Welcome and Introduction

International COVID-19 Awareness, Responses and Evaluation (iCARE) Research Platform to strengthen Canada's pandemic and health emergency preparedness

- **Kim L. Lavoie, PhD, FCPA, FABMR**

- Professor, Canada Research Chair in Behavioural Medicine,
- Departement of Psychologie, Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM)
- Chronic Disease Research Division, CIUSSS-NIM, Hôpital du Sacré-Cœur de Montréal
- Co-Director, Montreal Behavioural Medicine Center (MBMC)
- Member, College of the Royal Society of Canada (RSC)

- **Collaborator Meeting February 5 & 9, 2026**

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- iCARE depends on multiple traditional Indigenous territories to provide us physical space, sustenance, safety, and community to work, live, and play.
- We acknowledge that our ability to live and work on these lands today is a direct benefit of policies of expulsion and assimilation of Indigenous peoples during the time of settlement and Confederation, and since.
- The harms of these policies are many and *are still being felt in Indigenous communities around the world today*. We express gratitude towards the Indigenous peoples who have and will continue to steward these lands.
- We commit to amplifying the voices of Indigenous peoples and working against the everyday forces of white supremacy and colonialism present in the research sector.

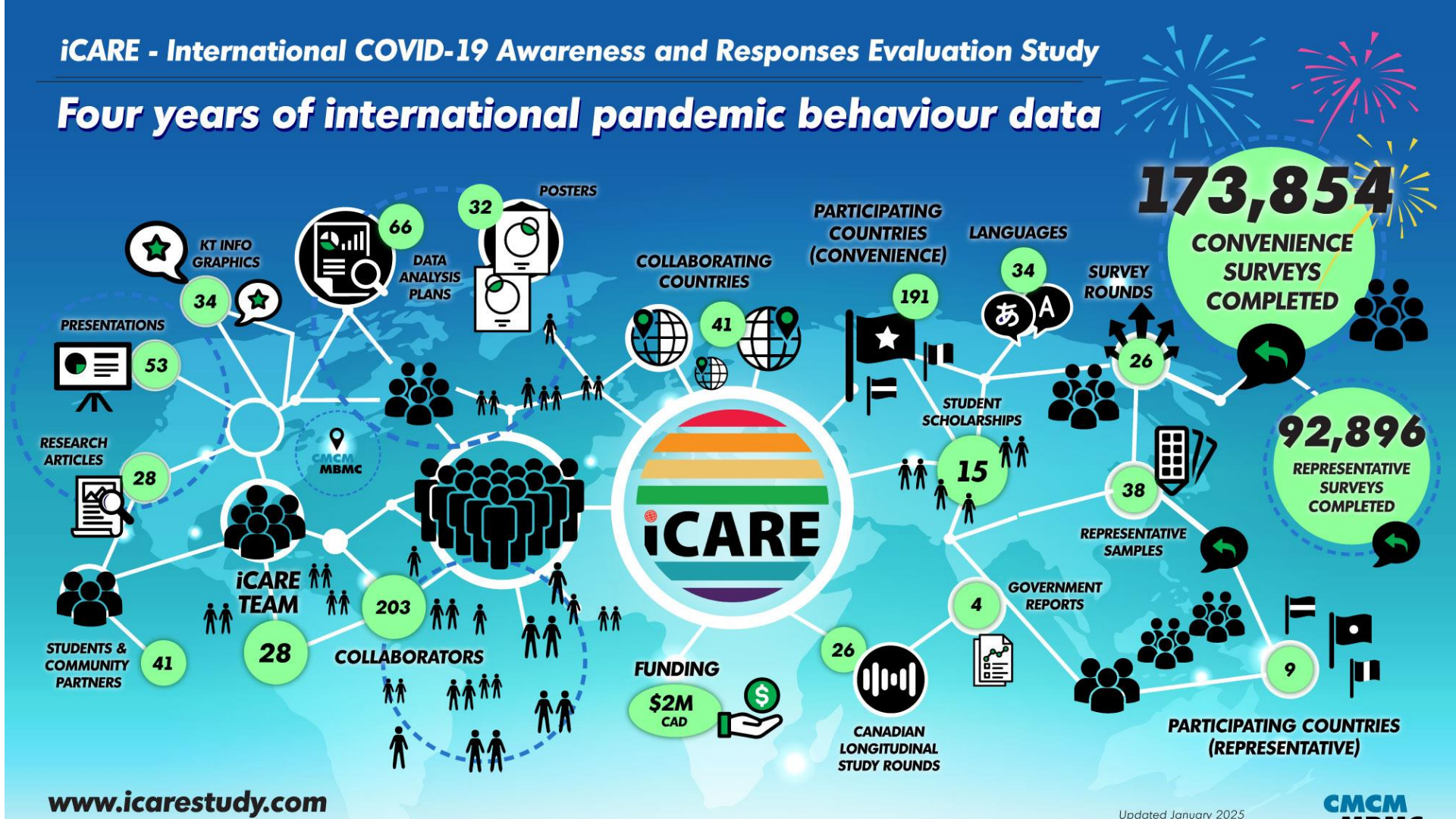
Agenda

- From iCARE Study to Research and Knowledge Transfer Platform
  - Summary of contributions to date
  - New axes, partners and governance structure
    - Research team and staff
  - Strategic priorities (themes)
    - Meetings and initiatives to date
    - Working groups
- Funding opportunities for collaborators
  - Student funding
  - Sub-study grants
- Summer student presentations (2025)
- Next steps

