

ANNUAL REPORT | APRIL 1, 2022 - MARCH 31, 2023

UNBC UNIVERSITY OF
NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA
Health Research Institute



University of Northern BC

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Table of contents

ABOUT



05

About the HRI, Leadership Council, Staff

UPDATE



08

Knowledge Creation, Knowledge Synthesis and
Exchange, Fostering Linkages & Partnerships,
Capacity Development, Operational Budget.

LOOKING FORWARD



26

Objectives and Activities , Strengthening the HRI
and it's Services

APPENDICES



30

Collaboration for Health Research in Northern BC
Seed Grant Program,

MESSAGE FROM HRI CO-LEADS

As co-leads of the UNBC's Health Research Institute (HRI) we are pleased to submit the 2022-23 annual report for the HRI. The past year has been marked by important transitions in leadership within the HRI, at UNBC and within the Health Research landscape in Northern BC. Each of these has underscored the relevance of UNBC's HRI in providing stability to support and advance Health Research in Northern BC through the HRI's mission to help in the creation and sharing of knowledge that increases the health and well-being of individuals, families, and communities.

In April 2022, the co-founder of the HRI, Dr. Martha McLeod, stepped down from her role as HRI lead in conjunction with her retirement as a UNBC faculty member. Dr. McLeod is a determined advocate for northern and rural health research and played an instrumental role in the creation of the HRI in 2012: providing a mechanism to unite and support health researchers in Northern BC and to advocate for Northern-based health research locally, provincially and federally. This legacy has provided an invaluable platform for the HRI to build on.

As the new co-leads of the HRI we are building on this legacy while ushering in a new phase for the HRI, with a focus on stability and longevity, where the collective model of the HRI is supported by its own financial and cost centre intended to expand and strengthen services and opportunities for the Northern BC Health Research community at UNBC, and beyond. The individual expertise of the co-leads and members of the HRI Leadership council reflects the breadth of health research the HRI strives to support. This is exemplified by the different disciplines and background we draw on as co-leads and as a team we are enjoying the opportunity to support the collective mission and vision of the HRI independently from our own programs of research.

Three key initiatives which have been a focus of the 2022-2023 reporting period include; 1. The creation of a new membership structure and supporting online database (to be launched Fall 2023) which clarifies membership benefits and responsibilities and supports researcher-lead information sharing , 2.

MESSAGE FROM HRI CO-LEADS, CONTINUED

A new partner-funded (1) librarian position which will dedicate 50% of their time to the HRI Knowledge Synthesis (KS) Centre to advance partner driven knowledge synthesis projects, and 3. A commitment to identifying and engaging partners in external funding opportunities to support HRI activities, including partnered funding programs, partnered applications for infrastructure funding, and advocacy for the research support and resources that are required to build capacity and stabilize HRI activities for the future. Building on successful precedents, our 2022-2023 report exemplifies the scope and importance of diverse partnerships as central to HRI's success and contributions to strengthening Health Research in Northern BC.

In addition to these new initiatives, the core collaborating and convening activities of the HRI have thrived during 2022-23. A new organizing committee led a successful 2022-23 HRI Health Research Seminar Series, UNBC faculty-partnered knowledge synthesis projects were supported by the HRI Knowledge Synthesis Centre and HRI-led events and partnership programs continued. Our successes have relied on communication and support from the Office of the Vice-President of Research and Innovation and for this we thank Dr. Kathy Lewis.

The HRI Manager, Leana Garraway, continues to be instrumental in maintaining the operational efforts of the HRI and in supporting and fostering new and existing partnerships. Leana's dedication to her staff was particularly evident this year as she supported the return of Bree Loeffler from maternity leave, hired and onboarded our new Knowledge Synthesis Research Associate, Noah Stone and supported our RCCbc funded Research Associate Fatemeh Mohammadnejad. The HRI Leadership Council members governed the strategic direction of the HRI in 2022-23. We thank members of the HRI Leadership Council for their dedicated service and expertise: Margot Parkes (Co-lead, Faculty of Human and Health Sciences (FHHS) Health Sciences/Division of Medical Sciences (DMS), Northern Medical Program (NMP)); Sarah Gray (Co-lead, DMS, NMP); Shannon Freeman (FHHS, Nursing); Annie Duchesne (FHHS, Psychology); Waqar Haque (Faculty of Business and Economics, Business); Heather Peters (FHHS, Social Work, Quesnel campus); Darlene Sanderson (FHHS, Health Sciences); Trina Fyfe (UNBC Interim University Librarian) and 2 graduate student members Cameron Aird and Aderonke Agboji.

MESSAGE FROM HRI CO-LEADS, CONTINUED

We are excited to be entering into our second year as HRI Co-leads, with a shared commitment to maintain momentum on implementing initiatives started in 2022-23 and to look ahead to new strategic directions. A key focus for our ongoing work is to maintain and advance partnerships. This includes a focus on increasing Indigenous voices within our HRI leadership team and activities, engaging with Indigenous researchers and organizations who are leading and advancing health research in Northern BC and fostering opportunities to support indigenous community engagement in health research when appropriate. As UNBC welcomes a new Vice-President Research and Innovation, we hope to remain a key partner in representing UNBC at Health Research tables locally, provincially and federally. We will strive to be transparent in our actions and consider how we can enhance and foster equity, diversity and inclusion in all we do.

