participating in the Network (project) they had increased their knowledge of digital health/consumer health solutions;
- 86% of nurse faculty/colleagues identified opportunities to include digital health/consumer health solutions content in individual courses
- 78% indicated that the support/guidance they received from Faculty Peer Leaders/Network met their continued professional learning needs
- 75% of the nurse faculty/colleagues indicated their comfort/confidence teaching consumer health and digital health solutions content increased

### **AFMC initiatives:**

- Workshop series had 15/17 Faculties of Medicine represented (821 workshop participants, exceeding target of 240)
- 73% of workshop participants/faculty colleagues indicated they plan to integrate workshop learnings into their teaching
- Estimated reach of 1723 individuals with advocacy/awareness activities
- Creation of a national eHealth in medical education group & connections with partner organizations, for example, Medical Council of Canada, to support advancement of testing for eHealth competence in the MD licensure exams.

The Federal 2017 budget validates the need for innovation in Canada and that the innovative nature of the Digital Health FACTs program is on the right track. The national program has initiated the discussion about digital health within medical, nursing and pharmacy education across the country. Change leaders in academia are advancing the teaching and learning of faculty and students in order to incorporate technology in a clinical setting and provide interprofessional, collaborative, patient centred care. Since today's students will be future clinicians as well as patients, they will be able to "talk the digital health walk."

### **References / Supporting Documentation**

#### **AFPC-Infoway Resources:**



**project\_in\_review\_a  
fpc\_2014\_finalpdf**

<http://afpc-education.info/moodle/index.php>

#### **CASN-Infoway Resources:**



**project\_in\_review\_c  
asn\_2014\_en.pdf**

<http://www.casn.ca/education/digital-healthnursing-informatics-casn-infoway-nurses-training-project/>

#### **AFMC-Infoway Resources:**



**Project in  
Review\_AFMC\_SEP 2**

<https://afmc.ca/medical-education/ehealth-initiatives>