



MSSU STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-2026

Improving the health of Maritimers through patient-oriented research

Updated: September 2023

MISSION

To support the conduct and implementation of patient-oriented research addressing Maritime health priorities

VISION

Better health, care, and cost across the Maritimes through evidence-informed decision-making

VALUES

- Timely responsiveness to aligned priorities
- Decisions infused with patients' unique insights
- The power of creative, productive collaborations
- Accountability to the public
- Quality, innovation and impact

STRATEGIC AREAS

1. DATA PLATFORMS AND SERVICES

2. LEARNING HEALTH SYSTEMS

3. CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

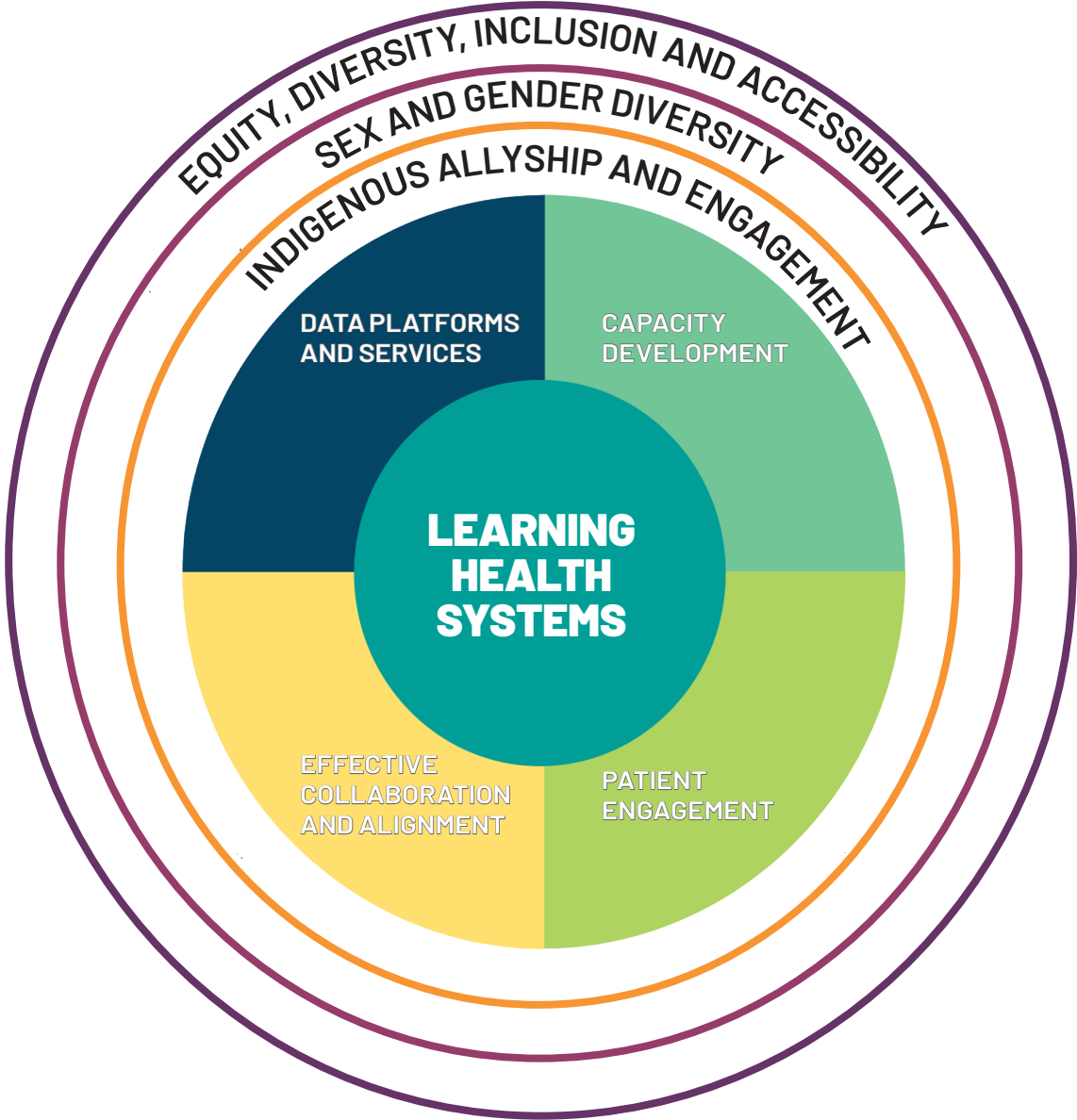
4. PATIENT ENGAGEMENT

5. EFFECTIVE COLLABORATION AND ALIGNMENT

6. EQUITY, DIVERSITY, INCLUSION AND ACCESSIBILITY

7. SEX AND GENDER DIVERSITY

8. INDIGENOUS ALLYSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT



1. DATA PLATFORMS AND SERVICES

| GOALS | KEY DELIVERABLES |
|---|---|
| 1.1 Maintain and enhance provincial data platforms | Inclusive data holdings and new data sets are further developed across Maritime provinces |
| 1.2 Foster a culture that values the use of data through education and advocacy | Research involving administrative data is supported and used to inform policy and practice |
| 1.3 Provide critical support for timely access and robust analysis | Access and use of data is facilitated through skilled navigation, robust analysis, advocacy and education |

2. LEARNING HEALTH SYSTEMS

| GOALS | KEY DELIVERABLES |
|---|---|
| 2.1 Identify priority topic areas and engage key stakeholders | Policies, practices, and programs informed by the community, including diverse Patient Partners, are implemented as a direct result of collaborative efforts enabled through priority setting initiatives |
| 2.2 Support and enable excellence in Patient-Oriented Research (POR) | <p>There are increasing numbers of research consultations, provision of resources/supports, and MSSU priority projects that improve evidence-informed health care decision-making and potential health outcomes</p> <p>There are increasing numbers of research consultations, provision of resources/supports, and MSSU priority projects related to Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility (EDIA), Sex and Gender-Based Analysis (SGBA+), and including meaningful engagement of Indigenous Peoples, sex and gender diverse individuals, Black, and linguistic minority communities</p> |
