

Using Readers Theatre as an Innovative Knowledge Translation Approach for Health Research

Why is this project important?

- There are often gaps between research and practice in health care.
- Knowledge translation (KT) research aims to address these gaps by focusing on the methods used to effectively communicate knowledge from primary research and from conventional academic platforms to those who can put it into practice.
- Arts-based KT allows researchers to share findings in creative ways, with the aims of increasing engagement, creating spaces for discussion and critical reflection, and improving the accessibility of research findings.
- This study aims to evaluate the effectiveness of Readers Theatre (RT) as an arts-based KT method in health research.

What are we doing?

- To evaluate the effectiveness of RT, we have developed a series of RT scripts based on primary research conducted at CRIC.
- RT scripts are short, theatrical vignettes that are read aloud by volunteer audience members and followed by an open-ended discussion on key themes.
- Our scripts depict qualitative interview data on the experiences of patients, caregivers, and care providers, and are targeted toward various stakeholders.
- RT is evaluated using a questionnaire.
- These scripts have been presented and evaluated in three different settings: 1) a workshop for caregivers and care providers of children with complex care needs; 2) classrooms for health professional students; and 3) a qualitative research workshop.
- Results demonstrate that RT is educational, enjoyable, and an effective tool for KT.



Who can I contact?

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How will this help?

- There is a need for innovative ways to effectively communicate research findings with stakeholders who can put them into practice.
- RT has the potential to address this gap between research and practice, as it can bring qualitative research data to life, humanize the experiences it seeks to portray, and act as an engaging educational tool.