



# Recovery Alberta

MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES

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# Recovery Alberta

MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES

**Knowledge Bites Lunch 'n' Learn**  
**May 29, 2025**

# Community Advisory Committee Engagement in “Re. CBT Dialysis”

(A realist evaluation: Why, for whom, in what circumstances does CBT work for people with depressive symptoms receiving dialysis?)



Kara Schick-Makaroff,  
Professor and Associate  
Dean Graduate Studies



Lori Suet Hang Lo,  
PhD student, U of A



Alexandra Albers,  
NP student  
Faculty of Nursing,  
U of A

## **Community Advisory Committee Members:**

Loretta Lee, Justin LeRoux, Kevin  
Kemp, Monika Bolin, Jeff Costley,  
Sabiha Zaman

**May 2025**



# COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ENGAGEMENT IN “RE. CBT DIALYSIS”

(A REALIST EVALUATION: WHY, FOR WHOM, IN WHAT  
CIRCUMSTANCES DOES CBT WORK FOR PEOPLE WITH  
DEPRESSIVE SYMPTOMS RECEIVING DIALYSIS?)

## Community Advisory Committee Members:

Loretta Lee, Justin LeRoux, Kevin Kemp, Monika Bolin, Jeff  
Costley, Sabiha Zaman

Kara Schick-Makaroff, Professor and Associate Dean  
Graduate Studies

Lori Suet Hang Lo, PhD student

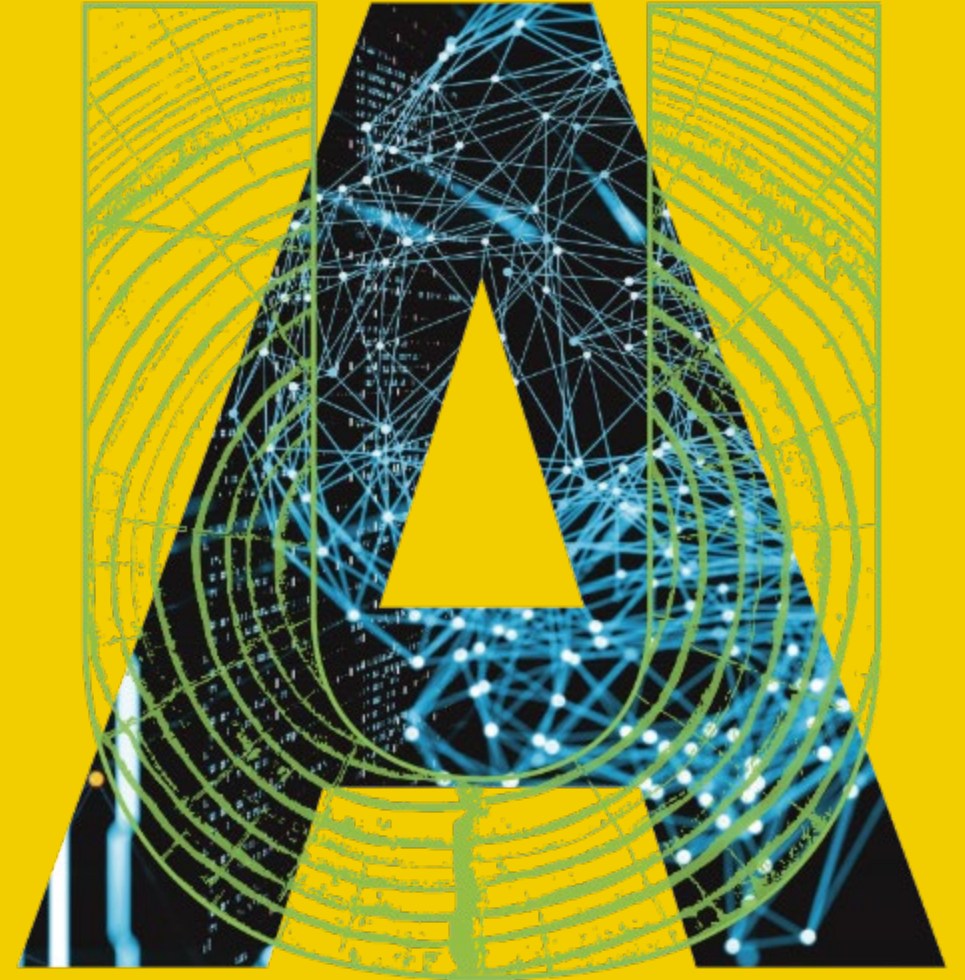
Alexandra Albers, NP student

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**UNIVERSITY  
OF ALBERTA**

May 29 2025  
Recovery Alberta  
Knowledge Bites



# Acknowledgements

The University of Alberta, its buildings, labs and research stations are primarily located on the territory of the Néhiyaw (Cree), Niitsitapi (Blackfoot), Métis, Nakoda (Stoney), Dene, Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) and Anishinaabe (Ojibway/Saulteaux), lands that are now known as part of

Treaties 6, 7 and 8 and homeland of the Métis.

The University of Alberta respects the sovereignty, lands, histories, languages, knowledge systems and cultures of all First Nations, Métis and Inuit nations.



# Conflict of interest

The collaborative research we present today was funded by these sources, for which we are very thankful.





# Learning objectives



Explore patient engagement strategies



Engage patients as partners in research



Illustrate community partnered research



# Introductions

## Community Advisory Committee Members



# Context: Program of research

The goal of our program of research is to enhance knowledge about use of quality-of-life assessment and promote equitable person-centred care, to improve services for people living at home with chronic and life-limiting illnesses, particularly kidney failure.



# Context: Program of research

Our goal is to have  
clinicians, administrators, and programs  
*look* at the information that patients provide  
and *act* on that information  
*with* patients.