With thanks to all who are part of and engaged with the Health Research community in northern BC, we look forward advancing the HRI in 2023-24.

Sincerely,

Margot Parkes (Professor, FHHS, Health Sciences/DMS, NMP, UNBC)

Sarah Gray (Professor, DMS, NMP, UNBC)

The UNBC Health Research Institute (HRI) is designed to enable UNBC's experienced and emerging health researchers (faculty, staff and students) from across the 5 Faculties and the Division of Medical Sciences, to join together for the purpose of furthering health research and innovation. The Institute provides a venue for collaboration, support, and the creation of partnerships among researchers from many disciplines concerned with health and its determinants. All who are engaged in health research are invited to become members of the HRI. Members of the HRI include researchers and students from across UNBC and its partners.



1 Vision

The UNBC Health Research Institute envisions a world in which healthy individuals, families and communities live without health inequities.



2 Mission

To facilitate the creation and translation of knowledge that will enhance the health and well-being of individuals, families and communities. The Health Research Institute will pursue this mission through promoting knowledge creation, knowledge synthesis and exchange, fostering links among researchers, stakeholders and partners such as Northern Health (NH), and developing research capacity.



3 Core Strategic Directions

The Health Research Institute has four core strategic directions. While they are outlined separately, they are interconnected in practice.

1. Knowledge Creation
2. Knowledge Synthesis and Exchange
3. Fostering Linkages
4. Capacity Development



4 Themes

Our members conduct research in the following areas:

- Biomedical
- Clinical
- Social & Environmental Determinants of Health
- Indigenous Health
- Health Services and Policy

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

The Leadership Council provides overall stewardship of the HRI. The Council works collaboratively to mobilize resources to support research development and the emerging long-term strategic vision of the Institute.



Margot Parkes

School of Health Sciences, FHHS,
Northern Medical Program, DMS

Co-Lead



Sarah Gray

Northern Medical Program, DMS
Research Lead, Division of Medical Sciences
Canada Research Chair in Integrative Physiology of Diabetes

Co-Lead



Annie Duchesne

Psychology, FHHS



Waqar Haque

School of Business, FBE; Department
of Computer Science, FSE



Shannon Freeman

School of Nursing, FHHS



Heather Peters

School of Social Work, FHHS



Trina Fyfe

Librarian, Northern Medical
Program & Health Sciences



Darlene Sanderson

Health Sciences, FHHS
Dr. Donald B. Rix Leadership Chair for
Indigenous Environmental Health

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL



Aderonke Agboji

Student Representative
PhD Candidate, School of Health
Sciences



Cameron Aird

Student Representative
Masters Student, School of
Health Sciences

HRI STAFF



Leana Garraway

HRI Manager & Co-Lead of the BC
SUPPORT Unit Northern Centre



Bree Loeffler

Administrative Assistant



Fatemeh Mohammadnejad

Research Associate



Noah Stone

Research Associate



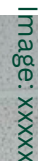
Alex Lane

Research Assistant (September 2022)



Katie Cornish

Research Associate (July 2022)



April 1, 2022 -
March 31, 2023



KNOWLEDGE CREATION & CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

summary of progress

The Institute supports faculty and trainees to develop their capacity to create new knowledge. Research is not undertaken under the auspices of the HRI itself, but facilitates and supports research activities. Over the past year, the HRI has supported its members to develop new knowledge in the following ways:

SEED FUNDING PROGRAMS:

Collaboration for Health Research in Northern BC, PHSA-NH-UNBC Partnership

The HRI continues to serve as the Secretariat for the UNBC, Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA) and NH partnership and supports the teams funded by the Collaboration for Health Research in Northern BC Seed Grant Program. In 2022, the HRI facilitated the ninth competition for this seed grant, and two projects received funding for 2023-2024. In total, since 2015 twenty six projects have been awarded a seed grant from this program. For a detailed list of the funded teams, please visit the HRI Website, to see active recipients, see Appendix A.

ADJUDICATION COMMITTEES:

The HRI manager and staff were members of several adjudication committees supporting the funding of new research projects, including:

- UNBC Research Data Centre
- PHSA-NH-UNBC Collaboration for Research in Northern BC
- Rural Coordination Centre of BC



Project Support



IN Photo: UNBC Assistant Professor Sarah Dewell (School of Nursing) and visiting scholar Gigi Lim (Faculty of Medicine & Health Sciences, University of Auckland). Dr. Lim presented at the HRI Seminar Series in October

The HRI staff provide services to faculty, students, and partners, such as:

- Networking and partnership development
- Provide letters of support and/or collaboration for new proposed research & training
- Knowledge translation and exchange opportunities
- Access to training & supports:
 - E.g., patient-oriented research training & recruitment, tools to support clinical trial recruitment & public/patient awareness campaigns, CITI program classes, REDcap access for health projects.

Once projects are successfully funded, the HRI staff are available to support project start up, implementation, monitoring, and project management. This service is cost recovered from the Academic Lead.

