

Cape Breton Highlands



Collaborative Research Strategy in Nova Scotia

May 17, 2018

Presenter:

Tara Sampalli

**Director of Research and Innovation, Primary Health Care and Chronic Disease
Management**

Assistant Professor, Faculty of Medicine, Dalhousie University

Nova Scotia broader team: Dr. Crystal Todd, Erin Christian, Dr. Cheryl Kozey, Lynn Edwards, Dr. Fred Burge, Dr. Ruth Martin-Misener, Dr. Charmaine McPherson, Bev Lawson, and PHC Directors and Chiefs

What is the research landscape in Nova Scotia?

- Landscape
- What are our opportunities, innovations and gaps?
- Our research strategy for realist medicine or middle ground research



Academic Landscape for Primary Health Care Research

- Collaborative Research in Primary Health Care (CoR-PHC)
- BRIC NS (**B**uilding **R**esearch for **I**ntegrated **P**rimary Health**C**are)
- Dalhousie Faculty of Health
 - Centre for Transformative Nursing Health Research
 - Healthy Populations Institute
- Dalhousie Faculty of Medicine
 - Primary Care Research Unit (Family Medicine)



Health System Landscape for Primary Health Care Research

- Department of Health and Wellness
- Nova Scotia Health Authority Research and Innovation Department
- Primary Health Care Research Strategy



CoR-PHC



- Interdisciplinary group of primary health care researchers
 - Originally funded by and located at Dalhousie
 - A Primary Health Care Research Collaborative
- Created to respond to health system needs
 - Members from Faculties of: Health (nursing, pharmacy, occupational and physical therapy, health promotion), Medicine (family medicine, community health and epidemiology, geriatrics) Dentistry, Computing Science, Engineering and Arts and Science
 - Nova Scotia Health Authority
 - Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness

<http://www.dal.ca/sites/cor-phc/home.html>



**Inter-faculty
collaboration**

Successes



- Inter-faculty collaboration growth
- Learner support: events, partnering with TUTOR-PHC
- Nova Scotia Health Authority collaboration expansion
- Annual Nova Scotia Primary Healthcare Research Day
- Visiting Scholars and annual retreats
- Brewing ideas
- Grant successes- CIHR SPOR PIHCI Network: BRIC NS
- Increasing focus on patient/citizen participation
- Wave 2

**TUTOR-PHC Policy/Decision
maker – Researcher Session**



**PHC Research Day – opportunity to
showcase research and quality
initiatives across province**



BRIC NS

- BRIC NS is our provincial **Primary and Integrated Health Care Innovations Network**
- Part of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Strategy for Patient Oriented Research (SPOR)
- Co-funded by the Nova Scotia Health Research Foundation and CIHR.





Successes

- ‘Incubators’ fostered the development of multiple collaborative research teams focused on provincial PHC priorities
- Positive shift toward the inclusion of meaningful patient engagement across all phases
- Full engagement of policy/decision makers from question development to writing
- National funding success!
 - 75% success rate in applications with BRIC NS involvement (2015-17).



Building Research for Integrated Primary Healthcare

BRIC NS seeks community input on research



Title: Case management in primary care for frequent users of healthcare services (Led by Quebec with partners in SK, NS & NL)

NS Research Team: Lynn Edwards, Tara Sampalli, Rick Gibson, Fred Burge

Title: Screening for Poverty And Related social determinants and intervening to improve Knowledge of and links to resources (SPARK) Study (Led by Ontario with partners in SK, MB, NS & NL)

NS Research Team: Lois Jackson, Fred Burge, Emily Marshall, Rick Gibson, Lynn Edwards, Tara Sampalli

Title: SPIDER-NET, A Structured Process Informed by Data, Evidence and Research-Network: An approach to support primary care practices optimizing the management of patients with complex needs (Led by Ontario with partners in SK, NS, MB & AB)

