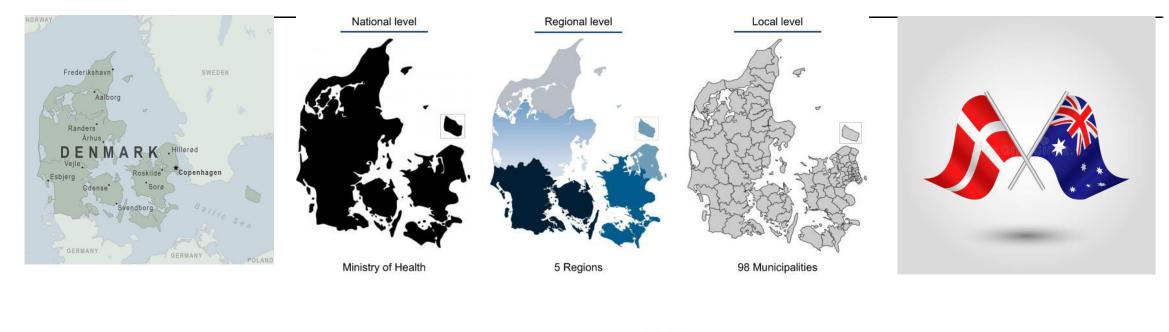
### The Learning Health System— UARIE AUSTRALIAN sitv Faculty of Media and Human Scie imp Danmark og leveringen November 29 af danske sundhedsydelser DSKS DANS Jeffrey Braithwaite, PhD, FIML, FCHSM, FFPHRCP, FAcSS, Hon FRACMA, FAHMS **Professor and Director** Australian Institute of Health Innovation Director Centre for Healthcare Resilience and Implementation Science President International Society for Quality in Health Care (ISQua)



### **Tak for Invitationen**



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regionernes kliniske kvalitetsudviklingsprogram

### #Kvalitetskonference

### @JBraithwaite1





AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF HEALTH INNOVATION

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### **Australian Institute of Health Innovation**



AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF HEALTH INNOVATION

Faculty of Medicine, Health and Human Sciences

### Australian Institute of Health Innovation



Our mission is to enhance local, institutional and international health system decision-making through evidence; and use systems sciences and translational approaches to provide innovative, evidencebased solutions to specified health care delivery problems.

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Professor Jeffrey Braithwaite

Founding Director, AIHI

Director, Centre for Healthcare Resilience and Implementation Science



Professor Johanna Westbrook

Director, Centre for Health Systems and Safety Research



Professor Enrico Coiera

Director, Centre for Health Informatics



Professor Henry Cutler

Director, Macquarie University Centre for the Health Economy NHMRC Partnership Centre for Health System Sustainability

NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence in Implementation Science in Oncology

NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence in Digital Health

### **AIHI International collaboration**



#### SELECTED SITES

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### Disclosure

I have no affiliations with any commercial organisations

But I do hold multiple national and international grants to do research, e.g., NHMRC, Government Agencies, etc.

Details are available from:

https://www.mq.edu.au/research/research-centres-groupsand-facilities/healthy-people/centres/ australian-institute-of-health-innovation/our-people/our-peoplechris/professor-jeffrey-braithwaite



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# Part 1: The problem from a research perspective

**Longstanding challenges** 

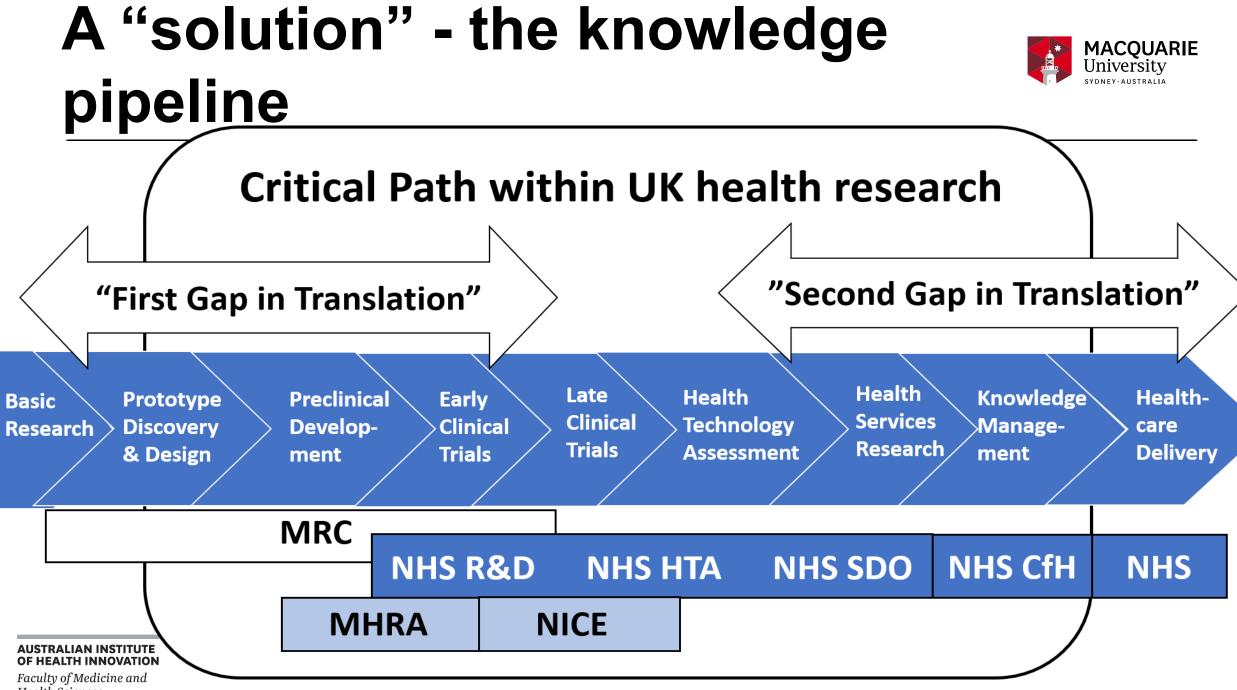
### The problem



- It takes an average of 17 years for only 14% of new discoveries to enter practice
- Roughly 60% of care is in line with evidence or consensusbased guidelines
- About 30% of health care is waste of some kind
- Around 10% of patients are harmed when receiving care

