University of Victoria
Centre on Aging

Annual Report
July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006
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Period Covered by this Report

This is the second Annual Report of the Centre on Aging. This report covers activity from July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006.

Mission and Objectives of the Centre

The Centre on Aging is a multidisciplinary research centre established at the University of Victoria to advance knowledge in the field of aging based on the twin standards of scientific rigor and applied relevance. Our overall goals are to contribute to improving the health and quality of life of an increasingly diverse population of older adults, and to assist their families, health care providers, and governments in meeting the challenges and potentials of an aging society. In order to achieve these broad goals, the Centre has as its specific objectives:

- To add to the body of knowledge on aging by stimulating and conducting rigorous basic and applied research.
- To provide a focus and direction to the University’s and region’s research activities in the area of aging.
- To facilitate communication and collaboration among scholars, practitioners, government officials, and older adults.
- To contribute to the training of skilled research personnel.
- To disseminate knowledge on aging to scientists, practitioners, and the public.
- To promote the translation of research findings into interventions, services, products, and policies relevant to older adults.
Message from the Director

This has been a transition year for me and for the Centre – this was my last year in the role of Director, and as of July 1, 2006 Elaine Gallagher (Professor of Nursing) will provide new leadership for the unit. Given this transition, I have chosen to provide an overview of the past four years rather than focusing only on the current academic year.

To set the context, I went back to documents from 2002 where I had noted several goals that might be used to guide further development of the Centre. It is perhaps worthwhile to examine how we have done in the past four years in pursuit of these objectives.

1. The Canadian context for research has changed significantly in recent years. There has been increasing political recognition of the importance of research on aging, particularly with respect to health and aging. In addition, there is more financial support available for large-scale multidisciplinary projects and personnel awards. The Centre needs to take advantage of these opportunities. (2002).

In the past four years, we have made excellent progress in taking advantage of the various funding opportunities available. First and foremost, faculty members have been very successful in obtaining external grant funds from a variety of sources.

In addition to operating funds, the Centre has taken advantage of opportunities provided by the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research (MSFHR). In 2003, the Centre received a $1,000,000 four-year Research Unit Infrastructure award from MSFHR. The purpose of this program is to enhance BC’s health-related research capacity by providing funds to units to enhance their productivity and competitiveness for national and international funding. The grant has been used to fund research support personnel (secretary, community research coordinator, research assistants) and release time for faculty, as well as supplies and the like. This support has contributed greatly to the increase in research productivity noted above.

Finally, faculty at the Centre have competed successfully for personnel awards. Drs. Ryan Rhodes, Paul Zehr, and Kelli Stajduhar received Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research Scholar Awards. Dr. Stajduhar was also the recipient of a CIHR New Investigator Award.

2. Current core Centre faculty include a geographer, two psychologists and two sociologists. All of these individuals have expertise in aging and health, broadly defined. The Centre faculty are part of a larger group of UVic faculty with expertise in the psychosocial aspects of health and aging. I believe that we can build on these strengths. I will pursue further development of faculty expertise in the psychosocial aspects of health and aging both within the Centre and across the University. (2002)

The faculty complement of the Centre has seen some expansion. A particular success was the hiring of Dr. Kelli Stajduhar (Assistant Professor of Nursing) as a core member of the Centre. Other faculty members with interests in aging-related research have been hired by other departments as part of ongoing faculty renewal and expansion. Last year, we were also fortunate to have Dr. Elaine Gallagher (Professor of Nursing) join us as Associate Director of the Centre. Over the past 4 years, the complement of faculty affiliated with
the Centre increased from 34 to 43. New faculty are working with the Centre from the School of Physical Education, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, and the Island Medical Program, as well as from the well-represented faculties of Social Sciences and Human and Social Development.

3. Members of the University community have committed to developing a broad research initiative focused on health. In my view, the Centre can and should be a major contributor to this effort. The Centre has also been significantly involved in conducting research with community partners. I believe we should attempt to expand these links. (2002).

The MSFHR infrastructure grant provided us with a significant opportunity to increase our links with community researchers. Funds from the grant were used to hire a Health Research and Community Liaison Officer (Phyllis McGee). A specific goal was to facilitate collaborative research with the Vancouver Island Health Authority. Under Phyllis’ leadership, the scope of research with community partners has increased substantially from already significant levels. Members of the Centre have continued to participate in the planning process of the University’s Health Research Initiative.

In 2002, the Centre opened its satellite office in Ladner, BC under the leadership of Dr. Patrick McGowan. This office has expended significantly and is fully funded through research grants received by Dr. McGowan. The satellite office supports an extensive program of community-based research focused on patient self-management of chronic diseases.

4. The Centre has established itself as major source for disseminating the results of research on aging to members of the local professional community and the general public. The well-attended series of lectures and workshops that make up the annual Community Forum on Aging is an example of a mechanism that has been effective. Similarly, the Friends of the Centre have been instrumental in making research results accessible to the public. Other activities such as the VERA awards are designed to recognize the contribution of seniors to our community. These types of activities are an important part of the Centre’s role. (2002).

We have continued our activities focused on disseminating the results of research on aging to various audiences. Feature events such as the International Day of the Older Person lecture and Community Forum have continued on a yearly basis. In September 2005, the Centre co-hosted (under the leadership of Dr. Patrick McGowan) an international conference on patient self-management. More recently, we have used support from the MSFHR infrastructure grant and the BC Network for Aging Research to support a series of workshops focused on collaborative research between university- and community-based researchers.

5. The Centre plays an important role in training students. The Centre is already an active participant in the research training of graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. Success in attracting training grant funds to support such students will greatly expand this role. In addition, the Centre should play a significant role in the Island Medical Program currently under development. (2002).

Efforts to obtain funding from CIHR to support a graduate training program focused on research in health and cognition were unsuccessful. In addition, links with the Island Medical Program have been slow to develop as that faculty has been focused on launching its teaching curriculum. The Centre continues to contribute significantly to the research training of students through their
Although our focus is on aging, we recognize that healthy aging is a life-long process that requires attention to developmental changes that occur across the life span rather than simply an emphasis on late life. Within this general framework, we focus particularly on the clinical, population health, and health services areas of health research. Issues being addressed include: (a) examination of health behaviors and outcomes as a function of different cultural, social, and living conditions; (b) the early diagnosis of neurological and other disorders; (c) the impact of cognitive impairment on specific areas of everyday functioning such as driving and financial management; (d) the development and assessment of strategies to promote healthy functioning; (e) development and assessment of strategies for coping with and caring for specific health conditions; (f) how to promote and ensure healthy communities; and (g) how to provide health care that is appropriate, accessible, and affordable.

Efforts to address these areas of aging research are necessarily multidisciplinary, and research at the Centre draws on faculty from multiple university departments, including anthropology, child and youth care, economics, geography, history, nursing, physical education, philosophy, psychology, social work, and sociology, as well as researchers in the community. According to Dr. Elaine Gallagher, Associate Director of the Centre for the 2005-2006 year, the Centre is well-poised to have a significant impact on policy and practice participation in the various research projects conducted by centre faculty. This past year, Laura Funk organized a series of workshops focused on professional development issues of interest to a wide range of students. This series was very well attended.

In addition to the above, other highlights of the past four years include, (a) successful completion of a 5-year review of the Centre and extension of its mandate for an additional 5 years; (b) the opening and ongoing development of the Survey Research Centre; (c) participation of the Centre in the development and initiation of the BC Network for Aging Research; and (d) launch of a new scholarship fund for graduate students in aging (the Neena Chappell Scholarship Fund) based on an initial gift from the Victoria Gerontology Association.