NS Research Team: Mathew [unclear], Fred Burge

Supports collaboration

Academic



Dalhousie Faculty of Health

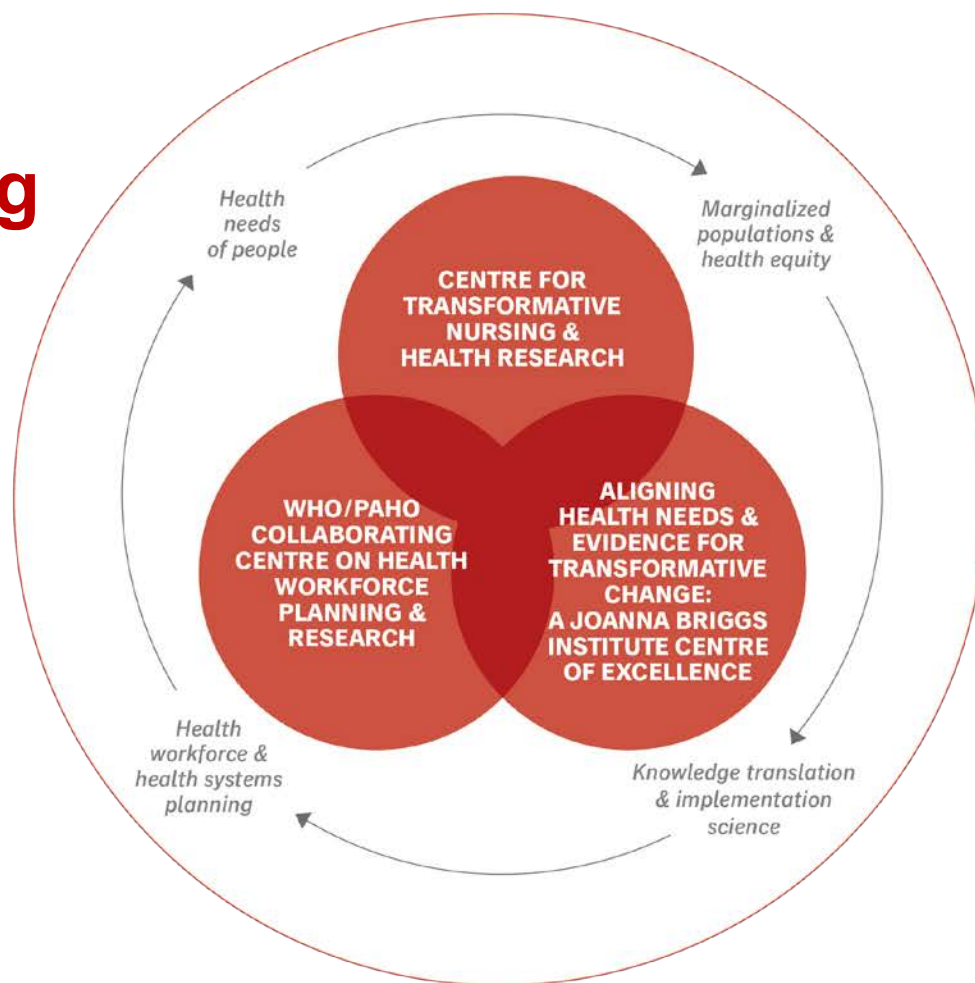
Vision:
Health
populations
throughout the
life course



Academic

Dalhousie Faculty of Health

Research within **The Dalhousie School of Nursing**



Department of Health and Wellness

- PHC is one of three top health priorities for Gov of NS
- ***Health Authorities Act (2014)***
 - NSHA legislated role to establish priorities for teaching, learning and research as part of multi-year health system planning
- **MSSU**
 - Funder; Committee members (Deputy Minister and ADM)
- **NSHRF**
 - Chief funder for granting programs & operations

Department of Health and Wellness

- **Policy Lead in BRIC-NS**
 - Tri-partite leadership with Clinical and Academic Leads
- ***Innovation: *Evidence Roundup***
 - Monthly participatory session at DHW; local health researchers present synopsis of findings and engage in policy maker discussion on evidence vis-à-vis policy needs
- ***CIHR Health System Impact Fellowship**
 - Co-sponsor of 2018-19 Fellow application focused on diffusion of evidence into PHC policy decision making

Nova Scotia Health Authority Research and Innovation



Participate in a Clinical Trial

Learn about how to participate in a clinical trial.

