



SASKATCHEWAN POPULATION HEALTH AND EVALUATION RESEARCH UNIT

University of Regina



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Dementia-focused research project receives a \$3 million federal grant



Research team, Dr. Bonnie Jeffery, Dr. Tom McIntosh, and Dr. Nuelle Novik. Photo: U of R Photography

The Interventions to Enhance Social Inclusion of Older Adults with Dementia in Saskatchewan project is being led by Dr. Bonnie Jeffery, a professor in the Faculty of Social Work at the University of Regina’s Prince Albert Campus. The team also includes Dr. Tom McIntosh, professor in the Department of Politics and International Studies, and Dr. Nuelle Novik, associate professor in the Faculty of Social Work.

The research team will be collaborating with the Alzheimer Society of Saskatchewan, along with other provincial organizations, to examine individual, community, and organizational level supports and initiatives aimed at improving the lives of people with dementia and their care partners in rural communities and small cities.

Jeffery says the team will

focus on improving public awareness of the stigma and social isolation experienced by people with dementia, while also working to improve social inclusion. The researchers will also look at increasing and improving the availability and appropriateness of family and community supports for people living with dementia and for their care partners. The New Horizons for Seniors Program is a federal grants and contributions program that supports projects that make a difference in the lives of seniors and their communities.

Dr. Nazeem Muhajarine, SPHERU director, wins the Distinguished Researcher Award



Dr. Karen Chad, Vice-President Research, Dr. Nazeem Muhajarine Photo: U of S Photography

On November 13th, at the University of Saskatchewan’s convocation ceremony, Dr. Nazeem Muhajarine received one of the most prestigious awards as a Distinguished Researcher.

Nazeem, a professor and former head of the Department of Community Health and Epidemiology, is one of Canada’s most accomplished population health researchers and has been a driver of change to promote better health for more than two decades.

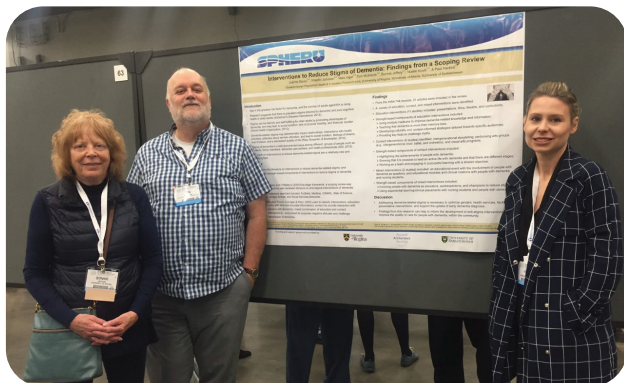
Nazeem leads a Global Affairs Canada program in Mozambique focusing on reducing maternal mortality and improving infant health and played a major role in the development of the Canadian Index of Wellbeing, co-authoring its Healthy Populations report (2010). He is the recipient of multiple awards, including the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation’s Achievement Award (2009) and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research Knowledge Translation Award (2006).

Nazeem is the author of a prolific body of publications, including 153 peer-reviewed papers, 22 book chapters, two peer-reviewed books, and 70 technical reports. He was instrumental in establishing two highly successful research units of national significance at the U of S —the Community-University Institute for Social Research, and the Saskatchewan Population Health and Evaluation Research Unit, for which he currently serves as director. Congratulations Nazeem!

DISCOVER OUR RESEARCH

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Researchers present at Gerontological Society of America's Scientific Meeting



Dr. Bonnie Jeffery, Dr. Tom McIntosh, and Dr. Juanita Bacsu

Recently, a team of SPHERU researchers presented at the Gerontological Society of America's (GSA) Annual Scientific Meeting in Austin, Texas. Drs. Bonnie Jeffery, Juanita Bacsu, Nuelle Novik and Tom McIntosh presented and shared SPHERU research findings on rural older adult and community member perspectives on social isolation, rural aging, cognitive health, and use of World Café as a research method with older adults. The event was based on the theme of "Strength in Age—Harnessing the Power of Networks," and was held on Nov. 13-17, 2019.

The GSA meeting was attended by approximately 4,000 participants and provided opportunities for networking and learning about the latest trends and research in the field of gerontology. The GSA is the largest and oldest interdisciplinary organization focused on gerontological education and practice.

Addressing Rural and Remote Needs in Canada's National Dementia Strategy

Juanita Bacsu, Nuelle Novik, Shanthi Johnson, Marc Viger, Thomas McIntosh, Bonnie Jeffery, Nazeem Muhajarine, Paul Hackett

SPHERU Postdoctoral Fellow, Juanita Bacsu and a team of SPHERU researchers published a paper on the need for Canada's National Dementia Strategy to prioritize dementia care in rural and remote communities. This discussion is featured in the Canadian Journal of Public Health [<https://doi.org/10.17269/s41997-019-00241-0>] and identifies different actions for prioritising rural and remote dementia care, ranging from community collaboration to evidence-informed care.

The article sheds light on some of the strengths, challenges, and actions necessary to improve dementia care in rural and remote communities. However, substantial work remains to support people affected by dementia living in rural and remote areas. Dr. Bacsu's postdoctoral research draws on solutions-focused theory and uses a community-based research approach to identify ways to reduce stigma of dementia in rural communities. Her research is funded by the Alzheimer Society of Canada.

Researchers share findings at 12th Annual Dementia Summit

Dr. Bonnie Jeffery and Dr. Juanita Bacsu presented posters at the 12th Annual Summit of the Knowledge Network in Rural and Remote Dementia in Saskatoon on November 5-6, 2019. The posters highlighted findings on social isolation among rural older adults, and interventions to reduce stigma of dementia.

The summit featured presentations by the Alzheimer Society of Canada and leaders in rural dementia care, including Dr. Debra Morgan and Dr. Rachel Herron. Dr. Morgan is the Director of the Rural and Remote Memory Clinic at the University of Saskatchewan, and Dr. Herron is the Tier II Canada Research Chair in Rural and Remote Mental Health at Brandon University. The summit highlighted recent developments and advances in rural dementia care across Canada.



Dr. Bonnie Jeffery and Dr. Juanita Bacsu