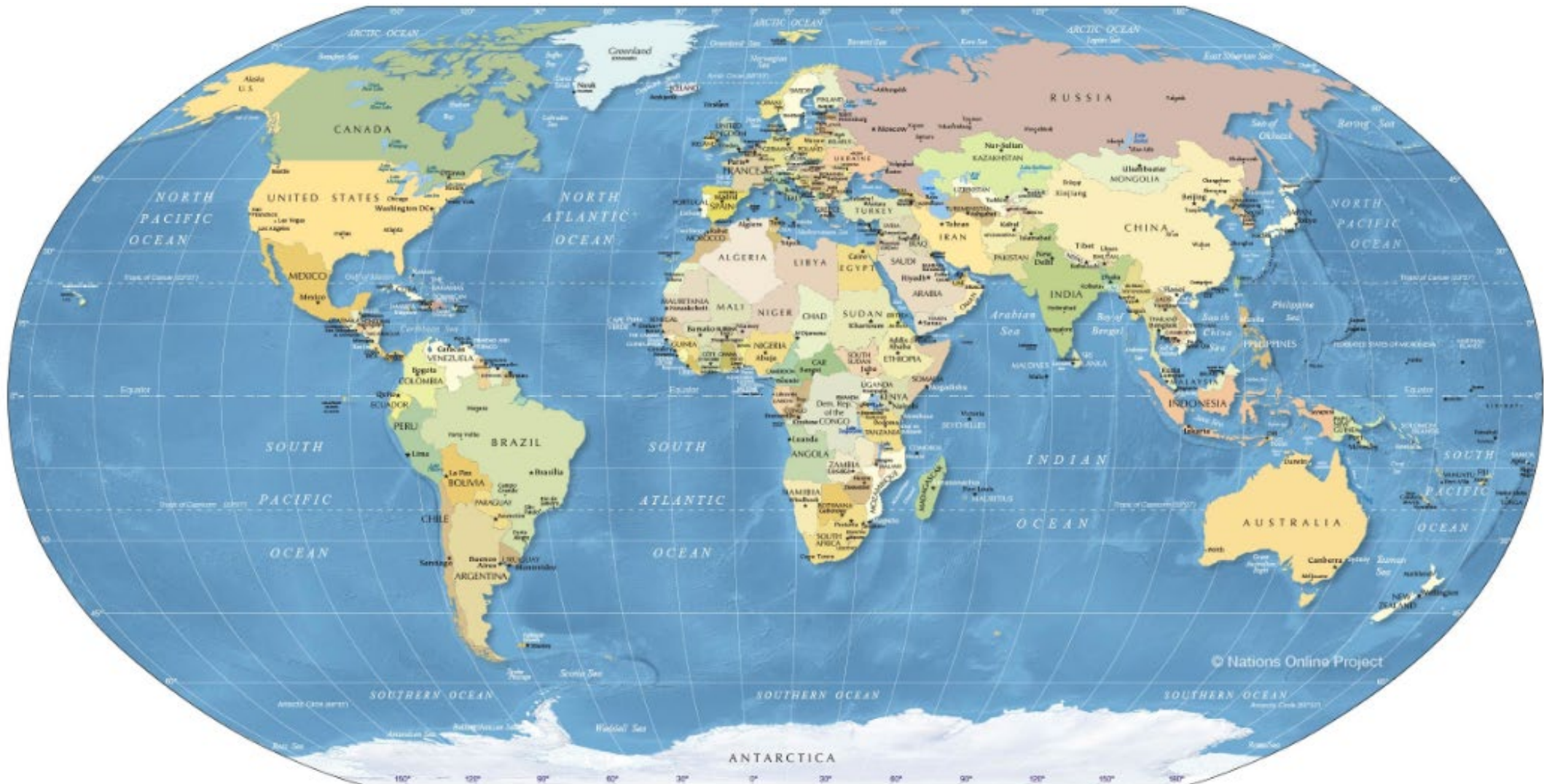
# Context of lessons learned

- [ePRO Kidney](#)
  - CIHR, \$587,000
- [PRO use in Kidney Disease: Realist Synthesis](#)
  - KFOC, \$100,000
- [Mental Health and Kidney Health](#)
  - AHS SCN, \$61,000
- [Tailoring a Pathway for Mental Health Care for Albertans on Dialysis](#)
  - KFOC, \$100,000 → Moving to implementation in Can SOLVE CKD 2.0
- Novel methods for Equitable People-centred Health Measurement
  - NPA: Dr. R. Sawatzky, CIHR, \$1.1M
- CBT Dialysis
  - Alberta Innovates, \$1.1M





# An unaddressed gap: Globally



# An unaddressed gap: Alberta

## Demographics (N = 312)

34.9% Female

Mean years: 62.5 (13.86 SD)

75.1% urban address



33% Albertans receiving dialysis  
reported moderate to severe  
depressive symptoms  
(PHQ-9 score  $\geq 10$ )



# What might help?



Canada's Drug Agency  
L'Agence des médicaments du Canada  
Drugs, Health Technologies and Systems. Médicaments, technologies de la santé et systèmes.

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## Internet-Delivered Cognitive Behavioural Therapy for Major Depression and Anxiety Disorders

Natale P, Palmer SC, Ruospo M, Saglimbene VM, Rabindranath KS, Strippoli GFM. Psychosocial interventions for preventing and treating depression in dialysis patients. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews*. 2019(12).



# “Re: CBT-dialysis”

“A realist evaluation: Why, for whom, in what circumstances does CBT work for people with depressive symptoms receiving dialysis?”

The aim of this realist study is to evaluate and explain how, why, for whom, and in what circumstances therapist-guided and remotely delivered CBT works in order to provide equitable mental healthcare to individuals with depressive symptoms receiving dialysis.



# Research questions

1. How is CBT intended to work?
2. What are the different types of depressive symptom trajectories, as well as related patient-reported outcomes, and capacities to engage with CBT including social determinants of health (SDOH), healthcare interventions, and health-related variables for people receiving dialysis?
3. How does CBT work to improve depressive symptoms for people receiving dialysis?
4. Why, for whom, and in what circumstances does CBT work for people receiving dialysis with depressive symptoms?