This brief review suggests we have made considerable progress in the continued development of the Centre as a centre of excellent research on aging. As always, more remains to be done in achieving these goals, and new challenges and opportunities will arise. Our new Director, Elaine Gallagher, brings a wide array of skills to the task and is well positioned to lead the Centre forward into the future.

I wish all of you the best, and look forward to continuing to participate in the activities of the Centre.

**Research Focus**

The research conducted at the Centre is informed by multiple theoretical perspectives and uses multiple methodological approaches. Much of our work is rooted in a broad orientation to health that includes attention to the social, psychological, environmental, and cultural contexts in which people live, as well as the institutions (e.g., health delivery systems) responsible for the health of aging populations. Although our focus is on aging, we recognize that healthy aging is a life-long process that requires attention to developmental changes that occur across the life span rather than simply an emphasis on late life. Within this general framework, we focus particularly on the clinical, population health, and health services areas of health research. Issues being addressed include: (a) examination of health behaviors and outcomes as a function of different cultural, social, and living conditions; (b) the early diagnosis of neurological and other disorders; (c) the impact of cognitive impairment on specific areas of everyday functioning such as driving and financial management; (d) the development and assessment of strategies to promote healthy functioning; (e) development and assessment of strategies for coping with and caring for specific health conditions; (f) how to promote and ensure healthy communities; and (g) how to provide health care that is appropriate, accessible, and affordable.

Although our focus is on aging, we recognize that healthy aging is a life-long process that requires attention to developmental changes that occur across the life span rather than simply an emphasis on late life.
issues arising from the research findings. In her new role as Director she will be promoting opportunities for improved linkages with clinicians and local, provincial and Federal policy-makers. “My goal is to continue to support the fine work being done by the Centre affiliates and to strengthen the ties to the broader community.”

STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT

Staff

The Director of the Centre is responsible for the overall management and direction of the Centre. The Director reports to the Vice-President, Research, of the University.

Continuing staff funded by the base budget of the Centre consist of:
- full-time Administrative Coordinator (Lois Edgar)
- full-time Secretary (Lindsay Cassie)
- full-time Research Coordinator (Julie Shaver)

Five non-continuing positions have been funded for the period July, 2003 to June, 2008 through a grant from the Research Unit Infrastructure Program of the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research. These positions consist of:
- half-time Project Administrator (Arlene Senft)
- two half-time Research Assistants (Reba Chaplin and Shelly Waskiewich)
- full-time Project Secretary (Anita Jessop)
- full-time Health Research and Community Liaison Officer (Phyllis McGee)

The Survey Research Centre, which is administered by the Centre, has a separate cost recovery budget that funds a full-time Manager (Tom Ackerley).

An organizational chart of who you will find in the Centre on Aging’s office space in Sedgewick A Wing and in the Satellite office in Ladner is found in Appendix A.

Advisory Board

The Director receives policy advice from an Advisory Board consisting of representatives from University of Victoria faculty, government, non-government service providers and seniors. The 2005-2006 Advisory Board consisted of the following members:

- Marilyn Bater, Geriatrician, Department of Geriatrics, Royal Jubilee Hospital
- Tom Bailey, Medical Director, Residential Services, Aberdeen Hospital
- Denise Cloutier-Fisher, Assistant Professor, Centre on Aging and Department of Geography
- Heather Davidson, Director, Strategic Policy and Research, Ministry of Health Planning
- Pieter De Groot, Senior Manager, Medical Research, Medical Programs, BC Ambulance Service, Ministry of Health Services (Chair)
- Elaine Gallagher, Associate Director (Ex Officio)
- Tessa Graham, Director and Special Advisor, Office of Women and Seniors’
...five faculty have appointments that provide half-time release from other duties to participate in research at the Centre.

University of Victoria Research Affiliates

In 2005-2006, a total of 41 University of Victoria Faculty located in twelve departments (Anthropology, Child and Youth Care, Economics, Geography, History, Human & Social Development, Nursing, Philosophy, Physical Education, Psychology, Social Work, and Sociology) were affiliated with the Centre.

All appointments at the University of Victoria are made in teaching departments. However, in addition to the Director and Patrick McGowan (Social Sciences), Director of the Ladner Satellite Office, five faculty have appointments that provide half-time release from other duties to participate in research at the Centre. In 2005-2006, these core faculty included Drs. Neena Chappell (Sociology), Denise Cloutier-Fisher (Geography), Margaret Penning (Sociology), Kelli Stajduhar (Nursing) and Holly Tuokko (Psychology). Dr. Chappell is also supported by a Canada Research Chair, and Drs. Penning and Tuokko are supported by Senior Investigator Awards from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research.

- Cecilia Benoit, Professor, Department of Sociology
- Neena L. Chappell, CRC in Social Gerontology, Professor, Department of Sociology and Centre on Aging
- Denise Cloutier-Fisher, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography and Centre on Aging
- J. Isobel Dawson, Associate Professor, School of Nursing
- Harold D. Foster, Professor, Department of Geography
- Elaine M. Gallagher, Professor, School of Nursing
- Lucia Gamroth, Associate Professor, School of Nursing
- Roger Graves, Associate Professor Emeritus, Department of Psychology
- David F. Hultsch, Director, Centre on Aging, Lansdowne Professor of Psychology
- Michael Hunter, Associate Professor, Department of Psychology
- Helena Kadlec, Associate Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, Associate Professor, Department of Psychology
- Peter Kirk, Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Human and Social Health (Ex Officio)
- Lorna Hillman, community at large (Chair)
- Mark Horne, Horne Coupar Barristers and Solicitors
- David Hultsch, Director, Centre on Aging, Lansdowne Professor of Psychology (Ex Officio)
- Donna Kirk, District Nurse, Veterans Affairs Canada
- Nigel Livingston, Professor, Department of Biology and Director, University of Victoria Assistive Technology Team
- Andrew Maxwell, President, Friends of the Centre on Aging
- Patricia MacKenzie, Acting Associate Dean, Faculty of Human and Social Development
- Michael J. Prince, Lansdowne Professor of Social Policy, Faculty of Human and Social Development
- Ryan Rhodes, Associate Professor, School of Physical Education
- Helen Simpson, senior, community at large
- Martin Taylor, Vice President Research (Ex Officio)
- Beverly Timmons, University of Victoria Retirees Association (Observer)
External research affiliates include a diverse group of researchers.

External Research Affiliates

In addition to University of Victoria faculty, researchers from other universities and the community are affiliated with the Centre. In 2005-2006, the Centre had a total of 18 external affiliates working in collaboration with University of Victoria researchers. External research affiliates include a diverse group of researchers. They can be academics from other universities, or community researchers, from not-for-profit, private or government agencies.