Supports Provided:

- Project Management
- Research Navigation and Planning
- Research Assistant Supervision and Training
- Methodological Consultations for Evidence Syntheses
- Training and DistillerSR software support
- Knowledge Translation and Mobilization Outputs
- Event coordination and hosting



Health Research Institute Student Holiday Gathering, Dec 2, 2022



KNOWLEDGE SYNTHESIS & EXCHANGE *activities*

Health Research Institute Seminar Series

The UNBC Health Research Seminar Series runs monthly between September and April and provides a venue for local and visiting researchers from a variety of disciplines and UNBC honors and graduate students to present their research. The Seminar Series is sponsored by UNBC Schools of Social Work, Nursing and Health Sciences and the Northern Medical Program. As well, the Sun Life Financial Rural Endowment Fund provides financial support to run the logistics for the event. Attendance is in person and online. Recordings of past sessions can be viewed on the [HRI Website](#).

In 2022-2023 the HRI had the pleasure of presenting two of the seminar series in collaboration with other UNBC departments, the UNBC School of Nursing (October 2022) and First Nations Studies (January 2023).

The HRI would like to thank the 2022-2023 Seminar Series Committee for all of their hard work to plan, organize and host the seminar series: Drs. Annie Duchesne and Kendra Furber, Cameron Aird, Bree Loeffler and Leana Garraway.

SEPT 15 2022	Dr. Jessie King Indigenous peoples do not owe us anything: Indigeneity, Positionality and Ethical Spaces in Academia
OCT 27 2022	<i>In partnership with the School of Nursing</i> Dr. Gigi Lim (New Zealand) Antimicrobial Stewardship and Antimicrobial Resistance: leadership roles for RNs
NOV 17 2022	Dr. Anurag Singh Building Northern Centre for Clinical Research: One Brick at a Time!
DEC 1 2022	Panel Discussion The Dementia-inclusive Streets and Community Access, Participation, and Engagement (DemSCAPE) Project
JAN 17 2023	<i>In partnership with the Department of First Nations Studies</i> Janene Erickson, Rhianna Millan A BC First Nations Case Study Reflection, Remembering Keegan, and the important call to action towards eliminating anti-Indigenous racism in the health system.
FEB 16 2023	Dr. Theresa Healey & John Grogan Through a Northern Lens: Community-University Partnerships for Health Economics Research
MAR 16 2023	Dr. Sheona Mitchell-Foster In My Hands: Learnings from HPV-Based Cervical Cancer Self-Screening Approachers in Northern Indigenous Communities
APR 13 2023	Honour Student Presentations Ahmad Jalil, Amy Crandall & Jake Ostberg

The HRI welcomes the opportunity to work with its members and partners to host guest presentations and support events that align with its mission. We encourage HRI members to work with the Institute as a venue for logistical and promotional support for their knowledge translation and exchange activities.

This year the HRI organized two co-hosted events that took place as part of UNBC Research Week.

Co-hosted or supported events.

April 7 2022	World Health Day 2022. 'Our Planet Our Health' Connections across campus & beyond...creating capacity for challenging conversations. Co-hosted with Drs. Margot Parkes & Davina Banner-Lukaris (UNBC)
March 2 2023	Knowledge Translation Workshop Co-hosted with Drs. Davina Banner Lukaris (UNBC) and Marcelo Bravo (NH)
March 3 2023	British Columbia Network Environment for Indigenous Health Research (BC NEIHR) Lunch and Learn Hosted by Laura McNabb Coombs (BC NEIHR)

The HRI also strives to increase awareness of its services to students by organizing various events and activities. In 2022-2023, these included:

- Hosting an exhibitor table at the UNBC Services Fair during Orientation Week
- Attending School of Health Sciences 2022 Graduate Orientation Luncheon
- Hosting an HRI Student Holiday Gathering
- Hosted an exhibitor table at UNBC Research Week: Learning Through Research

A list of products that the HRI Manager and staff produced or contributed to across various research teams



① Scientific Publications

- Pelletier, C., Cornish, K., Amyot, T., Pousette, A., Fox, G., Snadden, D., & Manyanga, T. (2022). Physical activity promotion in rural health care settings: A rapid realist review. *Preventive Medicine Reports*, 29, 101905. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pmedr.2022.101905>
- Sanders, C., Frank, T. J., Amyot, T., Cornish, K., Koopmans, E., Usipuik, M., Irving, L., & Pelletier, C. A. (2022). Day-to-day life during the COVID-19 pandemic: A longitudinal qualitative study with Canadian parents of young children. *Contemporary Issues in Early Childhood*, 146394912211154. <https://doi.org/10.1177/14639491221115475>
- MacLeod, M. L., Leese, J., Garraway, L., Oelke, N. D., Munro, S., Bailey, S., ... & Li, L. C. (2022). Engaging with patients in research on knowledge translation/implementation science methods: a self study. *Research Involvement and Engagement*, 8(1), 1-15.