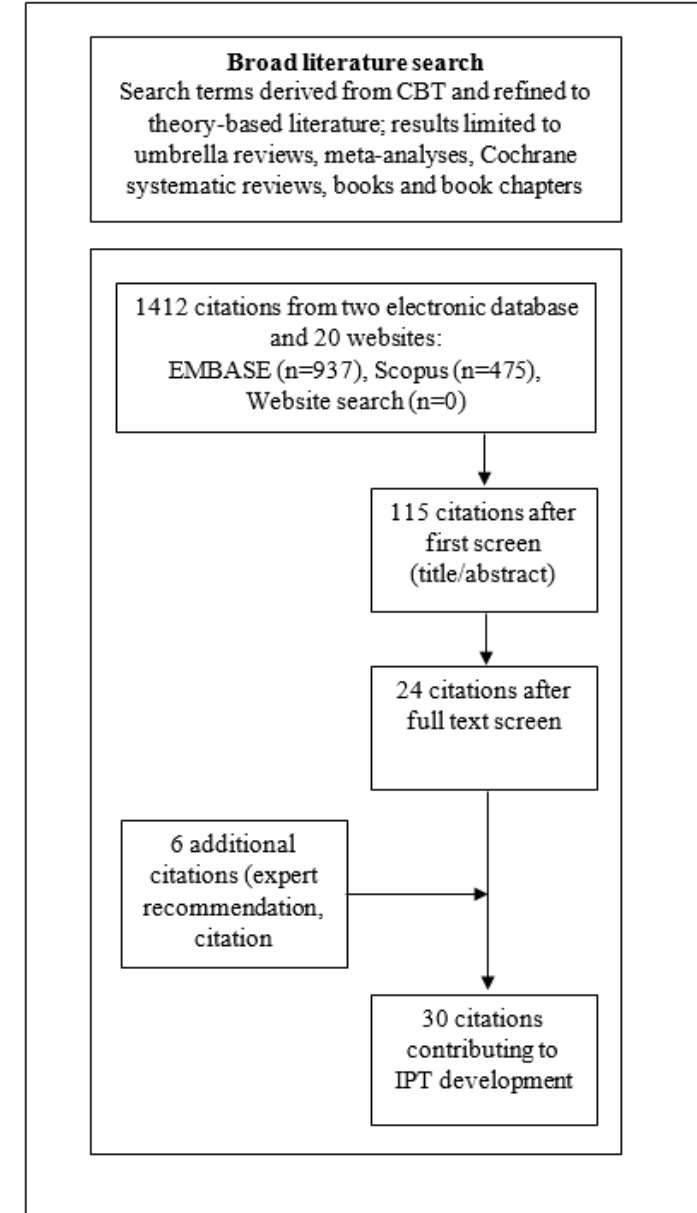
## DEVELOP Initial Programme Theory (IPT)