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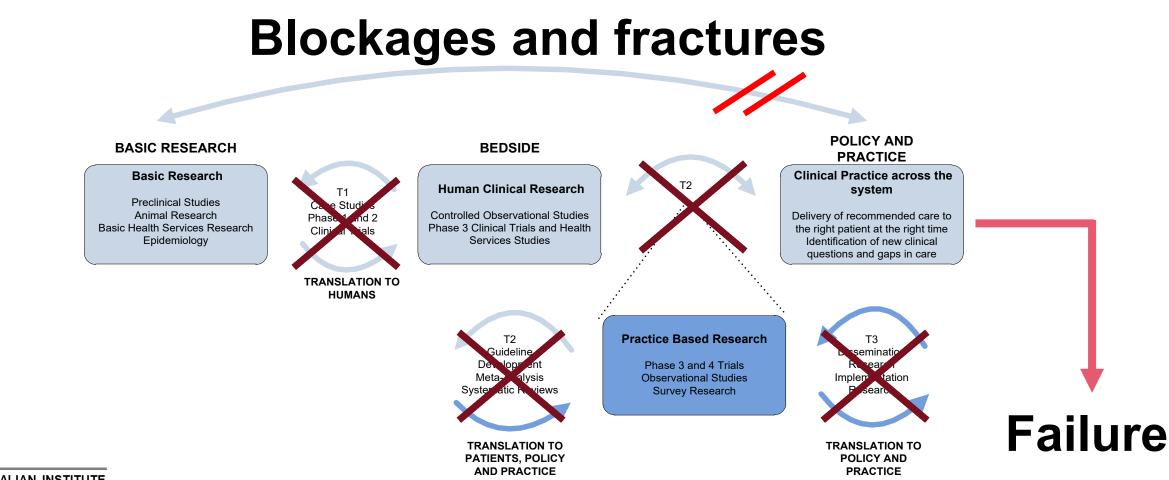
[Westfall et al. 2007. JAMA; de Vries et al. 2008. Qual Saf Health Care; Runcimen et al. 2012. MJA; Braithwaite et al. 2018. JAMA]



[Cooksey. 2006. A review of UK health research funding]

Health Sciences

#### MACQUARIE University But the pipeline is an idealisation



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and Human Sciences



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Applications to healthcare



# The pipeline model suggests solutions are linear

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# **But the health** system is complex – incredibly complex AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE

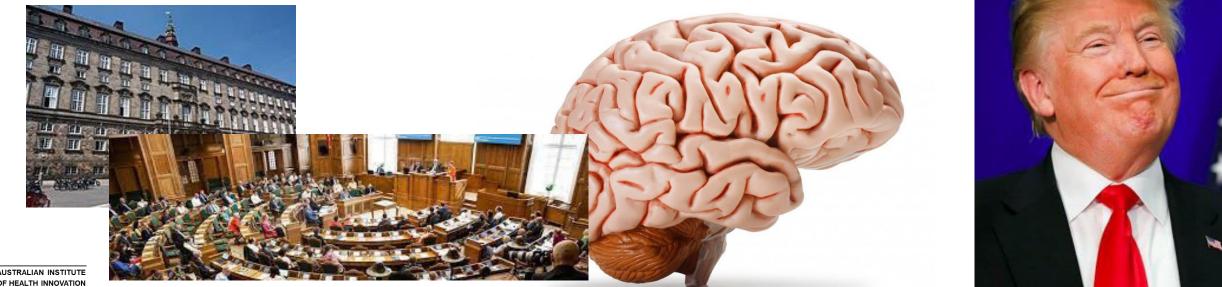
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### **Complex systems are everywhere**









**OF HEALTH INNOVATION** Faculty of Medicine, Health and Human Sciences

# It's rarely simple to solve any health MACQUARIE system problem, not just a pandemic



# Health systems problems are typically complex, not linear



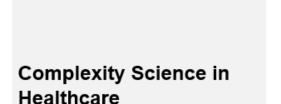


# So: how does care actually work?

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# Complexity Science in Health Care:





AUSTRALIAN INSTITU OF HEALTH INNOVAT Faculty of Medicine or MACQUARIE University

ASPIRATIONS, APPROACHES, APPLICATIONS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS: A WHITE PAPER

Jeffrey Braithwaite, Kate Churruca, Louise A Ellis, Janet Long, Robyn Clay-Williams, Nikki Damen, Jessica Herkes, Chiara Pomare, Kristiana Ludlow

Australian Institute of Health Innovation, Macquarie University, Australia















# Key features of complexity in health care

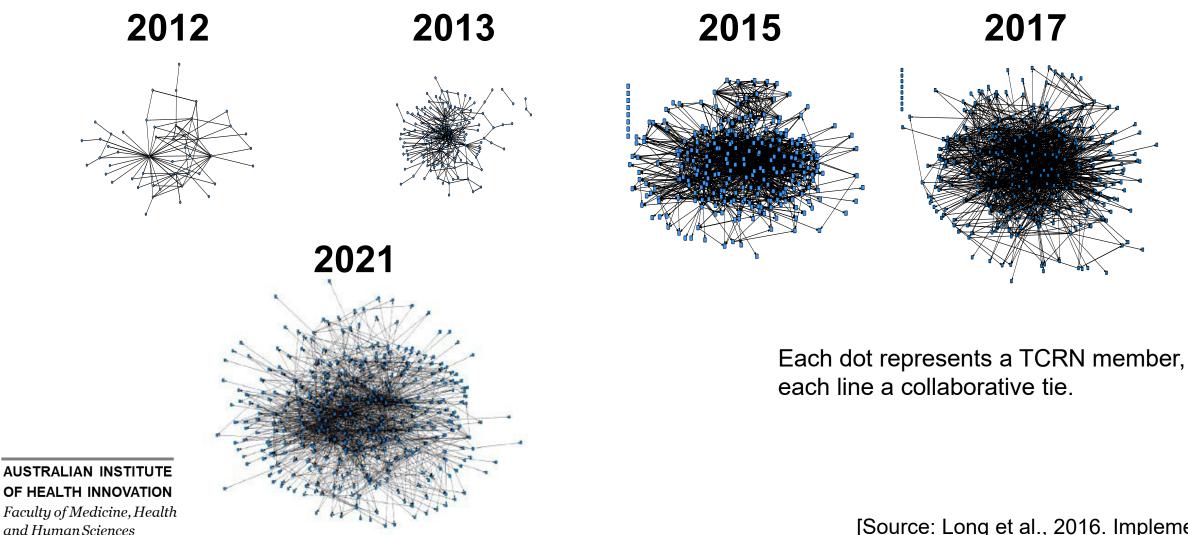


- 1. Populations of agents + artefacts
- 2. Interacting
- 3. Dynamically
- 4. With emergent rules and governance mechanisms, and bottom-up networks

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### **Collaborations of Translational Cancer Research Network (TCRN)**

