

# Project ECHO® Care of the Elderly (ECHO COE)

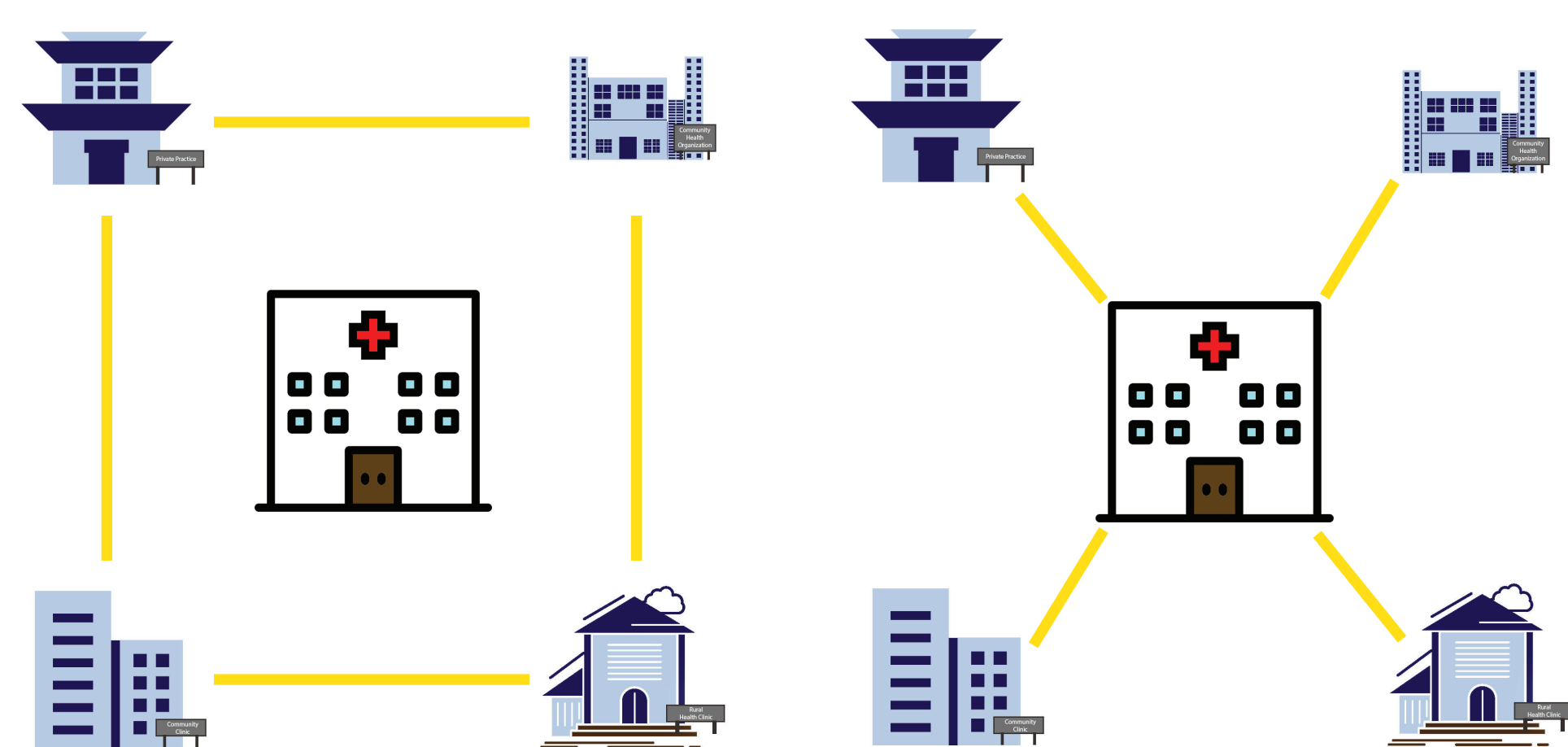
Sid Feldman<sup>1,2</sup>, James Chau<sup>3</sup>, Andrea Moser<sup>1,2</sup>, Lisa Sokoloff<sup>1,2</sup>, Navena Lingum<sup>1</sup>, Shaen Gingrich<sup>3</sup>, Faith Boutcher<sup>1,2</sup>, Nima Kelly<sup>1</sup>, Valerie Scarfone<sup>3</sup>, Tonya Mahar<sup>1</sup>, Cindy Grief<sup>1,2</sup>, Salma Shaikh<sup>1</sup>, Devin Sodums<sup>1</sup>, Anna Santiago<sup>1</sup>, Rosalind Sham<sup>1</sup>, and David Conn<sup>1,2</sup>  
1=Baycrest, 2= University of Toronto, 3= North East Specialized Geriatric Centre/ Health Sciences North

