



SASKATCHEWAN POPULATION HEALTH AND EVALUATION RESEARCH UNIT



ANNUAL REVIEW

2011-2012

Photo Credits

Cover, Page 16 - Centre, Bottom Left

Cover, Page 16 - 2nd Right, Top Left

Cover, Page 17 - Far Right, Top Right

Page 20 - Bottom Right

Page 31 - Top Right

Page 34 - Top Right

History of Health Inequities

Healthy Children

Rural Health

Dr. Gloria DeSantis

Fall-Related Injury

Dr. Sylvia Abonyi

University of Albert Peel Collection

Brinnameade Smith

IStockphoto

Wendy Stone

University of Regina

University of Saskatchewan

TABLE OF CONTENTS

WHO WE ARE _____	4
FUNDERS AND PARTNERS _____	5
MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR _____	6
MANAGEMENT ADVISORY GROUP _____	7
RESEARCH FACULTY _____	10
RESEARCH ASSOCIATE _____	12
POST DOCTORAL FELLOW _____	12
ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH STAFF _____	13
PROJECT STAFF _____	14
RESEARCH TRAINEES _____	14
WHAT WE DO _____	15
NORTHERN AND ABORIGINAL HEALTH _____	15
HEALTHY CHILDREN _____	16
HISTORY OF HEALTH INEQUITIES _____	16
RURAL HEALTH _____	17
INTERVENTION RESEARCH _____	17
KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION _____	18
SHRF HEALTH RESEARCH GROUP GRANT 2011-2014 _____	24
CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECTS _____	25
CONTINUING RESEARCH PROJECTS _____	30

WHO WE ARE

SPHERU is a bi-university interdisciplinary research unit committed to critical population health research. We currently have ten faculty researchers, one associate researcher, and a post doctoral fellow, all working from the Universities of Regina and Saskatchewan. A second post doctoral fellow has just joined us.

We are based out of three Saskatchewan sites: on the main campus at both universities; and at a satellite office and research lab in Prince Albert. Established in 1999, SPHERU is the first bi-university health research unit of its kind in Saskatchewan. Funding for SPHERU comes, in the main, from project-specific grants such as our Phase III Health Research Group Grant from the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation (SHRF), as well as from other provincial and national health research funding agencies. SPHERU also does some contract policy and evaluation research funded by governments and non-governmental agencies that fits within our mission.

The unit's mission – the promotion of health equity by understanding and addressing population health disparities through policy-relevant research – is incorporated into all of our research projects. SPHERU research is categorized by four inter-related types:

- The creation of new knowledge;
- Independent policy analysis;
- Collaborative research with policy makers around shared research questions and evaluation of policies and programs; and
- Collaboration with communities on strategies to reduce health inequities.

FUNDERS

SPHERU receives funding from a variety of sources that changes from year to year. In addition to small grants from its two university partners that help defray administrative costs for the unit's operation, the majority of SPHERU's funding comes in the form of project-specific grants from provincial and federal health-funding agencies. Key among these are the Phase III Health Research Group Grant from the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation and Operating Grants from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research held by one or more researchers affiliated with the unit. As well, SPHERU has been awarded smaller-focused grants for conferences, knowledge translation, training, project development and the like from SHRF, CIHR, and its partner universities. From time to time, SPHERU conducts contract research on behalf of governments and non-governmental agencies that align with SPHERU's overall mission and also conducts program evaluations in the area of population health. All of these sources of funding sustain the unit and provide researchers the necessary administrative and infrastructure supports necessary to fulfill its mission.

PARTNERS

Health is a major focus for the University of Regina, with world-class researchers conducting leading-edge studies in aging, long-term care, pain assessment and management, cancer research, population health, rehabilitation and risk reduction, rural health, and northern health. Work at the university includes a multidisciplinary study of the impact of health determinants on various populations, as well as research on policy and program interventions to improve health determinants and provide equitable access to health services. Through the provision of funding and office space in Prince Albert and Regina, the University of Regina continues to support SPHERU in its work to produce high-quality, policy-relevant research.

University
of Regina



UNIVERSITY OF
SASKATCHEWAN

The University of Saskatchewan, through its involvement with SPHERU, is helping to redefine the way people think about health determinants and to chart new territory in actively engaging communities, non-governmental organizations, and policy makers in the research enterprise. With a wide range of health science colleges and programs,

the University of Saskatchewan is committed to expanding health research. It contributes to SPHERU's funding and is home to SPHERU's Saskatoon-based researchers and staff. This relationship, along with an association with the College of Medicine, affords SPHERU opportunities to expand its research and continue to achieve its goals.



SASKATCHEWAN POPULATION HEALTH AND EVALUATION RESEARCH UNIT

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

I am pleased to present the Saskatchewan Population Health and Evaluation Research Unit's (SPHERU) 2011-2012 Annual Review, which outlines our research activities over the past year. The pages that follow provide detail about our research activities. In this year's review we are pleased to highlight the range of innovative knowledge translation activities that the Unit has completed across a number of projects.

Our focus on addressing health inequities through policy-relevant and community-based research continues to guide our work. Our researchers, staff, and trainees have continued with ongoing research and initiated new projects across our focus areas – Northern and Aboriginal Health, Healthy Children, and Rural Health. In the past year we have made significant progress on our SHRF-funded population health intervention research, which examines health and support issues as defined by seniors in several rural and northern communities in Saskatchewan. We will, over a three-year period, examine changing policy, community, and family resources that support healthy aging in place, and we have strong team of university and community researchers, community leaders, and policy makers to carry this work forward. The work is linked to a second project that will identify the underlying origins of health inequity and assess the impact of historical interventions on the health equity of Saskatchewan's most vulnerable population groups, including rural and northern seniors and children.

Our commitment to community-based research and providing an environment to support new population health researchers led to the successful Community-Based Health Research Institute: Weaving the Tapestry held in June 2011. This collaboration of SPHERU, the Indigenous Peoples Health Research Centre (IPHRC), and the Prairie Community-Based HIV Research Program provided a range of learning opportunities in community-based health research and created an atmosphere for university and community researchers to network on community-defined projects. Over the coming year I anticipate that SPHERU will attract new researchers and continue to offer excellent training opportunities for new and established researchers in the important field of population health.

June 2012 marks the end of my term as Director, and I am pleased that Dr. Tom McIntosh has agreed to act as Interim Director while the process begins to appoint a new Director. It has been an honour to have worked with such a talented group of researchers and staff who have consistently maintained their commitment to addressing the unacceptable health inequities faced by groups of people in this province and beyond.



Bonnie L. Jeffery.

Dr. Bonnie Jeffery
Director, Saskatchewan Population Health and Evaluation Research Unit

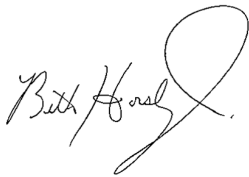
MANAGEMENT ADVISORY GROUP

As chair of the Management Advisory Group (MAG), I am delighted to congratulate SPHERU on its continued funding from the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation, which will aid SPHERU in ushering in a new phase of research where commitment to producing high-quality, relevant, and innovative population health research remains a top priority.

The MAG, representative of both the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Regina, provides advice and direction to SPHERU on management-level issues. We consist of senior university administrators who are appointed by the Vice-President of Research at both the Universities of Saskatchewan and Regina and meet with SPHERU's Director bi-annually.