| 2.3 Facilitate the adoption of Learning Health Systems (LHS) across the Maritimes | New examples of LHS (with documentation and dissemination of learnings) emerge across Maritime provinces as a result of stakeholder meetings, brokered relationships, and capacity development initiatives |

3. CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

| GOALS | KEY DELIVERABLES |
|--|--|
| 3.1 Support the strengthening of POR-related competencies and skills | <p>Embedded Scientist Studentship program that is co-funded by local universities and provincial agencies and offered to trainees of MSSU Scientists.</p> <p>POR and EDI training for the studentship holders will be offered in coordination with the SPOR NTE and trainees can attend and present at the MSSU Annual Scientific Meeting.</p> |
| 3.2 Enhance the capacity for evidence implementation as a part of the LHS | Evidence-based educational programs in POR, EDI, SGBA+, KT/IS, ethical engagement of equity-seeking groups and health data and social license, created and delivered in partnership with the SPOR NTE and other SPOR-funded entities. |
| 3.3 Extend the reach of capacity development across the region | Expanded virtual capacity to enable more distributed education (building upon COVID-19 experience) |

4. PATIENT ENGAGEMENT

| GOALS | KEY DELIVERABLES |
|---|---|
| 4.1 Engage Patient Partners in governance and decision-making | Increased engagement of Patient Partners in governance, decision making, priority identification and research, through an approach that is broad and inclusive, and reflective of their needs and priorities |
| 4.2 Build capacity for and facilitate engagement of Patient Partners in research | Increased number of research projects and other collaborative initiatives (e.g. meetings, events, training and education) that have been directly informed by Patient Partners; improved Patient Partner experience in research |
| 4.3 Create and share tools and resources | A coordinated approach to Patient Partner Engagement across provincial and national partner organizations and other SPOR-funded entities |

