

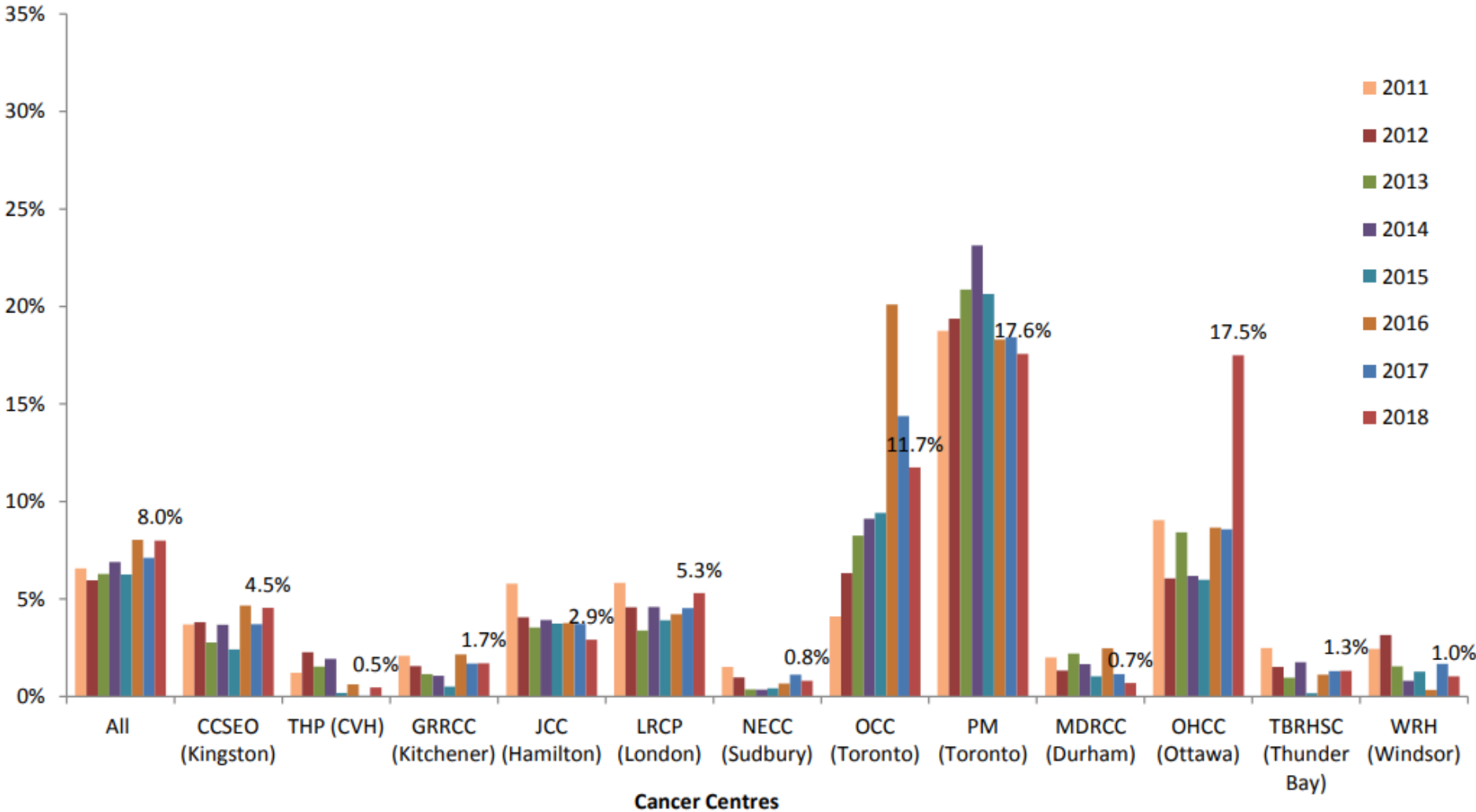
Clinical Trials Navigator

Cancer Education Day

June 13, 2025

The problem

Percentage of Patients Recruited to Interventional Clinical Trials from Treated Patients in Cancer Centres, 2011-2018



All	All reporting cancer centres	LRCP	London Regional Cancer Program	OHCC	The Ottawa Hospital Cancer Centre
CCSEO	Cancer Centre of Southeastern Ontario (Kingston)	NECC	Northeast Cancer Centre - Health Sciences North (Sudbury)	TBRHSC	Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre
THP	Trillium Health Partners (Mississauga)	OCC	Odette Cancer Centre (Toronto)	WRH	Windsor Regional Hospital
GRRCC	Grand River Regional Cancer Centre (Kitchener)	PM	Princess Margaret Cancer Centre (Toronto)	MDRCC	R.S. McLaughlin Durham Regional Cancer Centre
JCC	Juravinski Cancer Centre (Hamilton)				

Sources: Cancer centres across Ontario; Cancer Care Ontario

80 – 95 % of the time there is no trial available for cancer patients



ClinicalTrials.gov

Inaccurate; unreliable; too scientific for patients; out of date

Helping Canadian Cancer Patients Find Eligible Clinical Trials

Are you or a loved one facing a cancer diagnosis and seeking new treatment options? At Clinical Trials Navigator (CTN), we understand the challenges you face and are dedicated to making the process of finding and participating in clinical trials easier and more accessible through our innovative and free platform.