Contributions to date

iCARE - International COVID-19 Awareness and Responses Evaluation Study

Four years of international pandemic behaviour data



www.icarestudy.com

Updated January 2025

CMCM MBMC

iCARE-informed policy briefs and government reports to the Canadian health minister

- Behaviours of Canadians around rapid antigen testing. *Report prepared for PHAC*. November, 2022.
- Emotional, health, occupational and social impacts of COVID-19 isolation periods in individuals with COVID-19 symptoms or a positive test. *Report prepared for PHAC*. December, 2022.
- Office of the Chief Science Advisor of Canada. CHIEF SCIENCE ADVISOR SPECIAL EXPERT MEETINGS ON EMPOWERING PROTECTIVE BEHAVIOR THROUGH BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE AND RISK COMMUNICATION. *Government of Canada (2022)*. May 2022.
- Office of the Chief Science Advisor of Canada. ENHANCING FUTURE PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS: MEETING #48 OF THE CSA COVID-19 EXPERT PANEL. *Government of Canada (2021)*. November 2023.
- Office of the Chief Science Advisor of Canada. POST-COVID-19 CONDITION IN CANADA: WHAT WE KNOW, WHAT WE DON'T KNOW, AND A FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION. *Government of Canada (2022)*. December, 2022.

Some of iCARE's contributions

https://icare.mbmc-cmcm.ca/results-findings/publications/

Archives of Women's Mental Health (2024) 27:795–805
https://doi.org/10.1007/s00737-024-01451-3

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Psychosocial impacts, preventive behaviours, and concerns associated with the COVID-19 pandemic for pregnant and non-pregnant women: A matched analysis from the International iCARE Study

Katherine Séguin[1,2] · Eva Suarthana[3,6] · Michele L. Okun[4] · Mariam Atoui[5] · Kim L. Lavoie[1,5] · Catherine M. Herba[1,2]

Open access Original research

BMJ Open

Understanding national trends in COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy in Canada: results from five sequential cross-sectional representative surveys spanning April 2020–March 2021

Kim Lavoie [1,2] Vincent Gosselin-Boucher [1,2] Jovana Stojanovic [2,3] Samir Gupta [4,5] Myriam Gagné [5] Keven Joyal-Desmarais [2,3] Katherine Séguin,[1,2] Sherri Sheinfeld Gorin [6] Paula Ribeiro,[2,7] Brigitte Voisard,[1,2] Michael Vallis [8] Kimberly Corace,[9,10] Justin Presseau [11,12] Simon Bacon [2,3] for the iCARE Study Team

Relational conflicts during COVID-19: Impact of loss and reduction of employment due to prevention measures and the influence of sex and stress (in the iCARE study)

Journal of Health Psychology
2025, Vol. 30(4) 749–764
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DOI: 10.1177/13591053241260672
journals.sagepub.com/home/hpq
Sage

Noémie Tremblay[1,2], Camille Leger[1,2], Frédérique Deslauriers[1,2], Lydia Hébert-Auger[1], Vincent Gosselin-Boucher[3], Simon L. Bacon[2,4], Maximilien Dialufuma Vakambi[2], and Kim L. Lavoie[1,2]; for the iCARE Study Team