5. EFFECTIVE COLLABORATION AND ALIGNMENT WITHIN AND ACROSS PROVINCES

| GOALS | KEY DELIVERABLES |
|---|---|
| 5.1 Foster interprovincial research collaboration | <p>Create a cohesive MSSU team across all sites</p> <p>Address the needs of the research ecosystem collaboratively across MSSU sites</p> <p>Support research projects with an interprovincial scope</p> |
| 5.2 Build a Culture of Customer Service | <p>Demonstrate the impact and satisfaction with MSSU supports and services</p> <p>Report to Executive Committee on cost-recovery</p> |
| 5.3 Pursue excellence in Operations and Governance | <p>Demonstrate MSSU's commitment to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, Gender and Sex diverse individuals and Indigenous engagement</p> <p>Strengthen the MSSU brand image</p> |

6. EQUITY, DIVERSITY, INCLUSION AND ACCESSIBILITY

| GOALS | KEY DELIVERABLES |
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| 6.1 Increase capacity of MSSU staff, Patient/Public Partners, Science Leads, MSSU Scientists' knowledge of EDIA | <p>Curated EDIA toolbox/resource list</p> |
| 6.2 Establish a network of EDI & Accessibility relevant community groups and organizations/contacts | <p>Network of contacts to engage Patient/Public Partners more broadly with equity seeking groups, underrepresented populations, and Indigenous Communities</p> |

6. EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

| GOALS | KEY DELIVERABLES |
|---|---|
| 6.3 Enhance POR training via the inclusion of EDIA considerations | Integration of EDIA considerations in POR training |
| 6.4 Raise public awareness regarding MSSU's commitment to equity, diversity, inclusion and accessibility. | Public Awareness of past and current EDIA initiatives at MSSU |

7. SEX AND GENDER DIVERSITY

| GOALS | KEY DELIVERABLES |
|--|--|
| 7.1 Increase capacity for MSSU to support MSSU Scientists with respect to sex and gender-based considerations and analysis | <p>Curated sex and gender-based analysis toolbox/resource list, organized per area (e.g., sex and gender foundational knowledge, study design and methods for assessing sex and gender, SGBA+)</p> <p>Checklist/flowchart to help those preparing data request proposals or award applications ensure they have adequately addressed sex and gender considerations</p> <p>Form with instructions and examples (to be provided to those submitting proposals or applications) for indicating plans and justifications for sex/gender-based considerations and/or analyses. Examples will include justifications where sex and gender considerations were not applicable to the research</p> |
| 7.2 Enhance POR training via the inclusion of sex and gender considerations | A list of recommendations for how sex and gender can be integrated into existing MSSU POR training and areas |
| 7.3 Raise public awareness regarding MSSU's commitment to equity, access, opportunity and the rights of gender/sex divergent individuals | A communications campaign targeting stakeholders (e.g. gender/sex divergent patient partners, researchers, and award/MSSU applicants) |

8. INDIGENOUS ALLYSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT

| GOALS AND ACTIVITIES | OVERARCHING PURPOSE |
|---|---|
| <p>8.1 Increase presence of Indigenous voices in MSSU planning and decision-making processes</p> | <p>Create opportunities and supports for MSSU staff and affiliate researchers to decolonize their perspectives and approaches and work towards an organization (relationships, projects, and systems) that is increasingly empathetic and respectful of Indigenous worldviews. This approach will increase capacity within the MSSU to engage with Indigenous communities and act as an ally.</p> |
| <p>8.2 Provide safe opportunities for discussion about Indigenous perspectives</p> | |
| <p>8.3 Create opportunities to connect and develop relationships with Indigenous communities</p> | |