the PATIENT JOURNEY through CLINICAL TRIAL NAVIGATION

GETTING STARTED with a CLINICAL TRIAL



ENROLLING IN A CLINICAL TRIAL



TRAVELLING



Overview

01 CTN Updates

02 Review of Patient Navigation Interventions

03 Feasibility of National Implementation

04 Integrating CTNs in Multidisciplinary Case Conferences

05 CTN Indigenous Pathways

06 Factors Affecting Clinical Trial Enrolment in the CTN Program

07 Biomarker Knowledge & Access Across Canada

08 AI in Clinical Trial Navigation

09 Patient Reported Outcomes of the CTN Program

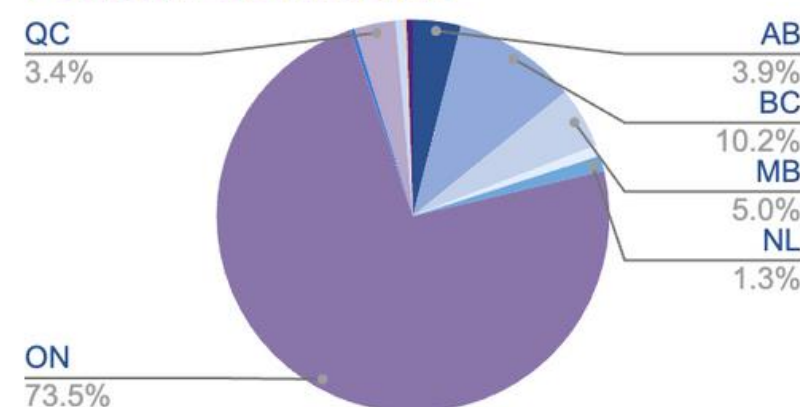
10 CTN FollowUP

11 CTN Onboarding Course

CTN Updates

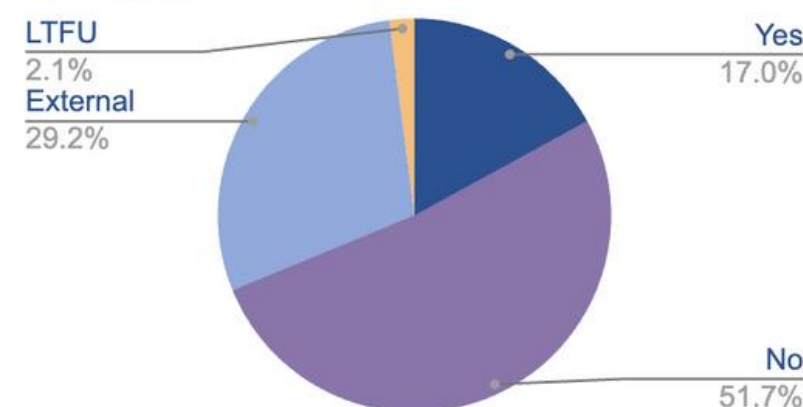
610
patients

Patient Distribution



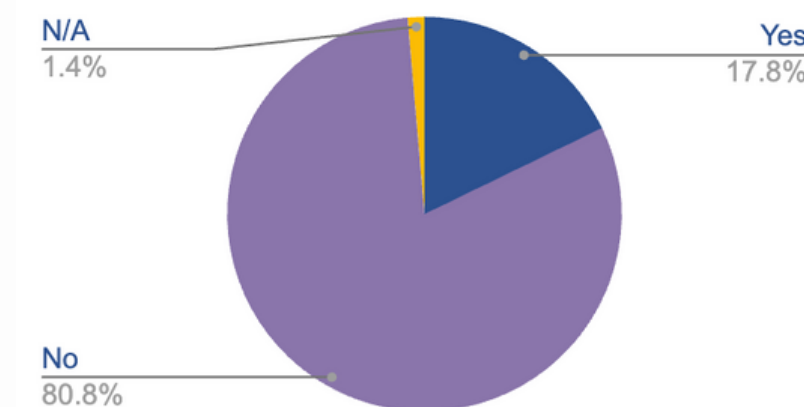
Referrals

Referred?



Enrollment

Enrolled?



Follow up: 107 follow up survey responses

Preferred trial

- CTN team selects a **preferred trial** based on eligibility criteria and distance from trial
- Meant to improve referral and enrollment

CTN 330: “ **Helpful and trustworthy** way to share information with the patient.”

CTN 422: “We both learned a lot! as well we discussed the report with our Medical Oncologist and she is clear that when standard therapy is no longer effective for my husband, we want to pursue a clinical trial. also, We had experts reviewing appropriate clinical trials for us thru this service as we were not able to research and obtain the level of detail on our own. it was also **fantastic to get a followup phone call from the CTN doctor to explain the report. this was so very helpful** and we very much appreciated the time and expertise/guidance. the clinical trial navigator service was **hugely valuable**.”