② Plain Language Publications & Media

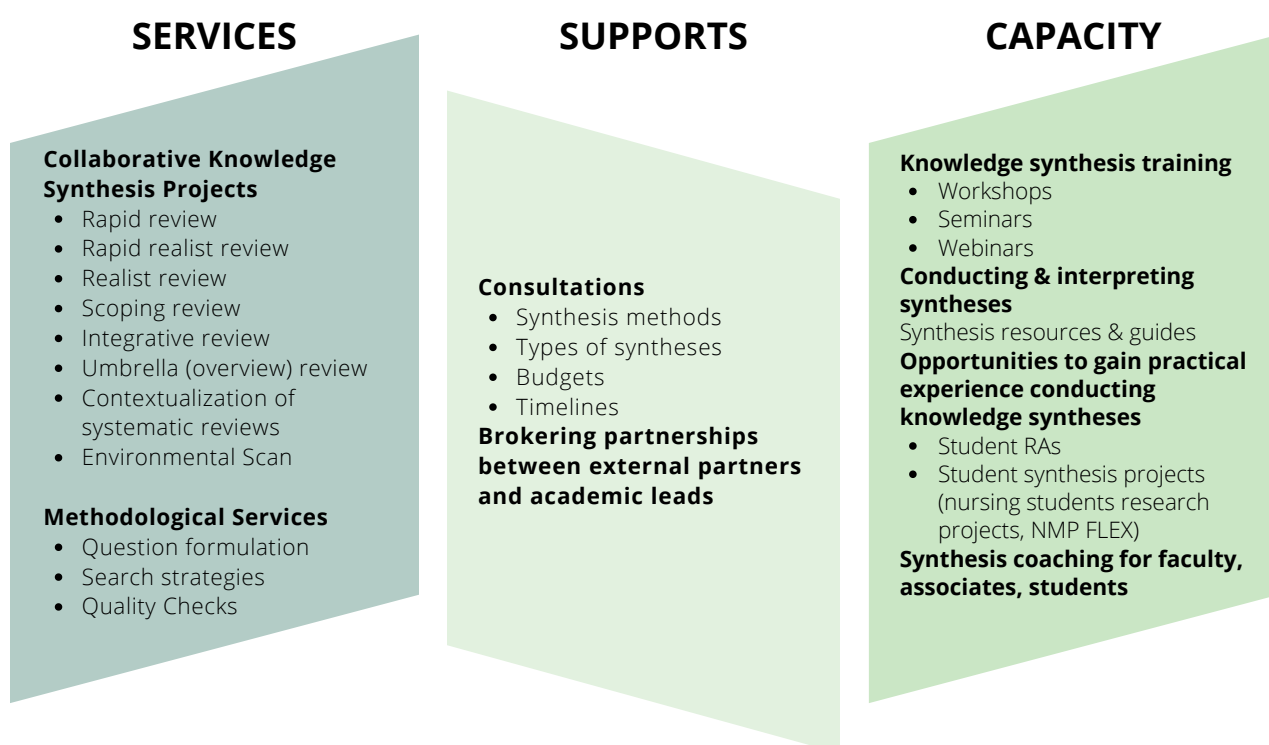
- Leana Garraway. Better Together for Health Research in Northern BC Event. NH Research and Knowledge Translation Newsletter (5th Ed.)
- Sarah Dewell, Tina Strudsholm, Alex Lane, Caroline Sanders, R. Dreger, M. Sprague. Precision Health/Precision Public Health: A Patient-Oriented Approach to Developing a Workshop to Explore the Knowledge Gap for Patients and Providers. NH Research and Knowledge Translation Newsletter (5th Ed.)
- Martha MacLeod. A Partnership in Rural and Northern Research: Northern Health, Provincial Health Services Authority, University of Northern British Columbia. Report on the Seed Grant Program
 - Seed Grant Evaluation Infographic
- HRI e-Newsletter
- CBC Daybreak North (Interview about BC SUPPORT Unit Northern Centre, Oct 12, 2022)
- Michael Smith Health Research BC e-newsletter (article Octpber 2022)

Knowledge Synthesis (KT) Centre

The UNBC HRI Knowledge Synthesis Centre was established in 2019 with the purpose of expanding the capacity of UNBC and partner organizations to ask answer health focused questions using synthesis methods, enhancing rural and northern applicability of the evidence, and setting up knowledge to be translated into action in policy and practice.

KT Centre Core Functions

- Respond to knowledge user needs for synthesis contextualized for rural, remote, and northern health issues, services, and programs
- Support health researchers conducting knowledge synthesis
- Build capacity among students, researchers, and knowledge users



Knowledge Synthesis Centre Goals

- Provide timely, contextualized, evidence-based syntheses to inform the optimal management of patient care, resources and services, and development of policy and programs
- Support researchers in conducting high quality, rigorous, health related knowledge syntheses with rural and northern applicability
- Involve patients, partners, and decision makers in meaningful ways in synthesis and contextualization process
- Offer training and mentorship opportunities to students, researchers, and knowledge users
- Make syntheses more visible and obtainable
- Inform the design and conduct of new health research attentive to the needs and realities of northern British Columbians