### Realist synthesis step 1:

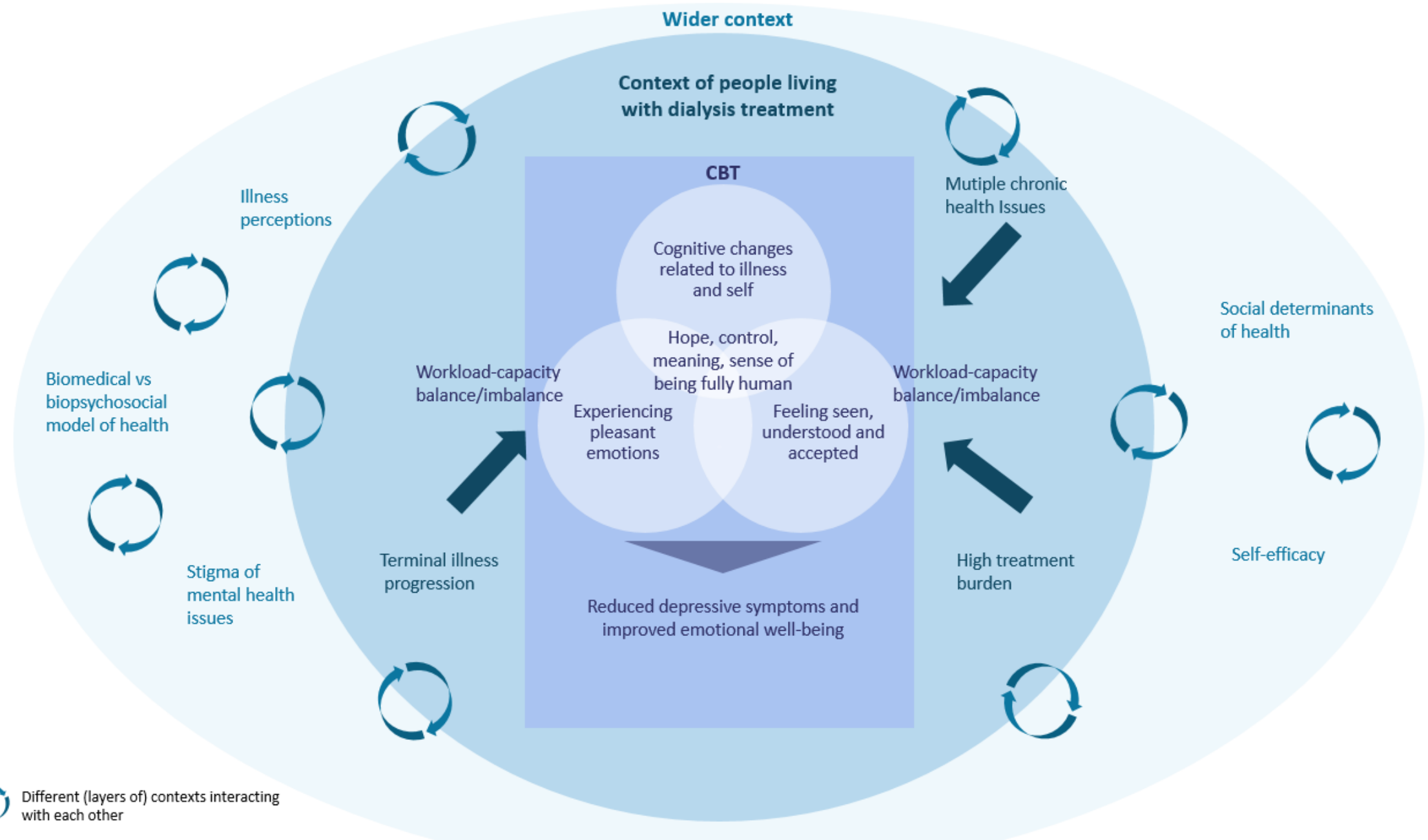
- Scoping search to locate existing theories on CBT
- Interview CBT therapists (n=7) to develop candidate theories of how people on dialysis may benefit from CBT

Micklitz, K., Greenhalgh, J., Lo, S. H. L., Sawatzky, R., & Schick-Makaroff, K. (2025 – under review). How are people undergoing dialysis expected to benefit from cognitive behavioral therapy? A realist analysis

## Flow Diagram



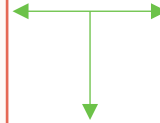
# Initial Programme Theory



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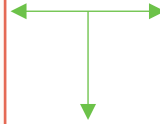
### Quantitative cohort study:

- Tracking depressive symptoms trajectories (n=254)
  - Secondary data analysis (longitudinal n=543 and survey n=312)
- Develop participant profiles to inform IPT

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## TEST & REFINE Programme Theory: *Why, how, for whom, in what circumstances does CBT work?*

### Realist evaluation:

- Deliver CBT to people on dialysis (n=100)
  - Track symptom trajectories
- Interview participants (n=30) to explain outcomes and test/refine IPT
- Interview therapists (n=8) to test/refine IPT