We are proud of the reputation and achievements of SPHERU and its faculty, and look forward to the exciting weeks, months, and years ahead where SPHERU's work will continue to inform an understanding of population health that spreads beyond the borders of Saskatchewan, and even Canada. Each faculty member brings a unique population health research perspective to SPHERU's overall research program. Together, they collaborate with communities, government agencies, and other academics and institutions to improve the health of our communities and inform dialogues on population health and its many facets.

As this award-winning team of researchers continues to grow and promote a truly collaborative and interdisciplinary approach to population health research, we would like to offer our continued support, encouragement, and congratulations to the faculty and staff of SPHERU on their past successes and look forward to hearing of future achievements.



Dr. Beth Horsburgh
Chair, Management Advisory Group



MANAGEMENT ADVISORY GROUP...

The management of SPHERU is guided by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by the University of Regina and the University of Saskatchewan. This MOU outlines the cooperative agreement to support the work of SPHERU and highlights the role of the Management Advisory Group (MAG) in providing consultation and advice to the director and members of SPHERU. The members of this group are appointed by the Vice-Presidents Research at each university, and bi-annual meetings allow for an update of research and financial activities of the Unit as well as the provision of collegial support to the research program.



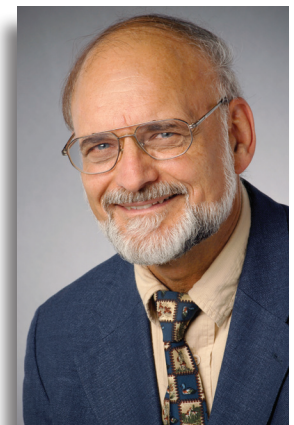
DR. M.E. (BETH) HORSBURGH was appointed Associate Vice-President Research-Health at the University of Saskatchewan and Vice-President Research & Innovation at the Saskatoon Health Region on July 1, 2007. The overarching purpose of this joint position is to support excellence in health research and innovation and to create synergies between the University of Saskatchewan and the Saskatoon Health Region.

Dr. Horsburgh is a key participant in strategic planning related to health research at both the Saskatoon Health Region and the University of Saskatchewan. This includes developing and implementing strategies and programs with community stakeholders, and leading efforts to translate research knowledge into clinical innovation, evidence-based policies, practices, and decision making.

A member of both the Office of the Vice-President Research Executive Committee at the University of Saskatchewan and the Senior Leadership Team of the Saskatoon Health Region, Dr. Horsburgh plays an important role in ensuring the integration of health research and innovation initiatives between the University and the Health Region.

DR. MICHAEL TYMCHAK has served the University of Regina for ten years as Dean of Education from 1992-2000, and again from 2006-2008. During his tenure, he served as chair of The Role of the School Task Force and Public Dialogue, created by the Minister of Education. This resulted in SchoolPLUS and the focus on inter-agency initiatives in public policy.

He also served as research consultant and coordinator of the Transdisciplinary Project at the University of Regina, which sponsored dozens of inter-disciplinary teaching and research projects throughout the university. Currently, Dr. Tymchak is the Director of the Saskatchewan Instructional Development and Research Unit (SIDRU) and Professor of Educational Foundations in the Faculty of Education.



MANAGEMENT ADVISORY GROUP...



DR. JIM THORNHILL is a Special Assistant for Health Research to the Vice-President Research Office at the University of Saskatchewan, a position to promote research success in the Health Science Colleges. He received his PhD in Pharmacology from the University of Western Ontario in 1978 and did post doctorate work at the University of Calgary from 1978-80 in the Department of Medical Physiology.

He joined the University of Saskatchewan, Department of Physiology in 1980 and worked through the ranks over twenty-two years as an active instructor, supervisor, and researcher, and also department head of Physiology from 1988-94. From 2002-2010, he was the Associate Dean of Research & Graduate Studies for the College of Medicine at the U of S. His research focus was in the area of stroke, investigating the effects of temperature on the ischemic insult, with findings that led both to publications and patents.

As part of the University's Second Integrated Plan, Dr. Thornhill is currently one of twenty Commitment Leaders appointed by the University Provost, his specific portfolio being to investigate ways to accurately assess and promote Research Collaboration and Success at the University. In 2009, he was presented with the Award of Merit by the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada for his long-term, exceptional service to the mission of heart and stroke disease in Canada.

DR. CRAIG J. CHAMBERLIN is an associate professor and Dean of the Faculty of Kinesiology and Health Studies at the University of Regina. He was hired into this position in 2002 and is currently completing the last year of a second five-year term.

In addition to this position, as of July 1, 2011 Dr. Chamberlin has added the role of Acting Dean, Faculty of Social Work. Dr. Chamberlin's area of specialization is motor learning and control. His research interests are investigating powerful variables that impact the learning of motor skills, in particular, the structure of practice, and the use of simulators and virtual reality in enhancing the learning process.

He has published in journals such as the Journal of Motor Behavior, Research Quarterly for Exercise and Sport, Perceptual and Motor Skills, and Police Practice and Research. He has an extensive record of administrative service and currently serves as the secretary-treasurer for the Canadian Council of University Physical Education and Kinesiology Administrators (CCUPEKA), on the Partners Advisory Group for Saskatchewan *in motion*, and as a board member for the Ranch Ehrlo Society.



RESEARCH FACULTY

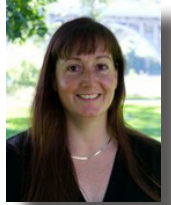


BONNIE JEFFERY, PH.D.

Dr. Jeffery has been Director of SPHERU since July 2006 and a research faculty member since 2000. As a social work educator, she has maintained a long-standing commitment to access to post-secondary professional education for rural and northern residents. Dr. Jeffery's research work is concentrated primarily in the Northern and Aboriginal Health and Rural Health research themes.

SYLVIA ABONYI, PH.D.

Dr. Abonyi is an anthropologist working primarily in the area of Aboriginal health. She explores the role of culture in health through a number of research projects in northern and remote Saskatchewan and across the Prairies. She is an associate professor with the University of Saskatchewan's Community Health and Epidemiology Department and a Canada Research Chair, Aboriginal Health.



PAUL HACKETT, PH.D.

Dr. Hackett's interests focus on the impact of cultural change on community health. His research includes examining the factors that helped set the stage for the current epidemic of Type 2 diabetes among First Nations in Saskatchewan and Manitoba, and investigating the history of tuberculosis among the western First Nations. He is also team lead on the SPHERU project, History of Public Health and Health Care in Saskatchewan: The origins and import of health inequities in Saskatchewan 1905-1985. Dr. Hackett is an assistant professor with the University of Saskatchewan's Department of Geography and Planning.

SHANTHI JOHNSON, PH.D.

Dr. Johnson is a professor and Associate Dean (Research and Graduate Studies) in Kinesiology and Health Studies at the University of Regina. Her work covers epidemiological research related to the surveillance and monitoring of falls and fall-related injuries among seniors; and intervention research on the understanding of the underlying mechanisms associated with falls among seniors in community and long-term care settings. Her research also looks at the cross-cultural study of aging, rural-urban differences, and health beliefs/practices related to chronic diseases such as osteoporosis.



DIANE MARTZ, PH.D.

