

# LEARNING, ENGAGING AND COMMUNICATING

## PROJECT ACTIVITY UPDATE

### History of Public Health and Health Care in Saskatchewan: The origins and import of health inequities in Saskatchewan 1905-1985

SPHERU researchers James Daschuk, Gloria DeSantis, Paul Hackett, Tom McIntosh, and Nazmi Sari are examining the history of health inequities in Saskatchewan.

Despite Saskatchewan's long commitment to health care, it has some of the most extreme health outcome disparities in Canada, particularly when comparing First Nations with non-Aboriginal populations, or rural with urban populations.



The SPHERU team is looking at a range of historical data collections. These include government documents, community-based organization archives, personal diaries, newspaper stories, and local histories.

Historical aspects of health inequities that have been targeted for study include the varied effects of European settlement on Saskatchewan's Aboriginal people, including comparisons between First Nations and Métis health, or between First Nations communities who entered treaty and those who did not. In addition, the team will explore the changing economic and policy decisions that impact health outcomes such as the consequences of rural depopulation starting in the "Dirty '30s" and centralization of health care technology; the transition from charity-driven health care to community-run health districts to full public health care; and the prevalence of chronic diseases such as Type 2 diabetes versus contagious diseases such as tuberculosis in remote northern communities such as Black Lake and Fond du Lac.

The researchers will identify the past patterns of health in

#### OUR RESEARCH

Researchers from a range of disciplinary backgrounds bring a wide selection of research interests creating a diverse team where various perspectives and expertise are harnessed in a collaboratively driven environment giving SPHERU the ability to undertake critical population health research.

Saskatchewan, how these have changed over time, and how key medical, policy, and other interventions influenced the inequitable distribution of health for specific sub-populations.

This project is supported by a Health Research Team Grant from the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation (SHRF).

### Community-Based Health Research (CBHR) Summer Institute: Weaving the Tapestry

The Indigenous Peoples' Health Research Centre (IPHRC), Saskatchewan Population Health and Evaluation Research Unit (SPHERU), and the Prairie Community-Based HIV Research Program joined together to host the Community-Based Health Research (CBHR) Summer Institute: Weaving the Tapestry.

The institute was held at the University of Regina June 19-24, 2011. There were expert presentations, hands-on workshops, case studies, keynote speakers, and group discussions with leading practitioners. The themes included: building partnerships; research methods; information management; and knowledge translation and communications.

The co-chairs of the planning committee were Dr. Bonnie Jeffery from SPHERU and Jo-Ann Episkene from IPHRC. Other members of the planning committee included Sylvia Abonyi (SPHERU), Juanita Bacsu (SPHERU), Carrie Bourassa (IPHRC), Marissa Desjardins (IPHRC), Diana Fedosoff, (SPHERU), Paula Migliardi (Prairie Community-Based Research HIV Research Program) and Pammla Petrucka (SPHERU).



The Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation (SHRF), Saskatchewan Population Health and Evaluation Research Unit (SPHERU), Indigenous Peoples' Health Research Center (IPHRC), Prairie Community-Based HIV Research Program, University of Saskatchewan, University of Regina, Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) all provided funding and support.

## OUR RESEARCH TEAM

### University of Regina

Bonnie Jeffery, Director  
Shanthi Johnson, Research Faculty  
Tom McIntosh, Research Faculty  
James Daschuk, Research Faculty  
Mary Hampton, Research Associate  
Gloria DeSantis, Post Doctoral Fellow

### University of Saskatchewan

Nazeem Muhajarine, Research Faculty  
Sylvia Abonyi, Research Faculty  
Paul Hackett, Research Faculty  
Diane Martz, Research Faculty  
Pammla Petrucka, Research Faculty  
Nazmi Sari, Research Faculty

### WHO WE ARE

SPHERU is an interdisciplinary team of population health researchers from the Universities of Regina and Saskatchewan with sites in Regina, Saskatoon, and Prince Albert. Established in 1999 and funded by the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation, with additional project specific funding provided by other provincial and national health research funding agencies, SPHERU is the first bi-university research unit of its kind in Saskatchewan.

## OUR RESEARCH AREAS

SPHERU's research promotes health equity by addressing health disparities through policy relevant research. We conduct our work within four interrelated research areas, derived from our understanding of health outcomes of populations and issues particularly relevant to Saskatchewan. In Northern and Aboriginal Health we study the role that culture plays as a determinant of health. The Healthy Children area considers how contexts shape children's health and development outcomes. Rural Health focuses on the impacts of socio-economic determinants of health in rural populations. SPHERU also conducts Evaluation Research and studies the effectiveness of various programs and policies in making social and environmental conditions healthier and more equitable.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Hampton receives CURA grant

Dr. Mary Hampton, SPHERU research associate, was awarded a \$1 million grant from the Social Science and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) to research intimate partner violence. This SSHRC grant was awarded through the Community-University Research Alliance (CURA) program and will support research in the Prairies and the Northwest Territories. Her team includes SPHERU faculty Bonnie Jeffery, Diane Martz and Paul Hackett.

Dr. Hampton was also one of two scholars chosen as the University of Regina's new President's Chairs for Academic Excellence.

### Knowledge Translation award

Fleur Macqueen Smith, Knowledge Transfer Manager, Healthy Children research team, was one of three national winners for the National Collaborating Centres for Public Health Knowledge Translation Awards at the Canadian Public Health Association conference in June.

Macqueen Smith was honoured for work on communities of practice such as kidSKAN, the Saskatchewan Knowledge to Action Network ([www.kidskan.ca](http://www.kidskan.ca)).



## PUBLICATIONS



### Innovations in Knowledge Translation: the SPHERU KT Casebook

The newly released *Innovations in Knowledge Translation: the SPHERU KT Casebook* (edited by Fleur Macqueen Smith and Juanita Bacsu) is a cross-section of population health work and the innovative strategies used for sharing stories.

The knowledge translation (KT) examples range from a music video for sharing healing stories of Aboriginal women's drug

addiction to a national symposium aimed at promoting healthy lifestyle behaviors among children in Trinidad and Tobago.

The *Casebook* includes knowledge translation strategies, methods, and evaluations. Go to [www.spheru.ca](http://www.spheru.ca) for the link to download a copy.

### Alberta Centre for Active Living Research Update

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

“Using Urban Design to Improve Children's Health – The Smart Cities, Healthy Kids Study” (Vol. 18 / No. 3 September 2011) examines the built environment research of Dr. Nazeem Muhajarine.



## MEET OUR RESEARCHERS



**Dr. Nazmi Sari, PhD**, is an associate professor in the Department of Economics, University of Saskatchewan, and a research faculty member at the Saskatchewan Population Health and Evaluation Research Unit.

After receiving his PhD in economics from Boston University, he worked as an assistant professor in the School of Policy and Management, Florida International University. He has taught graduate and undergraduate courses on health economics and quantitative analysis.

Dr. Sari's current work concentrates on economics of health promotion and prevention, specifically economics of smoking, physical inactivity and youth suicides.

**Dr. Diane Martz, PhD**, has been an investigator in the area of rural women's health since May 2006.

Her work has bridged social and natural sciences through such innovative projects as the Frenchman River Biodiversity project, which brought scientists and community members together to study physical, biological and community capacity aspects of the Frenchman River Basin. Current research focuses on rural youth; risk behaviours and healthy lifestyles; BSE's impact on the farm family; and changing rural governance structures.



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