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Public Health

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/puhe

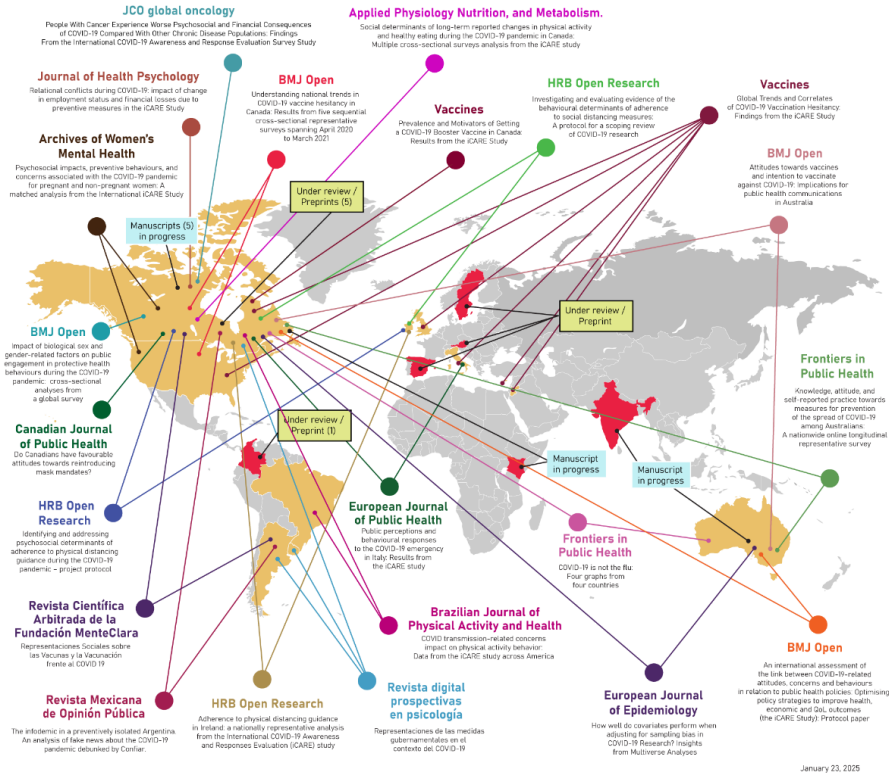
Original Research

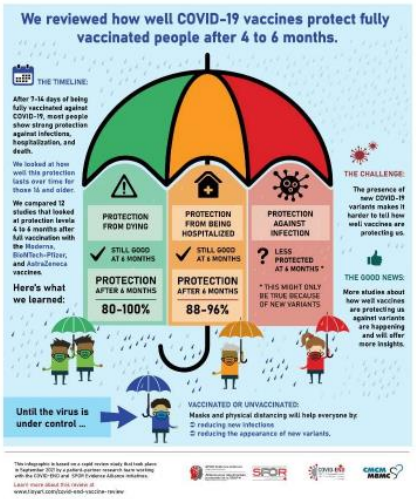
Unveiling the association between information sources and young adults' attitudes and concerns during COVID-19: Results from the iCARE study

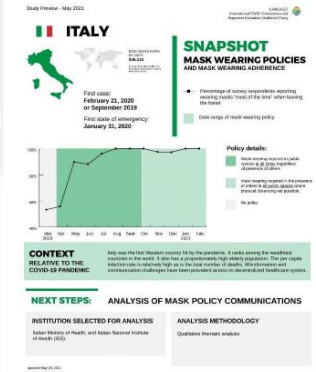
Noémie Tremblay [a,b], Kim L. Lavoie [a,b], Simon L. Bacon [b,f], Ariane Bélanger-Gravel [c,d,e,*], for the iCARE Study Team

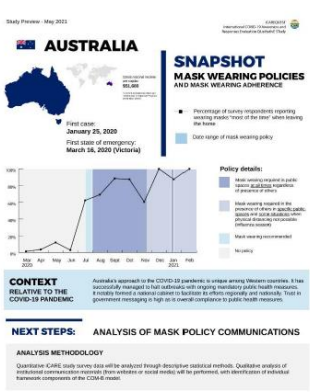
iCARE STUDY PUBLICATIONS

Map of journal publications and author countries









iCARE PLATFORM
PANDEMIC AND HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

www.iCAREstudy.com

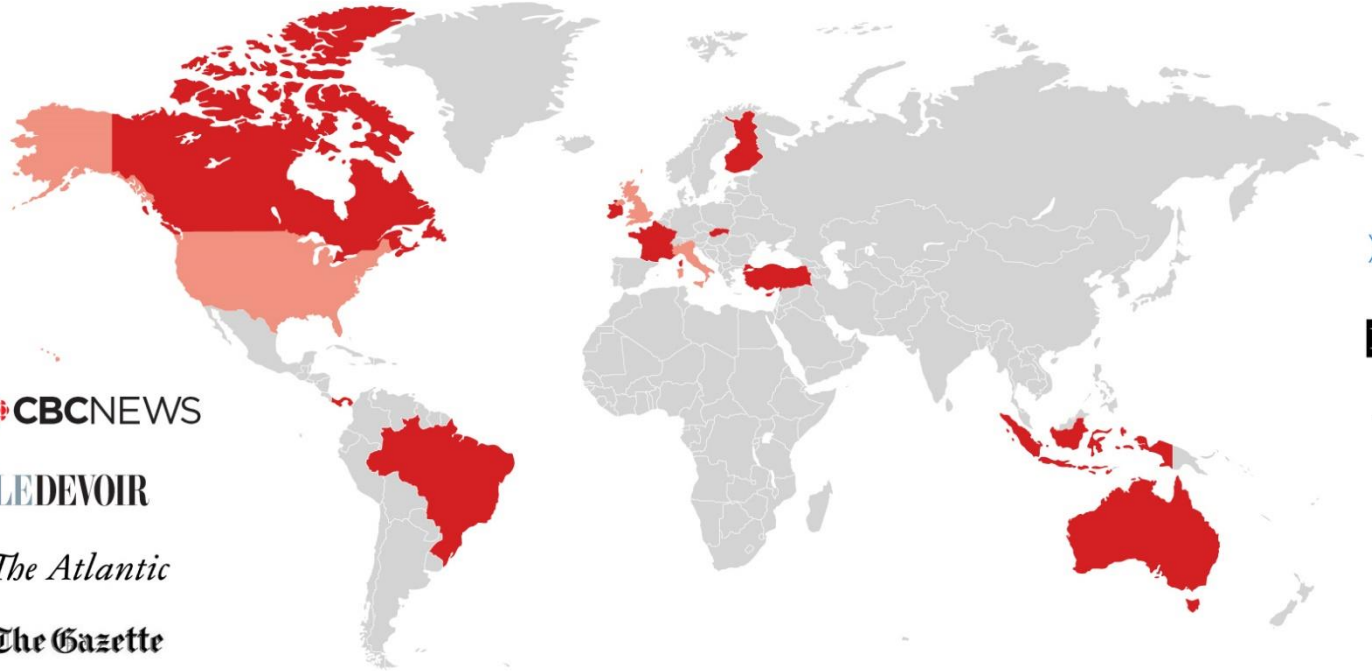
CANADA RESEARCH CHAIRS
CHAIR IN BEHAVIOURAL MEDICINE

