



# CELEBRATING OUR OUTCOMES

Report to the Community  
2022-23



CATALYSTS FOR ACTIONABLE, DEDICATED KNOWLEDGE.



## FROM THE DIRECTOR OF CTNHR

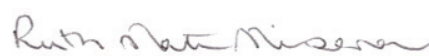
As the Director of the CTNHR (Acting 2022-2023), we have certainly had a busy and productive year. We have focused on streamlining processes, funding, member and partner engagement, and building sustainable ways to capture and disseminate Centre metrics. We are excited to highlight the many successes and impact of our Centre members and partners in this annual report.



**Marsha Campbell-Yeo, RN NNP-BC MN**  
*PhD FANN, Professor and Clinician  
Scientist, School of Nursing*

## FROM THE DIRECTOR OF SCHOOL OF NURSING

CTNHR is embedded in the School of Nursing and we are proud of the accomplishments of the Centre and members highlighted in this report. The School will continue to support the Centre to grow and increase its impact over the coming years and anticipate increasing successes locally, nationally and internationally.



**Ruth Martin-Misener, PhD,**  
*Director, School of Nursing*

## FROM THE DEAN

The Faculty of Health is proud to support and recognize the achievements of the Centre for Transformative Nursing & Health Research (CTNHR) in 2022-23. This annual report showcases the Centre; its vision, mission, collaborations, partnerships, activities and above all its members and their achievements. Members come from across the Schools and College of Faculty of Health and beyond, and include

scholars, students, and knowledge users. As the head of CTNHR, I congratulate the CTNHR Director and Executive for their achievements this year and look forward to their continued success.



**Brenda Merritt, PhD, Dean, Faculty of Health**



# ABOUT US

**CTNHR is a nursing-led and interprofessional Centre and the first of its kind in Atlantic Canada.**

**The Centre's aim** is to develop a new vision for health care based on high quality transformational research as a platform to promote health and wellbeing. Our focus is on collaboration, capacity-building, networking and knowledge translation.

**CTNHR was designated as a research centre by Dalhousie Senate in 2015.**

8 years later the Centre has successful and engaged members from Faculty, Students/Trainees and Knowledge Users across the Faculty of Health, Dalhousie University, other universities and our health system partners.

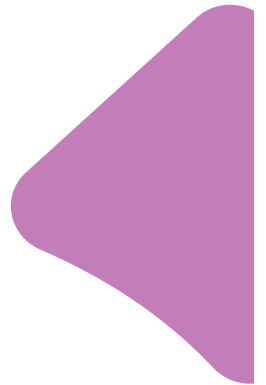
## ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

**CTNHR is located in the School of Nursing, Faculty of Health and intersects with 2 other Centres;** Aligning Health Needs and Evidence for Transformative Change: (AH-NET-C): A JBI Centre of Excellence and the WHO/PAHO Collaborating Centre on Health Workforce Planning & Research.

**The head of CTNHR is the Dean of Faculty of Health.** The **Executive Committee** reports to the Dean and is comprised of the Director of CTNHR (chair), Director of the School of Nursing, faculty experts related to the core foci areas of the CTNHR, faculty members from Faculty of Health outside of Nursing, undergraduate and graduate students. The Executive meets monthly.

**An advisory group chaired by the Dean of Faculty of Health is comprised of representatives** from BRIC, Dalhousie University, MSSU, NSHealth and NSIWK. They provide advice and strategic direction and meet twice per year. The Centre shares the Advisory Group with the JBI Centre (AH-NET-C).

**This year Dr. Marsha Campbell-Yeo has been Acting Director of CTNHR and provides leadership and support for all aspects of the Centre.** The Director of the Centre, Dr. Megan Aston, will return from sabbatical September 1, 2023. Julie Barry is the Research Manager, School of Nursing and coordinates the Centre's activities. With funding from the Next Wave Funding, CTNHR hired a Research Coordinator - Jennifer Lane, PhD Nursing (c) until 30 June 2023 and Nicole Doria, PhD Health (c) August 2022 to August 2023. Their main role has been to seek sustainable funding and to increase the visibility of the Centre.



# KEY RESEARCH OUTCOMES AND ACTIVITIES:

CTNHR develops dedicated activities that fulfil our mission.

## RESEARCH ROUNDS

**CTNHR Research Rounds Wednesdays @ Noon have continued this year, delivered online, from September to May.**

Members and others present their research including completed research, methodology, research in progress and research focussed networks. Presenters have included faculty and students from across the Faculty of Health and across the university. The audience has included people from Dalhousie, CBU, UPEI, IWK, NS Health and other organizations.

*Sessions are recorded and posted on our website [dal.ca/faculty/health/nursing/research/CTNHR](http://dal.ca/faculty/health/nursing/research/CTNHR) and our YouTube channel [youtube.com/channel/UCz\\_7LLownt5kpfFra6aamsg/videos](https://youtube.com/channel/UCz_7LLownt5kpfFra6aamsg/videos)*

## PRESENTATIONS

**The Centre has hosted two visiting professors this year.**

In September 2022, **Dr. Nancy Edwards** gave a talk on *opportunities in global health and global health research*. This was offered both online and in person and was well attended by students and faculty.

In November 2022, **Dr. Åsa Audulv**, Associate Professor from Umeå University, Sweden presented on *The Element of Time in Longitudinal Research*. The session was offered both online and in person and was well attended with students and faculty from Faculties of Health & Medicine.

## LETTERS OF SUPPORT AND MORE

**Letters of Support were provided to members for grant applications to SSHRC, CIHR and other funders.**

The Centre has also been able to offer in-kind funding consisting of equipment, space and support from the School of Nursing Research Manager. Additionally, the Centre supported the process of grant applications with direct support for researchers from the Research Manager with budgeting, Common CVs and requirements for specific grant applications.

