Introduction to knowledge synthesis for knowledge users

Presented by

The Knowledge Translation Program,
Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute,
St. Michael's Hospital, Unity Health Toronto

Dalla Lana School of Public Health,
Accredited for U of T students
University of Toronto

Instructors

Drs. Andrea C. Tricco & Sharon Straus

Course associate

Catherine Stratton

Cost

$1,800 CAD - If affiliated with the SPOR Evidence Alliance, it is freely available. Please email Meghan.Storey@unityhealth.to to apply.

Session date

January 8 – April 5, 2024

Topics include

- How to formulate a knowledge synthesis question
- How to develop a knowledge synthesis protocol
- How to abstract data
- How to appraise the quality of studies
- How to perform a meta-analysis

Learning Objectives

- Differentiate systematic reviews from other types of reviews, including qualitative evidence reviews
- Identify which organizations conduct knowledge synthesis
- Discern individuals who can be involved with the knowledge synthesis team
- Distinguish between different types of evidence that can be summarized in knowledge synthesis
- Develop a knowledge synthesis question
- Establish eligibility criteria for knowledge synthesis
- Create a knowledge synthesis protocol

For more information
Please contact Meghan Storey:
Meghan.Storey@unityhealth.to

Knowledge Synthesis (KS) is a method used to summarize all relevant studies on a specific question. It can improve understanding of inconsistencies in diverse evidence and define future research agendas. KS provides the evidence base required to create important knowledge translation products, such as policy briefs, clinical practice guidelines, and patient decision aids. As such, KS is the most reliable way to transform research into knowledge that knowledge user decision-makers - patients, healthcare providers, and policy-makers - can use for decision-making.

By the end of this course, participants will have a protocol ready for registration that has been reviewed by the course directors.

This is an introductory course on knowledge synthesis for knowledge users and it will be delivered online. It is co-taught by Andrea Tricco (MSc, PhD), Sharon Straus (MD, MSc) and Catherine Stratton (MSc). The overall course objective is to teach about knowledge synthesis in general, as well as how to conduct knowledge synthesis. This information will be used by the students to prepare a protocol for knowledge synthesis on the topic of their choice, with guidance from the course instructors.

The course will cover 17 modules in total. Each module consists of a video presentation, mandatory readings, optional readings, and a mandatory quiz. It is recommended that each student conduct a knowledge synthesis while taking the course. In addition, there are two assignments related to developing a knowledge synthesis question and protocol.

The students will have approximately 3 months to complete the course and the course instructors will provide high-level methodological support for the knowledge synthesis.

Course includes live, online discussion sessions with KS expert Dr. Andrea Tricco (Tier 2 CRC in Knowledge Synthesis).

Please note that auditing is not permitted, except in extreme or unusual circumstances.