

# Virtual Simulation-Based Learning Modules in Dietetics for Interprofessional Team-Based Primary Care Settings

Serena Beber, RD<sup>1,2</sup>, Denis Tsang, RD<sup>1,3</sup>, Jane Tyerman, RN<sup>4,5,6</sup>, Jaclyn Adler, RD<sup>7</sup>, Mary Anne Smith, RD<sup>8</sup>, Wendy Madarasz, RD<sup>9</sup>, Isabelle Giroux, RD<sup>4,10,11</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Toronto, DFCM, <sup>2</sup>South East Toronto Family Health Team, <sup>3</sup>Woodbridge Medical Centre Family Health Team, <sup>4</sup>University of Ottawa, <sup>5</sup>Queens University, <sup>6</sup>Canadian Alliance of Nurse Educators Using Simulation, <sup>7</sup>Hamilton Family Health Team, <sup>8</sup>Dietitians of Canada  
<sup>9</sup>Clinton Family Health Team, <sup>10</sup>GRoPS, <sup>11</sup>Institut du Savoir Montfort

## BACKGROUND

Team Primary Care: Training for Transformation is a unique and timely initiative that aims to accelerate transformative change in the way primary care practitioners train to work together. To do so, it brings together an extensive network of partners to enhance the capacity of interprofessional comprehensive primary care through improved training for practitioners, supports for teams, and tools for planners and employers.

Team Primary Care is an interprofessional initiative of the Foundation for Advancing Family Medicine. It is co-led by the College of Family Physicians of Canada and the Canadian Health Workforce Network, in partnership with over 65 health professional and educational organizations across Canada.

## DIETITIAN PROJECT GOALS

1. To identify key practice competencies and common nutrition-related health issues facing registered dietitians (RDs) in team-based primary care (TBPC)
2. To disseminate and use key findings to develop innovative educational materials related to interprofessional collaboration.
3. To develop, strengthen and evaluate key practice competencies for pre- and post-licensure dietetic learners for interprofessional collaborative TBPC
4. To evaluate the outcomes and effectiveness of toolkit on learners' perceived ability to meet key practice competencies as well as disseminate findings.

## DIETITIAN PROJECT PHASES

1. **Survey:** Developed by expert working group including primary care RDs, dietetic educators, and interprofessional healthcare practitioners to determine: 1) key competencies to work 2) comprehensive list of nutrition-related health issues and 3) perceived knowledge gaps and challenges facing RDs in TBPC. Survey distributed to RDs in TBPC and Dietetic Educators.
2. **Asynchronous Virtual Simulations:** Development of 3 interprofessional clinical scenarios and corresponding learning outcomes for the creation of asynchronous Virtual Simulations (VS).
3. **Dissemination:** Bilingual learning modules and resources available through dedicated open-access website. Dissemination nationally and internationally.



## ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

- **Identify** key competencies for pre- and post-licensure RDs to work in interprofessional collaborative TBPC by:
  1. Identifying common nutrition related health issues RDs encounter in TBPC.
  2. Forming a comprehensive role description of RDs to primary health care settings, helping role clarification and team functioning of dietitians within TBPC, an identified gap in research (Gordon & Weeden, 2023).
- **Develop** a free online interprofessional team-based Educational Toolkit in English and French: asynchronous VS-based learning modules to enhance key practice competencies, a valuable and effective training strategy in dietetic curricula (Dietitians of Canada, 2018).
- **Provide** enhanced experience and strengthen confidence, interprofessional communication, collaboration and appreciation for the challenges and opportunities of working in TBPC, allowing RDs to work to their full scope of practice (Holthaus et al., 2015).
- **Reduce** barriers for learners. Provide a sustainable and accessible learning opportunity, increasing quality of care for patients, including those from French minority groups.
- **Provide** an easily expandable and scalable toolkit to other competencies and disciplines.

## PROGRESS & NEXT STEPS

- ✓ Protocol Design
- ✓ Survey development and validation
- ✓ University of Ottawa REB approval, September 2023
- ✓ On-line survey distribution, September 2023
- Simulation development & evaluation planned for Fall 2023
- Report dissemination and publication in 2024



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**CONTACT:**  
Isabelle Giroux, PhD, DtP/RD, BÉd, ÉFI/PHEc, FDC  
igiroux@uottawa.ca