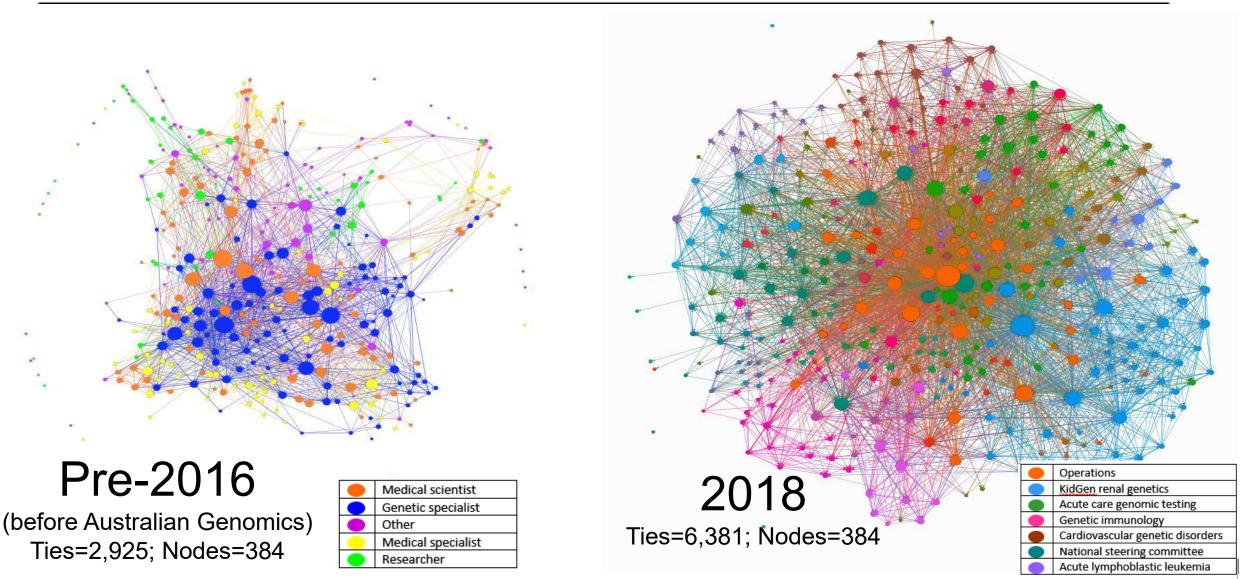


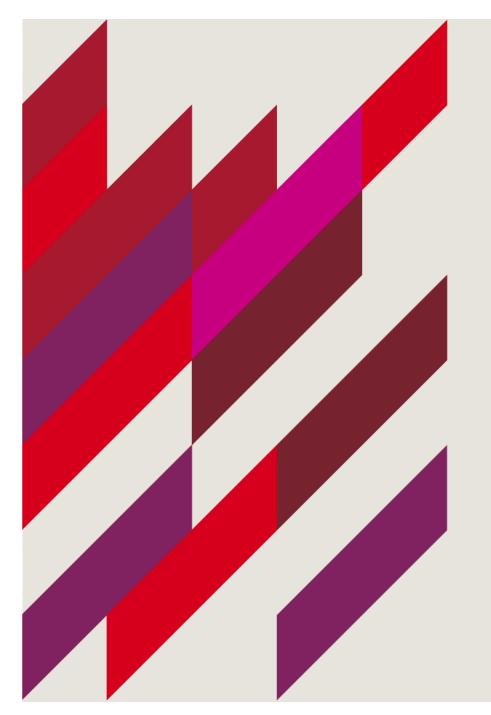


[Source: Long et al., 2016. Implement Sci.]

# Creating a learning community with Australian Genomics







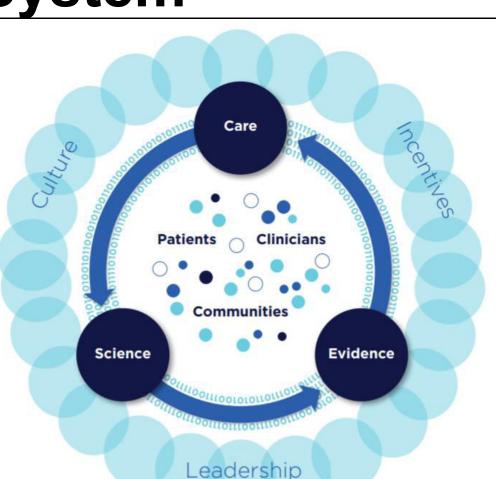
# Part 3: A learning system



AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF HEALTH INNOVATION Faculty of Medicine, Health and Human Sciences

Complex systems need to bring things together

### At the heart of a Learning Health System



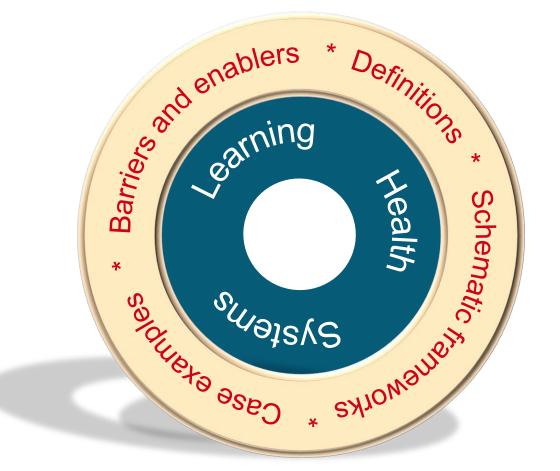
A Learning Health System is a system in which "Science, informatics, incentives, and culture are aligned for continuous improvement and innovation, with best practices seamlessly embedded in the care process, patients and families active participants in all elements, and new knowledge captured as an integral byproduct of the care experience". (Institute of Medicine, 2007)

Source: Institute of Medicine. Best Care at Lower Cost: The Path to Continuously Learning Health Care in America. Washington (DC): The National Academies Press; 2013.

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### Mapping the Learning Health System: a White Paper





Zurynski Y, Smith CL, Vedovi A, Ellis LA, Knaggs G, Meulenbroeks I, Warwick M, Gul H, Pomare C, Braithwaite J. Mapping the Learning Health System: A Scoping Review of Current Evidence. Australian Institute of Health Innovation, and the NHRMC Partnership Centre for Health System Sustainability, Sydney, Australia, 2020 Defining a Learning Health System

Evaluating case studies

Assessing barriers and enablers

Evaluating schematic frameworks



New Learning Health System domain: Structure and Governance

### The Learning Health Systems Framework



Dimensions	Characteristics	Description
Science and informatics	Real time access to knowledge	Best available evidence incorporated into clinical decision-making processes to improve the quality of care and patient safety.
	Digital capture of the care experience	Digital platforms (e.g., eHRs, disease registries, mobile devices) utilised for the real-time capture, production, and application of knowledge based on best available data
Patient-clinician partnerships	Engaged, empowered patients	Patients, families, and caregivers are full partners in a patient-centred system.
Incentives	Incentives aligned for value	Policies actively encourage ongoing evaluation of care given and improvement of processes and support the provision of high-value care and reduction in wasteful practices.
	Full transparency	All aspects of care, including safety, quality, processes, costs, and outcomes are recorded and available to stakeholders (patients, health professionals, managers) to improve patient care and decision making.
Continuous learning culture	Leadership-instilled culture of learning	Leaders instil a culture of collaboration and adaptability to support the learning process.
	Support system competencies	Staff training, skill building, and support to enable continuous refinement of processes and system improvements is implemented.

