



POPLAR, the Primary Care Ontario Practice-Based Learning and Research Network

Michelle Greiver¹, Jennifer Lawson², Jennifer Rayner³, Marissa Beckles⁴, Michael Green⁴
1. University of Toronto, 2. McMaster University, 3. The Alliance for Healthier Communities, 4. Queen's University



BACKGROUND

- Some of the most substantial opportunities for transformative care, quality improvement and research lie within **primary care**.
- Clinical research in primary care means that results are **more generalizable** to daily practice.
- Primary care **practice-based learning and research networks** are key building blocks for **knowledge production, dissemination and practice improvement**

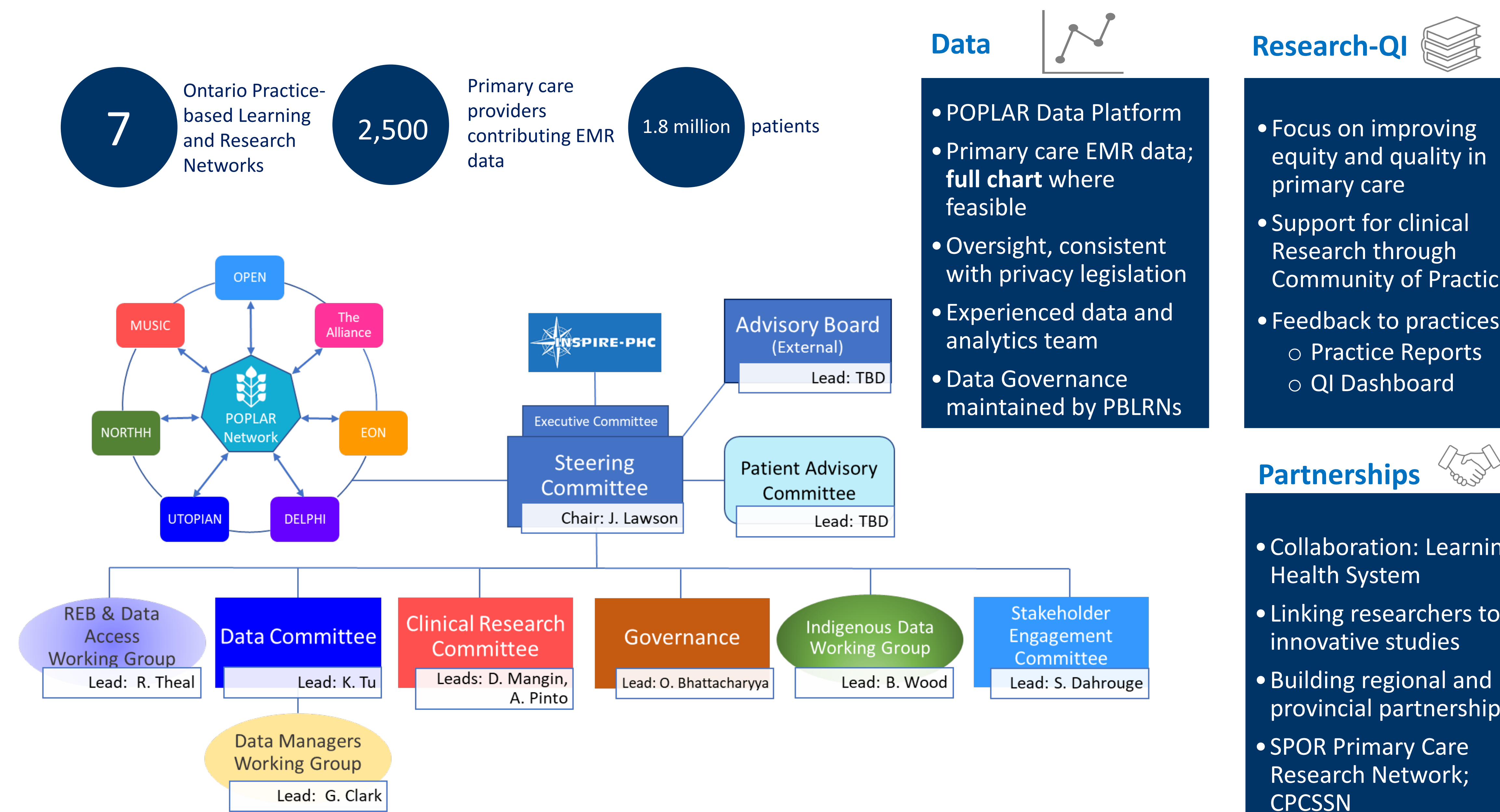
CONTEXT

- POPLAR is a **provincial** initiative started in **2021**
- **Funded by the Ministry of Health** through provincial primary care research - policy partnership [INSPIRE-PHC](#)
- Includes **research, QI** and **EMR data**
- Consists of **PBLRNs** from:
 - **six provincial University Departments of Family Medicine**
 - the **Alliance for Healthier Communities** (Community Health Centres across province)

OBJECTIVES

- POPLAR's vision is to advance equitable primary healthcare delivery and health outcomes for everyone in Ontario, Canada
- Aim to achieve the **Quintuple Aim**, inclusive of **Health Equity**, through