[PARTICIPATE](#)



Research News

Stay up-to-date on our most recent research news online.

[VIEW ALL](#)



Research Ethics

See information about the research ethics program.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Publications

See a collection of all documents produced by our research program.

[LEARN MORE](#)



About Research at NSHA

Learn more about what is happening in our research department.

[VIEW ALL](#)



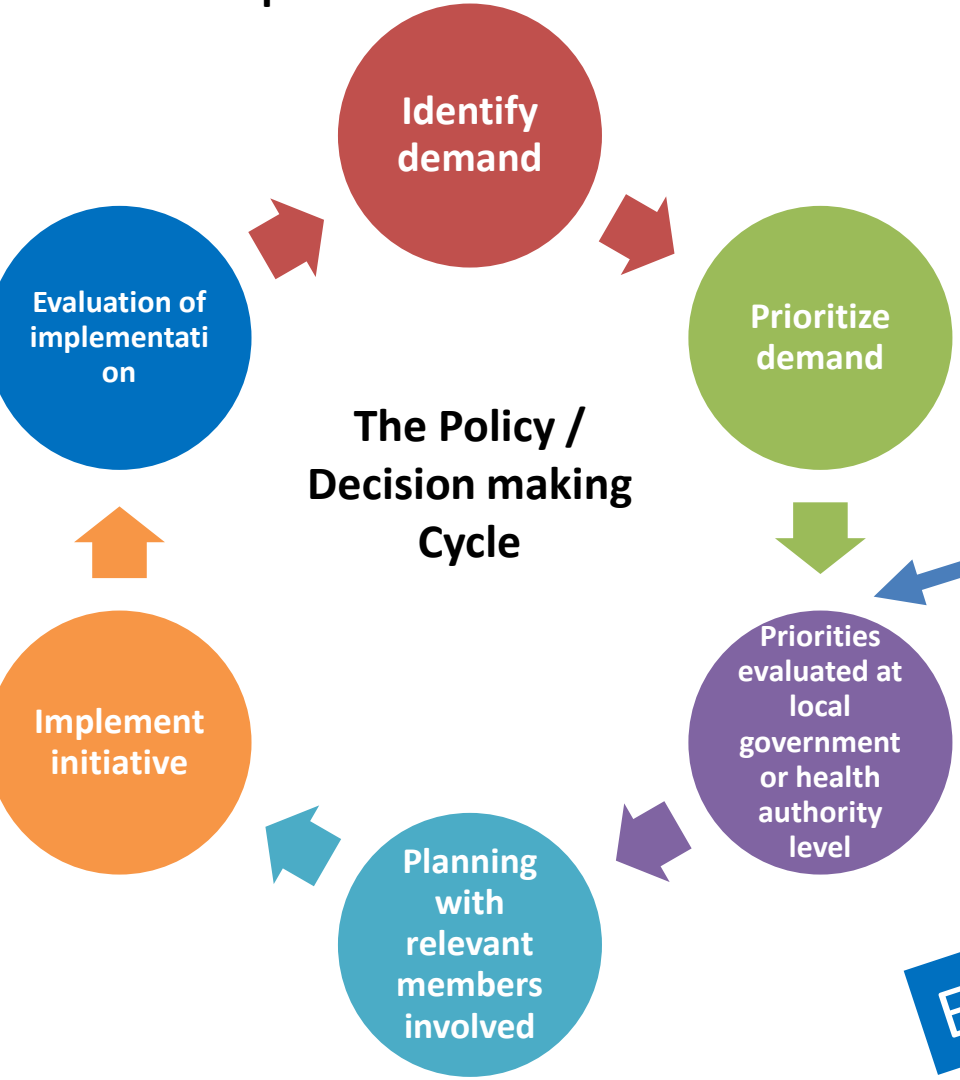
For Researchers

A place for those who are currently conducting or are interested in starting.

