The Participatory Research Newsletter

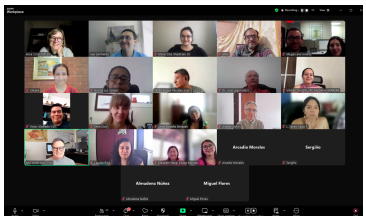
This monthly newsletter aims to highlight the participatory research initiatives emerging from Participatory Research @ McGill (PRAM), and Centro de Investigación de Enfermedades Tropicales (CIET), as well as share new opportunities for projects, courses, funding, and more!

Note, the CIET-PRAM Newsletter is offered in the following languages:

Français | Español

A Month in Review

An ever busy team, below are a few updates from the CIET-PRAM network.



Monthly Meeting

Practice review of participatory visual methods

This month, we had an insightful session on participatory visual methods, ed by Professors Neil Andersson and Anne Cockcroft. PRAM members Umaira Ansari, Anna Dion, and Mona Ghadirian also shared their experiences using these methods. We learned about the use of raster maps and interactive modelling, fuzzy cognitive maps, docudramas, photovoices, and cellphilms in diverse settings such as Pakistan, Mexico, Nigeria, Canada, Ghana, and Botswana.

Our initial "Pressure of Fact" approach to PVM shared epidemiological evidence, making it accessible for decision-making at household, service and policy levels. The second generation PVM focused on whose voices the evidence reflected and the engagement dynamics visual methods precipitate. Our third and current focus is on the transformative value of participatory visual methods on authors and their ecosystems, focused structural inequities while fostering identity-driven empowerment. We are especially interested in measuring this impact with participant authors, with substantial advances in our Nigerian and Botswana projects.

The presentations sparked thoughtful conversations and will form the basis for a practice paper, describing our experience of developing and using these powerful tools.

Student Travels

Building Bridges in Quaqtaq: Strengthening Community Connections

From March 31st to April 4th, doctoral student, Megan Légaré, traveled to Quaqtaq, Nunavik to meet with Tuniq Ningiuruvik, director of the

Nunavik Youth House Association (NYHA). During her visit, Megan had the opportunity to tour the community and connect with key individuals. Although the ice prevented her from visiting inside the youth house, she explored other important spaces within the community.

Throughout the week, Megan met with the youth house staff and an elder in the community, fostering rapport and discussing the project's goals. Together, they outlined methods for gathering information on engagement and motivation. Megan also reconnected with an old university friend who now serves as the representative for Quaqtaq and an executive member of the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services (NRBHSS).

The visit was centred around relationship-building, and Megan was even able to assist members of the Kativik School Board during a consultation workshop at the school. The week proved to be a valuable step in strengthening connections and advancing the project's goals. Throughout the visit, Inuit partners outlined essential stages in the research process, which will encompass talking circles, photovoice, deliberative dialogues, co-design of interventions, and quantitative evaluation of change.

PRAM Presentation at McGill University's Richard and Sylvia Cruess Symposium

On April 29, 2025, Dr Iván Sarmiento presented on behalf of PRAM at the Richard and Sylvia Cruess Symposium on Scholarship in Health Sciences Education. The presentation, titled "*Education that Promotes Transformative Participation in Primary Healthcare Research and Practice*," highlighted PRAM's commitment to training future researchers and family doctors to promote meaningful participant engagement in research and clinical practice.

In Health Sciences, conventional training often lacks skills in patient and community engagement. PRAM addresses this challenge by focusing on participation science and avoiding token uses of participation. Our programs emphasize **three key dynamics**: (1) engagement in governance and co-ownership of research, (2) prioritizing local evidence and experience, and (3) creating space for participants' innovation.

Students immerse themselves in a transformative process to learn these dynamics, opening up to new paradigms for conducting research and co-creating knowledge. Our training opportunities include four graduate-level courses, supervision for PhD and postdoctoral students, technical support for other research groups, and training for non-academics interested in participatory research.

Courses like FMED 603 and FMED 604 introduce participatory research basics and advanced methods, while FMED 615 and FMED 702 focus on integrated knowledge translation and fuzzy cognitive mapping. We use a combination of active learning, collaborative team interaction, and hands-on practices to foster transformative experiences among students. Throughout the courses, students not only experience the methods but also use them to understand the changes they undergo.

Podcast Series: Participation Science Dialogues

Did you know you can listen to our podcast Participation Science Dialogues in Spanish? Whether you're a researcher, practitioner, or community member, this series shares real stories, insights, and reflections from the world of participatory research. *French versions of our episodes coming soon!*

Listen on Spotify!

Listen on our site!

Upcoming Events

FMER-PRAM Crossroad Panel - *Shared Decision-making in Family Medicine*

Four panelists will make presentations of their perspectives about Shared Decision Making in Family Medicine education and practice, grounded in their experience and expertise as clinicians, educators and researchers. They will comment on the preliminary findings of an ongoing realist review of the impact of shared decision-making in family medicine practice. You will also hear directly from Dr. Laura Maclaren, clinical director of the McGill PBRN and practicing family physician, and a patient partner about their lived experiences with SDM in practice.

Don't miss the Photovoice Exhibition - a chance to share your own visual reflections on shared-decision making. Submit up to three photographs and captions by June 6 to take part to pram@mcgill.ca!