- Anne-Marie Broemeling, Faculty, Centre for Health Services and Policy Research, University of British Columbia, Director, Research and Evaluation, Interior Health Authority
- Iris Chi, Director, Centre on Ageing, Professor, Department of Social Work & Social Administration, University of Hong Kong
• Veronica Doyle, Researcher, Clare Research
• David J. Evans, Family Practitioner, Vancouver Island Health Authority
• Shixun Gui, Professor, Sociology Department, East China Normal University
• Weimin Hu, Population Health Analyst, Vancouver Island Health Authority
• Daniel Lai, Professor, Faculty of Social Work, University of Calgary
• Liz McCarter, Wellness Centre Coordinator, Yakimovich Wellness Centre, Vancouver Island Health Authority
• Mark W. Novak, Associate Vice President for International Studies and Dean of Extended Education, San Jose State University
• Norm O’Rourke, Assistant Professor, Department of Gerontology, Simon Fraser University
• Clare Porac, Professor, Department of Psychology, Penn State, Behrend College
• R. Colin Reid, Assistant Professor, Health Studies, UBC Okanagan
• Leslie Roos, Professor, Department of Community Health Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, University of Manitoba
• Vicky Scott, Senior Advisor - Falls Prevention, BC Injury Research and Prevention Unit, Ministry of Health
• Brent J. Small, Associate Professor in Gerontology, Director of Undergraduate Studies, School of Aging Studies, University of South Florida
• Richard S. Stanwick, Chief Medical Health Officer, Vancouver Island Health Authority
• Andrew V. Wister, Chair, Department of Gerontology, Simon Fraser University
• Zachary Zimmer, Research Associate, Population Council, Policy Research Division, New York

Friends of the Centre

The Friends of the Centre on Aging are volunteers. While membership is made up of individuals, it also includes people representing not-for-profit agencies and organizations who have an interest in aging-related issues and who wish to support the research and educational activities of the Centre. The Friends of the Centre is a dynamic group that contributes to the Centre’s community involvement. They assist in the communication of research results by collaborating with researchers in the dissemination of new knowledge about issues surrounding aging and also aid researchers with their projects.

The Friends were instrumental with the Centre’s participation in Victoria’s first annual Embrace Aging month coordinated by the Greater Victoria Elder Care Foundation. The Friends assisted the University of Victoria’s Retirees Association with their first Masterminds Lecture Series. They also played a part in the Centre’s planning committee and completed their own project with updated information on past VERA recipients.

One of the goals of the Friends is to see that each member’s skills and needs are closely matched to an activity. Following is a list of activities the Friends participated in during 2005-2006.

- Provided Research Snapshots by summarizing research findings in short easy-to-read articles that are available to a wide audience
- Facilitated communication and the dissemination of research and knowledge of aging to the community
- Provided assistance with research projects to Centre faculty and students
- Provided information on the research needs of seniors in the community
through dialogue and feedback
· Assisted with Centre events by helping to organize various activities and research gatherings such as the Centre’s annual Community Forum, other meetings and discussions
· Highlighted positive images of aging in the community through participation in the Embrace Aging: Spotlight on Growing Old initiative
· Interviewed and helped select seniors for the Centre’s annual Valued Elder Recognition Award.

One of the key activities of the Friends is the preparation of “Research Snapshots.” Snapshots are research papers summarized in lay person’s terms for distribution to the public. Further information on the Snapshot Program is included under Knowledge Dissemination and Translation on page 27.

RESOURCES

Budget

The base budget of the Centre for 2005-2006 was $172,799 consisting of $137,321 in salaries (Director’s stipend, Research Coordinator, Administrative Coordinator, and Secretary) and $35,478 for general operation of the Centre.

Space

Currently, Centre on Aging operations occupies a total of 4300 square feet in the A Wing of the Sedgewick Building. In addition to this assigned space, some projects have negotiated time-limited access to space on and off campus in various settings. For example, the Research Team for the Family Caregiving in Palliative and End of Life Care projects has negotiated space in the School of Nursing and the Technology Enterprise Facility which houses companies that work closely with the university’s research community.

Satellite Office

Our satellite office in Ladner BC has moved into a newly renovated heritage building with 1800 square feet. The Ladner office has seven staff members and is fully funded through research grants received by Dr. Patrick McGowan. Dr. McGowan is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Social Sciences.

Survey Research Centre

The Survey Research Centre (SRC) had many successes in the 2005-2006 year. It was a year of learning and adjusting to the changing approaches we encountered.

In September 2005, the SRC began a pilot study called Fair Pharmacare for Dr’s. Sebastian Schneeweiss (Brigham & Women’s Hospital, Boston) and Malcolm Maclure (Health Information Science, University of Victoria). This study to evaluate the utilization of the province’s subsidized drug plan by seniors (65+) had been delayed several times with challenges in defining and
approving data linking components crucial to the study with the BC Ministry of Health. The SRC undertook to provide a small sample (n=100) of participants using a random digit dialing (RDD) approach and successfully completed it in early October. Unfortunately, the project is on hold and is currently hoped to re-commence by late August 2006 when logistic issues with the funder have been resolved.

October saw the SRC commence work on a project called Making Meaningful Connections (MMC) for Drs. Denise Cloutier-Fisher (Centre on Aging) and Karen Kobayashi (Sociology). Initially, the project was designed to have the SRC:

1) Recruit 425 participants for a six month study from target population phone numbers provided by the Ministry of Health. Participants were to be screened by age, a low score on a social isolation scale, and no recent contact with the BC Nurseline.
2) Perform a pre-intervention interview to obtain demographic and general information from the participants.
3) Exchange the participant information with the BC Nurseline who would perform 11 intervention calls with each of half of the participants to discuss health issues and resource availability. The second half of the recruited participants would be a control group without any intervention being performed with them.
4) Provide a post-intervention survey of all participants (n=400).

The MMC project was to begin recruiting in mid-October in order to provide the sample to the BC Nurseline intervention team to begin the intervention calling in mid-November. Prior to commencing the project, several logistical problems arose with data interchange between the co-investigators and the BC Ministry of Health. The methodology was quickly changed to use a random digit dial approach targeting both rural and urban areas in the province where there was a large population of seniors (65+). A significant change to research objectives was implemented including modification to the scripts used by the SRC. The SRC used the new MMC scripts to interview over 1,000 participants between mid-November and the end of March, 2006.

Another project for BC Statistics that was planned for 2005-2006 had to be deferred into the 2006-2007 year. The SRC is hopeful that the two deferred projects from 2005-2006 will commence in August and September of 2006. As well, several estimates were provided to investigators for grant applications in recent months. The business we might acquire from these submissions remains to be seen.

A challenge that might continue into the 2006-2007 year is the lack of continuing, repetitive business – an “anchor tenant”, of sorts, within the SRC. The delays and postponements of projects have had a significant impact on the utilization of the SRC. The on-again, off-again environment experienced this year made it extremely difficult to hire, schedule and retain employees. Additionally, significant effort was spent by management in keeping active projects “on track” during the year. Marketing efforts suffer from the focus of management on active projects rather than on acquiring new business.

A strong partnership with a client such as BC Statistics to provide repeat business would substantially improve the operations and finances of the SRC. Opportunities to form a partnership of this nature are now being vigorously pursued.
Research conducted at the Centre spans basic to applied, quantitative to qualitative, laboratory to community, disciplinary to multidisciplinary, and large-scale to small-scale.

RESEARCH

The mandate of the Centre is to conduct research on aging. Three of the Centre’s six specific objectives focus on stimulating, facilitating, and conducting research. Although the other goals of disseminating and applying knowledge about aging to the community as well as training research personnel are also pursued. However, the specific activities related to these domains are subsumed within the overall research orientation of the unit. Research conducted at the Centre spans basic to applied, quantitative to qualitative, laboratory to community, disciplinary to multidisciplinary, and large-scale to small-scale.

Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research Infrastructure Grant

Between July 1, 2005 and June 30, 2006 six Qualified Health Researchers and nine Associated Health Researchers joined the program. One associate researcher on the original application passed away this year resulting in a total of 28 Qualified Health Researchers and 32 Associate Health Researchers. With this continued growth, several new projects and research partnerships have begun and are demonstrated here:

• Dr. Holly Tuokko is partnering with Glenyth Nasvadi, Research Program Advisor, ICBC, to conduct a pilot study to measure the impact of “Exercises for Driving” classes on participant’s physical activities, driving habits and strength and flexibility. It is expected that this study will provide data to support a grant proposal for a larger study.
• Drs. Peter Kirk, VIHA; Jane Gair, Island Medical Program; Phyllis McGee, Centre on Aging; and Andre Smith, Sociology collaborated to investigate the use of art in medical education as a means of overcoming barriers to effective communication. An art exhibit depicting scenes of dying patients surrounded by their loved ones was held in the Maltwood Art Museum and Gallery at the University of Victoria in March. Researchers explored the medical student’s experience of viewing this art exhibit and engaging in educational drama (i.e. individual and group guided reflective exercises that bring participants into the experience depicted in the art) as an approach to learning about empathy and the physician-patient relationship.
• Dr. Holly Tuokko (Psychology); Dr. Elaine Gallagher (Nursing), Nola Ries (Law), Dr. Rosalie Starzomski (Nursing) and their students collaborated with VIHA in developing a multidisciplinary educational workshop for staff providing care to seniors in complex care settings and students from the University of Victoria about the issue of negligence in health care. A mock trial, focused on the unexpected death of an older woman receiving complex care, was developed and staged. This was followed by group and panel discussions. The format and content of this workshop provided the context within which researchers investigated the impact of an interdisciplinary group discussion and a panel presentation on decision-making and the participant’s impressions on the innovative design of this workshop as a learning activity.
• With funds from a SSHRC Major Collaborative Research Initiative grant (2005-2010), Karen Kobayashi is collaborating with Drs. Anne Martin-Matthews (UBC), Carolyn Rosenthal (McMaster), and Steven Prus (Carleton) on a research study examining the relationship between age structure and social support in Canadian families. Using data from the 2001 General Social Survey, the study examines the predictive value of informal age structuring decisions on the provision of support by adult children to parents across a
number of different support domains.

- Dr Penny MacCourt, postdoctoral student and student research affiliate, in collaboration with community partners across Canada, is developing capacity to promote and support senior’s mental health. She is using the “Seniors’ Mental Health Policy Lens” (SMHPL) which is an analytical tool, made up of a set of questions intended to raise users’ awareness about the factors that impact the mental health of older adults, and to guide their analyses of policies and programs from a seniors’ mental health perspective. In the fall of 2006, Dr. McCourt and her partners will be selecting sites to implement the SMHPL. Penny is the Research Project Coordinator for BC Psychogeriatric Association which is funded by the Population Health Fund.

The overall goal of the MSFHR Research Unit Infrastructure grant is to build the Centre on Aging’s research capacity and expand and enhance research focused on the social and psychological aspects of aging, population health and health service delivery. In working towards this, our objectives include building on the Centre’s relationship with provincial health authorities through a more formal ongoing research relationship, training researchers and disseminating the knowledge researchers are cultivating. These objectives are being met in a variety of ways including:

- On January 5, 2006, Dr. Phyllis McGee, Health Research and Community Liaison Officer met with Dr. Peter Kirk and Heather Cooke to discuss the possibility of establishing a formal partnership between the Centre on Aging and VIHA that would facilitate effective collaborative relations with respect to research, research education and the transfer of findings into practice. With expressed interest in the proposal from VIHA, Drs. Elaine Gallagher and Holly Tuokko became involved. A committee of VIHA and Centre on Aging personnel was formed and a series of meetings took place to develop a “Collaborative” that would facilitate joint efforts between the Centre and VIHA to conduct health research on aging. Committee members included: Dr. Elaine Gallagher; Dr. Holly Tuokko, Dr. Phyllis McGee, Dr. Peter Kirk, Dr. Marilyn Bater, Heather Cook, Lori Wager, Veronica Morris, Lori Wager, and Elaine Klimes. As of June 30th a Memorandum of Understanding to create a Centre on Aging Continuing Health Services Collaborative (COACH) was in its final draft. It is hoped that this formalized research relationship with VIHA and the spirit of this understanding will further facilitate the ability of VIHA personnel, UVic faculty, and students to engage in joint educational and research activities, exchange academic materials and publications, as well as exchange personnel and faculty members for research, lectures, discussion, teaching, and training purposes. Plans are underway for a formal announcement of the collaborative in Fall 2006 and initial projects are already being proposed. This Memorandum of Understanding and Collaborative will serve as a potential model for other UVic and VIHA departments interested in enhancing their research capacity formalizing their research relations.

- Another goal of the grant is to develop international research relations by applying for visiting fellowship grants. Kelli Stadjuhar received a Visiting Fellow Grant Research Award from Edith Cowan University in Australia. Supplementing this with funding from her Establishment Grant, which is part of a MSFHR Scholar Award, she will be spending two months in Perth, Australia at Edith Cowan University in the next year working with Dr. Kristjanson, Director of the Western Australia Centre for Cancer and Palliative Care Research, and one week at the University of Melbourne working with Drs. Peter Hudson and Sancha Aranda. The specific aims of her visit are to: (a) To gain a better understanding of the cancer care and palliative care system
in Western Australia;
(b) To establish international relationships with researchers of the Western Australia Centre for Cancer and Palliative Care Research for the purposes of ongoing research collaboration;
(c) To identify areas of mutual interest for research collaboration and to begin working on collaborative grant applications in the area of palliative caregiving research;
(d) To identify areas for joint research publication and begin working on collaborative manuscripts; and
(e) To establish a relationship with Dr. Kristjanson for the purpose of developing an ongoing mentorship relationship.

- Knowledge translation events are listed in the Informal Lecture Series section on page 25.

- Training activities have been organized in concert with VIHA region, the Centre on Aging, the Research & Academic department at VIHA and BC Network for Aging Research through the “Collaborative Research Workshops”. During 2005-2006, two workshops were held “Formulating the Research Question” and “Qualitative Health Research: What is the Point?”

Research Projects

In 2005-2006, there were a total of 115 active research projects. New research awards were supported by a total of $5,911,931.00 from various external funding agencies. Appendix B provides a complete listing of projects including new and ongoing research grants. Appendix C lists completed research grants. Brief summaries of five ongoing projects are given below to illustrate the type and range of projects being conducted.

◆ Health System Change And Cancer Service Utilization Among Older Adults in BC, 1986-2003

Principal Investigator: Margaret Penning, Department of Sociology

Co-investigators: Moyra Brackley, Centre on Aging and Mary Lesperance, Mathematics & Statistics

Collaborator: Brian Weinerman, BC Cancer Agency, Vancouver Island Cancer Centre

Funded by: CIHR and the National Cancer Institute

Through the 1990’s, provincial and territorial governments across Canada shifted their health care funding allocation and organizational foci toward community-based care. This decision was premised in part on a population health model which recognizes that individual and population health are affected by social, cultural, environmental, and biological factors, with social and economic inequalities accorded particular importance. As a result, the dominant foci of health reform based on the population health model include enhancing preventative and community-based resources for care, as well as ensuring equitable access to health care among groups differentiated by such factors as age, gender, race, ethnicity, income, and rural-urban residence.
The extent to which structural changes directed towards implementing a population health model have led to a shift of focus and resources consistent with the objectives of health reform remains unclear. Health reforms such as those recently introduced in Canada have the potential not only to enhance, but also to harm equity. However, the equity implications of health reform have seldom been evaluated. This is particularly true with regards to meeting the care needs of older adults, including those with specific chronic conditions such as cancer and in sectors other than acute in-patient hospital care.