Knowledge Synthesis Projects, 2022-2023

Primary Investigator	Project Title
Martha MacLeod	Contributing to Perinatal Health: A Case Study of Nursing in Fort St. John Prenatal Clinic and Birthing Centre
Paul Winwood	A Scoping Review to Explore the Characteristics of Rural and Remote Physicians
Shannon Freeman	Technology for Reducing Isolation in Long Term Care Facilities during COVID-19
Anurag Singh	Impact of Health Equity as a Result of Virtual Care Delivery in Rural, Remote, and Indigenous Communities: A Scoping Review
Shannon Wagner	1. Prevalence and Work implications of Trauma-related Mental Health Conditions in High-risk Personnel 2. Interventions and Prevention of Trauma-related Mental Health Conditions in High-risk Personnel
Chelsea Pelletier	Physical Activity Alliance of Northern British Columbia (PAANBC) Environmental Scan
Margot Parkes	Nechako Watershed Saturation Search



FOSTERING LINKAGES: PARTNERSHIPS

Linkages are fostered through the creation of partnerships, the provision of support functions with UNBC health related partners, liaising with other research institutes at UNBC and elsewhere. The goals and objectives for each partnered initiative can be viewed on the HRI Website.

Partners:

The HRI works in close partnership to provide administrative functions with the following partners:

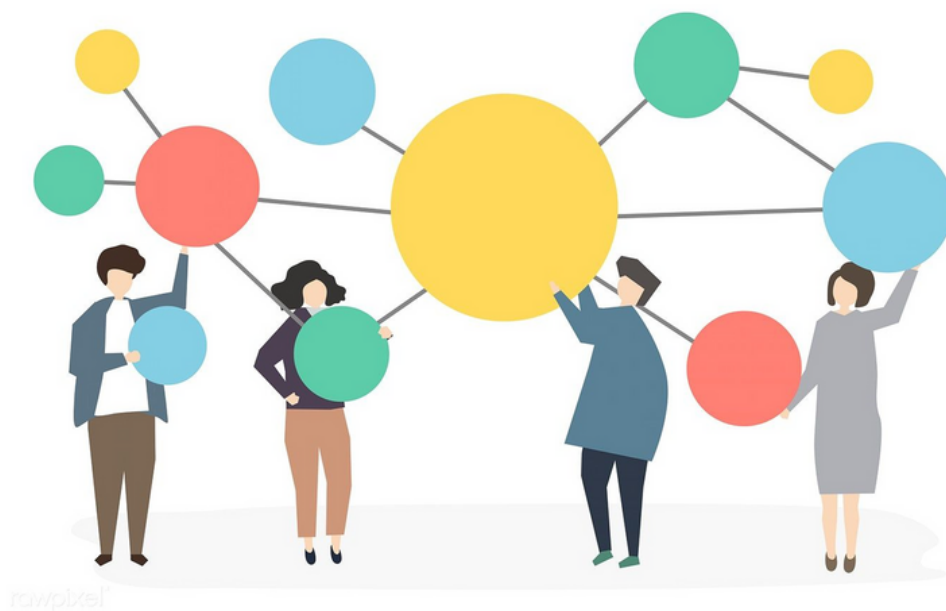
- Northern Health (NH)
- Rural Coordination Centre of BC (RCCbc)
- BC SUPPORT Unit
- Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA)



ABOUT NORTHERN HEALTH (NH)

On June 22, 2010 Northern Health and UNBC signed a Memorandum of Understanding to formally recognize their long-standing and historical partnership. The purpose of this relationship is to stimulate innovation and transformation in both organizations in order to foster innovation in health services and policy, health provider and professional education, and health research; improve the health outcomes of the people living in Northern British Columbia; improve the quality of health care delivery and health provider and professional development;

create an environment that is successful in recruiting and retaining skilled personnel; and, create opportunities for collaborative research and attract related funding. The Health Research Institute partners with Northern Health and the Innovation and Development Commons to enact activities that relate to fulfilling the goals set out by the MOU.





Leana Garraway, Co-Lead
& HRI Manager, UNBC



Bree Loeffler, Administrative
Assistant, Northern Centre & HRI
UNBC



Marcelo Bravo, Co-Lead
& Lead Patient Orientated
Research & KT Capacity Building,
Northern Health

The BC SUPPORT Unit (Support for People and Patient-Oriented Research and Trials) is a multi-partner organization created to support, streamline and increase patient-oriented research throughout BC. The Unit is one of 10 SUPPORT Units established across the country as part of Canada's Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR) led by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. It is also part of the Michael Smith Health Research BC, with the network's board providing governance and oversight. A provincial coordinating office (PCO) located in Vancouver coordinates activities across BC. The office works in partnership with regional centres within Vancouver, Fraser, Interior, Northern and Vancouver Island Health authorities.

ABOUT THE NORTHERN CENTRE

The Northern Centre is one of four regional centres of the BC SUPPORT Unit. It's the go-to resource for patient-oriented research within the geographic area served by Northern Health. The Centre serves the communities of Northern British Columbia from Quesnel north to the Yukon border, and Haida Gwaii east to the Alberta border.

The Northern Centre operates as a partnership between Northern Health and the University of Northern British Columbia through the Innovation and Development Commons.