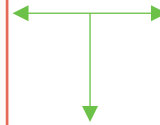
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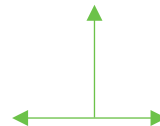
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### Realist synthesis steps 2-5:

- Systematic search on CBT for depressive symptoms in dialysis
  - Article selection (relevance, rigor)
  - Analyzing data in NVivo
- Synthesizing the evidence to test/refine IPT
  - Additional search for evidence if needed





# Patient Engagement Grant (2024)

- Came together on July 12, 2024
- We organized various activities and group discussions to discuss:
  - preliminary data analysis
  - recruitment strategies
  - CBT intervention



# Learning objectives



Explore patient engagement strategies



Engage patients as partners in research



Illustrate community partnered research

# How do you contribute to our Community Advisory Committee?

Community Advisory Committee Members






# Patient engagement strategies

- My first Patient Advisory was during my PhD (2007-2011):
  - <https://onlineacademiccommunity.uvic.ca/illnessnarratives/>
    - Created booklets, videos, curated art exhibit, co-presented at conferences
  - Informed by IAP<sup>2</sup>: International Association for Public Participation
    - Founded in 1990
  - IAP<sup>2</sup> Spectrum: “Collaborate”

## IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation



IAP2's Spectrum of Public Participation was designed to assist with the selection of the level of participation that defines the public's role in any public participation process. The Spectrum is used internationally, and it is found in public participation plans around the world.

INCREASING IMPACT ON THE DECISION 					
	INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOAL	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision making in the hands of the public.
PROMISE TO THE PUBLIC	We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.

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# Patient engagement strategies

## #1 Strategy: Patient / Committee Advisory Committee

- Informed by:
  - IAP<sup>2</sup> Spectrum of Public Participation
  - CIHR, Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research: Patient engagement framework
  - AB SPOR Support Unit, Patient Engagement Platform
  - Integrated knowledge translation
- Co-create terms of reference (annually review and revise)

# Patient engagement strategies

## Community Advisory Committee:

- Have 1 or 2 Co-Chairs
  - Co-develop agendas (circulated in advance) and co-lead Advisory meetings (1 / mo.)
  - Circulate meeting notes / documents
  - Ice-breaker to start each meeting
  - Record zoom messages to team members who are ill etc.
- Meetings are 1 hour
- Held at 7pm because it is the best time for Patient Partners
- We change the evenings (every 4 mo.) based on what is best for Patient Partners (I.E. Spanish lessons :)
- Less updates; more questions
- Invite those who have not spoken if they want to share / add (if they so choose)



Christmas 2022 – Community Advisory Committee  
zoom call

# Patient engagement strategies

## Community Advisory Committee:

- Training with AB SPOR
  - Co-developed initial terms of reference
  - Do we use the term “patient”?
- Involve from proposal inception onward
- Transparency about honorarium
  - Write into grant budget
- Co-present at research team meetings, conferences etc.
- Trainees required to attend / present
- Create trusting relationships

Maurer et al. (2022). Examining how study teams manage different viewpoints and priorities in patient-centred outcomes research: Results of an embedded multiple case study. *Health Expectations*, 26, 1606-1617. doi: [10.1111/hex.13765](https://doi.org/10.1111/hex.13765)



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# Learning objectives



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Engage patients as partners in research



Illustrate community partnered research

# How have you seen our research shift because of input by the Community Advisory Committee?

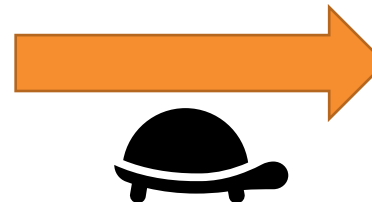
Community Advisory Committee Members



# Patients as partners in research

## Examples of community members' engagement in our partnered work

- Pilot-test: interview guides, online surveys, modified Delphi survey
- Review all patient-facing documents
  - Surveys
  - Consent forms
  - Whiteboards
  - Recruitment:
    - Invitation letters
    - Facebook posts
    - Posters
- Syntheses: Feedback on
  - Search strategies
  - An "Initial Programme Theory"
  - Full draft of a "Programme Theory"
- Review lay abstracts
- Co-author publications
- Co-develop person-centred care principles guiding research



This work all moves very slowly....