CMCM MBMC
CENTRE DE MÉDECINE COMPORTEMENTALE DE MONTRÉAL
MONTREAL BEHAVIOURAL MEDICINE CENTRE

CIHR IRSC
Canadian Institutes of Health Research
Instituts de recherche en santé du Canada

iCARE Study Media Coverage

March 2020 to January 2022



THE TIMES

BBC NEWS

LA PRESSE

TV5MONDE

TORONTO STAR

THE IRISH TIMES

THE CONVERSATION

παιδεία news

HUFFPOST

le Soleil

OTTAWA CITIZEN

CBCNEWS

LEDEVOIR

The Atlantic

The Gazette

RADIO-CANADA

le journal de montréal

Global NEWS

LCI

HELSINGIN SANOMAT

CityNews

IDN TIMES

διάλογος

CIHR interim funding

Competition Outcome/Résultats du concours:	Operating Grant: Pandemic Research Platforms Interim Funding / Subv de fonc: Financement provisoire : recherche sur les pandémies
	February/Février 04, 2025
Number in competition/Nbre de demandes dans le concours:	41
Number approved in the competition / Nombre de demandes approuvées dans le concours:	7

Decision on your application/ Décision sur votre demande:	Approved / Approuvée	Other offer / Autre offre
Average annual amount/ Montant annuel moyen:	$1,500,000	
Term/Durée:	2 yrs/ans	0 months/mois

Peer Review Committee Recommendation, for your information and use/
Recommandation du comité d'examen par les pairs, pour fins d'information et d'utilisation:

Committee/Comité:	Operating Grant: Pandemic Research Platforms Interim Funding / Sub. de fin.-vFinancement provisoire pour les plateformes de recherche sur les pandémies
Application rank within the competition/ Rang de la demande dans ce concours:	1
Percent Rank Within the Competition/ Rang en pourcentage au sein du concours:	2.44%
Rating/ Cote:	4.52
Recommended average annual amount/ Montant annuel moyen recommandé:	$1,500,000

Additional Funding Opportunities/ Opportunités de financement additionnelles	Decision/ Décision	Total Funding Amount/Montant total du financement	Term/ Terme	Competition Code/Cote de concours	Application Number/ Numéro de la demande
Operating Grant: Pandemic Research Platforms Interim Funding - General/Subv de fonc: Financement provisoire : rech sur les pandémies - Classe générale	Approved/ Approuvée	$3,000,000	2 yrs/ans 0 mth/mois	202502FP5	547346

- "Interim funding" competition to support pandemic/health emergency research capacity in Canada
- 41 applications passed LOI stage, 7 funded
- Ranked 1st!
- 2 years (June 2025-June 2027) with one-year automatic no cost extension (June 2028) and could ask for one more year (June 2029) – could have 4 years of funding

New branding

iCARE PLATFORM
PANDEMIC AND HEALTH EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

iCARE PLATFOR
DATA COLLECTION

iCARE PLATFOR
DATA ANALYSIS & MODELIN

iCARE PLATFOR
KNOWLEDGE SYNTHESIS

iCARE PLATFOR
KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATIO

iCARE PLATFOR
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMEN

RESEARCH team and staff

iCARE Platform Team

- Co-leads: Kim Lavoie & Simon Bacon (Canada)
- Investigators:

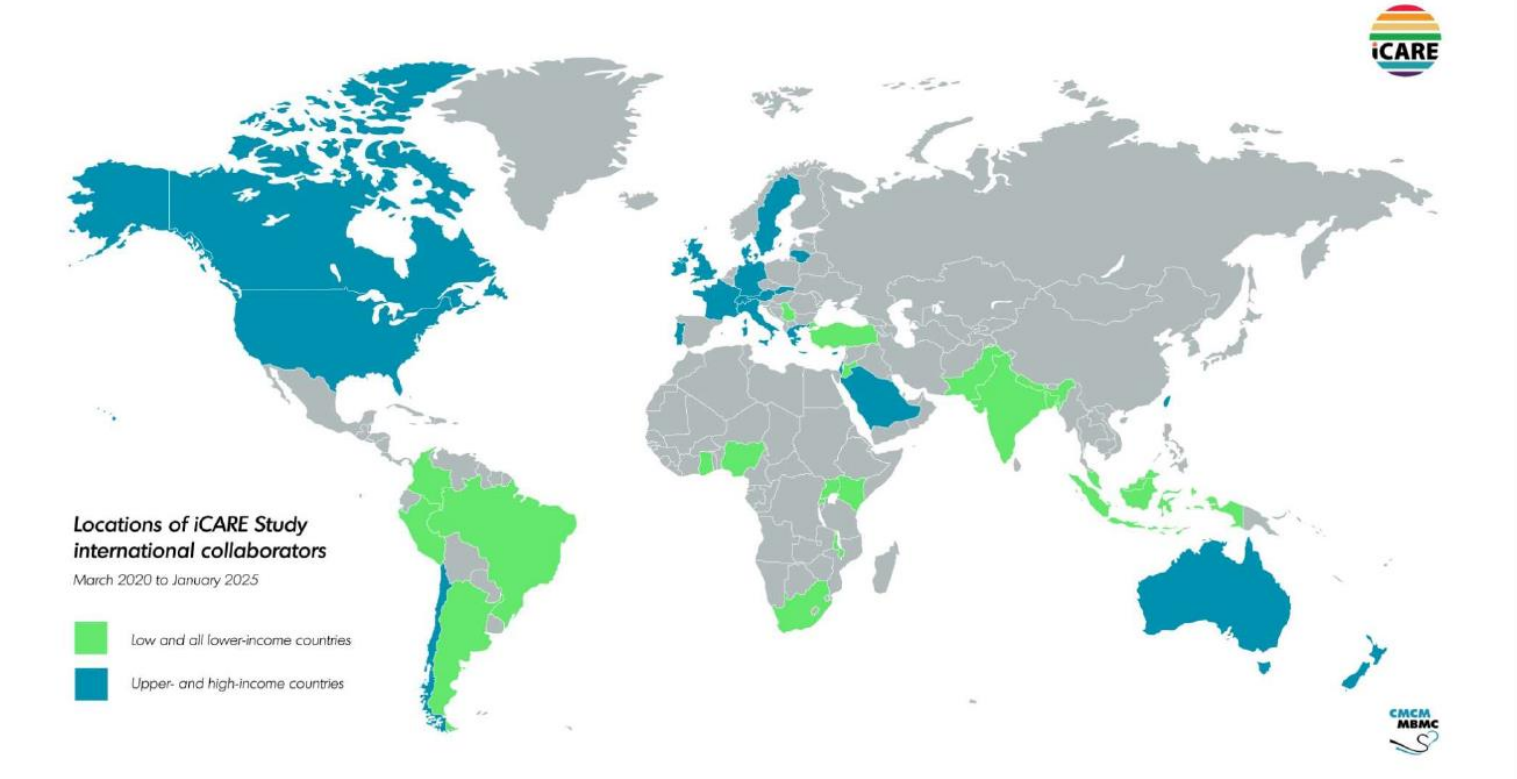
- Ninan Abraham (Canada)
- Marilyn Ahun (Canada)
- Gordon Asmundson (Canada)
- Thilina Bandara (Canada)
- Lisa Barrett (Canada)
- Mohamad Baydoun (Canada)
- Ariane Bélanger-Gravel (Canada)
- Claire Betker (Canada)
- Anne Bhéreur (Canada)
- Denis Boutin (Canada)
- Tavis Campbell (Canada)
- Linda Carlson (Canada)
- Caroline Colijn (Canada)
- Kim Corace (Canada)
- Margie Danchin (Australia)
- Troy Day (Canada)
- Roxane de la Sablonnière (Canada)
- Frédérique Deslauriers (Canada)
- Alysha Deslippe (Canada)
- Rubee Dev (Canada)
- Olivier Drouin (Canada)
- Ève Dubé (Canada)
- Eleanor Fish (Canada)
- Sheila Garland (Canada)
- Andrea Gershon (Canada)
- Jennifer Gordon (Canada)
- Vincent Gosselin Boucher (Canada)
- Samir Gupta (Canada)
- Catherine Herba (Canada)
- Kimberly Huyser (Canada)
- Jack Jedwab (Canada)
- Keven Joyal-Desmarais (UK)
- Mary Jung (Canada)
- Joanne Langley (Canada)
- Camille Léger (Canada)
- Joanne Liu (Canada)
- Allison McGeer (Canada)
- Carrie Anna McGinn (Canada)
- Cari McIlduff (Canada)
- Tyler Meadows (Canada)
- Nazeem Muhajarine (Canada)
- Cory Neudorf (Canada)
- Cassandra Opikokew Wajuntah (Canada)
- Justin Presseau (Canada)
- Josh Rash (Canada)
- Johanne Saint-Charles (Canada)
- Maria Sedeno (Canada)
- Michael Spivock (Canada)
- Steven Taylor (Canada)
- Marie-Christine Therrien (Canada)
- Michael Vallis (Canada)
- Michael Wilson (Canada)

iCARE Platform Team

Collaborators:

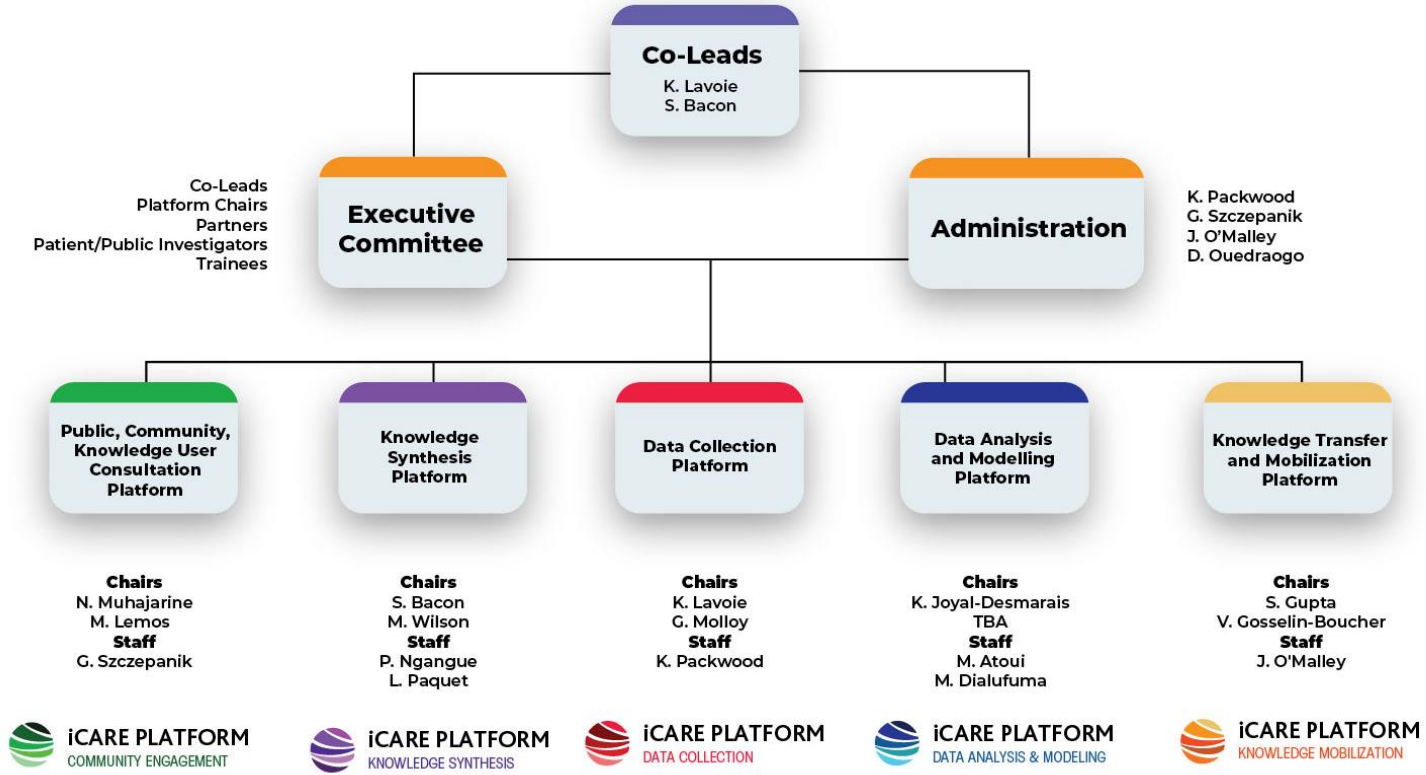
- Mathieu Beraneck (France)
- Jacqueline Boyle (Australia)
- Beate Ditzen (Germany)
- Hannah Durand (UK)
- Joanne Enticott (Australia)
- Kristopher Lamore (France)
- Mariantonia Lemos (Colombia)
- Louise Lemyre (Canada)
- Marta Marques (Portugal)
- Oonagh Meade (Ireland)
- Susan Michie (UK)
- Gerry Molloy (Ireland)
- Iveta Nagyova (Slovakia)
- Felix Naughton (UK)
- Gregory Ninot (France)
- Chris Noone (Ireland)
- Éamonn O'Moore (Ireland)
- Beatrix Oroszi (Hungary)
- Valeria Raparelli (Italy)
- Sherri Sheinfeld Gorin (USA)
- Helena Teede (Australia)
- Robert West (UK)

