

ANNUAL REPORT

# Health Research Institute



2018 - 2019

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- GOVERNANCE
  - PARTNERS AND INITIATIVES
  - INSTITUTE ACTIVITIES
  - LOOKING FORWARD

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# About the Institute

The UNBC Health Research Institute (HRI) is designed to enable UNBC's health researchers to liaise 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.

## VISION

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

## MISSION

To facilitate the creation and translation of knowledge that will enhance the health and well-being of individuals, families and communities.

The UNBC Health Institute will pursue this mission through promoting knowledge creation, knowledge synthesis and exchange, fostering links among researchers, stakeholders and partners such as Northern Health, and developing research capacity.

# About the Institute

## 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

## THEMES

Our members conduct research in the following areas:

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

## MEMBERSHIP

Through the Health Research Institute, health researchers can 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. As a member of the HRI we will look to you for feedback on our strategic priorities, action plans, as well as engagement in Institute activities.



# Leadership Council

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



**Martha MacLeod**

BA, MA, PHD  
Co-Lead



**Henry Harder**

EDD, MA, RPSYCH  
Co-Lead



**Margot Parkes**

MB, CHB, MAS, PHD



**Sarah Gray**

BSC, PHD



**Robert Olson**

BSC, MD, FRCPC, MSC



**Dawn Hemingway**

RSW, BA, MSC, MSW

**Daman Kandola**

BHSC, MSC

Student Representative

**Shayna Dolan**

MSC, BTR

Student Representative



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# INSTITUTE UPDATE

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2018-2019



# Partners and Initiatives

Maintaining strategic partnerships that support and enhance the Institute's core strategic directions.

- Northern Health
- BC Academic Health Sciences Network
- Provincial Health Services Authority
- Rural Coordination Centre of BC
- UNBC Research Institutes
  - Cumulative Impacts Research Consortium (a tri-institute initiative between HRI, NRESi and CDI)
- Sun Life Financial



# Knowledge Creation

## SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

The HRI serves as the Secretariat for PHSA-NH-UNBC **Seed Grant Program** that aims to foster the development of new partnered research teams to create knowledge that focuses on northern issues and improving the quality of health services and population health in Northern BC. Each team is awarded up to \$10,000 for one year. Since 2015, **twenty teams** have received funding that focuses on the following areas:

- **Health Services and Policy Research**
  - Oncology and Primary Care
  - Telehealth
  - Chronic disease management and prevention
  - Mental health and addictions
  - Preventative population and public health
  - Improving quality of life for long term care residents
  - Stroke management and prevention
- **Social and Environmental Determinants of Health**
  - Indicators of population health outcomes
  - Health literacy
  - Health impacts related to resource development
- **Indigenous Health**
  - Culturally sensitive chronic disease management and screening
- **Clinical/Biomedical**
  - Vaccine coverage and uptake
  - Cervical cancer
  - Breast cancer

# Knowledge Synthesis and Exchange

## SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

The HRI provides many opportunities for researchers, students and partners to share their research findings.

### Health Research Seminar Series

Date	Presenter	Title
September	Dr. Edōsdi (Judy Thompson)	Indigenous Language revitalization and Reclamation: Intergenerational Trauma, Healing, and resiliency
October	Dr. Kafui Monu	Gamification and Exergames: Designing for Health
November	Dr. Davina Banner & Dr. Darby Cassidy	Chronic testicular pain: The experiences of patients undergoing microsurgical spermatic cord denervation
December	Susan Burke & Trina Fyfe	School of Health Sciences PhD Alumni Presentations
January	Dr. Luke Harris	I Think We Need Some Meat on Those Bones: recent outcomes of brain, muscle, and bone research
February	Dr. Sarah Gray	Biological Determinants of Obesity and Diabetes: a biomedical perspective to disease prevention and management
March	Dr. Sean Maurice	Developing the Healthcare Travelling Roadshow
April	Honor Students	Honors Student Presentations

### Knowledge Exchange | Co-hosted Events

- Northern Research and Quality Conference
- BC SUPPORT Unit Annual Meeting
- IDC Brown Bag monthly presentations
- Northern BC Physical Activity Summit
- BC SUPPORT Unit Health Economic and Simulation Monitoring Methods Cluster
- Conference Livestream site for Wildfire Smoke: A Growing Threat to Air Quality and Public Health conference

### Knowledge Synthesis in partnership with Northern Health

- Environmental health
- Children's health
- Integrated primary care



# Fostering Linkages

## SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

### TARGETED FUNDING

The **BC SUPPORT Unit, Northern Centre** offered intakes of the **Developing Northern Collaborations Award**. The award provides \$10,000 for one year for new teams to develop and undertake patient oriented research. **Ten teams** have received the award to date.

