Research Unlocked: Making research publications accessible to clients and families

Rationale
- Tangible barriers exist for clients and families trying to access research findings, limiting their opportunities to understand and use the research to inform important health care decisions.
- To address this gap, Research Unlocked was created.

What is Research Unlocked?
- It is a process that transforms research publications into easily-accessible and meaningful research summaries for children, youth, families and the broader community.

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Programs involved
- Bloorview Research Institute
- Client and Family Integrated Care
- Evidence to Care
- Research Family Engagement Committee (RFEC)
- Centre for Leadership (funding)

Approach
- A co-creation process was used involving a needs assessment and workshop activities, capturing scientist and family perspectives.

Outputs
- Using this approach, the RFEC and Project Team established:
  - Criteria for selecting research papers with relevant and actionable outcomes
  - A template for sharing meaningful information
  - A bank of graphic assets for visual design
  - 11 lay summaries

Benefits
- Research Unlocked offers:
  - Quality summaries that maintain scientific integrity of research
  - A true co-creation process with scientists and families
  - High readability
  - Health Literacy and Equity, Diversity and Inclusion stamp of approval
  - Enhanced access via Hospital online distribution mechanisms

Launch
- Research Unlocked was launched June 5, 2019.
- 11 lay summaries will be made available over the year.
- Scientists are encouraged to take advantage of the Research Unlocked process to promote equitable and meaningful access to science for all.

Next steps
- A 10-step coordinated fee-for-service process is now available to BRI scientists and investigators to use that meets lay summary requirements of many funding agencies and journals.