Dr. Martz mainly works in the area of rural women's health. She brings to SPHERU extensive experience at working in large research teams, a research focus on the social, economic, and cultural dimensions of rural health, as well as established relationships with many Saskatchewan and Alberta rural communities. She is co-investigator with other SPHERU research faculty on several projects and aids in the development of evaluation frameworks, workshops, and supporting materials for communities evaluating Aboriginal health projects.

RESEARCH FACULTY...



TOM MCINTOSH, PH.D.

Dr. McIntosh joined SPHERU in 2002 and brings expertise on public policy making and knowledge transfer and exchange to numerous SPHERU projects. He is presently working on the political and economic components of SPHERU's historical analysis of population health in Saskatchewan. He was also the co-editor of *Redistributing Health: New Directions in Population Health Research in Canada* (CPRC: 2010). Dr. McIntosh is currently a professor and head of the Department of Political Science at the University of Regina.

NAZEEM MUHAJARINE, PH.D.

Dr. Muhajarine is a social epidemiologist and leads SPHERU's Healthy Children research program. His work includes researching questions related to community and family contextual influences in child development and health, risk in the prenatal period, and developing community-university research partnerships to improve knowledge creation, transfer, and application. He is the recipient of several awards of distinction, including the province's 2009 Health Research Achievement Award and the CIHR Knowledge Translation Award. He is a professor and department head of Community Health and Epidemiology, University of Saskatchewan.



PAMMLA PETRUCKA, PH.D.

Dr. Petrucka's research interests include Aboriginal health, rural women's health, informatics in health care, and global health. She currently leads/co-leads various community-based research projects with Aboriginal groups in Saskatchewan. Dr. Petrucka is an associate professor at the University of Saskatchewan's College of Nursing.

NAZMI SARI, PH.D.

Dr. Sari is a health economist with specific research interest in quality and efficiency issues in hospital markets, provider reimbursements and health care financing reforms, and economics of smoking and physical activity. He is an associate professor in the Faculty of Economics with the University of Saskatchewan, which he joined in 2004.



JAMES DASCHUK, PH.D.

Dr. Daschuk joined the SPHERU team in 2008 and brings experience as an historian with a background in anthropology. He has been researching and teaching in the field of Aboriginal health for nearly twenty years. He is an assistant professor in the Faculty of Kinesiology and Health Studies at the University of Regina.

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

MARY HAMPTON, PH.D.

Dr. Hampton is currently a research associate focusing her research interests on developing materials to increase cross-cultural knowledge and facilitate delivery of culturally appropriate end-of-life care for Aboriginal families. She is the Saskatchewan Research Coordinator for Research and Education Solutions to Violence and Abuse (RESOLVE) and a professor in the Department of Psychology with Luther College, University of Regina.



POST DOCTORAL FELLOW



GLORIA DESANTIS, PH.D.

Dr. DeSantis is a research associate and post doctoral fellow in the area of socio-health. In 2008, the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation awarded her its Top Socio-Health Researcher Award. She has been an instructor in Health Studies, Justice Studies, and Graduate Public Policy at the University of Regina. Her interest in socio-health is a result of her twenty years of work and volunteering in the non-profit social service sector. Today, using a population health framework and a social justice lens, Dr. DeSantis is undertaking historical, interdisciplinary research on the evolution of the social and structural determinants of health as well as non-profit social service sector program interventions in Saskatchewan.



ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH STAFF

JUANITA BACSU, PROJECT COORDINATOR UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Juanita has been the project coordinator for SPHERU team projects since 2009. Prior to SPHERU, she worked as a senior communications manager for the Saskatchewan government and as a research associate at the University of Saskatchewan. She is a board member of the Canadian Rural Health Research Society and is completing her PhD in Community Health and Epidemiology at U of S. She is currently working on the Healthy Aging in Place and History of Public Health and Health Care in Saskatchewan team projects.

MIKE CHOUINARD, KT OFFICER UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Mike joined SPHERU as knowledge translation officer in April 2011. He has a degree in history from Simon Fraser University and is a graduate of the University of Regina journalism program. He has also been managing editor of the Healthy Children team's website, kidskan.ca, since September 2010.

DIANA FEDOSOFF, RESEARCH OFFICER UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Diana has been a member of SPHERU since 2002. She is research officer for Dr. Sylvia Abonyi and manages Dr. Abonyi's research program by coordinating administrative, financial, and research activities.

LYNN FRADETTE, RESEARCH SECRETARY UNIVERSITY OF REGINA

Lynn joined SPHERU in August of 2011 as research secretary for the University of Regina site. Lynn coordinates the administrative and financial activities of the Regina office and provides support to SPHERU's Regina-based researchers.

COLLEEN HAMILTON, ADMINISTRATIVE/PROJECT COORDINATOR UNIVERSITY OF REGINA (PRINCE ALBERT CAMPUS)

Colleen has been with SPHERU since 2002, located at the SPHERU Prince Albert site. She has worked as project coordinator on a number of research projects, primarily in the Northern and Aboriginal Health theme. Along with involvement in research projects, she also serves as the administrative coordinator, overseeing SPHERU's financial and administrative activities.

FLEUR MACQUEEN SMITH, KT MANAGER UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Fleur is the knowledge transfer manager in the Healthy Children research program, a position she has held since 2004. She works with academics and decision makers to share research through kidSKAN, the Saskatchewan Knowledge to Action Network for early childhood development (kidskan.ca), which she coordinates. She holds an English and Business co-op degree from the University of Waterloo, and an interdisciplinary master's degree from the University of Saskatchewan.

JESSICA TRAWIN, RESEARCH SECRETARY UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Jessica Trawin joined SPHERU in 2011 as the research secretary at the Saskatoon site. Her role with SPHERU is to provide administrative support to the research unit at the University of Saskatchewan, as well as support SPHERU's knowledge translation strategies.

PROJECT STAFF

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Janelle Anderson – Research Assistant
 Colleen Gnyp – Coordinator
 Kathryn Green – Professional Research Associate
 Dallas Harrison – Professional Associate
 Joel Heitmar – Research Assistant
 Kristjana Loptson – Research Assistant
 Kathleen McMullin – Project Coordinator
 Chelsea Millman – Clerical Assistant
 Jostein Misfeldt – Research Assistant
 Tracy Ridalls – Research Officer
 Stephanie Rideout – Research Assistant
 Cory Schewaga – Research Officer
 Jennifer Schmidt – Research Assistant
 Jeff Smith – Professional Associate
 Andrea Still – Research Assistant

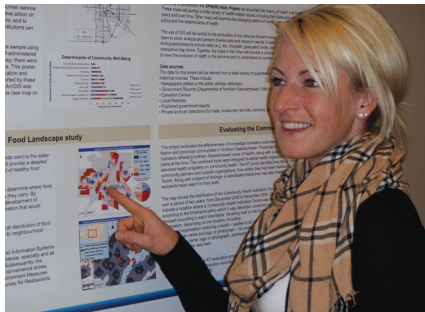
UNIVERSITY OF REGINA

Carol Gillis – Professional Research Associate
 Chad Nilson – Professional Research Associate
 Penny McKinlay – Professional Associate