### The Learning Health Systems Framework

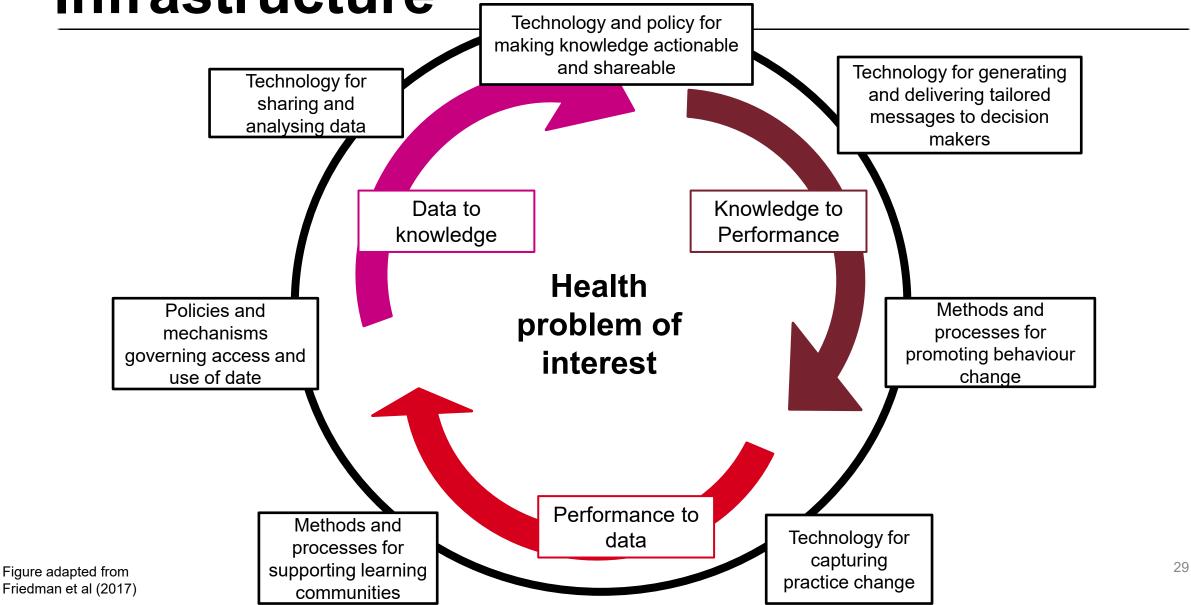


### To which we added

Dimensions	Characteristics	Description
Structure and Governance	Organisation	Policies, governance, and regulations aligned to facilitate research, collaboration, and learning

### The Learning Health Systems Infrastructure





# Learning Health Systems: A review of key topic areas and bibliometric trends (2022)



Received: 8 November 2020 Revised: 3 March 2021 Accepted: 4 March 2021

DOI: 10.1002/kh2.10265

RESEARCH REPORT

Learning Health System

Learning health systems: A review of key topic areas and bibliometric trends

Chiara Pomare<sup>1</sup><sup>0</sup> | Zeyad Mahmoud<sup>1</sup><sup>0</sup> | Alex Vedovi<sup>1,2</sup> | Louise A. Ellis<sup>1,2</sup><sup>0</sup> | Gilbert Knaggs<sup>1,2</sup> | Carolynn L. Smith<sup>1,2</sup><sup>0</sup> | Yvonne Zurynski<sup>1,2</sup><sup>0</sup> | Jeffrey Braithwaite<sup>1,2</sup><sup>0</sup>

Abstract

<sup>1</sup>Australian Institute of Health Innovation, Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia <sup>2</sup>Partnership Center for Health System Sustainability, Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia

Correspondence Chiara Pomare, Australian Institute of Health Innovation, Macquarie University, Sydney, New South Wales 2109, Australia, Email: chiara.pomare@mq.edu.au

Funding information National Health and Medical Research Counc Grant/Award Numbers: 9100002, APP1176620AQ6 Introduction: The emergent field of learning health systems (LHSs) has been rapidly evolving as the concept continues to be embraced by researchers, managers, and clinicians. This paper reports on a scoping review and bibliometric analysis of the LHS literature to identify key topic areas and examine the influence and spread of recent research. Methods: We conducted a scoping review of LHS literature published between January 2016 and May 2020. The authors extracted publication data (eg. journal, country, authors, citation count, keywords) and reviewed full-texts to identify: type of study (empirical, non-empirical, or review), degree of focus (general or specific), and the reference used when defining LHSs.

Results: A total of 272 publications were included in this review. Almost two thirds (65.1%) of the included articles were non-empirical and over two-thirds (68.4%) were from authors in the United States. More than half of the publications focused on specific areas, for example: noclogy, cardiovascular care, and genomic medicine. Other key topic areas included: ethics, research, quality improvement, and electronic health records. We identified that definitions of the LHS concept are converging; however, many papers focused on data platforms and analytical processes rather than organisational and behavioural factors to support change and learning activities. Conclusions: The literature on LHSs remains largely theoretical with definitions of LHSs focusing on technical processes to reuse data collected during the clinical process and embedding analysed data back into the system. A shift in the literature to empirical LHS studies with consideration of organisational and human factors is waranted.

is in line with evidence-based guidelines (60%): one third of care is

KEYWORDS bibliometrics, healthcare, learning health systems, learning healthcare system

#### 1 | INTRODUCTION

Contemporary health systems are not fit for purpose. Even in the most developed countries less than two-thirds of healthcare delivered ubstantial efforts and resources dedicated to improving the safety

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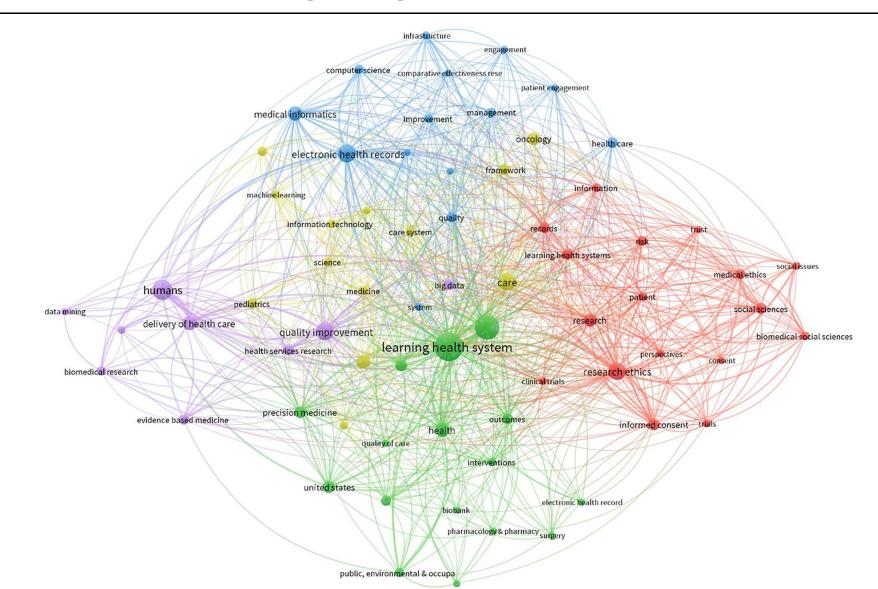
Pomare, C, Mahmoud, Z, Vedovi, A, et al. Learning health systems: A review of key topic areas and bibliometric trends. *Learn Health* 

Sys. 2022; 6:e10265. https://doi.org/10.1002/lrh2.10265

- We conducted a scoping review of 272 included papers
- 65.1% of articles were non-empirical
- 68.4% from US-based authors
- We found that definitions of the LHS are converging
- Most papers focus on data platforms, rather
  than organisational and behavioural factors

# Learning Health Systems: A review of key topic areas and bibliometric trends (2022)





# Learning Health Systems: A review of key topic areas and bibliometric trends (2020)



- LHS generally referred to an LHS as achieving healthcare quality improvement by using big data and embedding data analysis and decision-making into routine care delivery processes.
- This focus on information technology was at the expense of discussions around human and organisational factors.

