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Ottawa Medical AI Research Institute Advisory Committee

As part of the governance structure for OMARI, we have set up an Advisory Committee to ensure that broad input is provided into our activities. The Advisory Committee consists of some key faculty who have been doing AI research and have been involved in its enablement, the heads of the research institutes, and others with key relevant roles across uOttawa and affiliated institutes. This is to ensure that there is awareness of what OMARI is doing, to get feedback on the agenda as well as current and emerging needs, and to identify overlaps and points of collaboration with other initiatives that may be happening across our ecosystem. The members of the current committee are listed on the OMARI website.

World-First AI Algorithm at CHEO Speeds Rare-Disease Diagnoses



An AI algorithm developed at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO) Research Institute, ThinkRare, uses routine patient data to flag children who may have an undiagnosed rare genetic disorder and prompt genetics referrals. Results are strong: 17 diagnoses to date, with a 71% diagnostic rate, compared with about one third through the conventional pathway. The OMARI team spoke with Alexandre White-Brown, the ThinkRare project manager and genetic counsellor, and Ivan Terekhov, the project's Data Architect and Director of Research Informatics, AI and Technology at the CHEO Research Institute. In a new OMARI blog article, we highlight how this rules-based AI works, why its broad, condition-agnostic scope matters for equity and how CHEO's AI principles and framework approach helped move a research tool into routine care. We also highlight what it would take to scale this AI innovation across Canada and internationally to benefit more families and hospitals. Read the full article on the OMARI website.

Cosmos rolling-out at The Ottawa Hospital



Cosmos is coming to The Ottawa Hospital (TOH) in November. Cosmos is a platform with robust tools and a rich pool of de-identified health data from over 300 million patients from across participating Epic hospitals and clinics worldwide. In a new article on the OMARI blog, we break down what Cosmos is and how it works, and we highlight practical tools like Look-Alikes and condition-specific growth charts. We also cover how access works through TOH and the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute (OHRI), different roles and training options, and what costs to budget for. Read the full article on the OMARI website for details.

Bears' Den Innovation Pitch Event



The CHEO Research Institute Bears' Den is an opportunity for innovators and start-ups, including in AI, to pitch their health care innovations to an audience of industry leaders, investors and ecosystem collaborators; discuss opportunities to collaborate and partner; and network with like-minded people across the entrepreneurial, healthcare and business sectors. Last year's winning pitch received a $25,000 investment. Interested in pitching? Applications are open until **October 24, 2025** and the event takes place on **November 28, 2025**. Find additional details, application and event registration information.

De-Identification Guidance in Ontario Unveiled



The Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario (IPC) has updated its De-identification Guidelines for Structured Data, setting a new standard for responsible data use. The guidance provides practical steps to help organizations maximize the benefits of data while protecting privacy. The new guidance was developed with support from OMARI's director Dr. Khaled El Emam, the IPC's recent Scholar-in-Residence. The guidance will be highly relevant for anyone collecting, using or sharing health data in Ontario. Learn more about the new de-identification guidance.

Canadian Health Data Platform Summit Recap



On **October 7, 2025**, the Canadian Health Data Platform Summit brought together over 160 leaders from across Canada's health data ecosystem for a full-day event in Ottawa. Hosted by ARCHIMEDES and its partners, the full-day event aimed to strengthen collaboration and infrastructure within Canada's health data ecosystem and to begin crafting a national roadmap for more equitable, effective data sharing.

The agenda featured panel sessions with leaders of national and provincial data platforms, First Nations governance experts, privacy scholars, and patient representatives. A dedicated session explored Indigenous data sovereignty, while others focused on access models, interoperability challenges, and the importance of trustworthy data governance. Participants also discussed balancing open science with ethical oversight and equitable data use. The event fostered candid dialogue around infrastructure, legal frameworks, and inclusive partnership setting the stage for a national roadmap that reflects the diverse voices shaping Canada's health data future. To keep up to date on ARCHIMEDES information and events, register via the website.

AI and You: Reshaping the Future of Healthcare



Where we are now, what's ahead, and what might the future hold? This hybrid, evening program on **October 22, 2025** at the Museum of Nature in Ottawa will feature four presenters on how AI is being integrated into healthcare, followed by a panel discussion and audience Q&A. The free event will highlight how AI impacts patient care today and what it means for the future. Organized by the Health AI and Data Science (HAD) Program at the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute. Details and registration on the AI and You site.

New Journal Club Webinar



On **October 28, 2025** a webinar, titled Applying Supervised Machine Learning to Predict Complex Clinical Course in Youth with Eating Disorders and led by Stephanie Ryall, MD, a Master's student in uOttawa's Clinical Science and Translational Medicine program, will explain what "precision psychiatry" is and summarize its current status in the eating disorders field; describe supervised machine learning for classification and provide a comparison of logistic regression with random forest models; outline the steps for training and evaluating supervised machine learning models; and interpret application of machine learning for predicting complex clinical course in eating disorder patients and discuss next steps to advance precision psychiatry for eating disorders. Register on the event page.

2025 T-CAIREM Conference: The Evolution of Generative AI



This conference taking place **November 14, 2025** in Toronto will explore recent advances in generative AI, prominent research in the AI health field, and real-world health applications and experiences with generative AI solutions. Featuring panel discussions, lively debates, a Shark Tank competition and presentations by leading clinicians and researchers. Organized by the Temerty Centre for AI Research and Education at the University of Toronto. Find details and registration on the T-CAIREM conference page.

AI Researcher Needs Assessment Survey



The Digital Research Alliance of Canada has launched the AI Researcher Needs Assessment Survey. The survey will help deepen the understanding of the needs of Canada's research community, as well as the challenges and opportunities across Canada's Digital Research Infrastructure (DRI) ecosystem. This information will be used to identify where investments, services, and training can be improved to support researchers more effectively. It will also inform recommendations for the AI Sovereign Compute Infrastructure Program.

The survey takes about 10-15 minutes to complete and closes **October 31, 2025**. It includes questions about research and sociodemographic background, engagement with DRI organizations and services, current and anticipated training and infrastructure needs, as well as satisfaction with DRI services and supports. Respond to the AI Researcher Needs Assessment Survey.

Medical AI Databases and Resources



One of the ways that OMARI supports medical AI innovation is by sharing curated datasets and other practical tools. Within the Databases and Resources section of the OMARI website, researchers will find databases and datasets, and information on platforms, like ARCHIMEDES, compute services and other resources. Identified by experts and contributors in the field, these resources support the development, evaluation and application of artificial intelligence in health. Visit the Databases and Resources page on the OMARI website regularly for updates.

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