## Objective

To evaluate the efficacy of Project ECHO® to increase capacity of Primary Care Providers (PCPs) in managing care of older adults

## Background

- Project ECHO (Extensions for Community Healthcare Outcomes) is an education program using videoconferencing to build capacity in PCPs, share knowledge through collaborative learning and discuss cases in real-time
- ECHO facilitates Communities of Practice for PCP and interprofessional teams in community and long-term care settings using a hub-and-spoke model, connecting specialists at academic centres (Hub) with PCPs (Spokes) particularly in rural underserved areas
- The ECHO model ensures that knowledge flows in multiple directions: from specialists to PCPs; between PCPs; and from PCPs to specialists



## Anatomy of an ECHO session



- Weekly sessions include a didactic presentation on a specific geriatric topic, followed by a de-identified patient case presentation
- Sessions are skillfully facilitated by a trained Care of the Elderly family physician



Primary care providers who participated in ECHO Care of the Elderly sessions demonstrated increased knowledge and self-efficacy scores.

## Methods

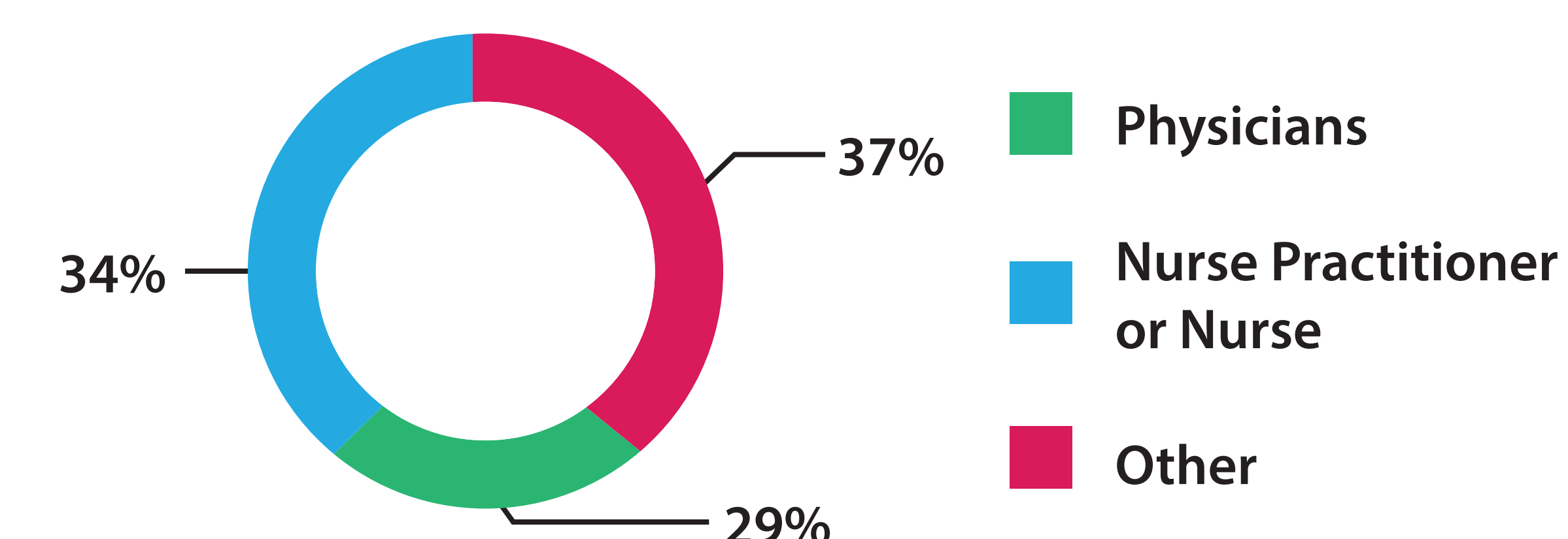
**Design:** Mixed-methods; program evaluation

**Setting:** Virtual education program using video conferencing; April – December 2018



**Participants:** 94 PCP (28 physicians), with over 70% caseload of patients over 65 years of age

**Cycle 1 and 2 Care the of Elderly:Primary Profession (n=94)**



**Main Outcome Measures:** Knowledge, self-efficacy, and satisfaction

## Results

- Demonstrated increase in knowledge and self-efficacy scores
- Four themes emerged from qualitative analyses: reflection on the experience, feedback on the delivery, impact on practice and suggestions for future implementation

## Conclusion

- ECHO COE demonstrated positive impact on knowledge and self-efficacy scores in PCPs, highlighting the value and impact fostered through ECHO
- ECHO COE is a feasible educational tool for building capacity in PCPs

## Acknowledgements

- ECHO COE is accredited by the College of Family Physicians of Canada and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada
- Project ECHO is funded by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