## GROWING MEMBERSHIP

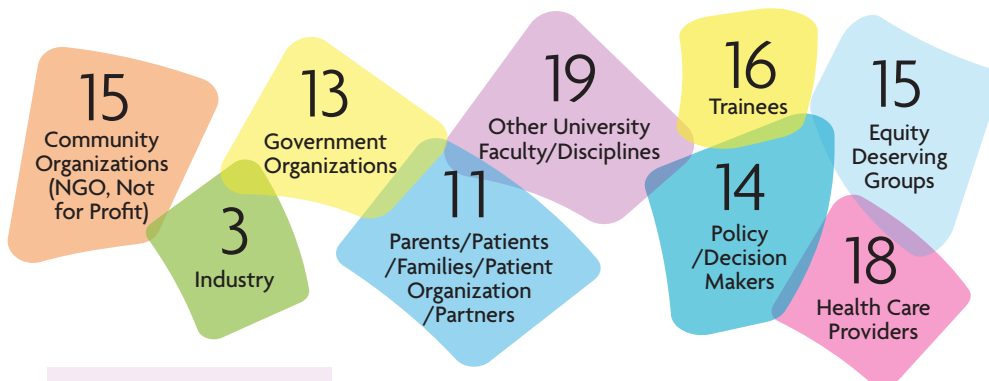
**We currently have 87 members consisting of research and trainee scholar members from across the Faculty of Health and Dalhousie as well as other universities in Nova Scotia.**

We have members from organizations such as MSSU, BRIC NS, HPI, NS Health and IWK Health, some as research scholars and others as knowledge users and we communicate with them regularly sending notices of events and opportunities.

**Join us!**

# KEY RESULTS: CTNHR SURVEY

## TEAM MEMBERS



83.3%

implemented EDIA practices over the last year

- Diverse team compositions: 18
- Epistemological inclusiveness: 8
  - Gender-based analysis: 13
  - Research that specifically addresses any aspect of EDIA: 10
  - Training and development opportunities: 13
  - Other: 1

## GENERAL

108

PEOPLE COMPLETED THE ANNUAL SURVEY

- 35 CTNHR Faculty Members/Research Scholars
- 22 CTNHR Student Members/Trainee
  - 12 CTNHR Knowledge User Partners
  - 39 Non-members (student, faculty, staff, and/or knowledge user/partner)

173

CTNHR FOCI THAT ALIGN WITH RESEARCH

- 58 Health Needs of People
- 33 Health Workforce and Health Systems Planning
  - 33 Knowledge Translation and Implementation Science
  - 42 Priority Populations and Health Equity
  - 7 None of the above

115

AREAS OF RESEARCH REPRESENTED

- 8 Arts & Humanities
- 81 Health, Life Sciences & Biomedicine
  - 1 Physical Sciences
  - 18 Social Sciences
  - 2 Technology
  - 5 Other

PERCENTAGE OF MEMBERS WHO ATTENDED 'WEDNESDAYS AT NOON'

61.1%

of student members/scholars

81.8%

of faculty members/research scholars

## CTNHR FACULTY MEMBERS /RESEARCH SCHOLARS

### STAGE OF CAREER



101

Total # of grants held as Principal Investigator (PI) and/or Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI)

\$63,195,242

Total \$ amount currently held for grants as PI and/or Co-PI

115

Total # of grants held as Co-PI and/or collaborator

\$85,077,321.<sup>98</sup>

Total \$ amount currently held as Co-PI and/or collaborator

82.5

Percentage of grant teams that are multidisciplinary and collaborative

# WHAT THE CENTRE OFFERS

The CTNHR is excited to offer several awards to recognize scholarly and research achievements for their student/trainee members.

## CROSSROADS CONFERENCE BEST CTNHR POSTER AWARD (\$250)



*Allyson Gallant is a third-year doctoral student in the PhD in Health program at Dalhousie under the co-supervision of Dr. Janet Curran and Dr. Audrey Steenbeek. She completed a BSc (Honours) at the University of Prince Edward Island and a Master of Public Health at the University of Saskatchewan.*

**Allyson has worked with Dr. Curran in the Strengthening Transitions in Care research lab at Dalhousie since 2015 and has also spent time working as a research assistant in Scotland from 2018-2020. Her areas of research interest include mixed methods research, behaviour change, and vaccine behaviours among high-risk populations.**

Allyson's doctoral research is aimed at identifying and addressing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on school-based immunization programs across the Maritimes. The first phase of her doctoral work is an environmental scan of school-based immunization programs in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island since 2018 to describe how programs were delivered prior to the pandemic, changes to service delivery during school closures from 2019-2021 and catch-up programming for students, and if programs have sustained any updates during the 2022-2023 school year. Data collection is currently underway to explore parents and students' experiences with these programs during the pandemic and how COVID-19 may have affected their vaccination views, and with healthcare providers, government, and school officials to explore perspectives on the delivery of school-based immunization programs. Findings from the environmental scan were presented during a poster session at Dalhousie's Crossroads Interdisciplinary Health Research Conference and awarded CTNHR's best poster presentation award.

## KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION AWARD (\$750)



*Clare Heggie holds an MA in Health Promotion from Dalhousie University and is an incoming PhD student in the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies and the University of New Brunswick.*

**Clare's research focuses on the sexual and reproductive health of incarcerated, criminalized, and surveilled people in Canada, with additional research interests in rural health, perinatal health, and doula support.**

She will use this award to share the findings of the study, *The role of doulas in supporting safe and affirming perinatal healthcare for queer families* at the DONA Summit, an international doula-focused conference taking place in Minneapolis, MN in October.

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## KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION AWARD (\$750)



*Morgan MacNeil is a full-time student enrolled in the PhD of Nursing program at Dalhousie University, under the supervision of Dr. Marsha Campbell-Yeo.*

**Since 2017, Morgan has been an active research assistant in Dr. Campbell-Yeo's Mechanisms Outcomes and Mobilization of maternally Led Interventions for Newborn Care (MOM-LINC) Lab at IWK Health.**

The funds from the CTNHR dissemination award helped support Morgan's attendance at the Canadian National Perinatal Research Meeting (CNPRM), which she attended in Montebello, QC. At CNPRM, Morgan was honoured to share two presentations highlighting projects that she was heavily involved in. The PRESENCE study identified the impact of COVID-19 restriction policies in Canadian NICUs on parents, infants, and clinicians to co-create consensus practice recommendations for ongoing and post-pandemic policies. The consensus recommendations were co-created with relevant stakeholders (e.g., families, clinicians, decision makers, and researchers) across Canada. The Measure of Adult and infant Soothing and Distress (MAISD) study was a secondary descriptive analysis of clinical trial data, where distress and soothing behaviours among infants, their parents, and clinicians were analyzed and coded during two, six, twelve, and eighteen-month vaccination sessions. Results from both projects will be integral in making a difference in parent participation in the NICU setting, where they are recognized as key members of the healthcare team.