### The Science of Learning Health Systems: Scoping Review of Empirica MACQUARIE University Sydney-Australia Research (2022)

JMIR MEDICAL INFORMATICS

Ellis et al

Review

The Science of Learning Health Systems: Scoping Review of Empirical Research

Louise A Ellis, PhD; Mitchell Sarkies, PhD; Kate Churruca, PhD; Genevieve Dammery, BSc (Hons); Isabelle Meulenbroeks, MRes; Carolynn L Smith, PhD; Chiara Pomare, PhD; Zeyad Mahmoud, PhD; Yvonne Zurynski, PhD; Jeffrey Braithwaite, PhD Australian Institute of Health Innovation, Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia

#### Corresponding Author:

Louise A Ellis, PhD Australian Institute of Health Innovation Macquarie University 75 Talavera Rd Sydney, 2113 Australia Phone: 61 298502484 Fax: 61 298502489 Fax: 61 298502499

#### Abstract

Background: The development and adoption of a learning health system (LHS) has been proposed as a means to address key challenges facing current and future health care systems. The first review of the LHS literature was conducted 5 years ago, identifying only a small number of published papers that had empirically examined the implementation or testing of an LHS. It is timely to look more closely at the published empirical research and to ask the question, Where are we now? 5 years on from that early LHS review.

Objective: This study performed a scoping review of empirical research within the LHS domain. Taking an "implementation science" lens, the review aims to map out the empirical research that has been conducted to date, identify limitations, and identify future directions for the field.

Methods: Two academic databases (PubMed and Scopus) were searched using the terms "learning health\* system\*" for papers published between January 1, 2016, to January 31, 2021, that had an explicit empirical focus on LHSs. Study information was extracted relevant to the review objective, including each study's publication details; primary concern or focus; context; design; data type; implementation framework, model, or theory used; and implementation determinants or outcomes examined.

**Results:** A total of 76 studies were included in this review. Over two-thirds of the studies were concerned with implementing a particular program, system, or platform (53/76, 69.7%) designed to contribute to achieving an LHS. Most of these studies focused on a particular clinical context or patient population (37/53, 69.8%), with far fewer studies focusing on whole hospital systems (4/53, 7.5%) or on other broad health care systems encompassing multiple facilities (12/53, 22.6%). Over two-thirds of the program-specific studies utilized quantitative methods (37/53, 69.8%), with a smaller number utilizing qualitative methods (10/53, 18.9%) or mixed-methods designs (6/53, 11.3%). The remaining 23 studies were classified into 1 of 3 key areas: ethics, policies, and governance (10/76, 13.2%); stakeholder perspectives of LHSs (5/76, 6.6%); or LHS-specific research strategies and tools (87/6, 10.5%). Overall, relatively few studies were identified that incorporated an implementation science framework.

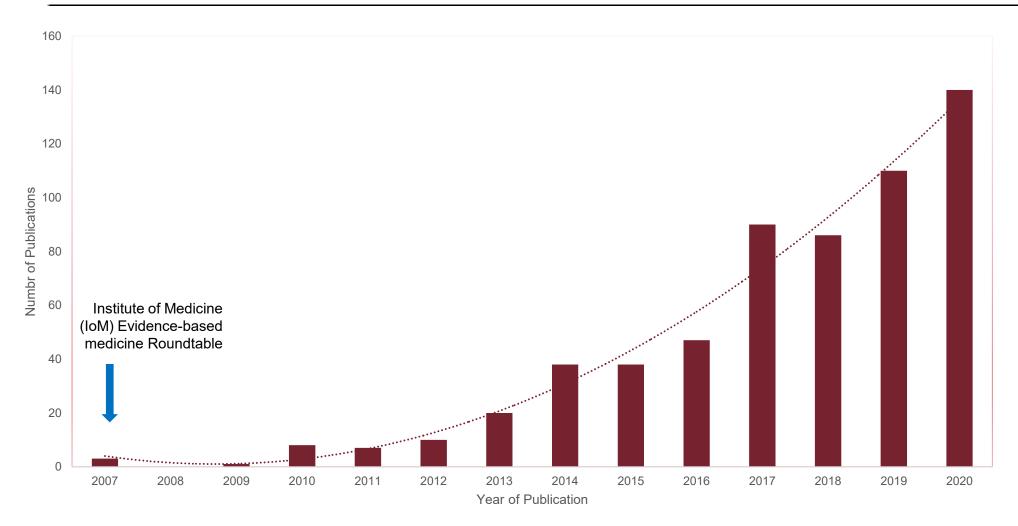
Conclusions: Although there has been considerable growth in empirical applications of LHSs within the past 5 years, paralleling the recent emergence of LHS-specific research strategies and tools, there are few high-quality studies. Comprehensive reporting of implementation and evaluation efforts is an important step to moving the LHS field forward. In particular, the routine use of implementation determinant and outcome frameworks will improve the assessment and reporting of barriers, enablers, and implementation outcomes in this field and will enable comparison and identification of trends across studies.

• What empirical work has been conducted?

- What have been the key areas of research?
- By what study designs and research methods?
- Which implementation science frameworks and tools have been used?

(JMIR Med Inform 2022;10(2):e34907) doi: 10.2196/34907

### The Science of Learning Health Systems: Scoping Review of Empirical Research (2022)



MACQUARIE University

### The Science of Learning Health Systems: Scoping Review of Empirical Research (2022)

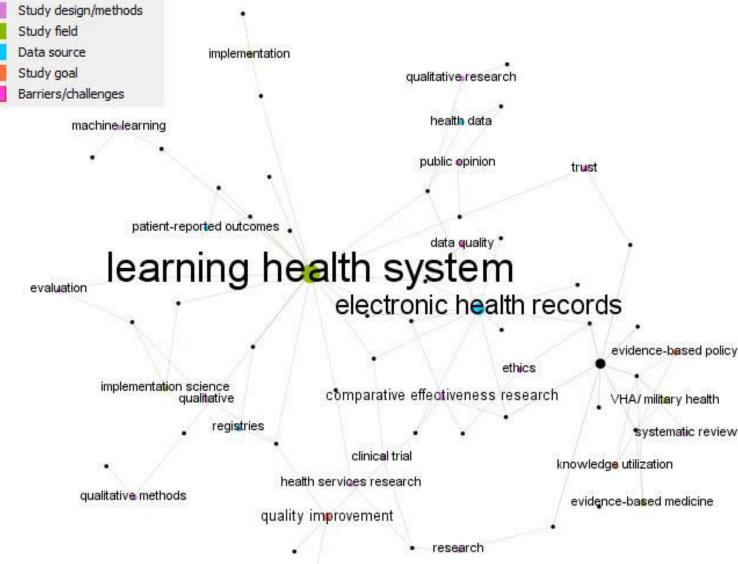


- Studies were predominantly from high-income countries
  - United States (n=55, 72.4%)
  - United Kingdom (n=9, 11.8%)
  - Canada (n=3, 3.39%)
- Over half (55.3%) of the studies were quantitative, 35.5% were qualitative, 9.2% were mixed methods study

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- All included studies focussed on implementing a program, system or platform
- Very few studies explicitly incorporated an implementation science framework in their implementation efforts.