U of S Project Staff Jostein Misfeldt and Jennifer Schmidt

RESEARCH TRAINEES



U of R Research Trainee Tara Todd

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Stephen Cook – PhD
 Caitlin Cottrell – Masters
 Jessica Grant – Masters
 Le Ha – PhD
 Jessica Hamilton – Masters
 Tarum Katapally – PhD
 Stephanie Konrad – Masters
 Amanda Lavalley – PhD
 Natalie Ludlow – Masters
 Michele Martin – PhD
 Nyankomo Marwa – PhD
 Stacey McHenry – Masters
 Ana Novakovik – Masters
 Jordan Raymond – Masters

Hongxia Shan – Post Doctoral Fellow
 Nadia Smith – Masters
 Sugandhi Wickremarachchi – Masters
 Orhan Yilmaz – Undergraduate

UNIVERSITY OF REGINA

Nana Bonsu – Masters
 Jonathan Harris – Masters
 Katherine McLeod – PhD
 Taysa-Rhea Mise – Undergraduate
 Riddhi Shukla – Masters
 Tara Todd – Undergraduate
 Larina Tremblay – Masters
 Minh Vuong – Undergraduate
 Laura Willcocks – Masters

WHAT WE DO

SPHERU's work includes the creation of new knowledge, independent policy analysis, collaborative research with policy makers, and collaboration with communities to develop strategies to reduce health inequities. Our research falls within the following theme areas:

- Northern and Aboriginal Health
- Healthy Children
- Rural Health
- History of Health Inequities
- Intervention Research

Our researchers take a collaborative approach to population health research by working with communities and policy makers through: mobilizing and building upon the expertise of our researchers, students, trainees, and research partners; ensuring our research questions and results are relevant to improving the health of Saskatchewan residents; and exchanging our research knowledge through engagement with communities and policy makers.

NORTHERN AND ABORIGINAL HEALTH

Indigenous peoples continue to show disproportionate disparities in most social and health indicators when compared with other populations. SPHERU's work on Northern and Aboriginal Health is grounded in this global context.

We know culture is an important determinant when looking at the health of Aboriginal people in Canada, and our projects explore the role of culture and how it affects health. This highlights the importance of developing culturally relevant definitions of health, as well as appropriate health indicators.

These areas of research are new and still unfolding, and we recognize there are limits on our understanding of culture and health. We also need to better understand how culture intersects with more-defined determinants – income, social status, education, and employment.



HEALTHY CHILDREN



What happens to children not only has effects on their long-term health and wellbeing but on society as a whole.

Some evidence has shown that broad social influences – for example, a neighbourhood in which the child grows up – affect children’s health and wellbeing, though to a lesser degree than individual differences among children. However, recent studies of child health outcomes are finding children could be more deeply affected by social, economic or other factors, such as neighbourhoods, than was previously understood.

SPHERU’s work in the area of Healthy Children provides a deeper understanding of how various contexts – family, neighbourhood social and physical environments, schools – play a crucial role in determining the health and development of children.

HISTORY OF HEALTH INEQUITIES



Saskatchewan has historically shown some of the most extreme health outcome disparities in Canada, especially when comparing First Nations with non-Aboriginal populations, or rural with urban populations.

SPHERU is looking at a range of historical data collections to understand how health changed over the course of the twentieth century, how it varied between communities, and how the lessons of the past could assist modern policy makers to reduce health inequities.

RURAL HEALTH

Despite urbanization, more than a third of the Saskatchewan population – 36% – still lives in rural areas. These areas have been hurt by economic restructuring in farming and forestry, young people moving away, deteriorating infrastructure, and restructuring of health and education services.

Government cutbacks in health and social services have led to a decline of primary services in communities, and in turn have forced communities to look to community groups and residents to provide care and services to a population that is aging. One result of these developments is that rural people's health status is relatively poor when compared with that of people in urban communities.

A key approach to our work in Rural Health is that SPHERU research is not simply conducted on rural communities but is done in conjunction with these communities. The rationale is that to best bring about change at the local level, it is important to involve local partners early and often.



INTERVENTION RESEARCH

SPHERU's work has collectively addressed the growing issue of health inequity through population health research. Building on this knowledge and expertise, we will now address the health impact of current and historical interventions through innovative population health intervention research.

Our focus moves to investigating the health impact of current and historical interventions and addresses the growing criticism that population health research has not substantially contributed to effective responses, as seen by the growing health disparities between populations.



KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION

SPHERU brings researchers together in an environment that promotes and supports collaboration among academics and between academic and community partners. Researchers are able to draw on colleagues' expertise, experience, and relationships with other researchers, policy makers, and community members.

SPHERU's knowledge translation and exchange activities are an integral part of our collaboratively driven research strategy. We begin by identifying potential users of knowledge, involving them early and often. Our knowledge translation and exchange throughout the research process includes:

- Developing collaborative research projects with stakeholders;
- Publishing research findings in accessible language;
- Producing videos to share findings;
- Developing toolkits of findings for communities to use as resource guides;
- Developing research networks for knowledge exchange; and
- Delivering and participating in presentations, forums, and expert dialogues.



SPHERU'S NEW WEBSITE

SPHERU has spent this past year redesigning its website, www.spheru.ca, to make it more visually appealing and easier to use. People can search projects by theme or researcher, or publications by author, year, or theme.

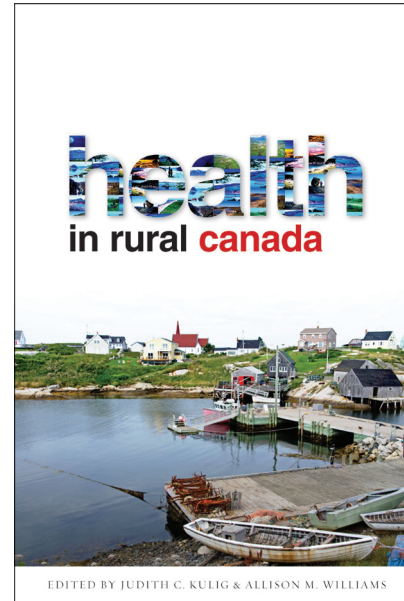
The home page will also keep website visitors up to date with feature stories about the work of SPHERU faculty and staff. The site will also continue to make our newsletters and annual reports available online.

KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION...

HEALTH IN RURAL CANADA – TRANSCENDING BOUNDARIES

SPHERU's Bonnie Jeffery and Colleen Hamilton were co-contributors to a chapter in UBC Press's book, *Health in Rural Canada*. The chapter, *Transcending Boundaries: Collaborating to Improve Access to Health Services in Northern Manitoba and Saskatchewan*, is found in the Rural Health Services Delivery section of the book.

Health in Rural Canada, edited by Judith C. Kulig and Allison M. Williams, provides the first comprehensive overview of the state of rural health and health care in Canada, from coast to coast and in northern communities. It provides researchers, policy makers, students, and practitioners a valuable resource for understanding the needs of rural communities. The hardcover edition was published in late 2011, and the paperback edition was released in February 2012.