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## KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION AWARD (\$750)



*Salma Almukhaini is a PhD candidate at the School of Nursing. She is an international student from Oman and a mother of two little kids. She served as a voting member in some committees at the school, such as research committee and equity, diversity and inclusion committee.*

**Salma is the lead of the international student group and a member of Canadian association of advanced practice nursing research student group and the International Council of Nursing research sub group. Her research focused on exploring the role development and utilization of master's prepared Omani nurses working in clinical settings.**

Her research also identified facilitators and barriers impacting their role development and utilization. She used case study with quantitative and qualitative components. Based on her research, master's-prepared Omani nurses are underutilized and individuals, organizational and system level factors influencing their utilization were unfold. She provided important recommendations to optimize the utilization of master's- prepared Omani nurses. Salma is planning to use different dissemination strategies to her research, such as presentations at local and international nursing conferences. In addition, she has produced three manuscripts from her research, two already submitted for publication. She aims to publish them in a peer reviewed journal as open accessed papers. Nursing Research from Arab countries is scarce, thus, publishing her research as an open access will add to the international literature as it would highlight the unique experience of Arab nurses and will draw the attention of international nursing organizations to provide the support required to Arab nurses.

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# IMPACT STORIES: STUDENTS



*Arezoo Mojbafan, 2nd year PhD student in Health at Dalhousie University*

Over the past year, as a PhD student in health, my work has had a meaningful impact in my field. Being engaged in conferences has allowed me to network with experts, stay updated on research and trends in primary healthcare (PHC) and aging, and share my own research findings. Being accepted as a trainee in the TUTOR-PHC program has also provided me with rigorous training, mentorship, and research opportunities in PHC, equipping me with skills to address primary healthcare challenges faced by individuals, families, and communities.

My active involvement in research projects focused on older people, reviewing papers on aging and contributing to writing a chapter in a book related to older people, has allowed me to get valuable experiences in this field and being able to disseminate knowledge and share evidence-based recommendations with a wider audience.

Overall, my work in attending conferences; participating in the TUTOR-PHC program; being involved in research projects; and contributing to knowledge dissemination has contributed to the advancement of knowledge in PHC, specifically in the context of older people's health. The hope is that the insights gained from these experiences will positively impact policymaking, healthcare delivery, and the overall well-being of older individuals. Research Grants are also local sources of funding that many of our faculty and student members have been awarded which have been used as start up or development funds as well as for dissemination.



*Emily Drake's (PhD in Health candidate) research focuses on young adults (18 – 39) living with cancer, an often-ignored age group that falls between pediatric and adult healthcare.*

A diagnosis for a person in this age group may mean unique challenges, as their needs are influenced by educational, work, lifestyle and psychosocial

(psychological and social) factors. While there is limited research among this population, there is even less regarding how young adults experience palliative care. This research is necessary to deliver age-appropriate, person-centered, specialist care to young people. The purpose of Emily's dissertation is to explore how young adults living with metastatic/advanced cancer experience the transition to palliative care. Throughout the past year, Emily's scoping review that explored the evidence sources that exist in the area of palliative and end-of-life care delivery to adolescents and young adults living with cancer was published in the Journal of Adolescent and Young Adult Oncology.

Emily's work now and after completing her PhD, will have an enormous impact on research focused on this age group, who face unique health, economic and social needs.



*In Fall 2022, Erin McConnell started coursework for the Master of Science in Nursing Program at Dalhousie.*

Erin's primary research interest is in transitions in care, specifically in nephrology and transplant. Her proposed research closely aligns with CTNHR's Health Needs of People foci, and the Knowledge Translation and Implementation Science foci. Erin's research intends to understand the individual health needs of renal patients to improve overall well-being and integrate an integrated knowledge translation approach from the identification of emerging gap in care to the dissemination of results.

Erin has presented her proposed research exploring the experiences of renal transplant recipients in the post-transplant transition from hospital to home at the Crossroads Interdisciplinary Health Research Conference and was a finalist for the Dalhousie Three Minute Thesis competition. Most recently, Erin completed the JBI Comprehensive Systematic Review Training Program to prepare for her upcoming scoping review. She also attended the Knowledge Translation



Canada Summer Institute in Ottawa, where she had the opportunity to learn and collaborate with trainees and experts in implementation science. Erin is excited to start the Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing Program at Dalhousie this coming fall and diving more into mixed methods and implementation science in her coursework.



*Maddie Gallant is a BScN-prepared Registered Nurse who has just finished the first year of the Ph.D. in Nursing Program at Dalhousie University.*

Maddie's research is focused on implementation research addressing the current health inequities and gaps present in nursing practice, education, and research for pregnant individuals diagnosed with opioid use disorder. In the last year, Maddie has networked with a diverse group of individuals in various roles caring for her population of interest. Maddie has increased awareness and understanding of the priority identified concerns of this population through numerous conference publications including a poster presentation at the Crossroads Interdisciplinary Health Research Conference, Halifax NS, and the ENRICH National Annual Symposium, Halifax, NS. Moreover, Maddie was invited as a presenter to the Atlantic Mentorship Network and has an accepted peer-review journal article in the Healthy Populations Journal titled; Current Trends in Care for Infants Diagnosed with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome in Canada: A discussion paper.

Currently, Maddie is leading a scoping review of a multidisciplinary and integrated team to explore implementation and evaluation research conducted on a novel approach to care for her target population. The findings from this study will serve as a foundation for her proposed Ph.D. project. Furthermore, Maddie has contributed to the implementation science body of knowledge through her leadership in Dr. Cassidy's research project, co-designing guidelines for an integrated knowledge translation approach to research for graduate students.

Maddie led the completion of an environmental scan, which is accepted for publication in the Health Research Policy and Systems Journal. Maddie's continued dedication and passion for conducting

implementation science research with a historically marginalized population has the potential to create sustainable impacts to improve health outcomes and make meaningful contributions to nursing knowledge and practice.



*Dr. Justine Dol, Post Doctoral Fellow, Centre for Pediatric Pain Research, IWK*

In the past year, I am extremely proud of two systematic reviews that I have published as first author. Both were published in JBI Evidence Synthesis, titled: "Timing of maternal mortality and severe morbidity during the postpartum period: A systematic review" and "Timing of neonatal mortality and severe morbidity during the postnatal period: A systematic review".

These systematic reviews were commissioned by the World Health Organization (WHO) through the SPOR Evidence Alliance, co-led by Dr. Janet Curran (PI, Dalhousie University) and Dr. Mercedes Bonet (WHO). They were a collaboration to help inform the update of the 2022 WHO Recommendations on Maternal and Newborn Care for a Positive Postnatal Experience. For this project, I worked closely with the WHO team to ensure that the data met their needs, supported by a team of great researchers and students from Dalhousie University and IWK Health.