Researcher	Health Systems Partner	Patient Community Partner	Title
Sheona Mitchell-Foster	Denise Jaworsky	Trina Fyfe	Access to Care for Women with Complex Pregnancies in Northern BC
Margot Parkes	Sandra Allison	District of Vanderhoof (Gerry Thiessen)	Industry and Health in Northern BC Communities
Chelsea Pelletier	Kelsey Yarmish	Anne Pousette	Building a Patient-Oriented Physical Activity Research Framework for Northern BC
Shannon Freeman	Kelly Gunn	Carolyn Hilbert	Improving Health Outcomes for Persons in Long-Term Care Facilities in Northern BC
Sarah De Leeuw	Terri Aldred	Nadleh Whut'En community	Envisioning Health with Nadleh Whut'En
Trina Fyfe	Christorina Taruc	Jennifer Hawkes	Preventing RhD Alloimmunization in Northern BC
Denise Jaworsky	Dave Sohi	Howard Chafin & Judy Chafin	Optimizing the Patient Experience in Medical Travel
Roseann Larstone	Robert Olson	Carrie McLeod & Linda Hoepfner	Improving Mental Health Service Users' Experiences of Cancer Care via Patient Engagement
Chelsea Pelletier	Denise Jaworsky	Liane Busse	Cardiac Rehabilitation in Northwestern BC
Davina Banner-Lukaris	Haider Hadi	Barbara Croome	How Can Stories of Stroke Lead to Actionable Health Research and Improve Health Care Services?

### PARTNERSHIPS

#### Northern Health

- Renewed MOU with UNBC in December 2018.

#### BC Academic Health Sciences Network (BC AHSN)

- BC SUPPORT Unit
- Research Ethics BC
- Clinical Trials BC

# Fostering Linkages

## SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

### **Cumulative Impacts Research Consortium (CIRC)**

CIRC is a research and community outreach initiative based at UNBC dedicated to enhancing our understanding of the positive and negative cumulative impacts of resource development in northern B.C.

- CIRC Forum | January 18 - 19, 2018
- Community Workshop | Vanderhoof BC, April 2018

### **Rural Coordination Centre of BC**

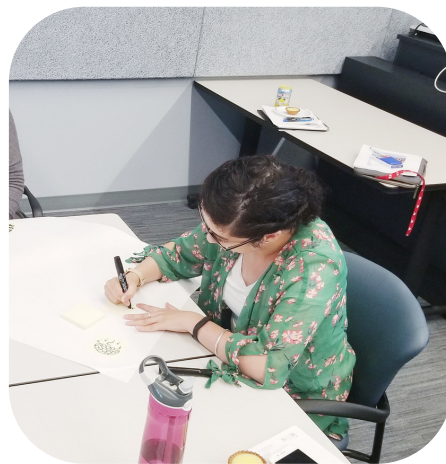
The RCCbc works with government, health authorities, health organizations, and UBC's Faculty of Medicine to coordinate rural resources at a provincial level.

- Established the Northern Node at the HRI in partnership with NH and UNBC to strengthen connections with physicians in the North and strategically align and leverage education, research and innovation for the purpose of improving the quality of life for people who live in the north.
- Focus and achievements in 2018:
  - 2018 Rural Health Conference (engaging rural physicians)
  - Developed processes and protocols for ways of working in the northern context
  - Attended research skills-building workshops
  - Developed supportive/educational materials to share with aspiring physician researchers and health providers

# Capacity Development

## Research Development & Support

- Over the past year, the HRI supported a number of UNBC applications to the following funding agencies:
  - BC SUPPORT Unit
    - Pathway to Patient Oriented Research (P2P)
    - Method Cluster Projects
  - CIHR
  - MSFHR
  - NSERC
  - AGEWELL
  - SSHRC
- Liaison with BC AHSN to access research resources and support.
  - Clinical Trials BC
  - Research Ethics BC
  - BC SUPPORT Unit



# Capacity Development

## Patient Engagement Training

- CIHR Foundations in Patient Engagement Workshops
  - Module 1: Patient Oriented Research
  - Module 2: Fundamentals of Health Research in Canada
  - Module 3: Building Partnerships and Consolidating Teams

## Training and Development

- Studentship Award in Patient Oriented Research
- Arts Based Methods Workshop
- Network of Networks Membership – Free access to CITI courses for clinical research







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# LOOKING FORWARD

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2019-2020



# Institute Activities

2019-2020

## **Knowledge Creation**

- PHSA-NH-UNBC Seed Grant
- P2P competition

## **Knowledge Synthesis and Exchange**

- Knowledge exchange
  - Health Research Seminar Series
  - BC SUPPORT Unit annual conference
  - IDC Brown Bag Series
  - Critical Community Response Dialogue (Prince George)
  - BC Rural Health Conference
- Knowledge synthesis
  - Critical Community Response

## **Fostering Linkages**

- RCCbc Northern Node continuing
- 2020 CIRC Forum
- Continue to build strong connections with BC AHSN

## **Capacity Development**

- POR Training
- Graduate Studentship Award
- Expanding northern research infrastructure capacity
  - Data
  - Clinical research and clinical trials



**Rachael Wells**

MANAGER



**Bree Orser**

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

**For feedback or comments, please contact**



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