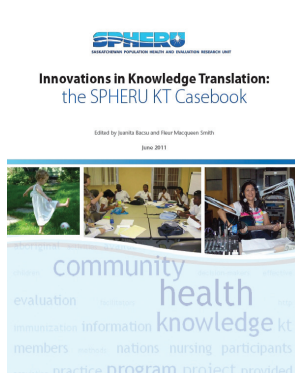
COMMUNITY-BASED HEALTH RESEARCH SUMMER INSTITUTE: WEAVING THE TAPESTRY



SPHERU, the Indigenous Peoples' Health Research Centre (IPHRC), and the Prairie Community-Based HIV Research Program joined together to host the Community-Based Health Research (CBHR) Summer Institute: Weaving the Tapestry at the University of Regina, June 19-24, 2011. The Summer Institute was well attended and offered presentations from experts in the field, hands-on workshops, case studies, keynote speakers, and group discussions with leading practitioners. The themes included: building partnerships; research methods; information management; and knowledge translation and communications.

SPHERU has published the full report of the Summer Institute, which includes presentations, reference material, and a DVD of the keynote speaker. Funding and support was provided by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation (SHRF), SPHERU, the IPHRC, Prairie Community-Based HIV Research Program, University of Saskatchewan, and University of Regina.

KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION...



INNOVATIONS IN KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION: THE SPHERU KT CASEBOOK

Innovations in Knowledge Translation: the SPHERU KT Casebook (edited by Fleur Macqueen Smith and Juanita Bacsu) is a cross-section of knowledge translation work, ranging from a music video for sharing healing stories of Aboriginal women's drug addiction to a national symposium aimed at promoting healthy lifestyle behaviours among school-aged children in Trinidad and Tobago.

It also highlights SPHERU projects, including the Feelings in Pregnancy and Motherhood study, Completing the Circle: End of Life Care with Aboriginal Families, and the evaluation of the effectiveness of First Nations Health Development KT strategies.

The Casebook is designed for academics, researchers, community practitioners, policy makers, and others. It includes KT strategies, methods, and evaluations that highlight methods of KT evaluation and factors related to successful knowledge translation.

A SNAPSHOT OF REGINA'S ORGANIZATIONS AT WORK ON THE DETERMINANTS OF COMMUNITY WELLBEING

Canada has not been able to reduce health inequities, which translates into negative social and economic consequences. A significant challenge is that most of what affects people's health lies outside the formal health treatment system.

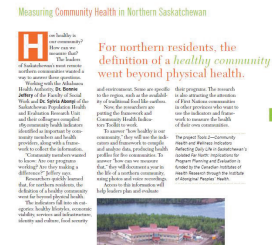
In response, Dr. Gloria DeSantis produced this 88-page report with consultant Carla Bolen Anderson and Wendy Stone of the Regina Police Service. It examines 37 community-based organizations (CBOs) and 11 quasi-government organizations whose work takes into account the determinants of community wellbeing (DCWBs) among Regina's vulnerable populations, and will help point to new strategies towards a healthier community.



KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION...

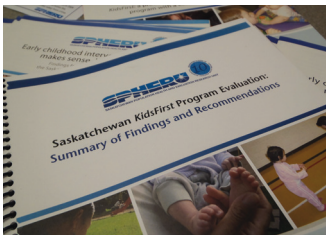
INNOVATING LIFE: CREATING A BETTER WORLD THROUGH RESEARCH

The work of SPHERU faculty members Bonnie Jeffery, Sylvia Abonyi, Shanthi Johnson, and Mary Hampton is featured in the University of Regina's recent publication, *Innovating Life: Creating a Better World Through Research*. Johnson's *Preventing Falls Among Seniors*; Jeffery and Abonyi's *Tools 2 – Community Health and Wellness Indicators Reflecting Daily Life in Saskatchewan's Isolated Far North: Implications for Program Planning and Evaluation*; and Hampton's *Rural and Northern Community Response to Intimate Partner Violence* are among the sixteen projects that highlight the university's important research in the humanities and the natural and social sciences – research that is making Saskatchewan and Canada a world leader in innovation.



“The researchers featured in this book – together with their colleagues at the University of Regina – are having a lasting effect on communities in Saskatchewan and beyond our borders.”

*– Dr. Vianne Timmons,
U of R President and Vice-Chancellor*



KIDSFIRST FACT SHEETS

The Healthy Children team produced a series of fact sheets about KidsFirst, a federally funded, provincially run intervention program that gives services and support to vulnerable families in Saskatchewan through home visiting. There is an overview fact sheet, as well as ones on specific aspects of the program. The fact sheets can be downloaded at <http://www.kidskan.ca/kidsfirst>.

SMART CITIES, HEALTHY KIDS

The Smart Cities, Healthy Kids team has many recent examples of KT work. In the fall of 2011, they invented a board game, *Researchopoly*, which they used to conduct workshops in Saskatoon and Regina on research project management. Other activities include a “bike-ability” workshop, as well as a series of fact sheets about different aspects of the study. There is also an introductory video available on kidSKAN's YouTube channel about the built environment project, as well as Smart Cities, Healthy Kids' sister study examining Saskatoon's food environment.



KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION...



THE ROLE OF SOCIAL SYSTEMS IN THE HEALTH OF SENIORS LIVING IN RURAL SASKATCHEWAN

This 2011 report highlights a pilot project examining the relationship between social systems and the health of seniors living in two rural Saskatchewan communities, Preeceville and Watrous. Specific issues highlighted include housing, transportation, health care, finances, caregiving, falls, and independence.

As part of its KT activities, the team has produced a newsletter, Healthy Aging in Place, containing recent findings, updates, and profiles of some of the team members, written a local newspaper column in The Watrous Manitou, set up a Facebook page, and even produced fridge magnets displaying information about the project for seniors.

SHRF SANTÉ! AWARDS

SPHERU's work was among the more than twenty research posters at the Saskatchewan Health Research Federation's Santé! Awards Evening on December 1, 2011. The poster illustrated our Population Health Intervention Research model, outlining its objectives, research program, and KT goals: "Since 1999, researchers from SPHERU have conducted population health research with the mission to promote health equity by addressing population health disparities through policy-relevant research. Led by researchers Dr. Bonnie Jeffery at the U of R and Dr. Nazeem Muhajarine at the U of S, the group has a permanent presence in Saskatoon, Regina and Prince Albert, and conducts research with communities across the province."

SHRF, a major funder of SPHERU, presented its annual Santé! Awards Evening at Saskatoon's Hilton Garden Inn before more than 200 attendees representing all parts of the research community.

KIDSKAN

The Saskatchewan Knowledge to Action Network for early childhood development, kidSKAN, regularly posts blog updates on its website, www.kidscan.ca, with stories about research, events, and profiles of people in the early childhood development network. To keep nearly 1,000 members informed about new developments on the website, kidSKAN sends out electronic newsletters twice a month. It has also set up a YouTube channel with videos about what's happening in early childhood development.



KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION...

GIS AS A TOOL FOR POPULATION HEALTH RESEARCH – PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

SPHERU took part in the second annual GIS & Data Expo on November 16 hosted by the University of Regina library. Our faculty from the University of Regina and the University of Saskatchewan celebrated geographic information systems (GIS) – the data available to researchers who work with spatial and numeric social science quantitative data.

The SPHERU poster highlighted projects that use GIS, such as a report on Regina community-based organizations working on the determinants of community wellbeing; the Smart Cities, Healthy Kids sister study looking at Saskatoon's food environment for children; the Atlas Project, mapping community health in the province from 1880 to 1980; and the Community Health Indicators Toolkit for First Nations and northern communities.