As part of my work with this, I presented twice to the World Health Organization Postnatal Guideline Steering Group in October 2020 and June 2021. We were also invited to write an editorial for JBI which we titled "Timing and causes of postpartum maternal mortality: a call for more consistent reporting". This work really highlights the need to focus on maternal and neonatal mortality and morbidity, particularly in the first day and week, in order to truly make difference in reducing the mortality and morbidity rates around the world.

# IMPACT STORIES: FACULTY

## STRIVING FOR GREATER EQUITY AND INCLUSION:



*Dr. Amy Bombay*

Indigenous peoples and other marginalized groups are less likely to participate in research that involves the collection of biospecimens, in part due to past harms perpetrated by western scientists that have led to reasonable mistrust towards outside scientists among many. That said, these factors influencing resistance to academic research are becoming less problematic with the implementation of Indigenous-specific research ethics guidelines, and with increasing capacity for research that is led by Indigenous communities, organizations, and researchers. Our team has been working on a project entitled “Creating Ethical Space for First Nations led Biological Research” with the Thunderbird Partnership Foundation (TPF) over the past several years in order to contribute to strengthening capacity for First Nations led or partnered health research that involves the assessment of biological measures and that considers Indigenous and Western Knowledge perspectives. Gatherings with Indigenous knowledge holders from across Canada were led by TPF to guide the development of an in-person training about human development and biology from Indigenous knowledge perspectives. This is accompanied by an online video-based training developed by our team that

teaches about human development and biology from a western science perspective, while also sharing stories of health research projects involving the assessment of biological factors that have been beneficial for Indigenous communities. We are very thankful for the Healthy Brains for Healthy Lives Fund for supporting the development of this training. This past year we have started piloting and evaluating our training with First Nations organizations and communities, funded by the Institute of Indigenous Peoples Health at the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. Our preliminary feedback and evaluation suggest that our training can be improved by better integrating the Indigenous and Western Knowledge training components, but that it has the potential to be used as tool to enhance capacity in First Nations peoples to participate in and/or lead biological research that will be beneficial and contribute to improved well-being.



*Dr. Kelly Lackie*

Dr. Lackie is the Associate Director, Simulation-based Education & Interprofessional Education (IPE) and Assistant Professor at Dalhousie University School of

Nursing, an Affiliate Scientist at Nova Scotia Health, and cross-appointed to the Department of Emergency Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Dalhousie University. Dr. Lackie's program of research is situated in the discipline of IPE for collaborative practice (IPECP), examining the interrelated fields of simulation-enhanced IPE (Sim-IPE), psychological safety (PS), and equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility (EDIA). She led the development of an asynchronous online course, which launched in May 2023, to teach educators and simulated participants (SPs) how to establish psychologically safe simulation for students. Dr. Lackie recently completed the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Certificate course at Cornell University to build a solid foundation for the examination of EDIA in IPE. She is currently leading two grants to further study these concepts: a narrative inquiry, using an EDIA lens, to examine PS in Sim-IPE from the perspectives of students, educators, and SPs; and a scoping review to explore the knowledge, skills, and abilities/attitudes necessary to facilitate psychologically safe IPE. She is also leading a global team of IPE scholars in authoring a discussion paper about EDIA and social justice in IPECP. Dr. Lackie has several peer-reviewed publications and has presented at numerous scientific conferences provincially, nationally, and internationally. The impact of her work is far-reaching, underpinning the importance of student psychological safety so they can engage in, question, and/or challenge historical ethnocentric, Western, and colonial dominance in the interprofessional learning environment.



*Dr. Keisha Jefferies*

Since completing her PhD, in April 2022, Dr. Jefferies has shared the findings of her doctoral dissertation and related research through a variety of channels. She has shared her work on CBC radio (the Halifax and Sydney Cape Breton morning shows). She also shared her research and work, on inclusivity in nursing and health, in interviews with Dal News and the Faculty of Health News. Dr. Jefferies has also published six peer-reviewed manuscripts, in the past year, which focused on promoting inclusivity and addressing anti-Black racism in nursing. In addition to peer-reviewed publications, Dr. Jefferies contributed to one provincial and two

national reports on nursing and Black health. Finally, Dr. Jefferies was an invited speaker for institutional, provincial, national, international audiences. These invited speaking engagements include the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario, Black Nurses Leading Change, Mount Saint Vincent University, Queen's University, Nipissing University, the Fear Memorial Conference, CAHSPR, and International Black Health Conference. To mobilize her research, and contribute expertise to complex projects, Dr. Jefferies joined various provincial, national, and international interdisciplinary research teams to address emerging issues. This includes involvement with two SSHRC project, a CIHR project and a project with Nova Scotia Health. Over the past year, Dr. Jefferies has participated in several research activities building on her doctoral research and evolving methodological expertise. This includes research trainee positions as a research associate and postdoctoral fellow at York University. Dr. Jefferies also worked as a Health Outcomes Scientist with Nova Scotia Health on a strategic project related to the recruitment and retention of Black nurses in Nova Scotia Health. Dr. Jefferies received the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity Alumni award from Mount Saint Vincent University.



*Dr. Margot Latimer*

Dr. Margot Latimer, CTHNR member and the Nova Scotia CIHR Research Chair in Indigenous Health Nursing is working in partnership with Mi'kmaq communities and health leadership to advance L'nu nursing education, practice, and research. Communities are leading their own research with the support of the Chair. Under the education foci a few highlighted activities include the continued development and now partial implementation of the Trail Blaze L'nu Nursing Strategy for NS. Dawn Googoo is the Chair L'nu Nursing lead and the team have partnered with the Cape Breton University L'nu Health Chair, Julie Francis, who is also a Master of Science in Nursing student at Dalhousie. The six national CIHR Chairs have collaborated to deliver webinars to all 75 schools of nursing faculty in Canada to address TRC Calls to Action and have worked with CASN to create an accreditation standard related to schools of nursing.

The L'nu Nursing Strategy team has developed important partnerships provincially with Tajiikimik, the Mi'kmaw Health and Wellness Organization,

Departments of Advanced Education, and Health, as well as the Schools of Nursing across NS. The L'nu Nursing Strategy is working towards operationalizing the Canadian Association Schools of Nursing (CASN) Framework of Strategies for Nursing Education to Respond to the Calls to Action of Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Specific attention will focus on trauma-informed schools and development of an equitable admission pathway for Mi'kmaq and Indigenous People. From a nursing practice perspective, community-led projects include better access to pediatric ENT care in community and use of technology to enhance communication about Indigenous youth pain using the kids hurt app.