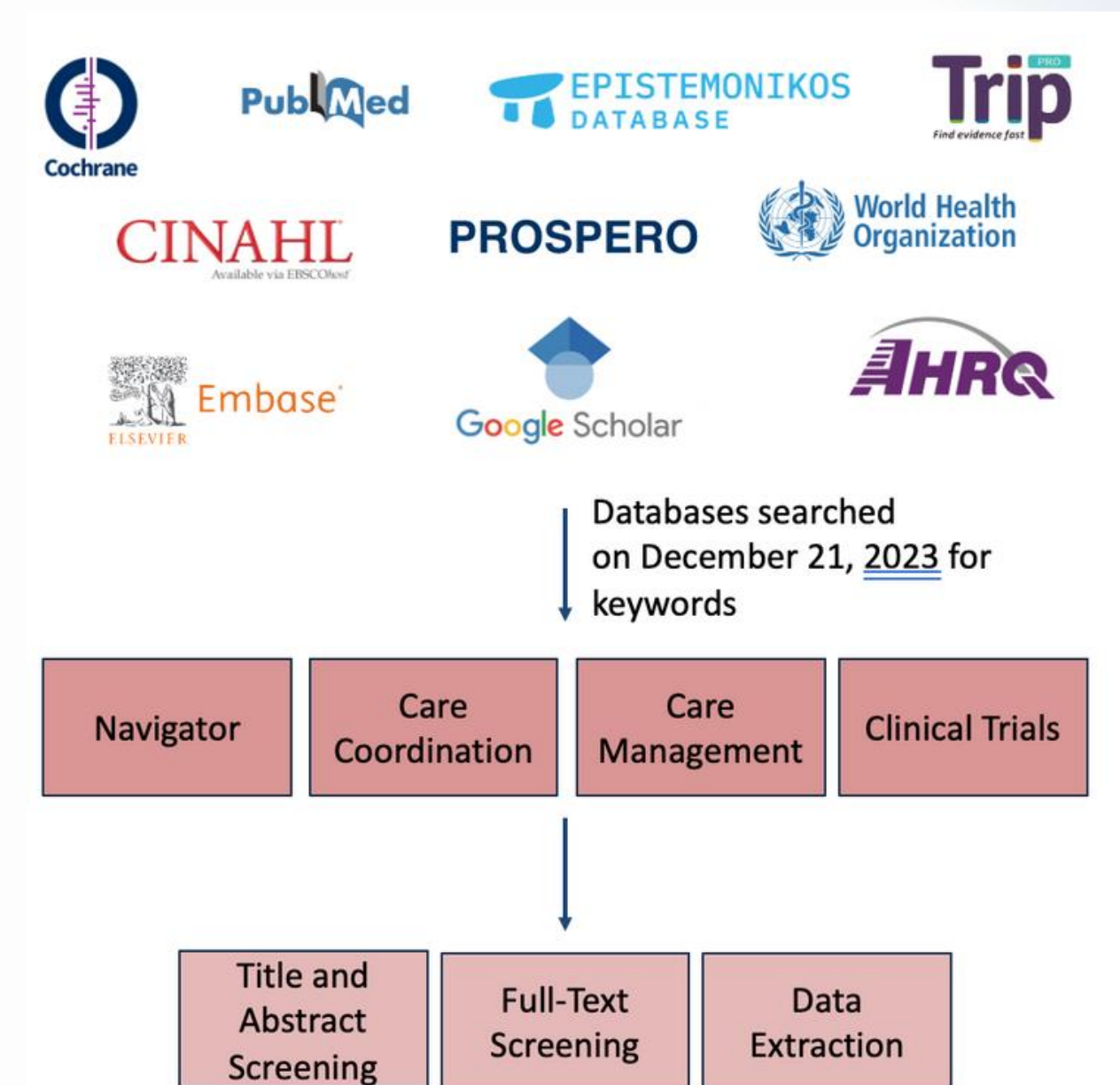
CTN 454: “Hope”

A Review of Patient Navigation Interventions

Study Title: Connecting Clinical Trials with Patients using Patient Navigation: A Scoping Review

- Examining **existing evidence** on **patient navigation interventions** aimed at **increasing clinical trial enrollment**
- Majority of interventions navigate patients only within their site, rather than within and outside their site
- Lack of language and financial assistance in patient navigation interventions
- **Conclusion:** demonstrates **benefit of the CTN Program** due to referring patients outside their site and focusing on all cancer types for patients. However, the program will **continue to evaluate** different approaches and assess their impact on clinical trial enrollment