Thanks to the successes of phase one of SPOR, CIHR is supporting further development of the BC SUPPORT Unit in a phase two which will run for 5 years. Phase two began April 1, 2022, and the objective is to bridge the gap between research evidence and health care practice.



Presenters & Host: Life Sciences BC Prince George Showcase Oct 12, 2022
IN Photo (L-R): Anurag Singh, Danielle Lavelle, Wendy Hurlburt, Catherine St. George, Richard McAloney, Leana Garraway, Geoff Payne
Photo credit: Health Research BC



BC SUPPORT Unit Phase II Retreat Planning Attendees from the north June 2022
IN Photo (L-R): Laura McNab-Coombs (BC NEIHR), Dr. Shannon Freeman (Northern Centre Academic Lead), Dr. Martha MacLeod (SPOR Advisory Committee), Leana Garraway & Marcelo Bravo (Northern Centre Co-Leads), Sherri Mytopher (Patient Partner & SPOR Advisory Committee)

The BC SUPPORT Unit began Phase II (2022-2027) with a focus on:

Our Work

We bridge the gap between research evidence and health care practice by:

- Providing patient-oriented research support
- Strengthening and maintaining BC's capacity in patient-oriented research
- Engaging stakeholders as active partners in both research and its use in health care practice and policy

Our Services

- Data platforms & services
 - Learning health systems
 - Capacity development
 - Patient engagement
- Our work is grounded in equity, diversity and inclusion, sex-and gender-based analysis, and indigenous health research

ABOUT THE RURAL COORDINATION CENTRE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA (RCCBC)

The Rural Coordination Centre of British Columbia network includes healthcare providers and administrators, community members, policymakers, educators, researchers, and non-profit and business leaders—all working together to enhance rural health equity in British Columbia.

Two of the HRI staff are dual HRI & RCCbc employees and are involved with many different projects within RCCbc. All of which can be found below:



Bree Loeffler

Projects & Activities:

- Rural site visit:
 - Blueberry River First Nations & Doig River First Nations

Bree:

- Dean's Advisory Council
- The Thriving Project (Physician Wellbeing)
- Communications Support
- Rural Site Visits Planning



Fatemeh Mohammadnejad

Fatemeh:

- Rural Physician Research Grants Program
- Community Engagement Action Plan (CEAP)
 - Community Connector
- Haida Gwaii POCUS
- RCCbc Evaluation Project
- Transport Study
- Exhibitor:
 - Annual Northern Doctors Day 2022
 - Jasper Spring Retreat & Medical Conference

ABOUT THE PROVINCIAL HEALTH SERVICES AUTHORITY (PHSA)

The Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA), Northern Health (NH) and University of Northern BC (UNBC) entered into a Memorandum of Understanding on November 12, 2013 to collaborate in establishing a mutually beneficial research partnership for northern BC. The UNBC Health Research Institute (HRI) serves as the Secretariat to support PHSA, NH and UNBC in their commitment to enhance research collaboration between the three organizations.

This partnership is guided by the following principles:

- Attends to the needs and realities of northern British Columbia in the overall context of British Columbia, including issues of equity, diversity, and inclusivity.
- Builds sustainable research capacity in the North, for the North.
- Builds capacity for partnered research and leaves a legacy of capacity across all three organizations.
- A research-based collaborative relationship for the purpose of improving the quality of health services and improving population health.
- Attends to the issues of sustainability of each party's contribution to the research partnership.
- Recognizes and respects the intellectual property rights of individual researchers and each Partner.
- Mutual respect and acknowledgement of the skills and expertise each Partner brings to the partnership.
- Open and transparent communication between the Partners.

COLLABORATION FOR HEALTH RESEARCH IN NORTHERN BC SEED GRANT PROGRAM

A major component of the MOU was the creation of a seed grant program to fund new research projects that focused on improving health services and the overall health of populations in northern BC. Guiding principles focused on building current and future research capacity through authentic

partnerships, mutual learning, and increasing and sustaining place-based research and knowledge translation. Between 2015-2022, 24 projects were awarded seed grants. The maximum amount for each award is \$10,000 for a 12-month period.

COLLABORATION FOR HEALTH RESEARCH IN NORTHERN BC SEED GRANT PROGRAM

Evaluation

In 2022 the HRI completed an evaluation of the seed grant program from 2015-2021. The findings of the seed grant evaluation found that the program has had a positive impact on health research in Northern BC.

Grant recipients focused their research on topics relevant to the needs and realities of health in Northern BC; covering all four research pillars: biomedical, clinical, health services & policy, and population health.

Successes Included:

Built research & researcher capacity in Northern BC

Helped jump-start the career of many junior researchers.

Students (undergraduate & graduate) have worked on projects as research assistants & trainees.

Established new research partnerships

Enabled the development of enduring partnerships between research project team members from PHSA, NH and UNBC.

Reduced barriers to long distance collaboration.

Built research relationships that last

Many of the team members continued to work together and collaborate, and some received additional provincial/national funding.

Advanced knowledge

Research findings have been taken up in NH, PHSA, & elsewhere.