ALBERTA CENTRE FOR ACTIVE LIVING'S RESEARCH UPDATE

Research Update, published by the Alberta Centre for Active Living (www.centre4activeliving.ca/), summarizes and promotes research of interest to academics and practitioners in health promotion and physical activity. SPHERU work is featured in the spring and fall editions of Research Update.



Using Urban Design to Improve Children's Health – The Smart Cities, Healthy Kids Study (Vol. 18 / No. 3 September 2011) focuses on the work of Dr. Nazeem Muhajarine to look at how Saskatoon's built environment affects children's activity levels.

Innovations in Knowledge Translation – The SPHERU KT Casebook (Vol. 19 / No. 1 March 2012) The casebook, edited by SPHERU's Juanita Bacsu and Fleur Macqueen Smith, examines the best in knowledge translation work, both in Canada and abroad.

SPHERU NEWS: LEARNING, ENGAGING, AND COMMUNICATING

SPHERU's newsletter is published bi-annually during the spring and fall. It provides project activity updates, SPHERU researcher profiles and announcements, as well as information on upcoming publications and events. SPHERU News is available on our website and distributed electronically to anyone interested in learning more about population health and the social determinants of health. To subscribe to SPHERU News, please send a request to spheru@usask.ca.

SHRF HEALTH RESEARCH GROUP GRANT, 2011-2014

Funding from SHRF and the universities has allowed SPHERU researchers to focus on two multi-dimensional projects to meet our goal of addressing inequities by taking action on the social determinants of health. Researchers are working closely with the towns of Wolseley, Watrous, and Ile a la Crosse, exploring the history of health care in each community and the supports needed by rural, northern, and Aboriginal seniors as they age. Understanding these issues will help inform policy that addresses historical health inequities and assist communities to put in place the necessary supports to allow residents to remain in the community throughout their senior years.



SHRF Phase III Health Research Group Grant 2011 - 2014 (\$750,000)

Bonnie Jeffery, Principal Investigator; Nazeem Muhajarine, Co-Principal Investigator

University of Saskatchewan

Canada Research Chair - \$24,625 (Abonyi)

College of Medicine USTEP - \$4,000 (Abonyi)

Office of Vice President Research - \$15,000 (Muhajarine)

College of Arts & Science - \$10,000 (Jeffery)

University of Regina

Office of Vice President Research - \$15,000 (Jeffery)

President's Fund - \$5,000 (Johnson)

President's Fund - \$4,965 (McIntosh)

Faculty of Arts, Dean's Research Award - \$3,437 (McIntosh)

HISTORY OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE IN SASKATCHEWAN: THE ORIGINS AND IMPORT OF HEALTH INEQUITIES IN SASKATCHEWAN 1905-1985

SPHERU RESEARCHERS: PAUL HACKETT (PROJECT LEAD), JAMES DASCHUK, GLORIA DESANTIS, TOM MCINTOSH

Despite Saskatchewan's longstanding commitment to providing health care for all, the province manifests among the most extreme health disparities in the nation. This project seeks to understand the root causes of these current inequities through the use of an historical approach, which will identify past patterns of health in Saskatchewan, how they have changed over time, and how key medical, policy, and other interventions impacted, and were impacted by, the inequitable distribution of health for specific sub-populations.

HEALTHY AGING IN PLACE: IMPROVING RURAL AND NORTHERN ABORIGINAL SENIORS' HEALTH THROUGH POLICY- AND COMMUNITY-LEVEL INTERVENTIONS

SPHERU RESEARCHERS: BONNIE JEFFERY (PROJECT LEAD), SYLVIA ABONYI, JUANITA BACSU, SHANTHI JOHNSON, DIANE MARTZ

Seniors are one of the fastest growing population groups in Saskatchewan. At the same time, rural and northern communities are facing escalating challenges in meeting their health care needs. Using a model of population health intervention research, SPHERU researchers will identify effective interventions at the policy, community, and kin levels that support healthy aging in place for both non-Aboriginal and Aboriginal seniors. The project follows up on a SPHERU pilot project, the Role of Social Systems in the Health of Seniors Living in Rural Saskatchewan.

CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECTS (FUNDED 2011-12)

Along with the SPHERU Team Grant projects, SPHERU faculty members also hold grant funds as principal investigators or co-investigators on a number of projects related to SPHERU's research themes. The following is a listing of some of the projects on which faculty are working collaboratively with researchers at Saskatchewan universities and other institutions throughout Canada and abroad.

ASSESS, REDRESS, RE-ASSESS: ADDRESSING DISPARITIES IN RESPIRATORY HEALTH AMONG FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE
JAMES DOSMAN, UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN – NOMINATED PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR; SYLVIA ABONYI, JO-ANN EPISKENEW, PUNAM PAHWA (CO-PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS)

Canadian Institutes for Health Research 2011-2016 (\$1,592,521)

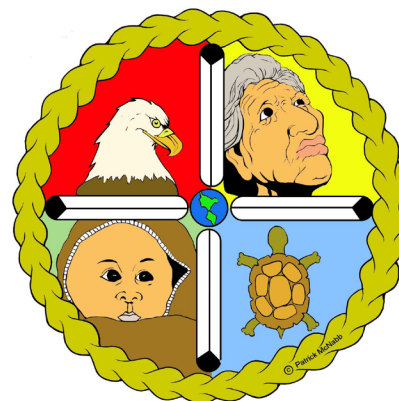
Living and social conditions in some First Nation communities have created environments that are associated with adverse respiratory outcomes. In partnership with the rural communities of Beardy's and Okemasis First Nation and Montreal Lake Cree Nation, the project will evaluate individual and contextual factors on the outcomes of asthma, chronic bronchitis, and other respiratory conditions. Characterization of conditions will provide communities with information that will assist them to undertake interventions aimed at redressing the issues.

COMPLETING THE CIRCLE: END OF LIFE CARE WITH ABORIGINAL FAMILIES

SPHERU RESEARCHER: MARY HAMPTON – PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Canadian Institutes of Health Research 2011-2012 (\$99,096)

As a component of the Completing the Circle: End of life care with Aboriginal families research program, this project will produce a CD-ROM and website to disseminate three videos that translate the knowledge shared by Elders and Aboriginal community members to health care providers who deliver end of life care to Aboriginal families. These videos build on a series of five already produced, which have offered communities and audiences that do not generally read peer-reviewed articles a means to have easy access to Elders' words.



CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECTS...

HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND NEEDS IN SPINAL CORD INJURY AFTER ACUTE CARE

GARY LINASSI, UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN – PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

SPHERU RESEARCHER: BONNIE JEFFERY (CO-INVESTIGATOR)

Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation 2012-2013 (\$156,450)

Persons with traumatic spinal cord injury (tSCI) living in the community often face health complications, which if not prevented or treated early can lead to significant illness or death. In addition, they often have other diverse unmet needs related to health and wellbeing. Our vision is to implement a provincial outreach program that will improve quality of life in persons with tSCI by ensuring a continuum of care after transition into the community. As a first step towards achieving this vision, the goal of this study is to identify the demands on health services and the needs of persons with tSCI in the community in Saskatchewan. This research aligns with the Rick Hansen Institute's identified objectives concerning improving health care outcomes and quality of life in SCI.