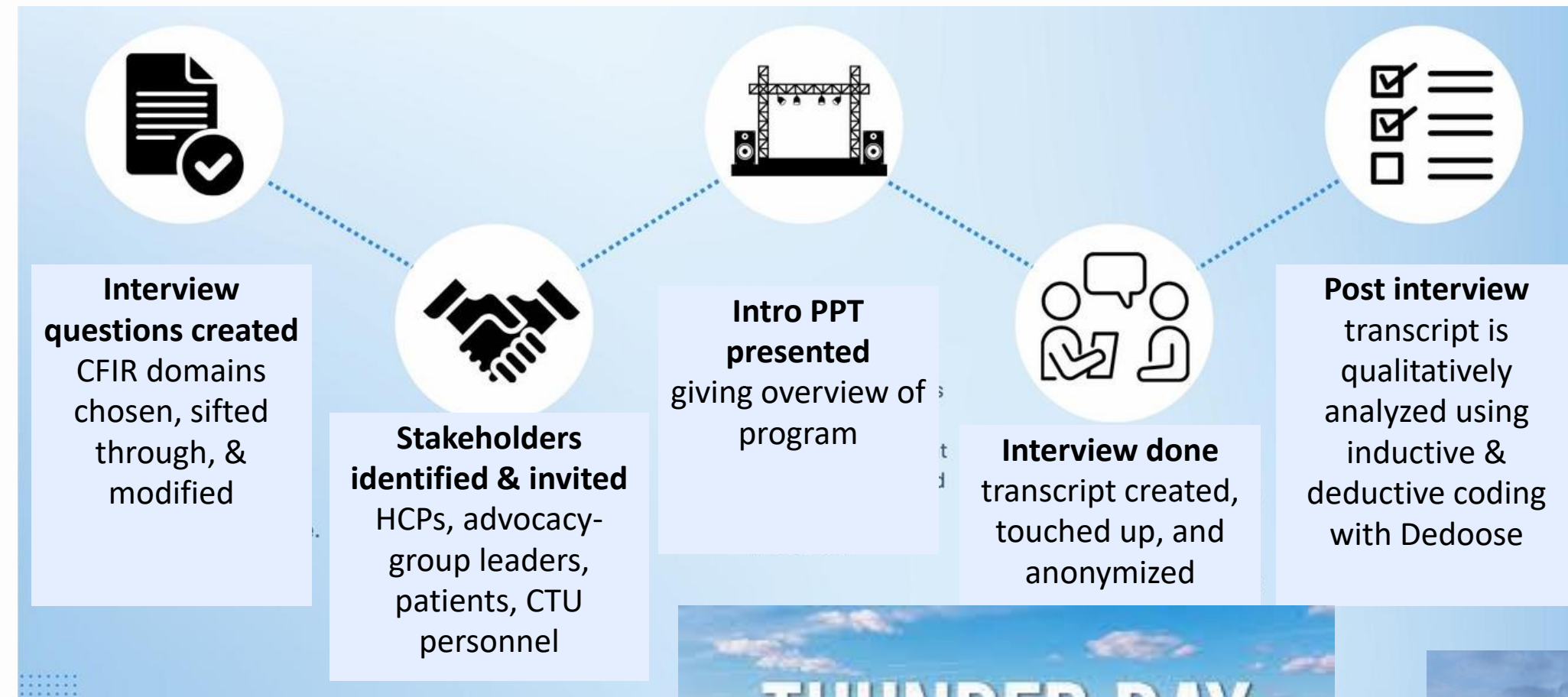
Study Design:



Evaluating Feasibility of National Implementation of the CTN Program

Study Title: Implementation of a Clinical Trial Navigation Program for Cancer Patients: Barriers and Facilitators Identified Through Stakeholder Perspectives

Study Design:



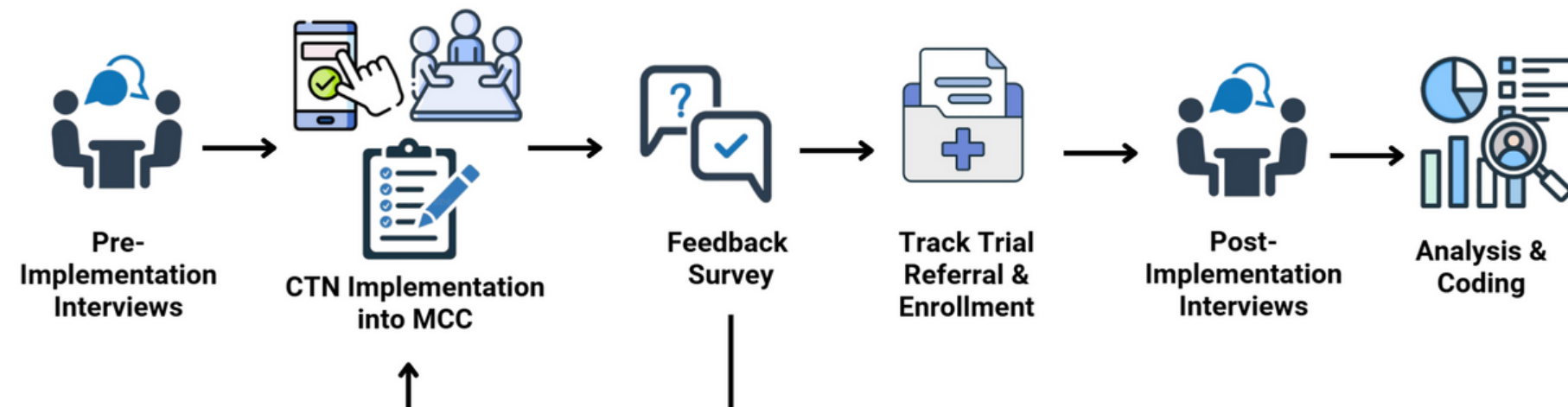
- Thirty-three 45-minute, virtual, semi-structured interviews were conducted with healthcare/clinical research professionals (CRP; n=9) and patient-focused stakeholders (n=24).
- Some common themes that showed up included:
 - **Strong support for the CTN program** including decreasing workload & increasing treatment access
 - Barriers: **financial & logistical stressors** for pts; availability of trials



