

# SPOR Evidence Alliance Seed Grant Impact Story



**Lead:**

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**Project Supervisor:**

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**Project:**

Exploring predictors of women's overall satisfaction with their HIV care

## What key learnings did your seed grant funded project reveal?

- The SPOR EA seed grant funding was crucial to getting our project from conceptualization to completion. Our seed grant funded study aimed to identify factors influencing satisfaction with HIV care from the perspective of women living with HIV.
- We used Fuzzy Cognitive Mapping, a novel participatory research method, to integrate existing literature and the experiential expertise of women living with HIV.
- The findings revealed the most central and influential category in women's satisfaction with care was 'feeling safe and supported by clinics and healthcare providers', followed by 'accessible and coordinated services' and 'healthcare provider expertise'.
- Additional categories captured gendered social and health considerations not previously specified in the literature.

## How will your findings benefit the health research environment?

- Women living with HIV describe a lack of healthcare services that address their comprehensive care needs and priorities.

- Fuzzy Cognitive Mapping enabled us to capture stakeholder perspectives not reflected in the existing literature.
- The findings advanced our understanding of how gender shapes health care needs and priorities for women living with HIV, an essential consideration in providing appropriate care.
- Through this research we were able to design, implement, and describe an approach to patient partner engagement in quantitative data analysis that can be used by research teams conducting participatory research.

## How did you disseminate your findings?

- We presented our findings at the AIDS2022 conference in Montreal, Canada.
- The findings were also published in the Journal of Personalized Medicine:
  - Skerritt L, Kaida A, Savoie É, Sánchez M, Sarmiento I, O'Brien N, Burchell AN, Bartlett G, Boucoiran I, Kestler M, et



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al. Factors and Priorities Influencing Satisfaction with Care among Women Living with HIV in Canada: A Fuzzy Cognitive Mapping Study. *Journal of Personalized Medicine*. 2022; 12(7):1079. <https://doi.org/10.3390/jpm12071079>

- We continue to work with patient partners and clinicians to develop tools to support the dissemination of our research findings in clinical settings.

### **What influences did the seed grant opportunity have in your subsequent research endeavours?**

- The work from this seed grant funded project contributed to a publication on Fuzzy Cognitive Mapping applications co-authored by members of our research team which is currently under review.
- In this publication, we outline the use of Fuzzy Cognitive Mapping for health researchers wanting to conduct participatory research engaging patient partners.

### **What successes and milestones did the opportunity help you realize in your professional development?**

- This seed grant funded study represents the final chapter of my PhD dissertation.
- I have used the knowledge I have gained through this project to deliver Fuzzy Cognitive Mapping workshops for other health research graduate students at McGill University.
- My goal is to advance the use of mapping approaches to support community-based participatory health service research.



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