

Child Health Evaluative Sciences Rounds

“Bridging contemporary methods and a patient-centered approach to inform the safety of medication use in pregnancy for maternal and infant outcomes.”

Sonia Grandi, PhD, Yanara Marks & Kate Mather

Monday, October 21, 2024 | 12 - 1 pm

In-person & Livestreamed - PGCRL Multi-Media Rm (3rd fl), Lunch Provided

The safety profile of many medications and vaccines frequently used in pregnancy is unknown due to the routine exclusion or underrepresentation of pregnant individuals in pre-licensure and post-marketing surveillance studies. This has made evidence-based decision making for medication use in pregnancy difficult for patients and physicians, primarily for women with chronic conditions. The target trial emulation approach using observational data has been proposed as a means of generating real-world evidence to inform clinical practice. Importantly, this approach aligns the causal question with relevant decisions in practice, and if emulated correctly can minimize common sources of biases inherent in observational research.

Using a case study of medication use in pregnancy for women with autoimmune disorders, we will highlight: 1) opportunities and challenges of target trial emulation using observational data, 2) key considerations for studies in pregnancy, and 3) our experience developing a patient partner engagement strategy to inform the research questions and design of this study.

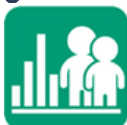
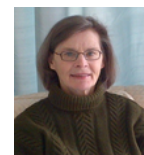
Dr. Sonia Grandi is a Scientist at the Hospital for Sick Children and an Assistant Professor at the University of Toronto in the Division of Epidemiology in the Dalla Lana School of Public Health. Her research program focuses on improving the health of mothers and children throughout the life course. Her work has contributed to understanding the role of adverse pregnancy outcomes for long-term maternal and child health, identifying effective strategies for the early identification and management of high-risk individuals, and improving the evidence base to inform medication use in pregnancy among individuals with chronic conditions. She is also interested in the application of novel methods and leveraging administrative health data to help inform clinical practice.



Yanara Marks is a Research Coordinator in the Child Health Evaluation Sciences Program at the SickKids Research Institute. Yanara holds a BSS in International development and globalization from the University of Ottawa, and a graduate certificate in Project Management. She spent over 2 years coordinating research and advocacy initiatives in the HIV and AIDS sector and managed an international volunteer program in Malawi. As a Research Coordinator, Yanara supports the daily operations of Dr. Grandi's research program and leads the patient partner engagement program which incorporates feedback and priority areas from people with lived experiences into research studies.



Kate Mather is a member of the BIONIC Patient Partner (PP) Advisory Committee. Recently retired from full-time work, Kate spent the majority of her 40-year career as a management consultant working primarily in the health, social services and criminal justice sectors. She is presently engaged in various PP activities with Arthritis Society Canada as a grant reviewer, the UHN Schroeder Arthritis Institute as a PP on Schroeder's Quality Committee, and with OMERACT as a research partner. Kate has been living with rheumatoid arthritis for over 40 years



CHES Rounds are an accredited group learning activity as defined by the Maintenance of Certification Program of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada

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