

Biomedical Discussion Group

Application of Human Factors to Quality Improvement and Patient Safety

Wednesday August 9, 2017

10:30 –11:30 am, East Campus 4 (EC4) Room 2101a



[Dr. Patricia Trbovich,](#)

Academic Research Lead, University Health Network and
Assistant Professor, University of Toronto

Abstract:

Scientific research and practical aims have not always been well integrated in the discipline of quality improvement and patient safety. Consequently, many novel yet unsubstantiated interventions continue to be diffused, leading to fragmented strategies that fail to resolve the concern and lead to unanticipated patient safety issues. Despite the last 15 years of focused research on the topic of Quality Improvement and Patient Safety (QI/PS), substantial uncertainty exists regarding how to rigorously and pragmatically evaluate and disseminate QI/PS strategies. In this talk, Professor Trbovich will describe a series of human factors studies that her team has conducted to:

- Identify safety threats and resilience supports in trauma resuscitation, critical care and surgical care using prospective methods such as clinical observations, in-situ simulations and use of multi-channel data recorders;
- Enhance the design of Clinical Decision Support Systems to improve clinician decision-making and improve the outcomes of care.

She will show how the use of various data collection approaches and analytic methods can help identify types of errors that are best mitigated through interventions that standardize behaviour and those that benefit most from supporting adaptive behaviour.

Biosketch:

Patricia Trbovich holds the Badeau Family Research Chair in Patient Safety and Quality Improvement at North York General Hospital and is Associate Professor of Quality Improvement and Patient Safety in the Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation. She leads the HumanEra team and holds cross appointments at the Institute of Biomaterials and Biomedical Engineering (IBBME) at the University of Toronto and the University Health Network.

Patricia's areas of expertise include human factors and patient safety. Her research focuses on how to design technologies and workflow processes that meet the needs of health care professionals. She has also conducted extensive research on mitigation of interruptions on delivery of high-risk medical procedures. Her team was recognized with the 2015 Patient Safety Award from the Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation and Becton Dickinson. She is Associate Editor for the BMJ Quality and Safety journal.

Keywords: human factors, healthcare systems, health informatics, health technology, patient safety, quality



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