### The Science of Learning Health Systems: Scoping Review of Empirical Research (2022)



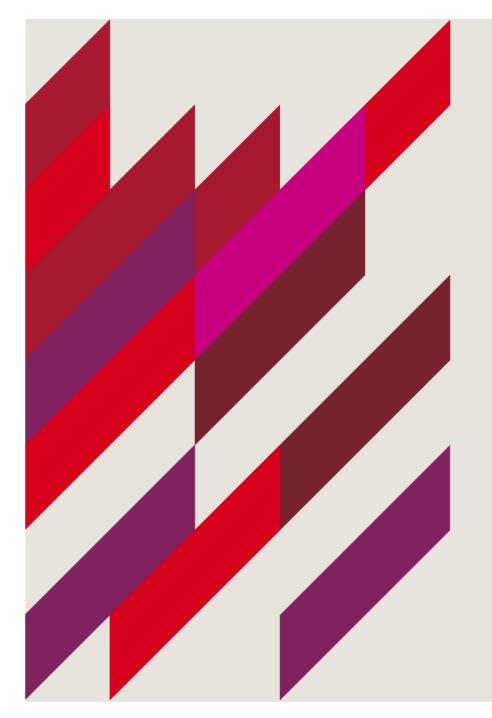


- The most common key words were
- 'learning health system',
- 'electronic health records',
- 'learning health care system',
- 'data quality',
- 'quality improvement'
- 'implementation'



### The Science of Learning Health Systems: Scoping Review of Empirical Research (2022)

- Marked increase of LHS studies
- Research predominantly focusses on implementing programs, systems, or platforms that assist in achieving an LHS
- There is a lack of high quality empirical research, such as randomized controlled trials and implementation evaluations
- Using implementation determinant and outcome frameworks will improve the assessment and implementation outcomes for LHSs.



# Part 4: A learning system





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# Case study: Veterans Health Administration (VHA)



- The VHA provides healthcare to 9 million military veterans each year and is the largest publicly funded healthcare delivery system in the USA.
- It consists of 1,293 healthcare facilities including 171 medical centres and 1,112 outpatient sites



### Case study: Veterans Health Administration (VHA)



Science and informatics		Patient-clinician Incentives partnerships		Culture		
Real time access to knowledge	Digital capture of the care experience	Engaged, empowered patients	Incentives aligned for value	Full transparency	Leadership- instilled culture of learning	Supportive system competencies
National Corporate Data Warehouse enabling performance tracking Providing clinicians with access to multiple dashboards to track quality relative to their peers.	Systemwide eHRs Daily processing of more than two million lab results 500,000 pharmacy fills, and 400,000 patient encounters	My HealtheVet web portal allows patients to access and update their health records, schedule appointments, and refill prescriptions	Clinicians are paid a salary so that remuneration s is not based on care volume	Public reporting of large amounts of data on quality for both self-auditing purposes and for the benefit of unaffiliated researchers. Providing clinicians with access to multiple dashboards to track quality relative to their peers	Academic affiliations in larger VHA hospitals, with many clinicians holding dual appointments	Diffusion of Excellence Program seeks to discover how VHA facilities are rewarded for sharing their best practices and to what degree such innovations are adopted elsewhere in the system

Zurynski Y, Smith CL, Vedovi A, Ellis LA, Knaggs G, Meulenbroeks I, Warwick M, Gul H, Pomare C, Braithwaite J. Mapping the Learning Health System: A Scoping Review of Current Evidence. Australian Institute of Health Innovation, and the NHRMC Partnership Centre for Health System Sustainability, Sydney, Australia, 2020

# **Geisinger Health System**



 Geisinger Health is based in Pennsylvania and services over 3 million patients across the state, predominantly in rural areas



• Geisinger aims to deliver high quality care at a low cost, with a focus on population health.

### **Geisinger Health System**

genomic data.



Science and informatics		Patient-clinician Incentives partnerships		Culture		
Real time access to knowledge	Digital capture of the care experience	Engaged, empowered patients	Incentives aligned for value	Full transparency	Leadership- instilled culture of learning	Supportive system competencies
Robust eHR system that feeds genomic data back into the sequence and allows for data analysis to improve genetic variant annotation, creating a cycle.	Stable enrolment of patients into eHR system within a robust informatics infrastructure allowing for the tracking patient experiences and outcomes over the long term. Over 180,000 patients had consented to contribute their	MyCode Community Health Initiative (biorepository) relies on opt-in consent, and of those approached, 85-90% agree to participate Informatics infrastructure with security requirements and stores patient data behind a system firewall to protect patient information	Paying clinicians a salary so that their remuneration is not based on care volume.	eHR and genomic data variants are reported back to patient participants, while also being deposited into publicly available databases.	The goal of establishing an LHS has been embraced by the organisation's leadership, who have aimed to develop conceptual and business models for moving toward a learning culture.	Emphasis on continual quality improvement and the promotion of best practices checklists for physicians.



### The Ottawa Hospital

 The Ottawa Hospital is a three campus acute care facility in Canada and one of the main providers of cancer treatment in the Ottawa region.

• The Ottawa Hospital operates with a transformation model. It aligns several domains: people, processes and technology.



### **The Ottawa Hospital**



Science and informatics		Patient-clinician partnerships	Incentives		Culture	
Real time access to knowledge	Digital capture of the care experience	Engaged, empowered patients	Incentives aligned for value	Full transparency	Leadership- instilled culture of learning	Supportive system competencies
Process monitoring and business intelligence tools allowed for the local generation of dashboards to visualise and track performance metrics at a provincial level, create alerts and queries to monitor individual and clinical team performance.	Process monitoring and business intelligence tools that integrate process-related data were also employed to establish a learning cycle and create insights on system performance.	Patients were among the stakeholder groups engaged – through interviews – in the system redesign.	N/A	Consensus approach to the initiative's creation led to general buy-in among most relevant stakeholders and their ability to access and benefit from the process monitoring and business intelligence tools implemented in the restructuring.	Reported buy-in from leaders of the academic and community hospitals.	Operating with a conceptual focus of a "health region" as a geographic unit of implementation, the OHTM brough about the establishment of a "regional Community of Practice" to engage stakeholders.

### **MQ Health General Practice**



- MQ Health General Practice operates across two sites and is a department of MQ Health, a not-for-profit health enterprise.
- MQ Health includes a private hospital, specialist clinics, allied health clinics, digital mental health services and an affiliation with the university's medical faculty.





### **MQ Health General Practice**

Science and informatics		Patient-clinician partnerships	Incentives		Culture	
Real time access to knowledge	Digital capture of the care experience	Engaged, empowered patients	Incentives aligned for value	Full transparency	Leadership-instilled culture of learning	Supportive system competencies
Access to subscription only platforms through Macquarie University. Lunchtime teaching sessions on topical health issues. Access to clinical auditing tool to provide practitioners with overview of their patient cohort.	Trialling implementation of 'MyPractice' App which provides patients with access to referrals, prescriptions, certificates. Use of online booking system.	Opportunities for patients to leave Google reviews Patient focus groups to discuss the implementation of 'MyPractice' App	Paying clinicians a salary so that their remuneration is not based on care volume.	<i>In progress:</i> the practice is in the process of designing a way to publish metrics on patient health outcomes, centred around the Quadruple Aim.	Affiliation with University medical school providing teaching and learning opportunities for staff. Research opportunities for practice staff. Opportunities for learning through educational sessions and grand rounds.	Regular meetings involving clinical and non clinical staff that address quality improvement.