This research will address these issues by focusing on changes in access to cancer-related health services over time (1986-2003), in association with health care reform among older adults within and across vulnerable subpopulations. Researchers will assess whether community-based screening, primary care, out-patient hospital care, home care and palliative or hospice care utilization in relation to cancer changed in conjunction with health reform, and whether it did so in similar or different ways across socially vulnerable subpopulations defined by gender, income and area of residence.

Researchers are in the early stages of this study. They have submitted their request for data from the BC Linked Health Data maintained at UBC and are updating their literature review with information gathered from recently published articles.

◆ Health Experiences Of Adults Aging With A Developmental Disability

Principal Investigators: Carol McDonald and Marjorie McIntyre, School of Nursing

Funded by: Koerner Foundation, Toronto through the generous efforts and support of the Garth Homer Foundation

The objective of this project is to generate new knowledge and understandings of the lives of older adults with developmental disabilities. The overall research question guiding this pilot project is: What is the experience of health for people with developmental disabilities as they age? Experience of health encompasses the broad experience of well being: the quality of life that is formed through social, physical, relational and material influences such as housing, work and retirement, social and familial relationships, leisure activity, a subjective sense of well being and the presence of physical limitations or illness. To generate as much understanding as possible of the lived lives of people aging with developmental disabilities, data was collected through interviews with individuals living with developmental disabilities, focus groups with caregivers and service providers, and field observation in places where individuals with developmental disabilities live and spend time.

In September 2006 Dr. McDonald and Dr. McIntyre will present papers in which they discuss issues of consent, choice and autonomy for people with ID (intellectual disabilities) at the Philosophy in Nursing Conference in Dublin Ireland and meet with several researchers in the UK to exchange information on models of practice for residential and day programs for aging people with ID.

Since the conception of the study Dr. McDonald and Dr. McIntyre have been meeting with their Community Advisory Group on a monthly basis. The members of this group have been invaluable in providing access to day services.

Through the 1990’s, provincial and territorial governments across Canada shifted their health care funding allocation and organizational foci toward community-based care.
and group homes in the community and in facilitating the recruitment of participants for the study (people with ID, family members and service providers). Members include the collaborators listed above, as well as Fonda Willis – Garth Homer Society, Katherine Wood – self-advocate and artist, Paula Grant – CLBC, Karen van Rheenen-Kardelhomes and Catherine Traunweiser – Community Living Services (CLBC), Capital Region.

This year, Dr. McDonald and Dr. McIntyre were joined by Lara Schultz who worked as a research assistant on the project. Lara, whose Masters Degree is in Counselling Psychology, has worked with people in the community who have intellectual disabilities. She has proven to be an excellent addition to this research team. Lara has been accepted at the University of Calgary in doctoral studies for the fall term. She will continue her work with Drs. McDonald and McIntyre as a co-applicant on a SSRHC application.

Preliminary findings of this pilot study have been the impetus for application for two funding opportunities. Drs. McDonald and McIntyre have submitted a proposal to SSHRC for a two-site study (Victoria and Prince George), Understanding Experiences Of Grief And Bereavement For Older Adults With Intellectual Disabilities, on which they will be joined by Dr. Anne Bruce, and Dr. Pat MacKenzie. A second proposed study – Understanding Quality Of Life For People With Intellectual Disabilities As They Age – has been submitted to CIHR. This is a four site (Prince George, Cranbrook, Langley, and Victoria) study. Applicants on this study include Dr. Roy Brown, Dr. Pat McKenzie, Dr. Elaine Gallagher and Nancy Jokinen. The Community Advisory Group provided letters of support and will serve as collaborators in both the proposed follow-up studies.

◆ Age Friendly Cities, World Health Organization

Principal Investigator: Elaine Gallagher, Centre on Aging, School of Nursing

Co-investigators: Holly Tuokko, Centre on Aging, Psychology and Denise Cloutier-Fisher, Centre on Aging, Geography

Funded by: BC Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization

An age-friendly community is characterized by supportive and enabling physical and social environments. These environments include all the settings of life in the city, all the services that are provided or exchanged and the products that are used in the activities of daily living.

In the developed world, about 75 percent of older adults live in metropolitan areas and the proportion will grow to 82 percent by 2025. Making cities age-friendly is one of the most effective policy strategies to respond to demographic aging, which is taking place throughout the developed world, and particularly in BC. The World Health Organization (WHO) is targeting major urban centres because they generally have more economic and human resources than small communities enabling them to make age-friendly changes. By their example, they can lead the way for other communities in British Columbia, Canada, and the world.

In an age-friendly city, policies, services and structures are designed to support and enable people to “age actively”. Public and commercial settings and services are accessible and they accommodate varying levels of ability. Age-
In an age-friendly city, policies, services and structures are designed to support and enable other people to ‘age actively’.

Saanich, BC has been selected to represent one of twenty countries around the world who will be participating in this project. The objectives of this project are to:
1. Identify the barriers to maintaining active, healthy and independent lives that older people experience;
2. Gather ideas from older persons on the priorities to make the city more age-friendly;
3. Stimulate awareness among the leaders of the community regarding how “age-friendly” the community is from the perspective of older persons;
4. Elicit further information with respect to the community’s strengths and weaknesses with respect to “age-friendliness”.

This project is the first phase of the WHO Age Friendly Cities Index Project that involves assessing each community’s strengths and weaknesses in promoting active aging by means of focus groups with older persons, caregivers of older persons and community and business leaders. Results of data collected in 20 participating countries will be collated to create an “Age-friendly” index to be released by WHO in October 2007.

◆ A Critical Inquiry Into The Construction Of Contested Illnesses: Gender, Medicine And Culture

Principal Investigator: Pamela Moss, Studies in Policy and Practice, Faculty of Human and Social Development

Co-investigator: Michael Prince, Lansdowne Professor of Social Policy, Faculty of Human and Social Development

Funded by: Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada

Contested illness is illness dismissed as illegitimate by researchers, biomedicine, state institutions, family or friends, and is often characterized as psychosomatic disorders. Psychosomatic disorders are characterized as of the body, of the mind, or both; while at the same time not actually existing. Examples of two illnesses considered to be contested are Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME) (also known as Chronic Fatigue Syndrome) and Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) which is also known among veterans who have combat experience as Operational Stress Injury or OSI.

We understand the processes that make specific illnesses contested are socially constructed, located in biomedical explanations of the body, and shaped by time and place specific cultural representations of what it is to be ill. The overall goal of this three year research project is to identify specific regulatory and disciplining processes through which illness becomes contested, as well as account for some strategies and practices persons with contested illness engage in order to challenge conventional and established notions of what it is to be ill. The specific objectives are to:
1. Explore gendered dimensions, medical explanations and cultural repre-
sentations of contested illness;
2. Identify processes through which illness becomes contested, including policy, state regulatory apparatuses and ideologies; and
3. Offer an account of the strategies and practices persons diagnosed with contested illness employ to challenge conventional and established notions of what it is to be ill.