 - A single **provincial EMR data platform** for data analytics
 - Processes and procedures to support **Clinical Research and QI** in practices

POPLAR STRUCTURE



IMPLICATIONS for HEALTH SYSTEMS

- Ability to test initiatives in one POPLAR Network & **scale up** across province of Ontario
- Development of QI Dashboard, www.CareCanvas.ca, led by University of Toronto DFCM Quality & Innovations.
 - Feeds data back to physicians in a meaningful way
- POPLAR EMR data can provide
 - **Provincial and regional data reports**
 - **Planning information** for Ontario Health Teams and health system
- EMR data will be **linked** with administrative data at ICES for health systems planning (early 2023)
- Data is only used for approved **research** projects
- POPLAR enables centralized coordination of **clinical research projects** in primary care practices across Ontario

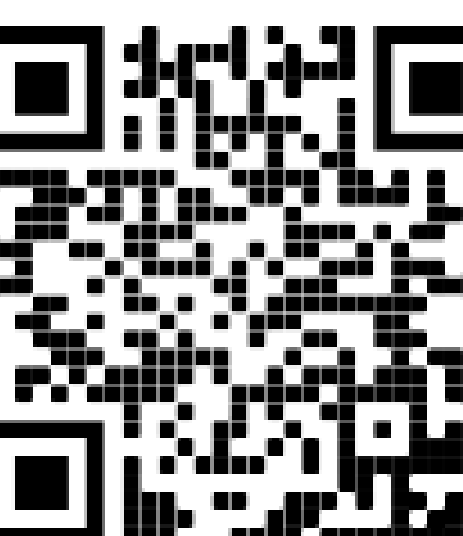
FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- Increase **primary care provider participation** across Ontario
- Increase engagement with **patients and communities**
 - Patient Advisory Committee to begin meeting this fall
 - Build relationships with **Indigenous Partners**
- Continue to develop POPLAR infrastructure and processes
- Support the provincial roll-out of the **CareCanvas QI Dashboard** to all POPLAR members in early 2023
- Increase **research in practices** and **QI** activities

