

# RTNA Conference Reporting Template

## Context

Why is KT important to your organization? What is your role/interest in KT?

Within Alberta Health Services, our mission is to provide a patient-focused, quality health system that is accessible and sustainable for all Albertans. The Population and Public Health Portfolio, Surveillance and Health Status Assessment (SHSA) team contributes to the ongoing, systematic collection, analysis of data, and the interpretation and dissemination of information and knowledge regarding a health-related issue for use in guiding action to reduce morbidity and mortality and to improve health through an emphasis on primary and secondary prevention. Information and knowledge disseminated by a public health surveillance and health status assessment system can be used for immediate public health action, program planning and evaluation, and formulating priority key questions that require further exploration and innovations.

My position within the SHSA team, as a Integrated Knowledge Exchange Research Associate, involves the development of knowledge products (i.e. peer-reviewed research articles, executive summary documents), development and implementation of awareness and mobilization initiatives (i.e. webinars, conference presentations), as well as ongoing relationship management collaborations (i.e. networking at conferences, working with users to improve processes). These 3 pillars are part of our knowledge exchange strategy we developed and implemented: the Integrated Knowledge Exchange Model.

In participating in the past two RTNA conferences, I have gained a great deal of knowledge in the area of knowledge exchange and knowledge management. Learning other healthcare KE models and tools that are available, as well as KE models in other industries, contributes much insight into our decision-making models, applied and evaluated techniques, as well as evidence-based models to reference. I am looking forward to learn about challenges and successes of other multidisciplinary research programs, with hopes of identifying new information to contribute to our future KE initiatives.

## Session Overview

Please provide an overview of the conference, the intended audience, and the theme.

The KT10 conference, “Improving Health Care & Health Systems with Knowledge Translation”, primarily focused on the importance of the relationship management aspect of Knowledge Translation. The traditional, unilateral focus of KT in the past has transformed our thinking to incorporate the importance of relationships and communicating to further close the research to practice gap. The intended audiences, researchers, policy makers, health care organizations, government employees, as well as civil servants and patients, are all imperative in working toward this common goal. The theme, “bridging the knowledge gap” focused on not only what KT is, but goes further to describe the importance of collaborations, partnerships, and the continuation of theory and frameworks. Each presentation in the conference targeted one of these 4 key areas, giving examples of successes and challenges in everyday work.

Please choose one session you attended (keynote, panel, workshop, etc.) and provide an overview of the key messages of the session.

“Katie: Changing the culture of continuing education for health professionals”

This session primarily focused on health care professionals, in transferring new knowledge into clinical practice. Katie, a play on words for knowledge translation, helps physicians better appraise and apply research evidence. As physicians are flooded with evidence, they need support in picking out the key pieces relative to their work, and applying changes where necessary. We assisted in critiquing instructors on how information should be presented, as health care professionals. Basically, beginning with the environment of educating via conferences, it was concluded that knowing the evidence’s key points, as well as the methodology, is quite important. However, what is more important, is quick and easy ways to include it in each of the physician’s daily workload. Keeping the reminder of “how will this help me in my practice”, as a health care professional. Ultimately, knowing the evidence, but also have it appraised properly targeting the physician, availability of research-based application for real world experiences, and easy transition from the old way of conducting KT, to the new way.

## Key Lessons

Overall, what key lessons for KT did you gain from this conference?

This conference solidified our current methodology and techniques with Alberta Health Services, of the importance of relationship management in our daily work. Knowledge translation cannot be a one-way flow of information; you must be able to collaborate and update techniques and tools based on what technique is best supported and understood with your patients or clients. It is very promising to hear other organizations are getting familiarized with the importance of relationship management, and are including it in their priorities. I look forward to next year's conference, to see improvements in this field.

## Putting It Into Practice

Is there anything you will change your KT practice as a result of this conference?

There were some creative ideas for tools and techniques regarding evaluation, as well as examples of difficult relationships to manage. Many lessons learned from participating in workshops, and many successes. I would take the knowledge I have learned, and collaborate it with the history of Alberta Health Services, to further teach and educate people on the importance of knowledge translation, especially in health care. I will take the traditional one-way flow of information, and use this knowledge to teach the importance of the bilateral flow of knowledge, awareness and mobilization, and relationship management.