# **APRIL 2017 UPDATE**

**JNIVERSITY OF** 

SASKATCHEWAN



SASKATCHEWAN POPULATION HEALTH AND EVALUATION RESEARCH UNIT

# In April, our faculty members didn't let the weather slow them down.

Many SPHERU members were recognized for their contributions to health research in the province, attending and speaking at conferences.

Some of our faculty members hosted workshops on statistical programming language, while others were featured in publications and on the University of Regina website

#### **New SHRF Publication**

In April, the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation launched their new publication in Regina and Saskatoon.

The report titled, "Impacting Seniors' Health -- The Value of Aging-Related Research in Saskatchewan," highlights the contributions of many researchers in the province, whose work



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SPHERU faculty Dr. Bonnie Jeffery, Dr. Shanthi Johnson, Dr. Sylvia Abonyi and Dr. Sarah Oosman were recognized for their contributions to research for older adults' health care in the province. Dr. Jeffery and Dr. Johnson were invited to the launch of the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation's new report on April 5. Dr. Abonyi and Dr. Oosman joined other featured researchers at the SHRF report launch in Saskaton on April 10 (Pictured above).

has made a difference for older adults' health.

On April 5, SHRF invited SPHERU faculty Dr. Bonnie Jeffery and Dr. Shanthi Johnson to the launch of their publication in Regina.

Dr. Sarah Oosman and Dr. Sylvia Abonyi were invited to the Saskatoon launch on April 10.

To check out our researchers' profiles, find the new SHRF report on their website: shrf.ca/HealthResearch/Publications.

Innovation Award Dr. Shanthi Johnson received the 2016 Award of Innovation on behalf of her team this month.

Dr. Johnson, coinvestigator Sharianne Caffet, and the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region, launched the project "Saskatchewan Advantage: Improving Functional Capacity and Preventing Falls Among Rural and Urban Seniors."

The award is presented each year at the Regina Chamber of Commerce's Paragon Awards, and sponsored by Innovation Place.

The Innovation Award recognizes research that could create beneficial changes in the community.

Congratulations to Dr. Shanthi Johnson and co-investigator Sharianne Caffet!



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### Aspirations for Aging in Place

Dr. Sylvia Abonyi and Dr. Sarah Oosman spoke at a conference in Saskatoon on April 7.

Their presentation, "Aspirations for Aging in Place: Implications for the Healthcare of Rural and Remote Older Adults."

Their invited talk took place at the "Transforming the Care of Older Adults Through Interpersonal Teams" conference at the Sheraton Cavalier Hotel.

The purpose of the conference was to provide sessions on an interprofessional approach to patient/ client/family-centred care for older adults. Other sessions included pain assessment and management, interprofessional care teams and end of life care.

SPHERU's Dr. Bonnie Jeffery was also part of the planning committee that put together the event.

## Featuring SPHERU faculty

Dr. Michelle Stewart and her graduate student, Brittany Mario are raising awareness about people with mental illnesses and intellectual disabilities in the justice system.

The duo, and their team of undergraduates, were recently in a Feature Story on the University of Regina's website for their research into the number of people with serious mental illness and intellectual disabilities, including fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD), in the justice system.

They produced an 88-page report titled, "Confronting the Challenge -- Community Supports, Stability and the Role of the Mental Health Disposition Court."

The two Mental Health Disposition Courts, in Regina and Saskatoon, focus on cases for individuals with mental health issues.



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Dr. Tom McIntosh provided his thoughts at "Transform This: Patients, The Public & The Future of Saskatchewan Health Care" in Regina on April 20. Courtesy of Costa Maragos

#### Transform This

SPHERU's co-director Dr. Tom McIntosh spoke during April's Health **Science Pub Series** at the Bushwakker Brewpub in Regina. Dr. McIntosh, alongside Karen Eisler, associate Dean of Nursing at the University of Regina, presented "Transform This: Patients, The Public & The Future of Saskatchewan Health Care."

## UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

## Statistical Computing Workshop

Dr. Daniel Fuller hosted an R Workshop on April 25.

Twenty faculty and graduate students from the Human Kinestics and Recreation department at the Memorial University of Newfoundland attended the workshop to learn R. R software is a statistical programming language for data analysis. R is an open source software, used around the world.

Dr. Fuller has been using the software for the past five years.

He added that the statistical software, "provides lots of great functionality to ensure that research is reproducible."

If you have any information about upcoming events, current and/or new projects related to SPHERU please send them to kristen.mcewen@usask. ca. Photos are always welcome and appreciated!