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Part 5: The missing, best learning system ... ever!

**Case study** 

# Study at 12:34pm on 29 November 2022

- Searched the terms "Learning health system" and "Denmark"
- "Learning health system" 735 hits
- "Denmark" 279,438 hits
- Found only two studies mapped to these two terms
- None were led by Danes

48

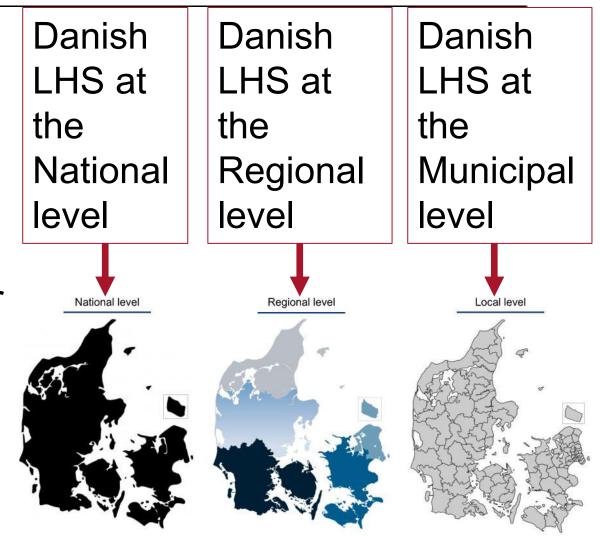




### \_\_\_\_\_

Denmark

- Advanced health care system
- Better data than most comparative systems, e.g., clinical registries, information on citizens
- Unique electronic personal identifier
- National patient registry (DNPR) > world's oldest
- Sundhed.dk



5 Regions

Ministry of Health



98 Municipalities

### The Learning Health System for Denmark



Dimensions	Characteristics	Description		
Science and informatics	Real time access to knowledge	Best available evidence incorporated into clinical decision- making to improve thecare quality and patient safety.		
	Digital capture of the care experience	Digital platforms (e.g., eHRs, disease registries, mobile devices) utilised for best available data		
Patient- clinician partnerships	Engaged, empowered patients	Patients, families, and caregivers are full partners in a patient- centred system.		
Incentives	Incentives aligned for value	Policies actively encourage ongoing evaluation of care given and improvement of processes and support high-value care.		
	Full transparency	All aspects of care, including safety, quality, processes, costs, and outcomes are recorded and available to stakeholders.		
Continuous learning culture	Leadership-instilled culture of learning	Leaders instil a culture of collaboration and adaptability to support the learning process.		
	Support system competencies	Staff training, skill building, and support to enable refinement of processes and systems improvements.		



### Don't forget

Dimensions	Characteristics	Description
Structure and Governance	Organisation	Policies, governance, and regulations aligned to facilitate research, collaboration, and learning



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# Part 6: Six suggestions

A way forward ...

### 1. The inside and outside world everyone is in their own box



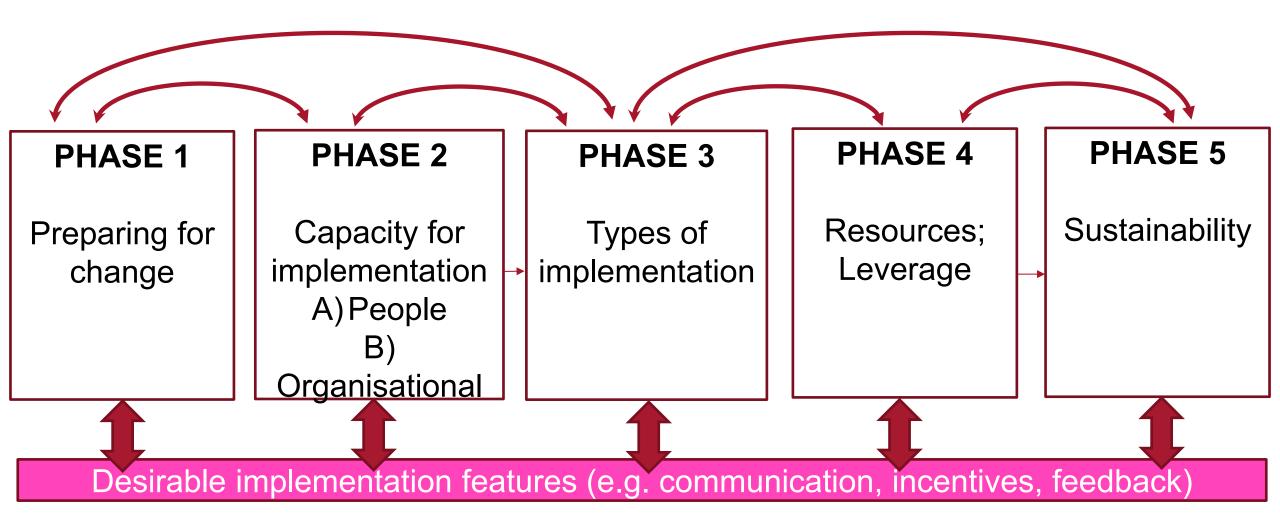
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So get out of your box, embrace the complexity, and lead your bit of the needed transformation

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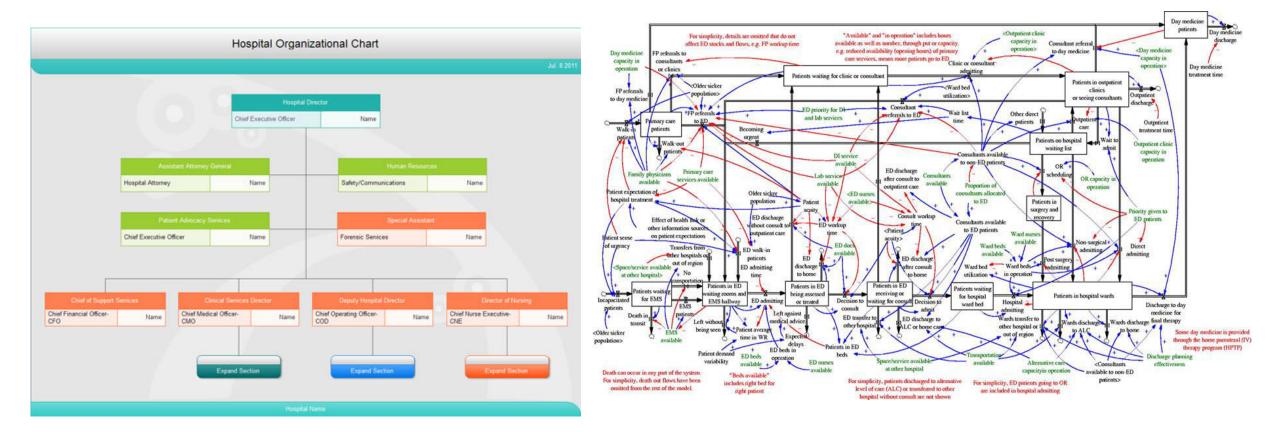
# 2. Have a plan based on implementation science