New knowledge products were developed and shared, including academic publications, presentations, community reports, infographics, websites, etc.



24

**Research projects awarded
seed grants**

8

**Seed Grant competitions
2015-2021**



\$240,000

**Awarded in \$10,000
grants**



130+

**Researchers, knowledge
users, and trainees
worked on projects**

WORKING GROUPS AND COMMITTEES

The HRI manager and staff are members of several local/regional, provincial, and national working groups and committees. The administrative function provided by the HRI for Partnered Initiatives provides opportunities to enhance research activities at UNBC with the aim to enhancing UNBC's research and partnerships.

Local/Regional

- UNBC Regional Data Centre Advisory Committee
- Northern BC Research and Quality Conference Planning and Administration Committees
- UNBC Health Research Seminar Series Planning Committee
- NH-UNBC Memorandum of Understanding Research & Knowledge Translation Working Group

Provincial

- REACH BC Advisory Committee
- Rural Health Services Research Network of BC Research Support Group
- BC Knowledge Translation Collaborative
- BC SUPPORT Unit Regional Centres + Hub Leads
- BC SUPPORT Unit Working Groups
- Health Research BC's Putting Patients First Annual Conference Planning Committee
- Rural Coordination Centre of BC Rural Site Visit Planning
- Rural Coordination Centre of Community Engagement Action Plan (CEAP)
- Rural Health Conference Poster Review Committee

National

- N2 Clinical Trials and Education and Awareness Working Group



Operational Budget

For FY 2022 - 2023 and Projected Expenses for FY 2023-2024

	<u>Actual 2022-2023</u>	<u>Projected 2023-2024</u>
Opening Balance	365,305	166,493
REVENUES		
Funding transfers	80,000	511,000
Recovery for Distiller use	5,220	6,000
Wage cost recovery	0	30,000
Returned research funds	11,411	0
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	461,936	713,493
EXPENSES		
Salaries + Benefits	163,793	262,500
Operating expenses	11,338	16,250
Research awards	150	20,000
Travel, conferences, events	3440	16,000
Services & fees	2709	2,000
Partnership transfer to NH	100,211	197,500
TOTAL EXPENSES	281,641	514,250
Closing Balance	180,295	199,243

NOTES



The opening balances of the 4 accounts managed by the HRI consist of:

- HRI Base Operating: \$86,547
- AHSN-SPOR Northern Centre: \$215,304
- Provincial Health Services Authority Seed Grant Fund: \$39,091
- Rural Coordination Centre of BC: \$25,468

Committed Funds: BC SUPPORT Unit Northern Centre Partnership Transfer to Northern Health

- 2022-2023 \$100,211
- 2023-2024 \$197,500



what technologies or
tools could enhance
KT practice?

Well-
designed
website

Common
Re

So
Me

**LOOKING
FORWARD**

2023 - 2028

The HRI will continue to pursue its four strategic directions/goals: knowledge creation, knowledge exchange and translation, fostering linkages, and capacity development. It will implement objectives and activities in a collaborative and networked way, which allows the Institute to be strategic yet flexible and opportunistic in its actions.



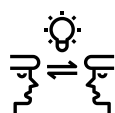
1 Knowledge Creation

Objectives

1. To increase the breadth of engagement with our partners for knowledge creation
2. To continue and increase support for grant development and grant management
3. To foster the building of research teams

Activities

1. Create forums for exchange of ideas and interconnections amongst researchers and knowledge users to identify knowledge needed to inform decision making and change
2. Support the services provided by the Office of Research, and support UNBC researchers and their partners
3. Continue to administer seed grants that promote research partnerships. Look for opportunities to support research development across all research themes



2 Knowledge Exchange & Mobilization

Objectives

1. To create a sustained Knowledge Synthesis Centre
2. To support KT and scientific communication through graphics and outputs
3. To promote the creation of scholarly materials and materials for knowledge users
4. To offer training in knowledge translation

Activities

- 1.. Be responsive to our Partner's evidence needs
 - a. Develop champions in KS methods
 - b. Create streamlined processes to accept funding for KS projects
 - c. Increase KS training opportunities
2. Develop and profile resources and tools to assist researchers in sharing their evidence to a variety of audiences
 - a. Develop and profile resources to support the development of KT products in a variety of media platforms (web, print, video)



3 Fostering Linkages

Objectives

1. To continue to advocate for the strengths of UNBC's research environment with funding agencies
2. To maintain and extend a strong multidisciplinary research culture
3. To enhance researcher and trainee reputation and linkages

Activities

1. Continue to serve as the administrator for UNBC health related partnerships
2. Liaise with other research institutes and centres at UNBC
3. Continue to promote HRI within the schools and programs across UNBC
4. Develop & implement HRI Membership Tiers to better engage and suit the needs of members
5. Foster working relationships with health research institutes provincially, nationally, and internationally
6. Facilitate opportunities to collaboration at UNBC with external researchers, groups & organizations



4 Capacity Development

Objectives

1. To become a training hub for health research trainees and junior faculty
2. To continue to advocate for improved data access and training for research needs
3. To enhance UNBC's training environment
4. To support the growth of the UNBC health research training environment
5. To develop student engagement