Over the next year Drs. Moss and Prince will be collecting historical data, including medical journal publications from the mid-1800s to present, post-World War II Hollywood film noir, popular women’s magazines from the 1980s, and the website for the Department of National Defence for inclusion in their analysis.

◆ Closing the Knowledge Gap for Seniors & Community Care Collaborative

Principal Investigators: Jean Kozak, Director of Research, Centre for Health Aging at Providence Health Care and Department of Health Care and Epidemiology-UBC and Nancy Rigg, Community Care Network, VCHA

Managers/Decision Makers: Barbara Korabek, VIHA; Katie Hill, IHA; Ann Marr, MoH; Akber Mithani, PHC; Tim Rowe, NHA; and Celso Teixeira, FHA.

Knowledge Broker: Janet Joy, VCHA

Researchers: Lynn Beattie, UBC; Neena Chappell, UVic; Martha Donnelly, UBC; Elaine Gallagher, UVic; Adrian Levy, UBC; and Vicky Scott, UVic

Funded by: Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research

During the past year, this Collaborative has been developing pilot projects and proposals within three areas, all of which are aimed in closing the knowledge gap for seniors and community care. Firstly, the provincial project team is currently developing the protocol for a longitudinal evaluation of Assisted Living (AL) in BC, with the goal of submitting it for CIHR funding in the New Year. In support of the grant preparation, two pilot studies have been underway. The first examined how case managers in AL determined client eligibility for the program and how managers interacted with other service managers in home care and residential care. Interview work has been completed and the results are currently being prepared for publication. The second pilot, currently underway, is a survey of the rates of and reasons for ineligibility for AL services. The purpose for this exploration is to help understand sample size issues for comparison groups regarding risk levels and need for AL-type services.

Secondly, in early 2006, the groundwork for the development of the GIS database began through introductory studies that have since expanded. Using Coastal Health as a pilot demonstration site, Census data as well as service provider data were used to explore geospatial maps for determining placement of future “Campus of Care”. By linking population demographics of seniors, along with public transit information, location of pharmacies and community recreation facilities, as well as other related spatial information, spatial decision maps were created to assist decision-makers in planning for future health services. The results of the work have been accepted for presentation at a National Conference on Home Care.

There is nothing like a gathering of great minds to generate enthusiasm about gerontology research!
Finally, an 18-month study, funded by the Canadian Patient Safety Institute (\$97,523), is currently underway to determine the prevalence of adverse events (AEs) in residential care facilities. The study explores the prevalence of AEs and their relationships in three major areas of geriatrics: medication, falls, and abuse and neglect. It will explore the incidence of under prescribed medication as an adverse medication event as well as the identification of the rate of preventable events. In addition, the project will explore the reliability of electronic incident reporting systems used in Long Term Care (LTC) for the capture of adverse events. Four LTC sites in the lower mainland of BC, stratified by size, will be studied over a 12-month period for incidents both within a random sample of medical charts (n=134) and their electronic incident reporting system.

**Publications**

Scientific publications are one of the main “products” of researchers at the Centre. A complete list of publications by University of Victoria Centre on Aging Research Affiliates is provided in Appendix D.

**Collaboration and Networking**

Faculty affiliated with the Centre have an extensive history of collaboration both within and outside of University of Victoria. Within the University, multiple research clusters are currently active, many of which are supported by external research grants. Some new collaborative clusters include: Drs. Gallagher, Cloutier-Fisher, and Tuokko; Drs. McDonald and McIntyre; Drs. Moss and Prince; Drs. Stajduhar, Purkis, and Cloutier-Fisher, and Drs. Rhodes, Porter, and Warburton.

The faculty affiliates of the Centre also collaborate extensively with community researchers, including physicians and professionals in various health authorities and other organizations. We have found that the recently funded infrastructure grant, as well as the emerging Island Medical Program has resulted in increased collaborations with community researchers. Our links to VIHA represents an important community collaboration that has strengthened through the infrastructure grant. (Please refer to the MSFHR Infrastructure Grant information on page 14). Funds from this grant are being used to support research and liaison staff facilitating collaboration with researchers at VIHA and other community organizations. Similarly community organizations such as BC Transit, CRD Traffic Safety Commission, Garth Homer Society, Intercultural Association, Recreation Integration and Silver Threads are partnering with our affiliates to support health research in the community.

**BC Network for Aging Research**

The evolution of the BC Network for Aging Research (BCNAR) in the year since its inception has proactively facilitated research networking and collaboration. The network which is divided into health authority regions is represented by a Regional Liaison Officer (RLO) who coordinates with the Network Coordinator, Bobbi Symes, and Co-Leaders (Gloria Gutman, Lynn Beattie, David Hultsch, Dawn Hemmingway, Colin Reid and Andrew Wister). This framework is one key to making BCNAR a provincial resource. The

One of the specific objectives of the Centre is to disseminate knowledge on aging to scientists, practitioners, and the public.
RLOs work within the region to collect information and facilitate local collaborations and the team works collectively to build a solid foundation and move provincial initiatives forward. The next section outlines BCNAR’s provincial developments followed by a section highlighting regional expansion.

BCNAR’s First Annual Provincial Workshop focused on dementia research. The workshop, attended by 110 people, was followed by the BCNAR Launch and First Annual Meeting. The event featured 11 speakers who presented current research in basic biomedical sciences, clinical medicine, health systems and services, and population and public health. There was also a poster competition. The highlights of the afternoon were break-out sessions in which participants identified “Burning Research Questions.” PowerPoint presentations and a summary report of “Burning Research Questions” may be found on the BCNAR webpage.

PROVINCIAL DEVELOPMENTS
The Research on Aging Database is one of the networks leading accomplishments. The database is a mechanism to link researchers and research users. With over 1500 citations of publications by BC authors on individual or population-aging-related topics, researchers and research generated in this province are easily identifiable. The database is accessible to input or to retrieve citations through the BCNAR webpage.

The BCNAR webpage is another development that serves as mechanism for connection. The website is an up-to-date resource providing information on research funding and job opportunities, events, news and recently released documents on aging. The address is http://www.bcnar.ca/.

BCNAR aims to increase the health and aging research capacity in BC. The network works most effectively with active members who communicate their contributions and needs to the RLO and secretariat. Members are asked to inform the RLO of new publications and grants received and to communicate requests to post relevant regional news and projects on the website. As the network works, the whole of BCNAR will become more than the individual parts.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS
In the past year, Reba Chaplin has served as the Regional Liaison Officer for the Vancouver Health Authority (VIHA) Region. In this time, BCNAR has doubled membership and participated in three collaborative research events. In addition, this region has made efforts to stay connected with gerontology research in the small towns and rural regions on Vancouver Island.

The regional BCNAR developments include participation in the planning and implementation of two Collaborative Research Workshops and one Coffee and Chocolate Research Seminar.

The first Collaborative Research Workshop, “Posing Health Research for Evidence Based Practice” took place on December 2, 2005. The session included co-presentations, facilitated break-out groups and a large group discussion. The workshop was live in Victoria and video-linked to Nanaimo, Duncan, Courtenay and Tofino. There were a total of 102 attendees with 21% from UVic, 70% from VIHA and 9% from other organizations. This workshop was a successful interdisciplinary networking opportunity that generated thought-provoking dialogue.
“Qualitative Health Research – What’s the Point?” was the second Collaborative Research Workshop. This workshop took place on May 17, 2006 in Victoria and was replicated in Parksville on July 14. This dynamic session was designed to provide an appreciation for the use of qualitative methods in health research and included performance presentations, a panel discussion and break-out groups. The workshop provided an excellent opportunity to learn and network for approximately 60 attendees from UVic, VIHA, Camosun College, Malaspina University-College and the Ministry of Health.