[Braithwaite J, Marks D, and Taylor N. (2014) Harnessing implementation science to improve care quality and patient safety: a systematic review of targeted literature. *International Journal for Quality in Health Care*, 26:3]

### 3. Know that you have two jobs: do MACQUARIE your job and improve things



### "Do your job"

### "Improve things"

### 4. Understand deeply that our problems and solutions are not linear

#### Complexity Science in Healthcare

andity of Medicine of

MACQUARIE

ASPIRATIONS, APPROACHES, APPLICATIONS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS: A WHITE PAPER

Jeffrey Braithwaite, Kate Churruca, Louise A Ellis, Janet Long, Robyn Clay-Williams, Nikki Damen, Jessica Herkes, Chiara Pomare, Kristianz Ludlow

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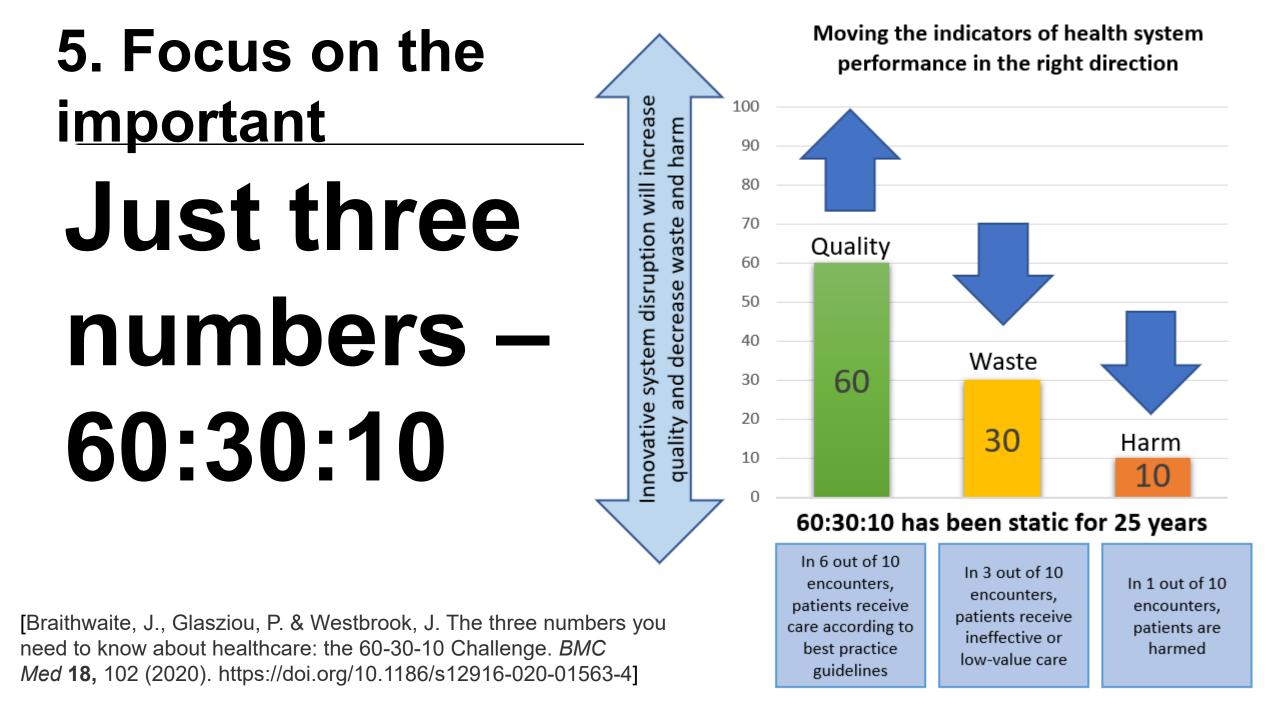






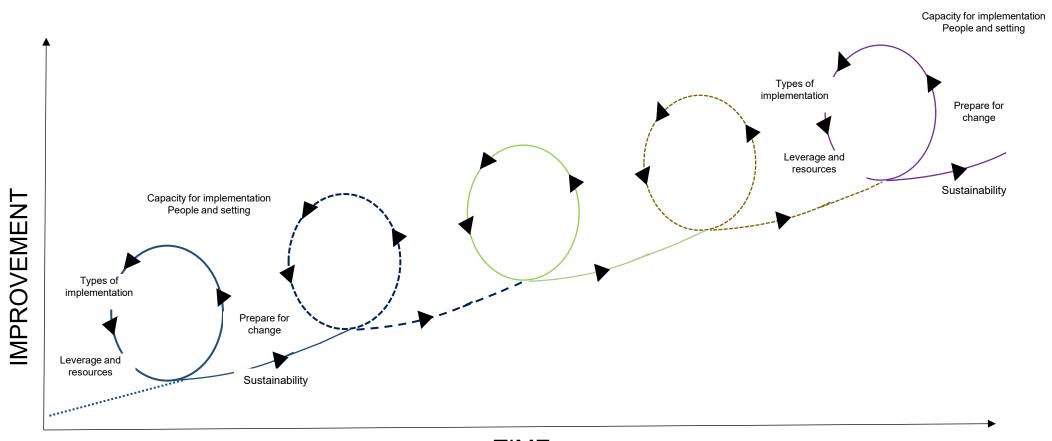






### 6. End project-itis





#### TIME

[Adapted from Braithwaite et al. 2014. Harnessing implementation science to improve care quality and patient safety: a systematic review of targeted literature. *Int J Qual Health Car*; Braithwaite et al. 2007. An action research protocol to strengthen system-wide inter-professional learning and practice. *BMC Health Serv Res*]



# Discussion

Q&A

Comments

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF HEALTH INNOVATION

Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences

### **Australian Institute of Health Innovation**





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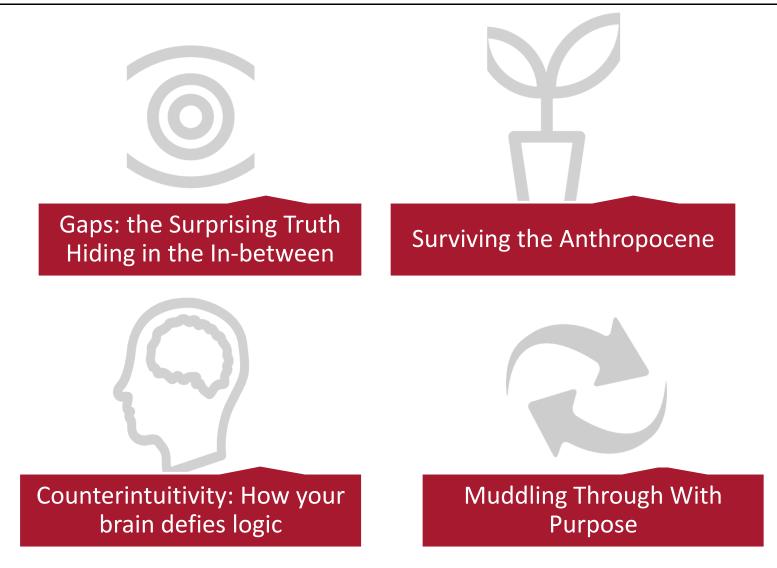


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