# What about patient-oriented research that is in Pillar 1?

“Patients’ experiential knowledge, when translated into explicit demands, ideas, or judgements, can contribute to the relevance and quality of biomedical research.” (Caron-Flinterman et al., 2005, p. 2575)

New model of translational research (Callard et al., 2012): Involve service users and other groups in an ‘interlocking loop’ (p. 398)

A systematic review found 7 studies that included patients at the broader level of biomedical research: Steering / advisory committees, shared decision making across the research life cycle (Ludwig et al., 2020)

Callard, F., Rose, D. and Wykes, T. (2012), Close to the bench as well as at the bedside: Involving service users in all phases of translational research. *Health Expect*, 15: 389-400. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1369-7625.2011.00681.x>

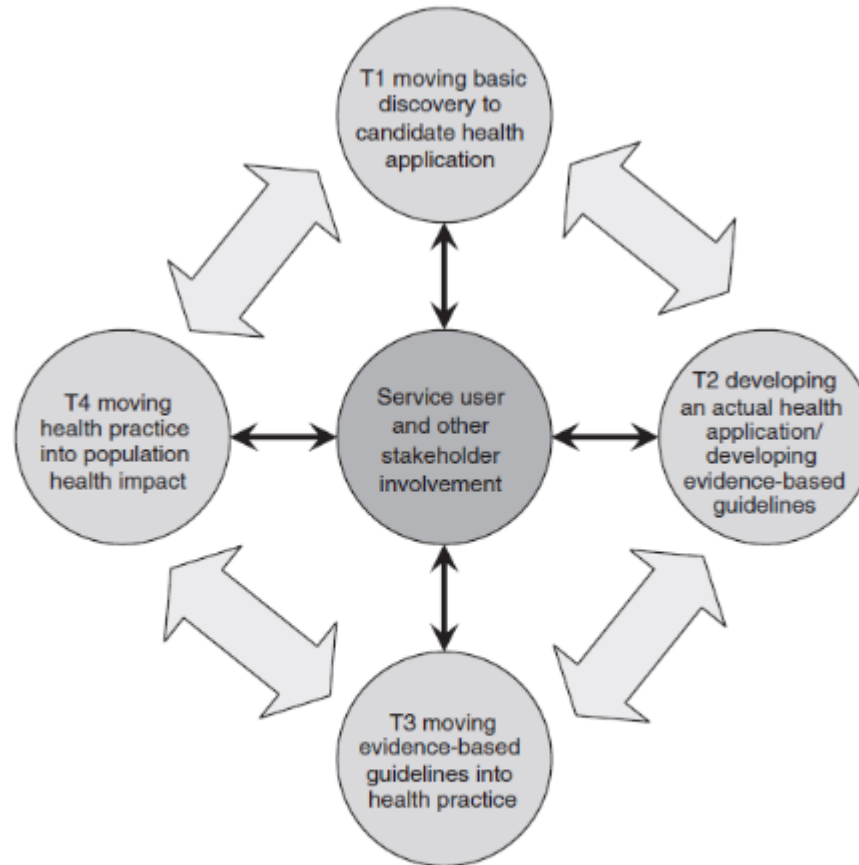
Caron-Flinterman JF, Broerse JE, Bunders JF. (2005). The experiential knowledge of patients: a new resource for biomedical research? *Soc Sci Med*, 60(11):2575-84. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2004.11.023>

Ludwig, C., Graham, I.D., Gifford, W. et al. (2020). Partnering with frail or seriously ill patients in research: a systematic review. *Res Involv Engagem* 6, 52. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40900-020-00225-2>



- 1 BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH**  
Understanding how the body works to better prevent, diagnose, and treat disease.
- 2 CLINICAL RESEARCH**  
Exploring how to improve patient care and overall quality of life.
- 3 HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH**  
Finding ways to strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency of our health care system.
- 4 SOCIAL, CULTURAL, ENVIRONMENTAL AND POPULATION HEALTH RESEARCH**  
Understanding how social, cultural and environmental factors affect our health.