Activities

1. Mentor students (graduate students; create events to engage undergraduates)
2. Promote information sharing about current research training opportunities to undergraduate and graduate students
3. Bring graduate students together in education and social events
4. Offer specific training in:
 - a. Knowledge synthesis methods
 - b. Knowledge translation and exchange
5. Provide opportunities for researcher development in collaboration with the UNBC Office of Research
6. Continue role on RDC at UNBC Advisory Committee
 - a. Promote opportunities for training and use data for research
7. Contribute to the orientation and scholarly development of new faculty
8. Facilitate access to clinical research education and training through N2 & CITI
9. Leverage & share development opportunities & resources through Health Research BC
 - a. Including access to REDcap, Health Data Platform, and training in POR
10. Actively look for and act on opportunities to foster research leadership development



LOOKING FORWARD 2023-2027 STRENGTHENING THE HRI AND ITS SERVICES



OBJECTIVES

1. To promote the benefits of being involved with the HRI to researchers and trainees
2. To continue to offer administrative function for UNBC-NC partnered endeavours
3. To confirm on-going space for the HRI that serves its mandate for networking and support of faculty through shared services
4. Develop sustainable on-going funding support for core business functions of the institute
5. To formalize the structures and processes that the HRI offers to support research development
6. To incorporate regular evaluation of HRI initiatives and actions
7. To sustain and renew the HRI leadership
8. To expand researcher roles within the institute

ACTIVITIES

1. Develop structures and processes to support shared services for HRI researchers. Develop HRI membership tiers with clear benefits connect to each tier
2. Maintain the role of the BC SUPPORT Unit Northern Regional Centre
3. Continue to articulate the needs for ongoing space to meet the needs of the HRI
4. Confirm core business functions of the HRI and how these enhance the goals and objectives of the Office of Research and Graduate Programs
5. Review and formalize structures and processes for services to be offered by the HRI (grant start up support, supervision of research project staff, assistance of research staff recruitment, provision of research assistant opportunities for students, mentorship of the project staff)
6. Implement an evaluation and monitoring system to better capture the outcomes achieved by researchers and trainees through partnered initiatives and funding
7. Develop champions for the institute across all programs and faculties at UNBC
8. Explore with the VP Research opportunities to include visiting scholars and research scientists within the HRI.

APPENDIX A

Collaboration for Health Research in Northern BC Seed Grant Program

PHSA, NH, UNBC

Active Teams:

Building dialogue for clinical research collaborations and leadership in Northern BC

UNBC Lead: Dr. Davina Banner-Lukaris, Associate Professor, Nursing

PHSA Lead: Rob Olson, Radiation Oncologist, BC Centre for the North

NH Lead: Julia Bickford, Regional Director, Research, Evaluation and Analytics

Term: May 1, 2021 - April 30, 2023

Assessing Community Vulnerability to Health Impacts of Climate Change in Northern British Columbia: An Exploratory Study

UNBC Lead: Dr. Margot Parkes, Associate Professor, School of Health Sciences

PHSA Lead: Eleni Galanis, Medical Health Officer, Population Health

NH Lead: Rob Olson, Physician Epidemiologist

Term: May 1, 2021-October 31, 2022

Day-to-day living during COVID-19 – a community participation study exploring the pandemic's impact on the early years, ages 0-8 yrs, across Northern communities analysis

UNBC Lead: Dr. Caroline Sanders, Associate Professor, School of Nursing

PHSA Lead: Erica Koopmans, Regional Coordinator, Child Health BC

NH Lead: Lauren Irving, Nurse Practitioner

Term: May 1, 2021-October 31, 2022

Care following non-fatal opioid overdose at the University Hospital of Northern British Columbia Emergency Department: A retrospective chart review

UNBC Lead: Dr. Erin Wilson, Assistant Professor, School of Nursing

PHSA Lead: Amanda Slaunwhite, Senior Scientist, BC Centre for Disease Control

NH Lead: Kerensa Medhurst, Project Manager, Overdose Response

Term: May 1, 2021-September 30, 2023

APPENDIX A

Collaboration for Health Research in Northern BC Seed Grant Program

PHSA, NH, UNBC

Seed Grant Award Winners, funded 2023-2024:

Developing a Moral Empowerment Program to address moral determinants of providers' wellbeing and contribute to healthcare effectiveness and sustainability

UNBC Lead: Dr. Davina Banner-Lukaris, Associate Professor, Nursing

PHSA Lead: Alice Virani, Executive Director, PHSA Ethics Service

NH Lead: Esther Alon-Prieto, Northern Health Ethics Service Lead

Term: April 1, 2023-March 31, 2024

Examining how a partnership between health and post-secondary education providers can facilitate the return of domestic internationally educated nurses (d-IENs) return to the nursing workforce

UNBC Lead: Dr. Caroline Sanders, Associate Professor, School of Nursing

PHSA Lead: Brittany Watson, Executive Director, Professional Practice and Policy Office

NH Lead: Joanne Cozac, Coordinator Internationally Educated Health Professionals

Term: April 1, 2023-March 31, 2024