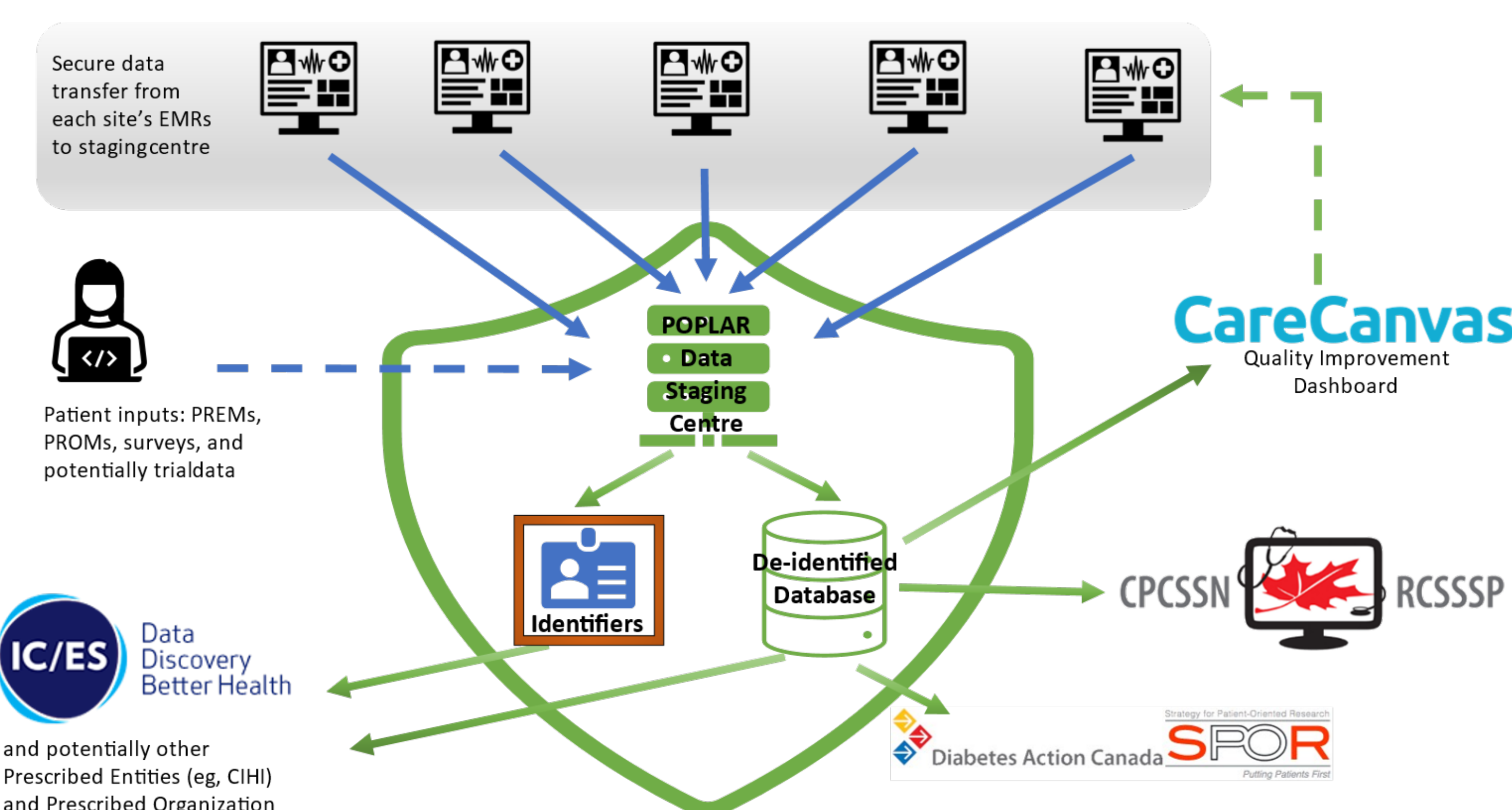
Advance our **shared Culture of Curiosity**

CONTACT INFORMATION

- **For more information:**
 - Email: info@poplarnetwork.ca
 - Visit our website at www.poplarnetwork.ca



POPLAR DATA PLATFORM



- POPLAR EMR data is cleaned, de-identified and standardized.
- POPLAR studies can look at **patient and practice data**.
- Complies with robust ethics, governance and security measures.
- Individual patients have the **right to opt out** of their data being collected through POPLAR's networks