The Chair (Latimer) has also been funded as a Key Applicant, along with Key Applicant Mi'kmaq educator and researcher colleague, John Sylliboy for the second iteration of the CIHR Chronic Pain Network. This is knowledge mobilization funding and work is underway to develop a Mi'kmaq community-based Integrative Hurt and Healing Centre in addition to organizing a gathering of Indigenous clinicians related to child and youth health priorities. Community knowledge about best practices for Indigenous health research approaches will be developed into a learning module.

The CIHR project grant "To know better is to do better" with principal co-investigator Sylliboy, co-investigators Julie Francis, Katie Gloade and many community partners (photo below) is underway with pilot testing of the post licensure version of the 6 module "Introduction to Cultural Safety in Healthcare for Indigenous Peoples" course with health clinicians.

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## IMPROVING CARE FOR OLDER POPULATIONS:



*Dr. Elaine Moody*

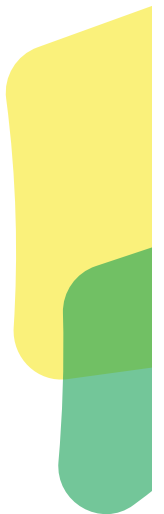
Elaine Moody's research focuses on developing knowledge to support older people in the community and those accessing healthcare. Her research focuses on understanding the context of health and well-being in later life. This work includes projects exploring nurses work with people with dementia across health settings, including acute care and primary care settings. Through funding from the Alzheimer Society of Canada and the Dalhousie Faculty of Health, Dr. Moody has synthesized the literature reporting on

interventions to improve nursing care of hospitalized older people, and identified contextual factors within hospitals that shape nursing care through interviews with people with dementia, caregivers, nurses and health system leaders. Including patient partners in research provides a foundation for Dr. Moody's work. She collaborates with older people, people with dementia and caregivers to better understand their health challenges and ensure research findings are meaningful those with lived experience. This work has been recognized through invited talks at the MSSU Knowledge Translation Keeping Up with KT seminar series, the SPOR-Evidence Alliance Annual General Meeting and a JBI AH-NET-C gLocal event. Currently, Dr. Moody is supervising two undergraduate summer research projected funded by the Faculty of Health. The work, led by Amy Meister and Maddy Hayes, includes a scoping review of strategies to implement dementia interventions in primary care and knowledge translation of key research findings to health system stakeholders.



*Dr. Lori Weeks*

During my sabbatical over the past year, I have devoted some of my time to an ongoing theme in my research that focuses on the abuse of older women. This research is situated at the intersections of age and gender along with other intersections (e.g., class, language, and ethnicity). Along with my co-lead at the Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre for Family Violence Research at the University of New Brunswick, several other researchers, decision-makers, and practitioners, we received \$598,272 in funding from the Public Health Agency of Canada through a targeted call for proposals for projects focused on preventing and addressing elder abuse. Our team was one of three teams funded in Canada, and our three-year study that will be conducted in the Maritime provinces began in January 2023. In this study, we will develop and test the feasibility of the AIM Program which is an advocacy intervention for diverse women in midlife and older who have experienced intimate partner violence. This research will contribute greatly to our evidence base about this understudied and underserved population. The quantitative findings will provide preliminary evidence about the effectiveness of the intervention. Qualitative interview data from community-based researchers will provide important insights about the training program they participated in, delivery methods and content of the program to consider in further





development, scale-up and spread of the program. Interview data from the women who receive the program will provide important insights about further refinement of the AIM program to meet the needs of diverse women.

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*Dr. Marilyn Macdonald*

As Director of the JBI Centre Aligning Health Needs and Evidence for Transformative Change I led teams in the completion of three reviews in the past year. A rapid scoping review for The World Health Organization to identify recent initiatives in long-term care to address coverage, financial protection, and sustainability. Impact – State of the knowledge report, and a policy brief for WHO, as well as a manuscript in progress for BMJ Open. A living evidence synthesis of the unintended consequences of masking for the Public Health Agency of Canada. Impact – Report prepared on a controversial topic and every six-week updates to be provided pending funding – manuscript drafted for planned submission to the Lancet. A mixed-methods comprehensive systematic review of the experiences of residents of nursing homes with socially assistive technologies and the effectiveness of these technologies. Impact – Review protocol published in JBI Evidence Synthesis, report accepted for publication in the same journal pending revisions, and the results are of relevance to long-term care decision-makers for investment in technology. Presentations of this work were delivered at the following conferences: Canadian Gerontological Nurses Association, Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing, and Canadian Association of Health Services and Policy Research. Our JBI Centre collaborated with the JBI Affiliate Group at Norbert Weiner University in Lima Peru to apply for the JBI Brighter Futures Grant. We were successful and will conduct an Effectiveness review of interventions to address intimate partner violence for older women and sex and gender minority people in Latin American countries.

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*Dr. Rebecca Affoo*

Dr. Rebecca Affoo is a clinically certified speech-language pathologist, an assistant professor at Dalhousie University in the School of Communication Sciences and Disorders, Faculty of Health, and

cross-appointed in the School of Dental Hygiene, Faculty of Dentistry. She is the Director of the Oral Health and Swallowing Research Laboratory. She is also a scholar with the Healthy Populations Institute (HPI) at Dalhousie University and a co-lead of the HPI flagship project Putting 'Oral Health is Health' into Action. The goal of her program of research is to improve the oral health, and speech and swallowing function of older adults through novel, interprofessional assessment and management practices.

In the past year, Rebecca secured extramural research funding as a Principal Investigator (PI) from the Canadian Institutes for Health Research–Planning and Dissemination Grant Program. With this funding, she hosted a workshop titled 'Exploring the Relationship Between Oral Health and Frailty' which was held in Halifax, Nova Scotia on May 25 and 26, 2023. The goals of the workshop were to 1) identify research priorities pertaining to the exploration of the reciprocal associations between oral health and frailty; and 2) build Canadian research capacity in the intersection of oral health and frailty. Workshop attendees included an interprofessional, multisectoral group of researchers and knowledge-users (e.g., clinicians and educators), and patient partners from across Canada with an array of expertise and experience in areas such as eating, swallowing and dysphagia, nutrition, nursing, geriatric medicine, family medicine, dental medicine, dental clinical sciences, palliative care, indigenous health, epidemiology, health promotion, dental hygiene, education, bioethics, food science, periodontics, and applied oral sciences

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## IMPROVING PATIENT SAFETY AND HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS:



*Dr. Audrey Steenbeek*

Dr. Steenbeek's research focuses on the epidemiological factors that influence/impacts behaviours to accessing healthcare services, routine screening/testing and treatment, as well as factors that impact the spread of diseases amongst unique populations. More recently, Dr. Steenbeek has been examining vaccine hesitancy with

respect to the COVID-19 pandemic and factors influencing adherence to public health interventions such as mask wearing, social distancing, quarantine and screening. Her recent study (Nova Strong: why communities joined to embrace COVID-19 public health measures) provided insight on how Nova Scotians viewed the pandemic and their experiences with public health measures, including the COVID-19 vaccine. Dr. Steenbeek sits on several national committees that steer head interventions to promote public health measures, and help counteract vaccine hesitancy and vaccine related misinformation.

