



SASKATCHEWAN POPULATION HEALTH AND EVALUATION RESEARCH UNIT

University
of Regina



SPHERU's Michelle Stewart, far left, and undergraduate student Mia Bell met research partners from universities around the world gathered together in Belfast, Northern Ireland to participate in a research incubator. The purpose of the gathering was to find accessible, creative, and arts-based solutions to respond to the challenge of creating a new sensory support item with sonic technologies.

Research incubator in Ireland

Dr. Michelle Stewart and undergraduate student Mia Bell travelled to Belfast, Northern Ireland to participate in a research incubator with partners from the University of Regina, Queens University Belfast, University of the Sunshine Coast, and several community groups.

The incubator was the culmination of a year's long SSHRC grant. The meeting focused on developing new tools to support those with sensory differences and training for frontline professionals to better understand sensory challenges.

The interdisciplinary

group of researchers worked collaboratively to find accessible, creative, and arts-based solutions to respond to the challenge of creating a new sensory support item with sonic technologies.

From this starting point, an array of projects were developed. The partners plan to move forward together to build new toolkits, training, and arts-based projects -- including a project using sound and improvisation to support those with dementia, sensory awareness training for police officers, a strengths-based project to support individuals through the diagnosis of complex disabilities, and many others.

Internship with WHO

Post-doctoral fellow Daphne McRae is currently working as an intern in the Department of Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health at the World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva, Switzerland, for July and August.

While there, she is providing support for planning and reporting of a meeting aimed to identify global research priorities in social, behavioral, and community interventions for maternal, newborn, and child health.

McRae will also help to develop a tool to assess the quality of program information used in WHO guideline

development. She will also provide support for the preliminary drafting of a protocol for a mega-analysis on social accountability, and contributing to the creation of a database cataloguing country-level protection measures for the working women in the informal sector.

"Aside from these specific duties, observing how the WHO operates and gaining an understanding of how partners at the global, regional, and national level (e.g. government ministries, universities or other research partners, NGOs) are involved in the work is a tremendous learning opportunity," she said.