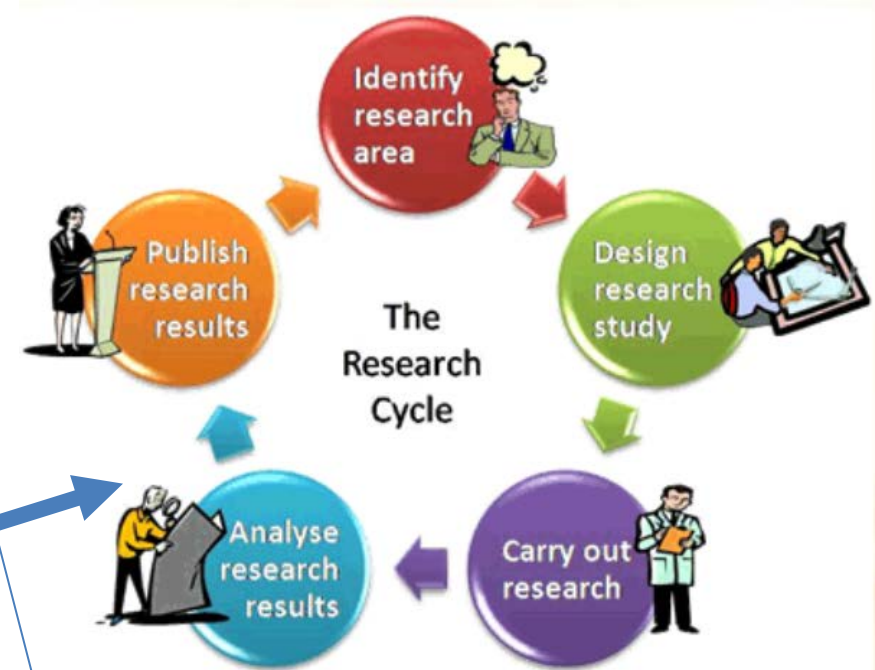
[EXPLORE](#)

Research Strategy in Primary Health Care

Has to be implemented now!



Cycle can last several years



Engage and collaborate

Specific question for the strategy

- How will PHC system engage in research?