Integrating CTNs in Multidisciplinary Case Conferences

Study Title: The impact of clinical trial navigators on clinical trial accrual by participating in multidisciplinary case conferences: A pre- and post-implementation study

Hybrid Effectiveness-Implementation Study Design:



Goal is to Improve:



- Including CTNs in MCCs for **breast, colorectal and glioblastoma cancers** to optimize trial discussion and improve patient access
- CTNs will use the LookUp Trials app and master lists to **identify eligible trials**, track referrals and enrollments in REDCap, and **gather real-time feedback** through surveys
- The study aims for a **25% referral rate** and an **8% enrollment rate** across **168 patient** cases: 70 breast cancer cases 56 glioblastoma cases, and 42 colorectal cancer cases
- If successful, this study **will inform best practices** for incorporating systematic trial discussions into MCCs and may serve as a model for expanding the CTN program to other disease sites

Building a Culturally Sensitive Pathway for Métis Patients on Clinical Trials

Meeting: A national meeting for Métis-led pathways for clinical trials navigation

A day focused on exploring opportunities to develop a culturally sensitive CTN program and website, while generating innovative ideas to address barriers to navigation, including cultural, social, and financial challenges

Project Goals

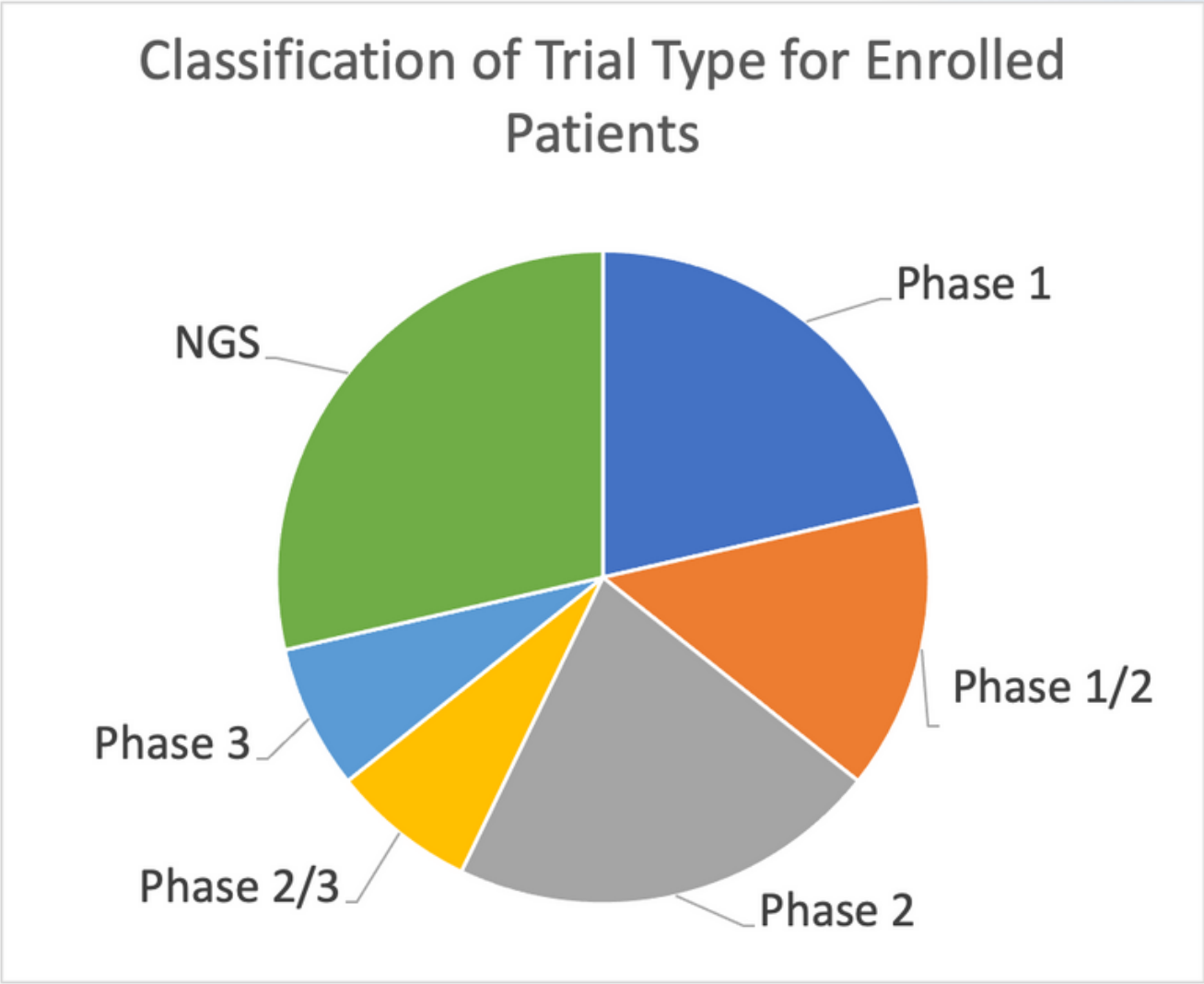
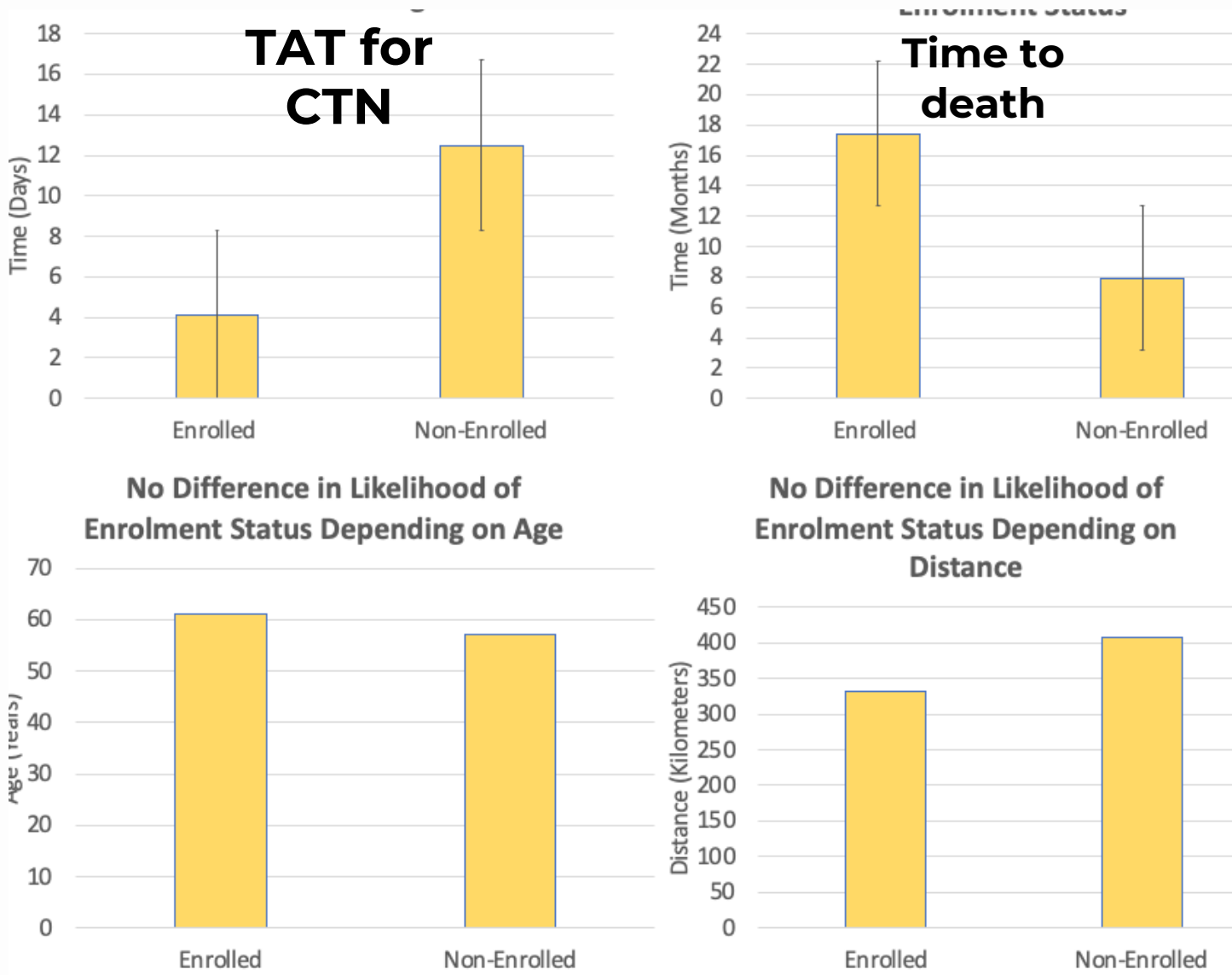
- Identify gaps and areas for improvement in the CTN program to **develop a tailored navigation pathway for Métis patients**
- **Build strong relationships with Métis patient navigators, researchers, and experts** to guide the program design
- **Integrate Métis-specific elements into the CTN program**, including land acknowledgements, and a culturally safe website