Date 🗓️ | 13 June 2025
Time ⏰ | 9AM-12PM EST
Location 📍 | 3450 McTavish, McGill Faculty Club and Conference Center (Billiard Room)
Doors open at 8:00 AM for a complimentary breakfast!

Note for physicians, this panel is accredited for 3 Mainpro+ credits.

Click here for more details!

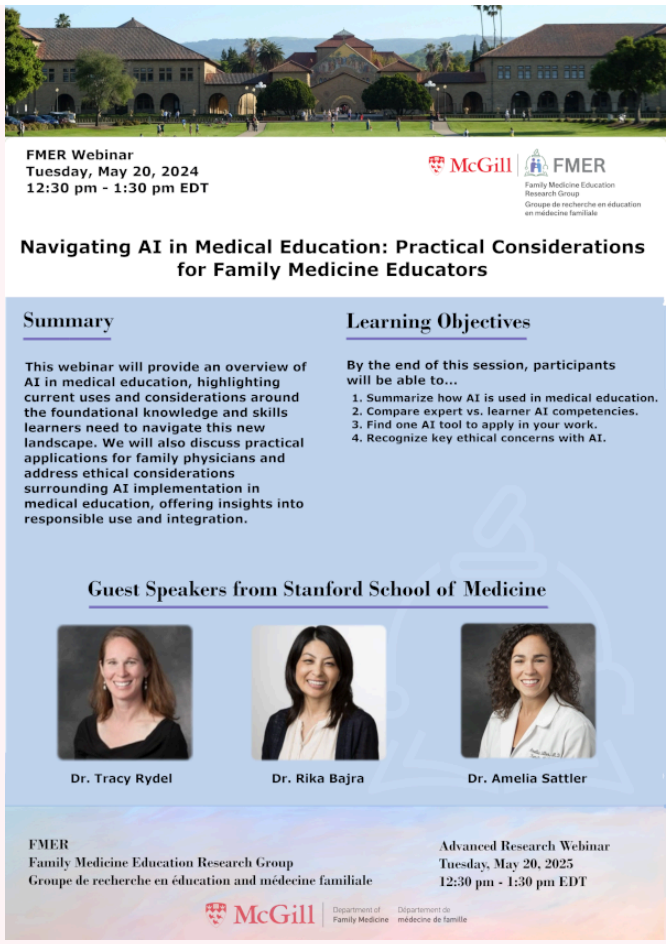
Navigating AI in Medical Education: Practical Considerations for Family Medicine Educators

On behalf of Dr. Charo Rodriguez, Director of the McGill Family Medicine Education Research Group (FMER), we invite you to a special FMER Advanced Webinar titled "Navigating AI in Medical Education: Practical Considerations for Family Medicine Educators."

Date | Tuesday, May 20, 2025
Time | 12:30 – 1:30 PM EDT
Location | Zoom

Join leading experts from Stanford University - Drs. Tracy Rydel, Rika Bajra, and Amelia Sattler - as they explore the integration of artificial intelligence into medical education. This session will offer practical insights into current AI applications, ethical considerations, and strategies for responsible implementation in family medicine education.

Register here for the Zoom link!



International Cellphilm Festival

On behalf of the *Cellphilm Festival Organizing Team*, we invite you to submit to this year's International Cellphilm Festival, hosted by the Participatory Cultures Lab, the Institute for Human Development and Well-being, and McGill University. This year's theme is inspired by current worldwide events affecting billions of people:

Conversations & Connections: This is not a time for silence

Now more than ever, we need conversation, connection, and community - not silence. This is a time to engage with one another on the issues that matter, from challenging gender norms, fighting for climate justice, to building meaningful relationships. *What would **YOU** say? Make a 1 to 2 minute cellphilm.*

You can submit your cellphilm to their website by 31 May 2025.

For more information, please contact the organizers at thecellphilmfestival@gmail.com and visit their website for additional resources and toolkits for cellphilm making!

Latest Publications

Highlighted below are some of the most recent publications from the industrious CIET-PRAM team:

Indigenous Community Views of Disability in Canada: Protocol for a Scoping Review

Authors: **Andrés Rojas-Cárdenas**, **Shaun Cleaver**, **Iván Sarmiento**, Julie Rock, Yan Grenier, Francis Charrier, Rose-Anne Gosselin, **Anne Cockcroft** & **Neil Andersson**

Effectiveness of educational interventions to promote safe handling of pesticides: protocol for a systematic review and meta-analysis

Authors: Belén Madeline Sánchez-Gervacio, Víctor Manuel Alvarado-Castro, José Legorreta-Soberanis, **Sergio Paredes-Solís**, Miguel Flores-Moreno, Claudia Erika Rios-Rivera, Janet Saldaña-Almazán, **Anne Cockcroft** & **Neil Andersson**

Visit our website for more publications from the CIET-PRAM team

Departmental Newsletters

McGill | Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences | Department of Family Medicine

Ask 5 Podcast

The Institute of Health Sciences Education and the Office of Ed-TECH in the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences are excited to share their next episode from their ongoing podcast series, Ask 5! The episode is available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Amazon Music, Audible, Podbean, and iheartradio and a video version of the podcast is available on YouTube.

Keep in touch! Subscribe to our newsletter here.

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