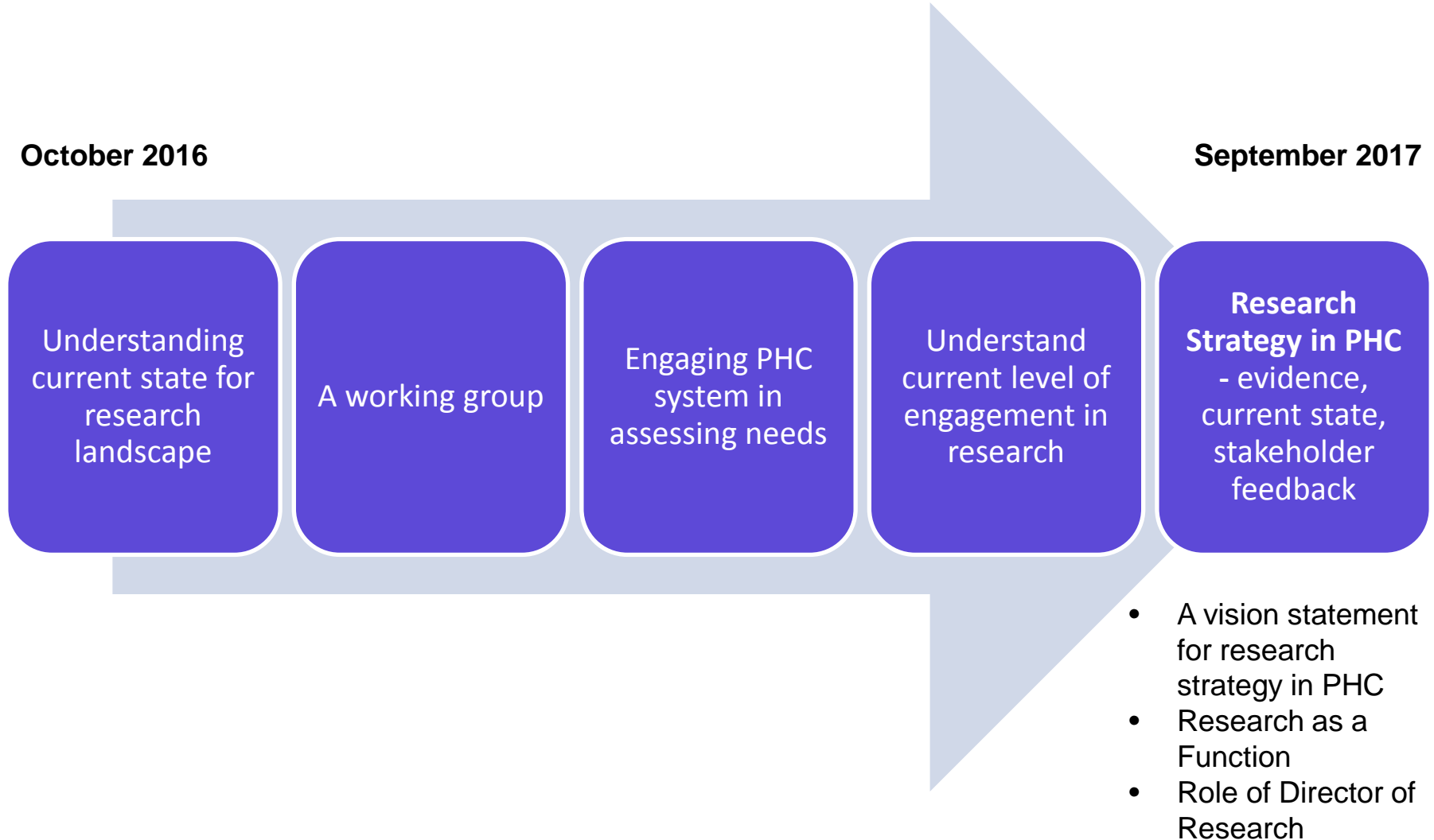


Developing a strategy

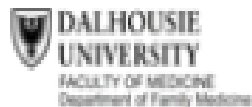


October 2016

September 2017



Co-design of a vision statement



“Leading research for a strong integrated and collaborative primary health care system” to meet the fundamental needs and functions of the PHC system while creating and enhancing research capacity in care teams and staff, and developing strategic partnerships and collaborations with the focus on the health of Nova Scotians.”



Patients and Families
PHC Leaders and Teams

Guiding Model and Strategy for PHC System



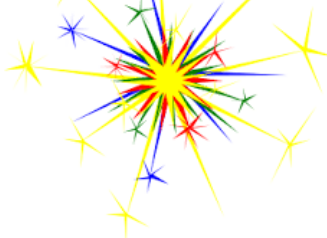

What does this translate to operationally?

- Capacity building activities for staff in PHC – Common CV parties, meeting learning needs, infrastructure to support system level and smaller projects, QI-Research linkage
- Working closely with academic partners – regular meetings, ways to engage both groups, matching funds strategies
- Working with other sectors



Redesigning or realigning processes to meet system needs
Ethics processes, engaging residents in PHC research, learning opportunities for staff and residents

Some initial successes

- In addition to  across teams and staff
-  Number of researchers engaged in or focused on PHC projects
- 12 research associates (paid and volunteering) from various departments at Dal working on PHC projects
- Invited to at least 20 sessions to speak about our research strategy – provincial, national and now international

Some initial successes



Decision makers
as **Co-Is and PIs** on
research grants

Principal and co-
authors in
publications

Representation in
conferences and as
keynote speakers

PHC staff with a
research profile



>50 Partnership
and
engagement
sessions held
across the
province



8

Funded
projects
that align
with PHC
system
priorities

25

Funded or
unfunded
projects
supporting
zone or
team level
priorities or
partnership
activities