Project Timeline



Examining Factors Affecting Clinical Trial Enrolment in the CTN Program

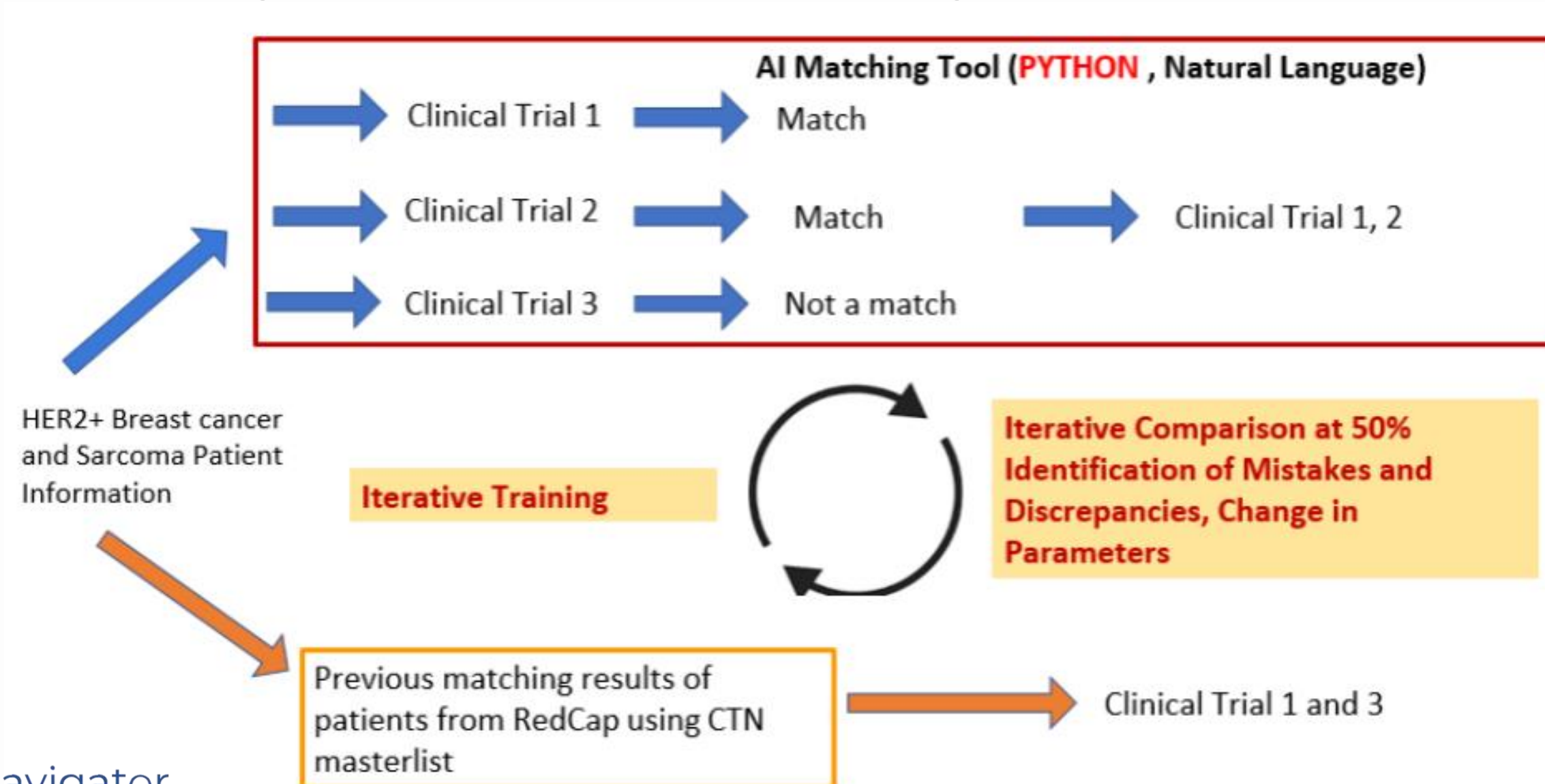
Study Title: CURating Clinical Trials: Helping patients find hope by exploring clinical trials opportunities: A retrospective review



Artificial Intelligence in Clinical Trial Navigation

Study Title: Automated Matching of HER2 Positive Breast Cancer and Sarcoma Patients in Ontario, Canada Using Artificial Intelligence: How to Integrate AI to CTN

Comparison and Training of AI to CTN Patient Matching



Understanding Patient Reported Outcomes about the CTN Program

Study Title: Implementing a Pan-Canadian Clinical Trial Navigator Program: A Qualitative CFIR Analysis of Barriers and Facilitators from the Perspective of People with Cancer

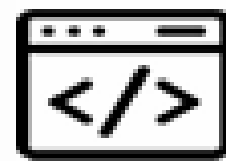
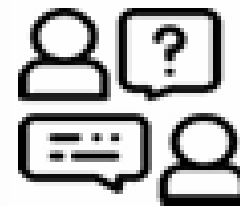
PATIENT REPORTED OUTCOMES

Sense of Control

Financial Toxicity

Quality of Life

Cancer Health Literacy



Study Design:

- **Patient interviews**

- Interviews validated using patient advisors, Indigenous health leaders and other stakeholders.

- 12 Interviews conducted with Patients or family members who were enrolled in CTN program, 10 were not (Non-CTN)

- • **CTN 9: “I know you're Canadian. So that matters to me because I'm also Canadian”**

- • **CTN 5: “Yeah, it's ethical. It's transparent and free. Free is a good thing. Mostly what I'm looking for where I can get a straight answer for a straight question.”**

Understanding Patient Reported Outcomes about the CTN Program

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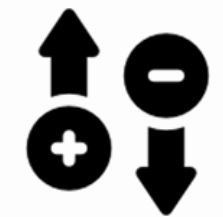
Results:



- Participants valued early and direct access to information about clinical trials and perceived the CTN as a unique and trustworthy resource because it was free and created by Canadians



- The CTN Program provided a sense of relief and control for people with cancer and their caregivers during their cancer journey.