IMMIGRANTS' QUALITY OF LIFE: RELATIONSHIP TO ADAPTATION IN THREE CANADIAN CITIES

ALLISON WILLIAMS, MCMASTER UNIVERSITY – PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

SPHERU RESEARCHER: NAZEEM MUHAJARINE (CO-PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR)

Social Science and Humanities Research Council 2011-2013 (\$124,999)

Quality of Life (QoL) is the degree to which a person enjoys the important possibilities of his or her life. Canada's cities are the major immigrant reception centres and where the majority of new Canadians resides. This project will investigate QoL issues for immigrants in three small- and medium-sized urban areas. The project findings will contribute to the understanding of immigrant integration and adaptation and identify significant predictors of QoL among immigrants in different cities across Canada. Researchers will also determine how the results can best inform federal, provincial, and municipal policy and programs related to immigrants' adaptation and integration.

CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECTS...

IMPROVING OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN WITH FASD IN CARE: EVALUATION PHASE I

SPHERU RESEARCHER: NAZEEM MUHAJARINE (CO-PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR)

Saskatchewan FASD Support Network 2011-2012 (\$10,000)

Mitacs-Accelerate (\$7,500 pending)

This project will evaluate the effectiveness of a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) training program designed to improve outcomes for children who are living with FASD. The program, developed collaboratively by the FASD Support Network of Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Social Services, is delivered to all Saskatchewan foster families and some adoptive families, and provides foster/adoptive parents with an understanding of FASD that will enable them to create a good fit for children in their care who are living with FASD.

KT ACTIVITIES FOR SMART CITIES, HEALTHY KIDS (WORKING UPSTREAM: EFFECTING HEALTHY CHILDREN THROUGH NEIGHBOURHOOD DESIGN)

SPHERU RESEARCHER: NAZEEM MUHAJARINE – PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR; MIKE CHOUINARD, FLEUR MACQUEEN SMITH, TRACY RIDALLS (CO-INVESTIGATORS)

Canadian Institutes of Health Research 2011-2012 (\$100,000)

This KT project will disseminate results from the Smart Cities, Healthy Kids research project to health and urban planning professionals, local government, and community members through a variety of communication products and workshops. Activities will be designed to stimulate discussion and increase awareness of how the built environment can be modified to promote children's physical activity, ultimately leading to policy and practice change.



CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECTS...

PARENT TRAINING FOR CHALLENGING BEHAVIOUR IN CHILDREN WITH FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDERS (FASD): STRONGEST FAMILIES FOR FASD

PATRICK MCGRATH, DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY – PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

SPHERU RESEARCHER: NAZEEM MUHAJARINE (CO-INVESTIGATOR)

Canadian Institutes of Health Research 2011-2014 (\$399,858)

Although the neurodevelopmental disabilities associated with FASD have been well characterized, there is a significant lack of communication between families affected by FASD, service delivery providers, and policy makers that, along with access and eligibility issues, prevents the implementation of appropriate (and timely) treatment programs. This project will develop an Internet-based, FASD-specific parent training program designed to meet the current limitations in access and eligibility for families seeking services and supports, and provide evidence for feasibility and efficacy to support changes in policy by key decision makers.

PL3A3Y – POSITIVE LEADERSHIP, LEGACY, LIFESTYLE, ATTITUDES & ACTIVITIES FOR ABORIGINAL YOUTH

SPHERU RESEARCHERS: PAMMLA PETRUCKA, PAUL HACKETT – CO-PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS; JAMES DASCHUK (CO-INVESTIGATOR)

Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation 2011-2012 (\$60,982)

The PL3A3Y project will focus on the development and delivery of a series of community-directed interventions for youth in participating First Nation communities. This approach will involve the planning, development, implementation, and modification of a combination of activities and opportunities for youth in these communities as an augmentation to current programs offered through the schools and community sports/recreation programs. Culturally appropriate approaches including photography, art, music, and drama will be used to determine the optimal intervention package for these target groups in making positive healthier choices while building capacity for leadership and accountability for behaviours.

CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECTS...

WEAVING THE TAPESTRY – COMMUNITY-BASED HEALTH RESEARCH: A SUMMER INSTITUTE

SPHERU RESEARCHERS: BONNIE JEFFERY, SYLVIA ABONYI, GLORIA DESANTIS, MARY HAMPTON, SHANTHI JOHNSON, DIANE MARTZ, TOM MCINTOSH, NAZEEM MUHAJARINE, PAMMLA PETRUCKA

Canadian Institutes for Health Research (\$16,500)

Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation (\$5,000)

University of Regina Conference Fund (\$6,000)

University of Saskatchewan (\$2,500)

Indigenous People's Health Research Centre (\$5,000)

In June 2011, SPHERU, Indigenous Peoples' Health Research Centre (IPHRC), and the Prairie Community-Based HIV Research Program hosted the Summer Institute, with the intent of sharing successful strategies, approaches, and innovations in community-based health research, and to provide knowledge and capacity-building through applied training. Graduate students were offered the opportunity to receive formal accreditation for participation in the institute. A total of fifty-one participants, including twenty representatives from non-government organizations and twenty-five students (thirteen of whom received credit), attended the institute.



COMMUNITY-BASED HEALTH RESEARCH: A Summer Institute

Weaving the Tapestry

CONTINUING RESEARCH PROJECTS



CANADIAN OBSERVATORY: RESEARCHING THE JUSTICE SYSTEM'S RESPONSE TO INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

*CARMEN GILL, UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK (PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR)
SPHERU RESEARCHER: MARY HAMPTON (CO-INVESTIGATOR)*

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council 2007-2012 (\$2,200,000)

Observatories are proactive investigators, providing strong political messages that inform policy making. The Canadian observatory mobilizes knowledge by creating and sustaining a synergy among those who are studying intimate partner violence and the justice system response, and by facilitating the sharing and transferring of knowledge across the country and abroad.

EVALUATION OF THE CHRONIC DISEASE SELF MANAGEMENT PROGRAM IN NORTHERN SASKATCHEWAN

SPHERU RESEARCHER: BONNIE JEFFERY – PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Indigenous People's Health Research Centre 2010-2011 (\$20,000)



This project is developing and testing an evaluation framework that incorporates individual, cultural, and community factors relevant to assessing the effectiveness of the Chronic Disease Self Management Program in northern Saskatchewan communities. Northern community representatives were engaged in developing the framework, and the evaluation approach is being piloted in one northern community.

CONTINUING RESEARCH PROJECTS...

IMPACT OF A HOME-BASED EXERCISE PROGRAM ON FALLS AND FALL-RELATED INJURIES AMONG SENIORS LIVING IN RURAL AND URBAN AREAS IN SASKATCHEWAN

SPHERU RESEARCHER: SHANTHI JOHNSON – PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Canadian Institutes of Health Research 2010-2013

Knowledge Translation Branch (\$100,000)

Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation (\$72,995)

Canadian Institutes of Health Research

Regional Partnerships Program (\$72,995)

Unintentional falls are one of the leading causes of mortality and morbidity among frail older adults. While a majority of the community-based falls prevention programs have been shown to reduce falls and fall-related injuries, there is a need for exploring this issue among frail, largely homebound older adults. The purpose of this study is to examine the impact of a home-based exercise program on functional capacity, falls, and fall-related injuries among seniors living in rural and urban areas.



INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE NETWORKS FOR INFANT, CHILD, AND FAMILY HEALTH

JANET SMYLIE, ST. MICHAEL'S HOSPITAL (PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR)

SPHERU RESEARCHER: SYLVIA ABONYI (CO-INVESTIGATOR)

Canadian Institutes of Health Research 2008-2013

Operating Grant (\$980,000)

This knowledge translation project has the goal of improving the content and flow of Indigenous and Western public health information into community health programs for young First Nations and Métis families in Ontario and Saskatchewan. Our trans-disciplinary team of scientific and Indigenous members apply a cutting edge, mixed-method evaluation of knowledge products and processes.

CONTINUING RESEARCH PROJECTS...

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S HEALTH RESEARCH CENTRE

CIHR NETWORK ENVIRONMENTS FOR ABORIGINAL HEALTH RESEARCH

FREDERIC WIEN, DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY; JO-ANN EPISKENEW, CARRIE BOURASSA, FIRST NATIONS UNIVERSITY OF CANADA; ET AL. – PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS

SPHERU RESEARCHERS: SYLVIA ABONYI, JIM DASCHUK, MARY HAMPTON, BONNIE JEFFERY, NAZEEM MUHAJARINE, PAMMLA PETRUCKA (CO-INVESTIGATORS)

Canadian Institutes of Health Research 2010-2012 (\$9,280,961)



Launched by CIHR in 2007, Network Environments for Aboriginal Health Research (NEAHR) has resulted in the formation of nine centres, including former Aboriginal Capacity and Developmental Research Environments (ACADRE). As one of the NEAHR centres, IPHRC is part of a national network known as the Aboriginal Health Research Networks (AHRNets) that coordinates the collaborative activity of the centres. The NEAHR centres focus solely on exploring critical Aboriginal health issues and are the initial links in a developing network of centres across Canada responsible for developing the next generation of Aboriginal health researchers and for focused research efforts on determinants of health in Aboriginal communities.

NEURODEVNET

DAN GOLDOWITZ, UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA (PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR)

SPHERU RESEARCHER: NAZEEM MUHAJARINE (DIRECTOR/PLATFORM MANAGER/KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER AND EXCHANGE)

Government of Canada – Networks of Centres of Excellence 2009-2014

\$19.5 million (total project)

\$1 million (University of Saskatchewan portion)

NeuroDevNet is the first trans-Canada initiative dedicated to studying children's brain development from both basic and clinical perspectives. The network will receive \$19,572,000 in funding over five years to accelerate the pace of understanding the causes of neurological deficits, with an initial focus on autism spectrum disorder, fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, and cerebral palsy. Researchers will explore how the normal brain develops, how to detect abnormalities, and how to repair the damaged brain. NeuroDevNet will also train the next generation of researchers in pediatric brain development, and it will disseminate new knowledge into improved diagnoses, treatments, and interventions to inform care delivery and policy decisions.



CONTINUING RESEARCH PROJECTS...

RURAL AND NORTHERN COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

SPHERU RESEARCHERS: MARY HAMPTON – PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR; BONNIE JEFFERY, PAUL HACKETT, DIANE MARTZ (CO-INVESTIGATORS)

Community-University Research Alliance 2010-2015
Social Science and Humanities Research Council (\$1,000,000)

This CURA project, led by RESOLVE Saskatchewan at the University of Regina, will build upon the established connections among the three RESOLVE provincial research offices, and justice and community family violence agencies across the provinces. The project will conduct research to enhance our understanding of current community responses to intimate partner violence in rural and northern regions of the Canadian Prairie provinces in order to expand support in targeted areas experiencing abuse and violence.



RURAL POSTSECONDARY STUDENTS COLLABORATE TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF THEIR CAMPUS COMMUNITIES

WILLIAM CARE, BRANDON UNIVERSITY – LEAD PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

SPHERU RESEARCHERS: BONNIE JEFFERY, PAMMLA PETRUCKA (CO-INVESTIGATORS)

Manitoba Health Research Council 2010-2011 (\$90,729)
Canadian Institutes of Health Research 2010-2012
Operating Grant (\$85,044)

In this project, students, community partners, and researchers will create partnerships to identify and take action on factors that contribute to the health, wellbeing, and quality of life of university and college students at postsecondary institutions in Brandon, Manitoba and Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. Focus groups, workshops, campus meetings, and the use of photography, in addition to a website, student blogs, and online surveys, are research strategies that will be used to gather data to create a student community health framework and set of indicators, which will measure student health and quality of life.

CONTINUING RESEARCH PROJECTS...

TIER 2 CANADA RESEARCH CHAIR IN ABORIGINAL HEALTH

SPHERU RESEARCHER: SYLVIA ABONYI

Canada Research Chairs Secretariat/University of Saskatchewan 2010-2015 (\$500,000)

This CRC renewal continues a program of study exploring the role of culture in health and wellness of Aboriginal peoples. Done in conjunction with northern Aboriginal communities out of the population health research lab in Prince Albert, the research is focused on two questions: “What is a healthy community?” and “How would we measure that?” Current research is exploring lived experience using selected indicators from the Community Health and Wellness Toolkit, created in an earlier phase of the research. The toolkit has over 200 indicators, including strong and vital community cultures, food security, a healthy environment, and access to health and social services. Over the next five years, the toolkit will be implemented with the Athabasca Health Authority in northern Saskatchewan, building a community database of information and creating ways of evaluating programs and policies.



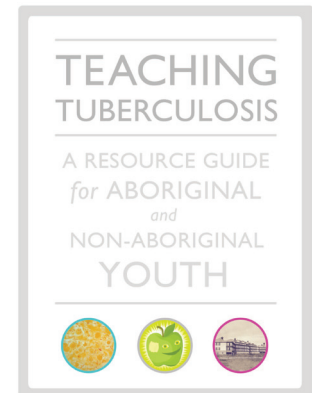
TUBERCULOSIS EDUCATION IN CANADIAN ABORIGINAL AND NON-ABORIGINAL YOUTH: AN HISTORICAL, SOCIO-CULTURAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH PROMOTIONAL CURRICULUM

RICHARD LONG, UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA – PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

RESEARCHER: SYLVIA ABONYI (CO-INVESTIGATOR)

SPHE Public Health Agency of Canada, Lung Health Program Phase II 2010-2012
\$350,000 (\$119,613 to University of Saskatchewan RU)

This project will address gaps in TB knowledge in high-incidence communities by developing a TB-specific curriculum for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit youth. The objectives are to strengthen TB-elimination strategies by imparting knowledge of transmission and risk factors to youth who are at increased risk of contracting TB, and to promote public health careers among these under-represented groups. The curriculum also aims to de-stigmatize the disease by highlighting the facts that TB is an airborne disease and that air is something that we all share.



SPHERO

WWW.SPHERU.ca

SPHERU Saskatoon
University of Saskatchewan
501-121 Research Drive
Saskatoon, SK S7N 1K2
Email: spheru@usask.ca
Phone: (306) 966-2250
Fax: (306) 966-6487

SPHERU Regina
University of Regina
CK 115, 3737 Wascana Parkway
Regina, SK S4S 0A2
Email: spheru@uregina.ca
Phone: (306) 585-5674
Fax: (306) 585-5694

SPHERU Prince Albert
University of Regina
1500-10th Avenue East
Prince Albert, SK S6V 7S3
Email: spherupa@uregina.ca
Phone: (306) 953-5535
Fax: (306) 953-5305