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*Dr. Christine Cassidy*

Despite available evidence on transitions of care (ToC), challenges exist when implementing interventions into practice to improve patient and health system outcomes. In 2019, the Maritime Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR) SUPPORT Unit assembled a team of researchers, patient and caregiver partners, health system knowledge users, and the IWK Health Transition of Care Committee (TOCC) to study how to improve the transition from pediatric to adult care for youth in Nova Scotia. Over the past 4 years, we have conducted a series of research projects. First, we conducted a qualitative descriptive study to identify barriers and facilitators to the transition from pediatric to adult care from the perspective of youth, caregivers, and health care providers. Based on our qualitative study findings, we worked with TOCC to co-design a multi-component, ToC intervention, known as the ToC Framework. Our team recently received an IWK Health Translating Research into Care Grant to a. co-design an implementation strategy for the ToC Framework; b. implement the ToC Framework with four outpatient clinical services in Nova Scotia; and c. examine the impact of the ToC toolkit on patient health and health system outcomes.

Knowledge users and patient partners have been actively engaged in each stage of the research process, including protocol development, recruitment, data collection and analysis, interpretation of findings, and knowledge mobilization activities. Our collaborative approach has positively impacted our knowledge user and researcher partners, including: enhanced research capacity development; increased use of evidence in program planning; improved relevance and application of findings; and development of an embedded research program.

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*Dr. Janet Curran*

Dr. Janet Curran currently holds the Quality and Patient Safety (QIPS) Applied Research Chair (2021-2026). The Chair is a collaboration between the Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness, IWK Health, IWK Health Foundation, NS Health and the Dalhousie Faculty of Medicine and Faculty of Health.

During the first year of the Chair Dr. Curran met with multiple stakeholders across IWK Health, Nova Scotia Health and the Department of Health to identify priorities and gaps in QIPS research. Data from these consultations were used to develop a 5-year strategic plan focused on building capacity in Quality Improvement and Patient Safety Research in Nova Scotia. An Advisory Committee was established to provide advice to the Chair for operationalizing the strategic plan. To date key activities include scholarship funding for one MScN student (2022-23) and funding four undergraduate summer students who will work with Patient Safety Consultants on priority projects at IWK Health. In alignment with the strategic plan, Dr. Curran also launched a QIPS Research Scholar Series which is open to QIPS practitioners, researchers and trainees. The inaugural session took place in June 2023 through Teams with presentations from Dr. Patricia Trbovich, Research Chair in Patient Safety and Quality Improvement North York General Hospital and Dr. Katie Gardner, Emergency Physician at IWK Health. Dr. Curran is actively working with health system partners in Nova Scotia Health and IWK Health to build capacity in evidence-based quality improvement practice. The Chair has also supported three Quality Improvement practitioners from IWK Health and NS Health to attend the 5-day JBI Comprehensive Systematic Review Training hosted by the JBI Centre in the School of Nursing. Dr. Curran also secured CIHR funding to investigate the Wider Impacts of Covid-19, specifically the impact of Covid-19 on patients with Complex Care Needs and their families. This funding also created an opportunity to establish a postdoctoral position for one trainee (Dr. Jennifer Lane). In addition, Dr. Curran partnered with Dr. Douglas Sinclair (VP Medicine and Quality Improvement, IWK Health) and Dr. Christine Cassidy on a successful CIHR Post Doctoral Health System Impact Fellowship (HSIF) application which was filled by Dr. Brittany Barbour (2022-2024). This is the second successful CIHR HSIF application since taking up the Chair in 2021. Dr. Curran published 16 manuscripts between April 2021 and March 2023.

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*Dr. Tim Disher*

Dr. Disher's work in 2022 includes co-authoring two Cochrane systematic reviews for neonatal interventions, obtaining an adjunct faculty appointment at the Faculty of Computer Science and Graduate Studies with a focus on applying large language models to health research, and leading development of 13 methodological posters presented at the ISPOR conference in Boston, MA. In the role of senior director of biostatistics at EVERSANA, Dr. Disher has contributed to several drug reimbursement submissions across Canada, the United States, England, Wales, and the European Union. Dr. Disher is particularly proud of having had a central role in overturning a Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH) negative recommendation which has resulted in the potential access to public funding for an effective therapy for a marginalized and otherwise underserved sub-population of patients experiencing a terminal illness. Dr. Disher has actively supported the CTNHR's aim to develop a new vision for health care based on high-quality transformational research. By promoting health and well-being through collaboration, capacity-building, networking, and knowledge translation, Dr. Disher has demonstrated the positive impact that research and scholarship can have on the health care system and the lives of individuals and communities who may have experienced health disparities and inequities.

## SUPPORTING HEALTHY POPULATIONS:



*Dr. Sara Kirk*

Dr. Kirk's program of research explores the creation of supportive environments for chronic disease prevention. Their research uses a 'socio-ecological' approach that considers how individual behaviors are influenced by other broader factors, such as income, education, and societal norms. This includes a strong focus on the social determinants of health (SDH) and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

Their collaborative research on school-based health promotion in Nova Scotia over the last fifteen years has uncovered a range of factors that can help or hinder the implementation of Health Promoting Schools (HPS) approaches and school-based healthy public policies like the provincial School Food and Nutrition Policy. These learnings are currently being implemented in several

regions across the province through the UpLift Partnership, a school-community-university partnership is catalysing youth engagement in HPS through an \$8m investment over 6 years (\$5m from the Public Health Agency of Canada and \$3m from the private sector). With co-lead, Dr. Camille Hancock Friesen, they have engaged multiple government departments and community partners to ensure that a culture of health is embedded within schools - the system where children spend much of their time – and within the communities that surround them. A deliberate and strategic decision to focus on regions of Nova Scotia with high need, such as rural schools and communities, has supported health equity in communities that may have traditionally been under-served. The work they are doing through UpLift is also strongly aligned with Solution 6 of Nova Scotia's Action For Health plan.

