

## The Project

Alberta Innovates - Health Solutions (AI-HS) is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of Albertans through investments in high quality, outcomes-based health research and innovation. As part of this commitment, AHS partnered with AI-HS for the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Health System (PRIHS) awards. These awards are awarded to Strategic Clinical Networks with proposals outlining relevant research with promise of measurable value and alignment with Alberta's Health Research and Innovation Strategy (AHRIS) and the AHS Health Plan.

The ESCN is proud to announce it was successful in securing funding for its proposal, **Reassessment of Clinical Practices for Patient Presenting to the Emergency Department with Gastrointestinal Bleeding**. This project aims to reduce variation in the treatment of upper gastrointestinal bleeding in Alberta Emergency Departments, to decrease patient exposure to risks associated with potentially avoidable procedures, to improve health outcomes and the patient experience, and to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of finite health system resources. This condition has been selected because it is the ninth leading cause of presentation to Alberta EDs, represents significant practice variation in admitting behaviour, and because of the existence of validated and evidence-based risk-assessment tools for upper gastrointestinal bleeding.

## Theoretical Domains Framework

The Theoretical Domains Framework (TDF) will provide the basis for initial selection and discussion of behavioural change strategies. Using this framework we propose to identify who needs to do what differently, to identify barriers and enablers to change through semi-structured interviews, to identify behaviour change strategies to overcome modifiable barriers and enhance enablers, and to implement measurable and sustainable change.



### Vision:

*To build an inclusive network that supports the advancement of evidence informed emergency care for all Albertans.*

### Mission:

*The ESCN is committed to timely, equitable access to evidence informed emergency care for all patients and their families as an integral component of their continuum of care.*



## What do we expect to happen?

Through the development and implementation of a Clinical Pathway for upper gastrointestinal bleeding, we expect to decrease clinical interventions for low-risk patients, provide access to urgent outpatient services for intermediate-risk patients, and to shorten the time to admission for high-risk patients. Further, we expect to reassess the use of intravenous proton pump inhibitor therapy prior to endoscopy, and to significantly reduce the use of red blood cell transfusions for patients outside of evidence-based thresholds for transfusion. These reassessments are expected to significantly bend the curve of growing healthcare expenditures.

Projected Annual Opportunity to Improve Care at 7 Alberta Hospitals						
Total Patients	Low Risk Admissions	Low Risk Endoscopy	Intermediate Risk Admissions	IV PPI	Transfusions >70g/L	Transfusions >90g/L
2847	24	87	137	1509	565	233

If you would like more information about this project, please contact our network or one of our project team physicians:

### Dr. Eddy Lang (Principal Investigator)

Academic and Clinical Department Head for Emergency Medicine  
Cumming School of Medicine, Alberta Health Services, Calgary  
Zone

### Dr. Subrata Ghosh (Co-Principal Investigator)

Zone Clinical Department Head, Dept of Medicine,  
University of Calgary  
Regional Clinical Department Head (Calgary Zone)  
Alberta Health Services

# NETWORK TEAM

Dr. Brian Holroyd  
**Senior Medical  
Director**

Cathy Pryce  
**Senior Provincial  
Director**

Dr. Brian Rowe  
**Scientific Director**

Dr. Susan Jelinski  
**Assistant Scientific  
Director**

Heather Hair  
**Executive Director**

Vacant  
**Network Manager**

Monique Fernquist  
**Provincial Education  
Coordinator**

Sophia Christoforakis  
**Knowledge  
Management (KM)  
Consultant**

Andrea Gilbert  
**Administrator**



**For more information about the Emergency Strategic Clinical Network please contact us at:**

Email: [emergency.scn@albertahealthservices.ca](mailto:emergency.scn@albertahealthservices.ca)

AHS External Website: <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/9682.asp>

AHS Internal Website: <http://insite.albertahealthservices.ca/1850.asp>