# ‘Interlocking loop of translational research’



**Figure 1** Continued. (c) Reconceptualized model of translational research that embeds service user and stakeholder involvement in all phases.

Callard, F., Rose, D. and Wykes, T. (2012), Close to the bench as well as at the bedside: Involving service users in all phases of translational research. *Health Expect*, 15: 389-400. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1369-7625.2011.00681.x>

# Learning objectives



Explore patient engagement strategies



Engage patients as partners in research



Illustrate community partnered research



**How have you benefited from, or been impacted by, being a member of our Community Advisory Committee?**

Community Advisory Committee Members



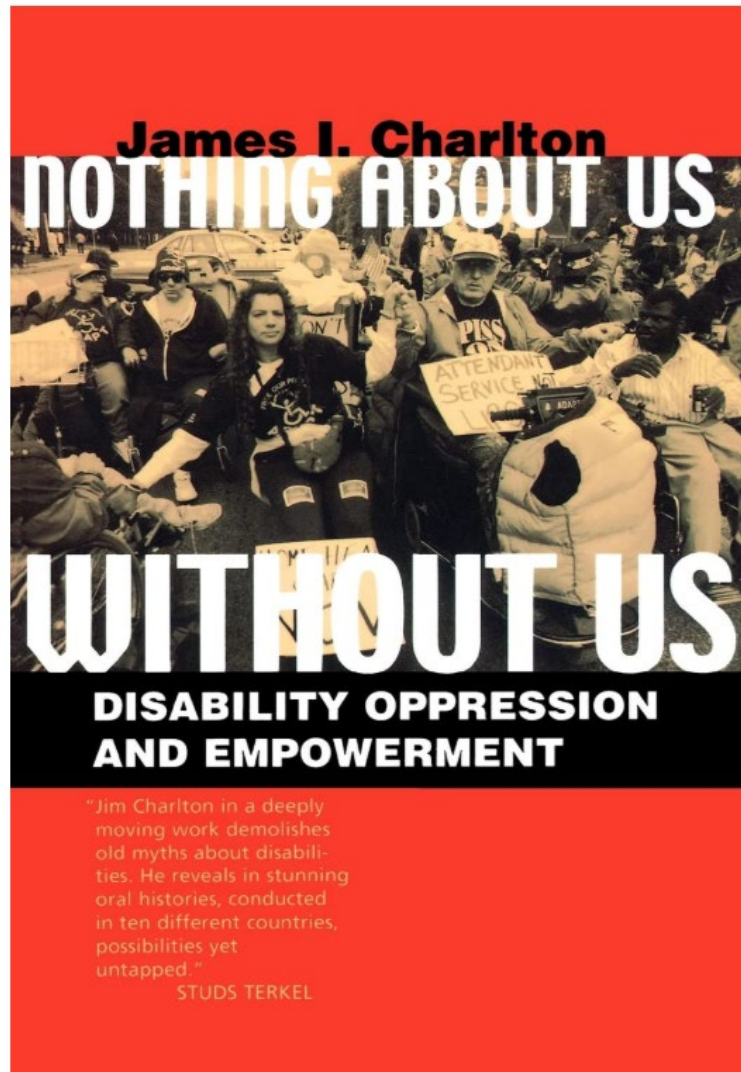


# Lessons learned

1. Ensure initiatives align with the priorities of those most impacted: people receiving care
2. Strength comes from developing trusting relationships
3. Innovation arises from diversity of perspective



# Implications for practice



# THANK YOU & QUESTIONS

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