## IMPROVING MATERNAL, INFANT, AND CHILD OUTCOMES THROUGH GREATER PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT AND DIGITAL HEALTH TECHNOLOGIES:



*Dr. Elizabeth Keyes*

Dr. Keyes explores how nurses can promote and maintain mental and sleep health in families of young children in innovative ways. In collaboration with Drs. P. Corkum (Psychology) and Neuroscience) and C. Cassidy (Nursing), I established the Early Childhood Hub for the Better Nights, Better Days for Canadians CIHR Sleep Research Consortium. This hub will refine, test, and implement eHealth tools to support the sleep of children and their parents during early childhood. As a leader in another CIHR Sleep Research Consortium at UBC Vancouver, funding was secured to develop a national community-based partnership to establish research priorities in Sleep Health Equity. In addition, thanks to an SSHRC Partnership Engage Grant with co-investigators Drs. M. Aston & S. Price, a partnership was established with a tech company to explore how digital tools can help parents of young children build real-life connections with their neighbours. Finally, A collaboration with the BC Children's Hospital Sleep Clinic to investigate interdisciplinary solutions to address the overwhelming need for pediatric sleep services was created.

in terms of research mobilization, a nursing doctoral student at Arizona State University (USA) has completed a

pilot study to adapt the face-to-face infant sleep nursing intervention previously

developed (Play2Sleep) for families of younger infants. Additionally, a partnership with a community-based organization that supports parents of young children with home visitation services (Alberta Parenting for the Future Association) will help us to explore how the Play2Sleep intervention could be implemented in different settings.



*Dr. Marsha Campbell-Yeo*

Dr. Marsha Campbell-Yeo (School of Nursing) has been recognized on the international stage for her ground breaking research in neonatal care, and international collaborations to advance infant health. Earlier this month, Dr. Campbell-Yeo received an Honorary Doctorate from Örebro University in Sweden.

In their decision, the Board of the Faculty of Medicine at Örebro noted: "Marsha Campbell-Yeo is a world-leading researcher in neonatal care and pain management. Her research concerns strengthening the role of parents in caring for sick newborns, parent involvement in pain relief and how e-health can be used to increase parental participation. For several years, Marsha Campbell-Yeo has collaborated with researchers at Örebro University. She is one of the founders of the international research group PEARL – Pain in Early Life – based at Örebro University. Through her commitment to including researchers and doctoral students from Örebro University in projects and international networks, she has contributed to Örebro University's pediatric pain research being highly regarded in the international scientific community today and to us conducting internationally competitive research. Marsha Campbell-Yeo is President-Elect of the Special Interest Group on Pain in Childhood in the International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP). By appointing Marsha Campbell-Yeo an honorary doctor at Örebro University, we wish to highlight our fantastic collaboration within Pain in Early Life, and her significance for pediatric pain research in Örebro."



*Dr. Megan Aston*

Over the past year, Dr. Megan Aston has completed a variety of scholarly outputs including 8 peer reviewed publications with colleagues and students. Some highlights: After completing their SSHRC funded study 'The Virtual Village: Understanding postpartum videoconferencing using sociomaterialism and feminist poststructuralism' Dr. Aston and her team published one article and submitted two

more. Findings from an earlier study 'Mothers' access to postpartum health care services during COVID' were also published, followed by another article reporting findings from a study conducted in Tanzania on 'Emergency obstetrics and newborn care.' A systematic review was published on 'Nurses' and midwives' policy development in low and middle income countries'. Dr. Aston met with faculty and graduate students at Aalborg University in Denmark in November 2022, and subsequently started online meetings between students from Aalborg University and students from Dalhousie University so they could share their research interests and ideas around postpartum health. Dr. Aston co-edited a book with Dr. Phillip Joy entitled 'Queering Nutrition and Dietetics: LGBTQ+ Reflections on Food Through Art' as well as co-authored a book chapter on 'Family Nursing in Community Health Nursing: A Canadian Perspective 6th Edition'. Dr. Aston was a visiting scholar at Queen's University and presented her work on postpartum care and feminist poststructuralism and continues to work as a Deputy Editor on the Qualitative Health Research journal.

## SHAPING AND SUSTAINING THE NURSING PROFESSION:



*Dr. Lisa Goldberg*

Dr. Lisa Goldberg will be leaving her role as Associate Director of Student Affairs in the BScN program on June 30th. Her work over the last two years, although largely administrative, has contributed significantly to student success. Using her background as a Certified Caritas Coach and applying her knowledge of caring science: a scholarly framework that offers practitioners 10 caritas processes © to better foster relationships built on authenticity and trust, Lisa has contributed to further advancing more inclusive and equitable environments for undergraduate nursing students. While a theoretical framework like caring science may not be considered useful for the practical work of Student Affairs, Lisa's understanding of caring science, including the reflexive work needed for self-examination, and the ability to question assumptions, including those that challenge the very foundations of our educational and health care institutions, is well aligned with the expertise needed to support the complex and diverse needs of students today. Whether through advocacy work related to current academic regulations and/or advancing the importance of student voice, central to Lisa's work are key underpinnings of caring science: compassion, courage, authenticity, inclusion, equity, and self-reflexivity. As Lisa transitions back into teaching, both in the undergraduate and graduate programs in the School of Nursing and takes

on a new leadership role at the University, her expertise in caring science, and position as a Faculty Associate with the Watson Caring Science Institute, (<https://www.watsoncaringscience.org>) will continue to inform her passion for collaborative work with students, and her educational scholarship and research.

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*Dr. Ruth Martin-Misener*

Dr. Ruth Martin-Misener is a Professor and the Director of the School of Nursing and Assistant Dean, Research, Faculty of Health at Dalhousie University. She is an Affiliate Scientist at Nova Scotia Health and the Maritime SPOR Support Unit and Co-Director of the Canadian Center for Advanced Practice Nursing Research (CCAPNR) at McMaster University. She is known for her research, education and knowledge mobilization contributions to the advancement of nurse practitioners and optimized registered nurse roles in primary healthcare. The main focus of her research is evaluation of the implementation and outcomes of the nurse practitioner role and interprofessional team-based models of care in primary healthcare and long-term and continuing care. The results of her research have been used to inform policy related to nurse practitioner scope of practice, education, regulation and deployment across sectors and populations. In the past year she and the various teams with whom she collaborates have had two main impacts. 1) They have developed and mobilized knowledge about the implementation of interprofessional teams in primary healthcare producing innovative reports and infographics, and engaging clinicians, managers, patients and decision makers in knowledge exchange forums. 2) They have conducted a scoping review and stakeholder group interviews to understand credentialing for specialization in advanced practice nursing. This work is informing policy work related to nurse practitioner and clinical nurse specialist credentialing in Canada and internationally. The results have been presented at several key stakeholder forums over the past year and will be the focus of a symposium at the International Council of Nurses conference in Montreal in July 2023.

