RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

SPOR Evidence Alliance
Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research
Alliance pour des données probantes de la SRAP ✦
Stratégie de recherche axée sur le patient

Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research
SPOR
Putting Patients First ✦

Dental Service Utilisation among Individuals and Families Living in a Situation of Socio-Economic Disadvantage in Canada

Dental services can be very expensive and are not covered by universal healthcare in Canada. Instead, dental care is accessed through private insurance plans, workplace or school benefits, or government programs. People without dental coverage must either pay for services out of pocket or qualify for and access government benefits. However, these government programs may not cover all necessary services or the full cost of treatments. As a result, many barriers exist to accessing comprehensive dental care, particularly for those with limited financial resources.

The objectives of this scoping review are to identify barriers and facilitators to accessing dental healthcare for individuals and families experiencing socio-economic disadvantage in Canada and to explore approaches for improving access to dental care for these populations. The research findings will be shared in a report for the commissioning organisation, plain-language summaries and infographics for the general public, and a peer-reviewed publication. Additionally, the team will host a full-day knowledge exchange event in Montréal to foster collaboration and promote healthcare access and equity in Québec. Participants will engage in presentations, interactive sessions, and roundtable discussions focused on disseminating research results, building relationships with policymakers, and expanding the reach of this initiative to communities facing inequities.

Maryline Côté
Patient and Public Partner, SPOR Evidence Alliance

Maryline has been in the field of research since 2011. She is particularly interested in the health field, the effects of social determinants of health on society, and health inequalities. She is also involved in the education of future doctors by integrating patient-partners into medical courses at Laval University. She participates in events organised by community organisations such as the Collectif pour un Québec sans pauvreté, TRAAQ, ADDS-QM, and in the creation of the organisation Mères et monde in 1999. Finally, she is involved in the Chair on the reduction of social health inequalities at the University of Quebec in Montreal (UQAM) because she believes that prejudices and injustices related to poverty are social issues that need to be taken seriously.

Simon Bacon, PhD
Professor, Concordia University

Simon's research tries to understand why people do what they do and then develop tailored interventions, targeting individuals through to policies, to help positively change high-risk behaviours. This research is multidisciplinary and intersectoral, requiring the engagement of a number of different collaborators and partners. Simon is the FRQS co-Chair in Artificial Intelligence and Digital Health for Health Behaviour Change and the co-director of the Montreal Behavioural Medicine Centre, which is based at the Centre intégré universitaire de santé et de services sociaux du Nord-de-l'Île-de-Montréal (CIUSSS-NIM). He also co-leads the International Behavioural Trials Network and the CIHR funded Canadian Behavioural Interventions and Trials Network.