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 ✳

Detection of Human Trafficking in Clinical Settings

Human trafficking involves the recruitment, transportation, harbouring, exercising control, direction, and/or influence over the movements of a person in order to exploit that person, typically through sexual exploitation or forced labour. This global human rights violation has severe, well-documented impacts on physical and mental health, yet many trafficked individuals remain undetected, even when accessing healthcare services. Studies show that around 90% of those affected seek medical care during their trafficking experience, but more than half go unrecognized by healthcare providers.[1] Healthcare professionals are uniquely positioned to identify and assist trafficked individuals, offering critical support and services.

The objective of this project is to conduct a scoping review to identify the tools available for the detection of people in situations of human trafficking in healthcare settings, as well as implementation strategies. The findings will be disseminated to different knowledge users through social media, a peer-reviewed journal article, and a plain-language summary. Additionally, a knowledge mobilization event will be held in collaboration with the Alberta Coalition on Human Trafficking to facilitate discussions about how to mobilize the research findings to inform future research priorities and generate recommendations for policy and practice.

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Public Partner, SPOR Evidence Alliance

Esther Ekpe Adewuyi is a Grants Facilitator at the University of Lethbridge. She holds a PhD degree in Experimental Surgery from the University of Alberta. Her doctoral and postdoctoral research focused on the molecular pathways associated with thyroid cancer metastases and pediatric nephrotic syndrome, respectively. Previously, Esther worked with the Alberta Clinical Research Consortium as a Senior Business Partner to facilitate high quality and efficient clinical research across the province and as a Stakeholder Engagement Coordinator with the Alberta SPOR SUPPORT Unit Learning Health System Team. Esther enjoys spending time with family, especially her two children when she is not working.

Andrea Burkhart, MSc
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Andrea Burkhart is a consultant and systems-change leader with a Master of Public Health in Global Health. She has extensive experience in the social services sector, including standing up and leading large-scale initiatives focused on complex public health issues (human trafficking, poverty, houselessness, etc). She currently consults in strategic planning, evaluation, and community engagement in healthcare and social services systems.

[1]World Health Organization. (2023). Addressing human trafficking through health systems: a scoping review.

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Iván Flórez is a pediatrician with a master's degree in Clinical Epidemiology and a PhD in Health Research Methodology. He is a full Professor at the Department of Pediatrics at University of Antioquia (Medellin, Colombia), and Assistant Professor (part-time) at McMaster University (Hamilton, Canada). He is the current leader of the Appraisal of Guidelines for Research & Evaluation (AGREE) Collaboration, Director of Cochrane Colombia, and the Editor-in-Chief of the *Clinical and Public Health Guidelines* journal. He is also an Editorial Board member of the following journals: *Journal of Clinical Epidemiology, Pediatric Discovery, Cochrane Evidence Synthesis & Methods and the Journal of the American Heart Association*. His research is focused on evidence synthesis methods, systematic reviews, network meta-analyses, clinical practice guidelines, and pediatrics.

Daniel Felipe Patiño-Lugo, PhD, MSc
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Daniel Felipe Patiño-Lugo is a Professor at the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Antioquia in Colombia. He is the co-founder of the Unit of Evidence and Deliberation for Decision Making, a university-based team that uses global and local evidence to inform the formulation of health policies in Colombia. Prior to this role, Daniel was the director of the Faculty of Medicine Medical Research Institute. Daniel earned his PhD in Health Policy from McMaster University.