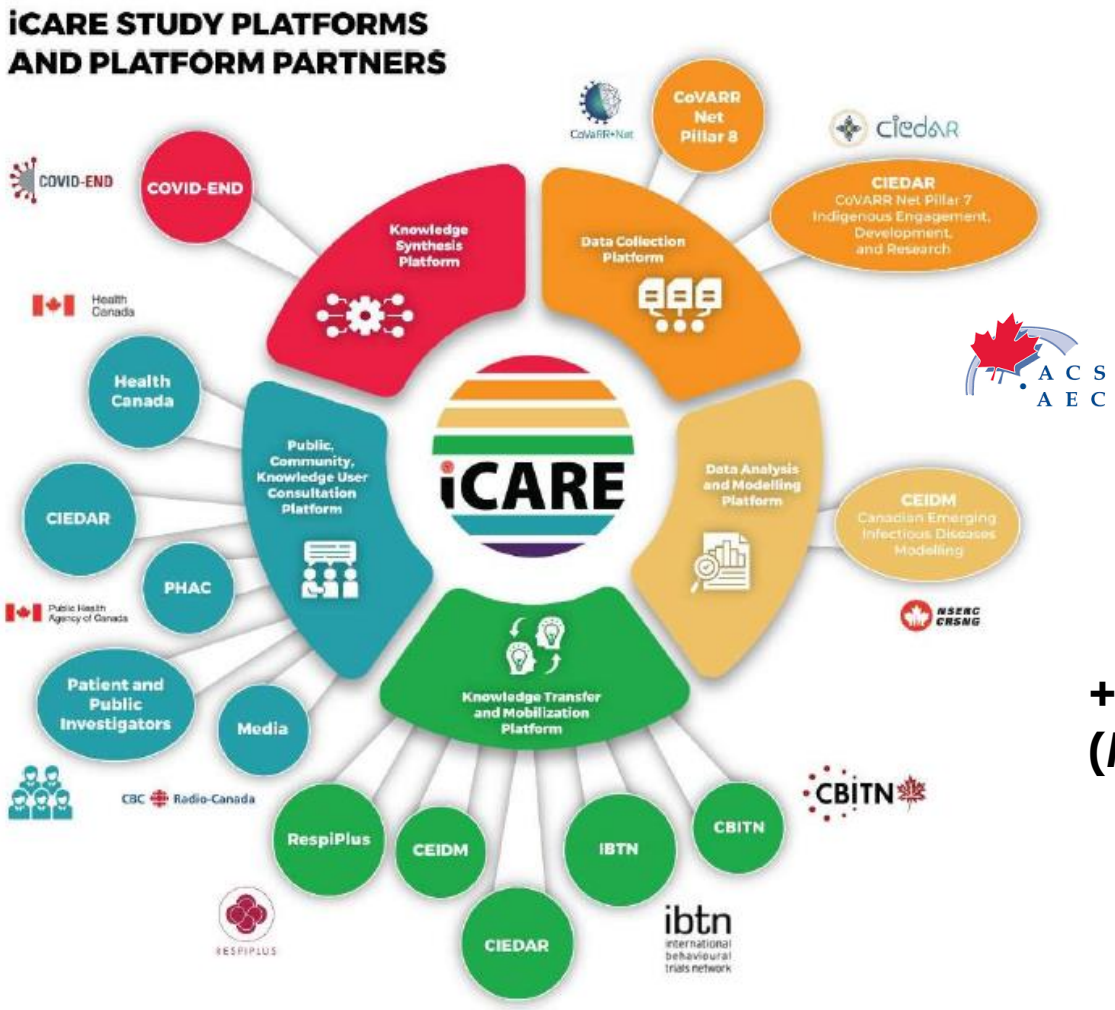
Current collaborator distribution



New axes, partners and governance structure

iCARE ORGANIGRAM AND GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE





+PERL Lab (McGill U)

Objectives and strategic priorities

- Continued data collection and analyses
  - *Optimising public acceptance of and adherence to prevention measures*
    - Exploit existing data (data modeling axis - CEIDM)
  - *Understanding and addressing inequalities and policy impacts*
    - Exploit existing data (data collection axis – internal analysts, collaborator projects)
  - *Understanding trust dynamics and risk communication to combat mis/disinformation*
    - Exploit existing data (data collection axis – internal analysts, collaborator projects, new projects)

- Knowledge transfer activities that target diverse users (e.g., local/international governments and policy-makers, scientists, clinicians, general public)

- Enhancing pandemic-related behavioural expertise in Canada

Meetings and initiatives to date

- Strengthen Indigenous research
  - Meetings with CIEDAR (K. Huyser) and ASC (J. Jedwab, P. Holly)
- Coordinate stakeholder engagement activities (priority setting)
  - Meetings with COVID-END (J. Lavis, M. Wilson)
- Explore opportunities to model behavioural data
  - Meetings with CIEDM (C. Colijn) and ACS (P. Holly)
- Establish working group: Trust dynamics and addressing mis/disinformation
  - Meetings with CoVaRR-NET Pillar 8 (N. Muhajarine) and ACS
  - TBA with PERL Lab

Working groups (so far…)

- New survey design
  - Leads: Lavoie, Molloy et al.
- Trust dynamics and addressing mis/disinformation
  - Leads: Muhajarine & Lavoie (+ACS, + PERL)
- Evidence synthesis
  - Leads: Bacon & Wilson
- Data modeling
  - Lead: Joyal-Demarais (ACS)

Please consider joining one of these groups, or create your own!

Funding opportunities

Funding opportunities

- Punctual surveys in new countries
  - Hungary (Jan 2026)
- Sub-studies analyzing existing iCARE data
  - >180,000 participants in nearly 200 countries
  - Over-representation: Canada, France, Italy, Ireland, Colombia, Australia
  - Budgets: Variable (e.g., $5K-$10K, with specific deliverable [paper, policy brief...]
  - Duration: 6 months
- Special projects
  - We will be launching a call for proposals for special projects that align with iCARE objectives and strategic priorities
  - Example: Research prioritization project (Canada)
  - Budgets: Variable (e.g., $10-$20K, with specific deliverable [paper, policy brief…]
  - Duration: up to 12 months

Funding opportunities

- Student support
  - Matching funding for graduate students (Masters and PhD) working on iCARE data (up to $10-$20K for one year, with concrete deliverable)
    - Will be announced in the spring 2026 for support to begin in summer
    - Must present work at iCARE meeting
  - Summer scholarship program (2026): Available for students at any level (Masters, PhD, Post-doc) to work on iCARE data with any collaborator, with concrete deliverable
    - Will be announced by March 2026
    - Must present work at iCARE meeting

Funding opportunities

- Open access publishing fees (maybe)
  - We are exploring covering the cost of open access publishing fees for articles published using iCARE data

- Conference travel awards
  - iCARE will provide travel stipends (up to $1500 CAD based on needs assessment) to support travel to present iCARE data at scientific conferences

Continued support (infrastructure)

- Data analysis (2 full time analysts)
- Data collection (survey support)
- Admin support for working group activities
- Evidence synthesis support
- Knowledge transfer support (infographics, policy briefs, webinars)

Summer scholar student presentations (2025)

iCARE Summer 2025 Scholars

Andres Felipe Puerta
EAFIT University, Colombia

Supervisor: Dr. Mariantonia Lemos

Project: Trust in information sources on COVID-19 in Colombia: comparative analysis between ICARE and Twitter

