

# Preface

## Technology Enabled Knowledge Translation

Technological progress leads to new and innovative information and communication technologies (ICTs) that facilitate communication, data storage and analysis, information visualization, and knowledge dissemination and sharing. How can these different types of ICTs be exploited to take advantage of their power, ubiquity, and connectivity, toward improving health service delivery, education, and research? This is the central thesis of “*technology enabled knowledge translation*” – to explore the use of modern ICTs that enable and support the animation of evidence-based health knowledge into routine health practices and engage key stakeholders including health professionals, community members, patients, health policy makers, health administrators, and researchers to work together towards this goal.

In 2006, an interdisciplinary group of researchers from medicine, global health, computer science, social sciences, educational psychology, health policy, health informatics, and health management, representing institutions that included the University of British Columbia, University of Victoria, Simon Fraser University, and the University of Calgary, successfully applied to the Michael Smith Foundation of Health Research for a multi-year research team grant to explore technology enabled knowledge translation. The University of British Columbia endorsed the formation of this team under its Faculty of Medicine as the “Technology Enabled Knowledge Translation Investigative Centre” (TEKTIC).

Since its inception, TEKTIC has supported the initiation, growth, and expansion of 31 research projects during its team grant period. This Centre also helped form and nurture a growing community of researchers and stakeholders who expanded this continuing and exploratory journey beyond the team grant funding period.

This book represents a synthesis of the various projects and the investigation of different theories and hypotheses that occurred under TEKTIC. Over time, we found

support to validate many of the ideas that our group formulated in its original vision and generated excitement in the discovery of new possibilities and directions that emerged through our collaborative empirical efforts. We have met new researchers and collaborators along our way, with several contributing to this work to further bring clarity and inquiries into this exciting area of research. We hope that this book, divided into six sections, will give readers not only a window into the research endeavors attempted in TEKTIC, but also serve as an invitation for readers to consider joining us as our continuing voyage forward unfolds. Welcome!

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