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*Dr. Sheri Price*

Dr. Price's research outputs have enhanced the recruitment, educational preparation, and transition to practice for new nurses- which contributes to ensuring quality health care delivery. Her commitment to create and disseminate evidence-based, initiatives to ensure healthy workplace environments and enhance mental health/well-being of our health workforce is directly aligned with regional/national research priorities. Her research has resulted in tangible,

sustainable outputs such as health professional curricula, community supports, public health education and health workforce policies that enhance professional socialization, interprofessional collaboration and health service delivery. Dr. Price's research in the field of interprofessional education (IPE) identified strategies to enhance early professional socialization and teamwork within the health professions, including the development of large-scale, foundational IPE events at Dalhousie. This research has informed IPE curriculum regionally and nationally and informs the strategic directions of the Canadian Interprofessional Health Collaborative Accreditation Working Group which provides knowledge, advocacy, education and practice change for interprofessional collaboration. She has widely published and presented findings and innovations to audiences nationally and internationally. One of the key strategies she employs to ensure her findings impact policy, practice and education has been the use of innovation knowledge translation using dramatic arts, videos, social media and podcasts.

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## ADVOCATING FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS



*Dr. Martha Paynter*

After defending her dissertation in May 2022, Dr. Martha Paynter, Adjunct Professor at the Dalhousie School of Nursing, joined the Faculty of Nursing at the University of New Brunswick (UNB) in her hometown of Fredericton, NB. At UNB, Dr. Paynter continues to develop her program of research at the intersection of reproductive health and the criminal-legal system, including a multi-part project examining access to abortion and contraception for people in prisons in Canada. Early findings have been published in PLOS ONE and Contraception.

In May 2023, Dr. Paynter and co-Principal Investigators with the Contraception and Abortion Research Team (CART) based out of UBC Faculty of Medicine received a \$3.8 million grant from Health Canada to develop evidence-based resources to advance abortion access and expertise. Dr. Paynter's team at UNB will focus on tools for people who have experienced incarceration and to improve doula capacity for abortion support. A nationally and internationally recognized expert in abortion policy, in the wake of the June 2022 US Supreme Court Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health decision, Dr. Paynter was interviewed by dozens of news organizations, including CBC The National, about consequences for Canadians. In June 2023, Dr. Paynter was invited to Colombia, which recently expanded decriminalization, to support efforts to expand the nurse role in abortion care. She welcomes her first PhD student, Dalhousie Faculty of Health alumnus Clare Heggie, to UNB for Fall 2023.



# PARTNERSHIPS

## **Centre for Transformative Nursing and Health Research (CTNHR) and the JBI Centre of Excellence in Knowledge Synthesis: Aligning Health Needs and Evidence for Transformative Change (AH-NET-C).**

The JBI Collaboration (JBIC) is a global collaborative evidence network that drives a worldwide effort to promote and support the use of the best available evidence to inform decisions made at the point of care. The functions of the JBI Collaboration are directed towards the knowledge needs of local clinicians and consumers, with each Collaborating Entity leading evidence-based initiatives in their region, country, state or specialty. The JBI Collaboration has existed since JBI's inception in 1996 and has grown from a small group of seven Centres to more than 75 Collaborating Entities across 40 countries. The JBIC consists of JBI Centres of Excellence and JBI Affiliated Groups that are driven by a united desire to contribute to improvements in the quality and outcomes of healthcare globally through the delivery of high-quality programs of evidence synthesis, transfer and implementation. The JBIC is the largest global collaboration to integrate evidence-based healthcare within a theory informed model that brings together academic entities with hospitals and health systems. Our JBI centre of excellence in the School of Nursing (SoN) at Dalhousie is one of the JBIC entities and is known as Aligning Health Needs and Evidence for Transformative Change (AH-NET-C). We joined the collaboration in 2016 as an Affiliate Group and achieved centre status in 2018. We are required to meet a productivity standard to maintain centre status. In addition, the centre is required to have an advisory group. Since the SoN has a research centre (CTNHR) with an advisory group it is logical that we be part of the same group with our shared focus on research. The JBIC at University of Adelaide sanctioned our shared advisory

arrangement. The centre has a director and a co-director, 10 core members and five adjunct members. Directors and core members are JBI trained in evidence synthesis, are normally faculty members and lead or mentor trainees in the conduct of synthesis research. Adjunct members are often students or others supporting synthesis work. Evidence synthesis is a research design with numerous approaches and our centre offers an annual training program for students, faculty and clinicians led by two JBI certified expert trainers. As a centre we participate annually in the JBIC gLocal solution program. We do so by engaging in activities that offer evidence informed solutions to local health related matters that are shared worldwide via JBIC and members of JBIC can take in these learning opportunities put on by centres around the world. The JBIC also hosts a world Evidence Based Healthcare Day (EBHC) another opportunity to share evidence from our respective centres on health-related topics. Our centre is part of a worldwide network creating opportunities for partnerships in the conduct of research. Our centre director, co-director and members have completed reviews for the Public Health Agency of Canada, SPOR Evidence Alliance, Canada Health Infoway, and the Royal Society of the United Kingdom to name a few. In April 2023 AH-NET-C was awarded a JBI Brighter Futures Grant to conduct an effectiveness review of interventions to address intimate partner violence in Latin American countries and in sex and gender minority populations. We are partnering with the JBI Affiliate Group in Lima, Peru to conduct this work. For further information about our centre please check us out on the SoN website:

[www.dal.ca/faculty/health/nursing/research/JBI/jbi-affiliate-group-media-release.html](http://www.dal.ca/faculty/health/nursing/research/JBI/jbi-affiliate-group-media-release.html)

To learn more about joining the JBI Collaboration visit the JBIC resource portal or email [jbic@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:jbic@adelaide.edu.au)



Aligning Health Needs and  
Evidence for Transformative  
Change (AH-NET-C)  
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