- There were differences among oncologists in the support of identifying clinical trials, and the CTN Program was perceived as an important solution to reducing this variability.



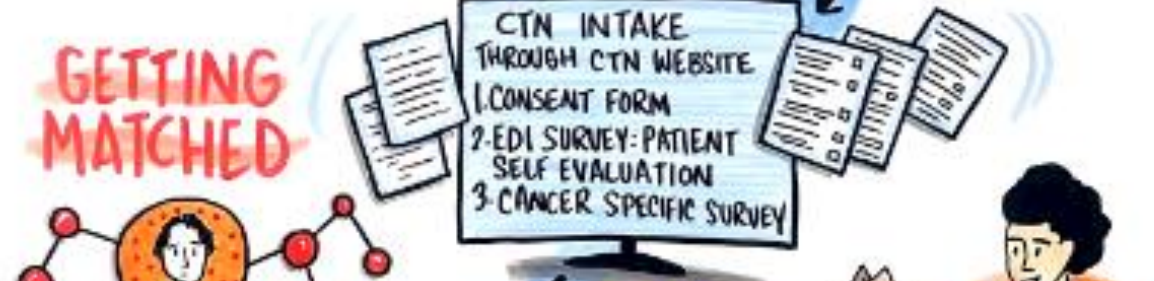
- The Personalized nature of searching for trials was deemed as important to patient

Next Steps:

- **Areas of growth for the program include expanding to encompass Non-cancer diseases such as sickle cell anemia where work has already begun**
- The development of a phone application to increase the accessibility of the results for patients
- We plan on using the findings of this research in the expansion to other diverse health centers and settings

The CTN FollowUP

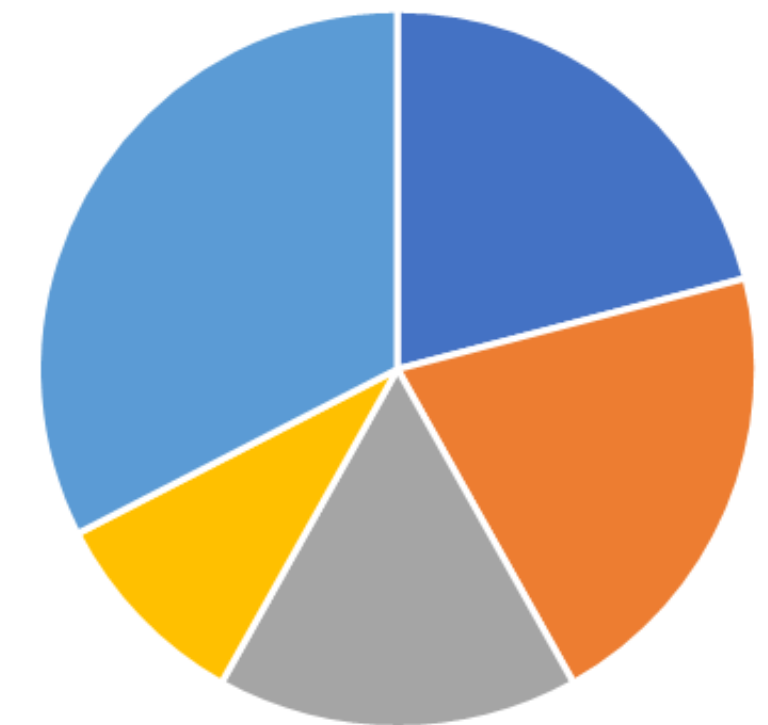
GETTING STARTED with a CLINICAL TRIAL



ENROLLING IN A CLINICAL TRIAL



FOLLOWUP OUTCOMES



- Waitlist
- Not Eligible
- Not Interested
- Referred / AR
- Await response: MD/trial site/patient

CTN Course- To Streamline Onboarding Research Personnel.

Study Title: CTN syllabus -Implementation and efficacy of the CTN course: A Qualitative Study Design

Introduction

Each year, the CTN program onboards multiple new students with various backgrounds to work as Clinical Trial Navigators.

- **Aim 1:** to implement a strategy that allows all new research personnel, to be equipped with baseline Clinical Oncology knowledge relevant to be effective Navigators
- **Aim 2:** Evaluate efficacy of strategy through surveys utilizing REDCap that participants complete before and after completion of course.
- **Aim 3:** to implement this strategy across all new sites relevant to CTN expansion.

Study Design:



Pre-course and post-course surveys



Quizzes implemented after completion of modules



Course validation utilizing current research members



Data Analysis



Maurice Noel



**FUNDING &
SUPPORT**



Canadian
Cancer Clinical
Trials Network



**Bank
Financial
Group**



CANCER
RESEARCH
COLLABORATION
FUND





Thank You!
Any Questions?

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