

## UPDATE: INTRODUCING SPOR

September 19, 2013 update

I'm delighted to take on the administrative lead for the SPOR SUPPORT Unit in Alberta. It is an honour and privilege to be associated with the creation of health research infrastructure for the ultimate benefit of improved health outcomes for Albertans. I've been in the role for five weeks and already there is a lot of excitement and many questions about what SPOR is and what it can achieve in the province.

Here are some of the questions that I'm hearing:

- What is SPOR?
- When is SPOR going to be launched in Alberta?
- What kind of research will be supported under Alberta's SPOR SUPPORT Unit?
- What is the difference between a SPOR SUPPORT Unit and SPOR Networks?
- How is Alberta SPOR SUPPORT Unit going to be put in place and funded?
- What are the next steps for starting Alberta's SPOR SUPPORT Unit?
- How and when will funding be made available to researchers?

You can find responses to these and other questions on our website. I'll post regular updates on activity and if you have any questions or concerns that I don't address in my updates, please don't hesitate to call or email me. Here's a summary of our current SPOR activity. We are waiting to hear about the status of our application from CIHR. If the application is successful, Alberta's SPOR SUPPORT Unit will have funding from CIHR for five years. We are in the process of establishing the fundamentals of SPOR—the seven platforms around patient oriented research; the critical governance, leadership and accountability mechanisms; as well as the operating principles which will guide the implementation of Alberta's SPOR-related activity in the ongoing development of health research—spanning all pillars—and innovation capacity in Alberta.

First steps:

- Governance structure: the original SPOR Steering Committee is working with representatives of each of the partners to establish a governance framework for the SPOR SUPPORT Unit. Once this is confirmed, it will be posted to this site.
- AIHS's Board of Directors will be accountable for SPOR in Alberta.

- Recruitment of SPOR Platform leadership. Once the position descriptions and role profiles are defined, they will be posted to this site. The goal is to establish the platform leadership positions on the first four platforms— data platforms and services; health systems research; implementation research and knowledge translation; pragmatic clinical trials; patient engagement –before the end of 2013.

Should our application be successful and once we have established the foundational elements of the Alberta SPOR SUPPORT Unit, I will update you on the provincial services and resources that will be offered. Please let me know if you have any comments or questions or have ideas you'd like to share concerning SPOR or the SPOR SUPPORT Unit in Alberta.

**For more information:**

Tim Murphy, MBA, Vice President, Provincial Platforms & Alberta Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR) SUPPORT Unit

[Tim.Murphy@albertainnovates.ca](mailto:Tim.Murphy@albertainnovates.ca)

(780) 429-6882