>10

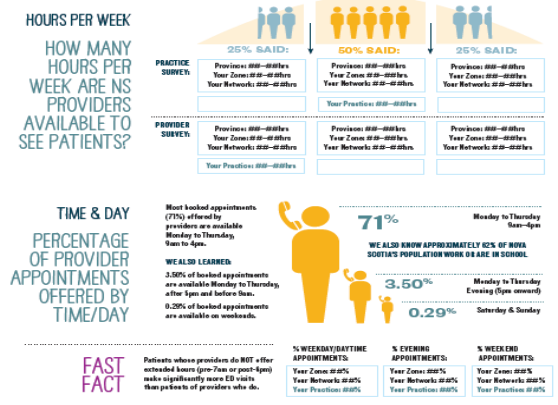
PHC system
publications
on models,
framework
and
workforce
planning



Examples of collaborative projects

- Award Winning - Community Health Teams (Care in my community), care delivery for complex chronic conditions (My Care My Voice), Group Medical Visits (Care I need when I need), Newcomer Health Clinic (Care transitions)
- Frailty Portal in Primary Health Care, Behaviour Change Interventions in Primary Health Care
- MAAP-NS - Primary Care Practice Profiles
- Patient Centred Team Based Care
- Early Career Physicians
- Unattached Patients
- Small Area Rate Variation
- TRANSFORMATION study
- Health Atlas

MAAP-NS Initiative



THANKS

Many of you responded to our last survey and we appreciate your participation. Currently, we're processing what we found and will be sharing back those findings in future Practice Profiles.

We know the data represented on this page do not take into account providers' work in other sites, such as Emergency Departments or in the provision of on-call services. We know our information may be incomplete regarding how many hours you work. Please help us understand the gaps in our data by completing the attached survey sheets (2) and faxing it back to 902-472-4700.

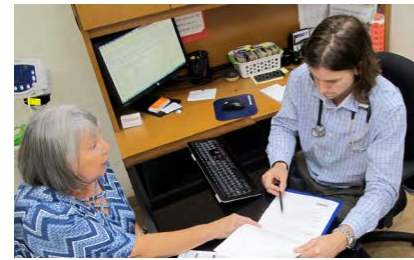
Thanks in advance,
Shelley Marshall

Group Medical Visits – award winning project

Creating Solutions to Health System Challenges

Novel research projects overcome access gaps

Nova Scotia's population is aging and facing a heavier-than-ever burden of chronic disease. At the same time, larger numbers of doctors are retiring—for they, too, are getting older. The resulting loss of access demands creative new approaches to connect patients with providers and empower them to manage their own health.



Exploring alternatives to one-on-one appointments
 Patients in Hants and Digby counties are part of preliminary NSHA Research Fund-supported efforts to test drive group medical visits for patients with chronic disease.

and how to achieve optimal blood sugar control with all the things that life can throw at you."

"Group visits may offer an efficient and effective alternative

"You feel like you can get all of your questions answered and that you have the support of new friends. The program has really helped me

Newcomer Health Clinic – award winning project



Maamoun Almeslmani and two of his children, Tuqa (centre) and Hasan (left), at the Halifax Transitional Health Clinic for Refugees

Connecting Refugees to Health Services

What once was a trickle has turned into a flood, with the arrival of 1,400 refugees in Nova Scotia in 2016. As health care providers scrambled to prepare facilities, teams and protocols for assessing and serving refugees' immediate health needs, researchers were looking ahead to how best to move families out of refugee-specific transitional services and into primary care services in their new communities.

"The welcome we've received is amazing," says Maamoun, who arrived in Halifax from Syria with his family in January 2016. "We will never forget the kindness of people here in Halifax."

Dr. Tara Sampalli teamed up with Graeme Kohler, primary health care health services manager in NSHA's Central

their own community and make room for new families in the transitional clinic."

The question is, how do providers know when families are ready for their own primary care provider? Is their English

Peggy's Cove



Questions
Comments
Feedback