Anna Yayloyan
Cyprus University of Technology, Cyprus

Supervisors: Dr. Angelos Kassianos

Project: Determinants of COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy Among Pregnant Women: Evidence from the iCARE Study

Fionnuala Braun
University of Saskatchewan and Carleton University, Canada

Supervisor: Dr. Nazeem Muhajarine

Project: Non-traditional media as a source of vaccine information in Canada: An analysis of two quantitative studies

Florence Coulombe Raymond
Université du Québec à Montréal, Canada

Supervisor: Dr. Kim Lavoie

Project: Attitudes of Canadians towards COVID-19 prevention measures according to vaccination status

Next steps:

- Funding opportunity announcements (March-June)
- Invitations to join (or create!) working groups
- Exec meeting with all pandemic response teams (May 2026)
- Next collaborator meeting: TBA

Questions & DISCUSSION

Thank you to our funders and partners

UQÀM
Université du Québec à Montréal

Université Concordia University

Centre intégré universitaire de santé et de services sociaux du Nord-de-l'Île-de-Montréal
Québec

Fonds de la recherche en santé
Québec

CHAIRES DE RECHERCHE DU CANADA
CHAIRE EN MÉDECINE COMPORTEMENTALE

Économie et Innovation
Québec

CIHR IRSC
Canadian Institutes of Health Research
Instituts de recherche en santé du Canada

Public Health Agency of Canada

ibtn
international behavioural trials network

ACS AEC

CanChange
Canadian Network for Health Behaviour Change and Promotion

CIEDAR

CEIDM

CBITN
ICARE PLATFORM
PANDEMIC AND HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE
www.ICAREstudy.com

CoVaRR-Net

COVID-END
COVID-19 Evidence Network to support Decision-making
CANADA RESEARCH CHAIRS
CHAIR IN BEHAVIOURAL MEDICINE

Join us next May 2026 in Montreal for the next IBTN/CBITN conference !

ibtn CONFERENCE

May 7-9th, 2026
Plenaries, workshops, networking

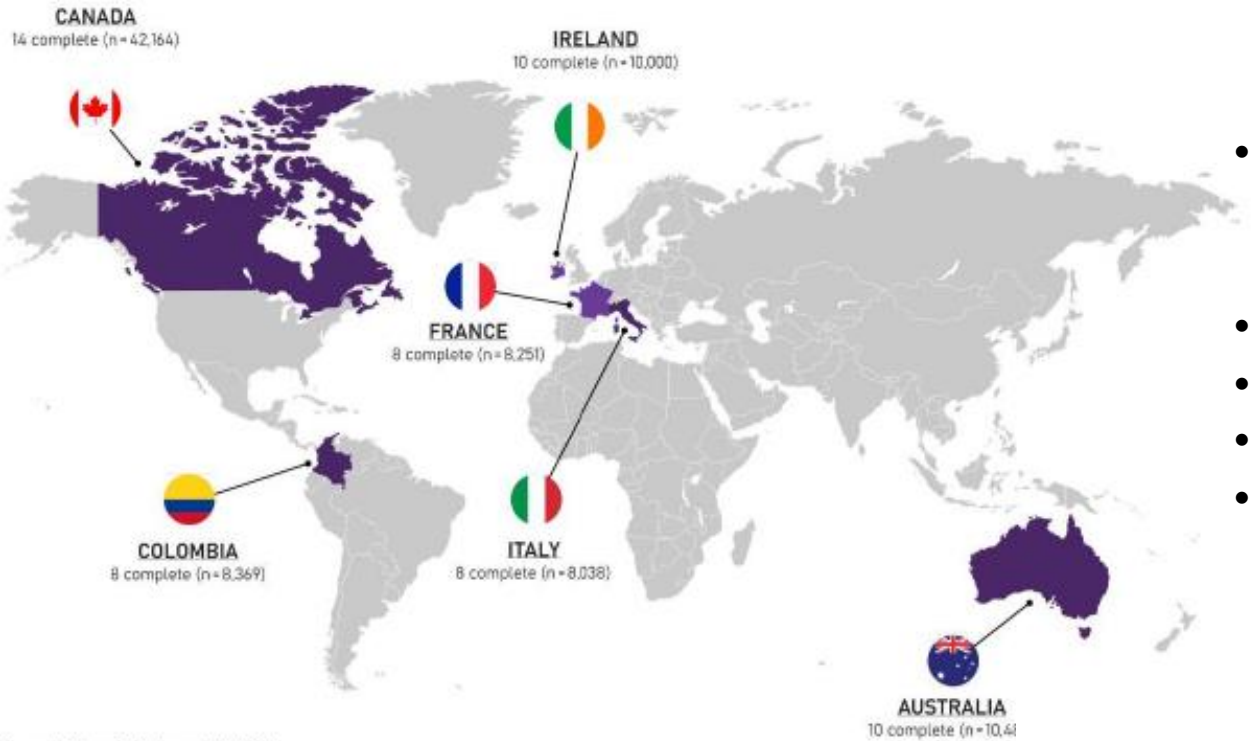
CBITN

Summer school applications open this summer!

www.ibtnetwork.org

www.cbitn.ca

Current representative surveys



- Hungary (Jan 2026)

- Netherlands?
- Sweden?
- Japan?
- Ghana?