

## **Abstract**

### **Enabling clinical health research and projects in the real world: Collaboration, Communication, and Collection**

Ronda Danchak, Trina Johnson, Tamara Murray, Tammy Mah-Fraser, Alberta Clinical Research Consortium, Alberta Innovates, Edmonton, AB

The key principles of a 'living lab' approach are collaboration, communication, facilitating data collection, reporting and evaluation<sup>1</sup>. The Alberta Clinical Research Consortium (ACRC) is building infrastructure to support these key principles in clinical health research and projects. We are doing this by co-developing common language, an understanding of what constitutes success, and an accessible technological platform for tracking and reporting activities.

The ACRC is a provincial partnership between Alberta Health Services, Alberta Innovates, the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta, Covenant Health, the University of Alberta, and the University of Calgary. Through collaboration the ACRC has developed a number of tools including the ACRC Common Terminology and Glossary, common metrics and indicators, and implementing the EDGE Clinical Research Management System at Covenant Health and Alberta Health Services. These tools allow for standardization of data collection and open reporting of clinical health research and project activities. The provincial approach using common infrastructure increases each organization's collective knowledge between healthcare providers, researchers and clinical areas.

This collaborative infrastructure creates a 'living lab' environment with a culture of continuous improvement by sharing our activities with researchers, our participants and the public. Promoting a collaborative research environment will provide Albertans with a greater opportunity to participate in the research process and impact outcomes in our health system.

<sup>1</sup>Pallot M. (2009). Engaging Users into Research and Innovation: The Living Lab Approach as a User Centred Open Innovation Ecosystem. Webergence Blog. [http://www.cwe-projects.eu/pub/bscw.cgi/1760838?id=715404\\_1760838](http://www.cwe-projects.eu/pub/bscw.cgi/1760838?id=715404_1760838)