Our third collaborative endeavour was a Coffee & Chocolate Research seminar with the BC Rural and Remote Health Research Network. On May 12, 2006, at Malaspina University College, Dr. Arlene Carson, PhD, Aud (c) CHSRF Post-Doctoral Fellow, presented on the many non-medical, social factors influencing community and individual health across the lifespan. Dr. Carson presented findings from one urban community-based health promotion project (PATH project) as a springboard to discuss the questions and issues that arise within the participants’ own practice or research.

**BC Rural and Remote Health Research Network**

The mission of the BC Rural and Remote Health Research Network is to improve the health of rural and remote British Columbians through the creation of new research knowledge and subsequent translation into practice. Through increasing support for more researchers, research collaborations and knowledge exchange, the BC Rural and Remote Health Research Network offers a supportive infrastructure designed to facilitate the investigation of issues relevant to improvements in the health of rural and remote communities from biomedical, clinical, health services and population health perspectives. We encourage the development of rural health research based in the experiences and characteristics of rural and remote regions and with an emphasis on creating and nurturing academic-community partnerships. We also encourage the engagement of multi-disciplinary investigative teams.

The secretariat of the BCRRHRN is housed at the University of Northern British Columbia, with additional sites at the University of British Columbia and the University of Victoria. The Scientific Co-Directors for the network are Fiona MacPhail, PhD (UNBC), Stefan Grzybowski, MD (UBC) and Denise Cloutier-Fisher, PhD (UVic). You can also learn more about the network on the web at: http://www.bcrrhrn.ca.

**REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS**

In the past year, Theresa Hogg-Jackson has served as the UVic Site Coordinator. Site activities during this time include eight events hosted in various locations on the Island. While a number of these activities have been jointly hosted with other networks and agencies, we would like to highlight the seed grant development. Several of these grants have been awarded to foster rural and remote health research capacity. The recipients for this cycle are: Dr. Elizabeth Banister (UVic) for Understanding Aboriginal Adolescent Sexual Health Concerns: Informing a culturally sensitive sexual health mentorship curriculum; Dr. Carol Oosthuizen and Les Smith (Prince George Child Development Centre) for Using Family and Service Provider Perceptions to Refine Ideas About Best Practices: An investigation into early intervention services for children with special needs in the Northern Interior of British Columbia; Dr. Marina Morrow (SFU), Mental Health Reform: Understanding Rural Community Capacity; and Terry Boucher (North Cariboo Metis Association) for Healing Our Future Leaders.

We encourage the development of rural health research based in the experiences and characteristics of rural and remote regions and with an emphasis on creating and nurturing academic-community partnerships.
One of the specific objectives of the Centre is to disseminate knowledge on aging to scientists, practitioners, and the public.

**KNOWLEDGE DISSEMINATION AND TRANSLATION**

One of the specific objectives of the Centre is to disseminate knowledge on aging to scientists, practitioners, and the public. A related objective is to promote the translation of research findings into interventions, services, products, and policies relevant to older adults. We have attempted to achieve these objectives via a number of mechanisms designed to reach different audiences.

Researchers worked to develop new research methods that will facilitate the creation of interventions, services, products, and policies. For example, Dr. Neena Chappell is on the board of the Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging, Phase 2 as well as a co-investigator. Drs. Penning and Tuokko are co-investigators and theme leaders of the Social and Psychological perspectives, respectively. The focus of the study is to document the changing biological, medical, psychological, social, and economic aspects of people’s lives.

**Presentations at Meetings of Professional Organizations**

Presentations of research at meetings of professional organizations represent one major mechanism for sharing research findings with other scientists and professional practitioners in the field of aging. For a complete list of presentations at meetings, please refer to Appendix E. During 2005 - 2006 University of Victoria Research Affiliates of the Centre presented 132 papers at scientific meetings.

**Conferences**

Under the direction of Dr. Patrick McGowan, the Centre on Aging co-hosted the first International Conference on Patient Self-Management. The conference, New Perspectives – International Conference on Patient Self-Management was co-hosted with the BC Ministry of Health Services from September 12 – 14, 2005. The conference hosted the world’s leading experts including:

- Dr. Russell Glasgow, Senior Scientist with the Clinical Research Unit, Kaiser-Permanente Colorado, Denver, Colorado
- Dr. Kate Lorig, Professor of Medicine and the Director of the Patient Education Research Center at Stanford University in California
- Martha Funnel, a clinical nurse specialist, diabetes educator and adjunct lecturer in the University of Michigan, School of Nursing
- Barbara Redman, professor and Dean of the Wayne State University College of Nursing in Detroit, Michigan
Community Forum

The 2006 Community Forum, entitled Enhancing Capacity in Later Life, was held on February 23, 2006 and featured an opening plenary address by Lynn Guengerich and Marie Weatherby. They spoke about the role of the Nurse Practitioner and the specific health needs of seniors. Dr. Robert Dalton’s closing plenary address was “Ever learning, ever growing: Art experiences for the Elderly.” Workshop presenters and their topics were:

Prue Cunningham and Cynthia Tandy: Healthy Eating for Older Adults
James Darke: Getting More for Your Dollars
Elaine Gallagher and Veronica Doyle: Enhancing Capacity in Supportive Living
Michael Masson: The Nature of Human Memory
Patrick McGowan: Quality of Life, Health, and Techniques to Enhance Capacity
Laura Watts: Consent and the Law

Informal Lecture Series

The Centre organizes a series of informal lectures by researchers from University of Victoria and visiting faculty from other institutions. This lecture series is directed toward professionals in the community and graduate students, although other groups such as faculty and seniors also attend. The following lectures were held in 2005 - 2006:

• July 25, 2005
  Dr. Ross Gray, Associate Professor in the Department of Public Health Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto as well as Consultant Psychologist and Researcher in the Cancer Program at Sunnybrook & Women’s Health Sciences Centre in Toronto presented “Translation of Aging Men’s Health and Illness Research into Drama and Storytelling”.
• December 2, 2005
  Dr. Cecilia Benoit, Department of Sociology and Office of Research Services, University of Victoria, and Dr. Kenneth Moselle, VIHA/Mental Health & Addictions Services presented an interactive workshop, “Posing Health Research Questions for Evidence-Based Practice” as part of the Research, Design & Methodology Workshop Series.
• February 14, 2006
  Vancouver Island Health Authority and the Centre on Aging presented “You be the Judge: What constitutes negligence in facility care?” An interdisciplinary educational senior’s health complex care workshop and ‘mock trial’ involving students from nursing, psychology, and law.
• March 3 & March 4, 2006
  Dr. Maura McIntyre and Dr. Ardra Cole, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto presented, “The Love Stories: A Performance about Caregiving and Alzheimer’s Disease.” A 45 minute two-person performance and tribute to family caregivers and a celebration of care and caregiving.
• March 1, 2006
  Dr. Brian Wharf and Dr. Marilyn Callahan presented, as part of the Masterminds Lecture Series, “Grandmothers Raising Grandchildren: The Underground Child Welfare System.”
• March 4, 2006
  Deidre Scherer, fabric artist from Vermont, USA, presented a lecture, as
part of the Embrace Aging festival during March 2006, “Challenging Notions of Aging and Dying.”
• March 7, 2006
  Dr. Robert Dalton, Faculty of Education, University of Victoria, presented, as part of the Embrace Aging festival during March 2006, “Framing the Past: Seniors Stories Illustrated by Youthful Artists.”
• March 8, 2006
  Dr. Harold Coward presented, as part of the Masterminds Lecture Series, “Can the Religions Live Together?”
• March 12, 2006
  Rachel Dean, UVic PhD candidate presented, as part of the Embrace Aging festival during March 2006, “Strategies for Incorporating Physical Activity in Daily Life.”
• March 15, 2006
  Dr. Christopher Barnes presented, as part of the Masterminds Lecture Series, “The NEPTUNE Project: Transforming Our Understanding of the Deep Ocean Environment.”
• March 22, 2006
  Dr. Pat Martin-Bates presented, as part of the Masterminds Lecture Series, “Inscapes in Time’s Eye: A history of printmaking, including projection of an extensive slide collection.”
• May 12, 2006
  Pat Samples, MA, presented “Comfort and Care for Family Caregivers”. Joint presentation with Family Caregivers Network Society and Centre on Aging.
• May 17, 2006 & July 14, 2006 (Parksville)
  Dr. Marjorie MacDonald, UVic, Nursing; Dr. Andre Smith, UVic, Sociology; Ms. Connie Carter, UVic PhD (Candidate), Sociology; Ms. Bev Wilden, RN, MN, VIHA, Elderly Mental Health and Addictions; Dr. Susan Crawford, CIHR, Institute on Aging; Phyllis McGee, Centre on Aging; and Veronica Morris, VIHA, presented “Qualitative Research – What is the Point?” as part of the Research, Design & Methodology Workshop Series.
• June 14, 2006
  Dr. Neena Chappell presented “Caregivers: Why Some Cope Well” with the Family Caregivers Network Society.

Laura Funk, graduate student and Research Associate at the Centre on Aging also hosted a series of Student Lunches together with Rachel Dean, who is co-student representative of the CAG Student Connection. This year the Centre on Aging and the Canadian Association on Gerontology’s Student Connection offered a wide range of student lunch sessions for graduate students. The purpose of the lunch sessions is to provide practical information about topics that students might not otherwise be exposed to. These lunch sessions attracted interest from students from a wide range of faculties and were very well attended. Sessions held over the academic year:

• Publishing in Quantitative Academic Journals, with Neena Chappell (Sociology) and David Hultsch (Psychology)
• Publishing in Qualitative Academic Journals, with Andre Smith (Sociology)
• Translating Research into Policy and Practice, with Elaine Gallagher (Nursing)
• Managing and Organizing the Research Literature, with Inba Kehoe (Library)
• Presentation Skills, with Peter Stephenson (Anthropology) and Trudy Pauluth-Penner (Applied Theatre Consulting).
• Arts-Based Inquiry, with Trudy Pauluth-Penner (Applied Theatre Consulting) and Arlene Carson (Post-Doc, VIHA and Centre on Aging)
• “Marketing” Oneself as a Researcher, with Andre Smith and Karen Kobayashi (Sociology)
• Community-Based Research, with Marge Reitsma-Street (Social Policy and Practice)
• GIS: An Introduction for Non-Geographers, with Diane Allan (Centre on Aging)

Research Snapshots

Research Snapshots are summaries of research papers translated into layman’s terms by the Friends of the Centre for distribution in the community. The following Snapshots were prepared from July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006:


Valued Elder Recognition Awards (VERA) and International Day of the Older Person (IDOP) Lecture

The Valued Elder Recognition Awards (VERA) became part of our International Year of the Older Person celebrations in 2000. The intent of the award is to celebrate seniors who volunteer and make a difference in our community. Nominations are accepted from the community and award recipients are chosen by a committee that includes seniors, Centre faculty and staff, and individuals from the community. The awards are given in conjunction with the annual International Day of the Older Person public lecture October 1. The 2005 award recipients were Michael Brodsky, George and Ruth Cook, Joyce Norris-Jones and June Pryer.

The 2005 IDOP lecture was given by Dr. Robert G. Evans, Professor, Economics, University of British Columbia on “Apocalyptic Demography: The Use and Misuse of an Aging Population.”

Public Lectures and Media Contacts

Faculty, staff, and students associated with the Centre frequently give public talks. The lectures cover a variety of topics from a general description of the activities of the Centre to specific research projects and related results in particular areas of interest. As well, researchers affiliated with the Centre are contacted by local, national, and international media outlets concerning their research.

Talks are given to a wide range of audiences from students, parishioners, business people, volunteers, government workers and healthcare service providers to staff and members of community associations, foundations, non-profit societies.

Centre Bulletin

The Bulletin has evolved from a paper only document to a web-based newsletter published twice a year. The Bulletin is a method of communicating research findings and studies in a lay format, advertising lectures and sharing information about the evolving activities at the centre. The Bulletin is distributed to the following audiences: (a) seniors, professionals, and individuals in government and in the local community, (b) academics locally, nationally and internationally, and (c) not-for-profit and lobby groups locally and nationally.

Website

The Centre on Aging maintains a website to disseminate information on aging research. The address is: www.coag.uvic.ca. While current research information is available, we have expanded the site to include our new scholarships in aging and the BC Networks for Aging Research and Rural and Remote Health Research.

We continue to develop the website and will be hosting a student forum in the upcoming year. The pages will offer students information on available resources and a place for online discussion of topics related to their research.
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND RECOGNITION

Staff and faculty affiliated with the Centre on Aging are also involved in a variety of community efforts to improve the health and quality of life for older adults.

Dr. Elaine Gallagher serves as chair of the Biological and Health Sciences Division of the Canadian Association of Gerontology.

Lois Edgar sits on the Elder Friendly Community Network planning committee and is responsible for communications. Staff and researchers affiliated with the Centre share information at the monthly breakfast meetings and establish new links within the community with organizations dedicated to working collaboratively to enhance the community’s capacity to respond to the needs of older adults.

During the past year, Dr. Phyllis McGee has represented the Centre on Aging on the Embrace Aging Committee, a committee established by the Greater Victoria Eldercare Foundation that organized and sponsored over 100 community events during March 2006. These events which spotlighted growing older were designed to increase knowledge and dialogue on aging and the tremendous abilities, talents and personalities of older adults in our community. The Centre on Aging hosted the opening event at UVic’s Maltwood Art Museum & Gallery where an art exhibit, by Vermont fabric artist Deidre Scherer, displayed scenes of older adults towards the end-of-life surrounded by family and friends.

The British Columbia Psychogeriatric Association (BCPGA) is a provincial, professional, multidisciplinary association established to facilitate collaboration in practice, knowledge development, research and advocacy related to the psychogeriatric population (bcpga.bc.ca). Dr. Tuokko is a founding member of the organization and presently serves on the Research Committee whose objectives are: to foster, promote, and facilitate the dissemination and utilization of research knowledge on mental health problems associated with advanced age; to foster, promote, and facilitate the development of research activities within the membership addressing psychogeriatric issues; to serve as a resource to the organization concerning the status of psychogeriatric research in British Columbia and in general.

TRAINING

As a research unit, the Centre does not offer any courses, certificate programs, or degree programs related to aging. Nevertheless, consistent with the University’s Guidelines for Approved Research Centres, one of our objectives is to contribute to the research training of students, particularly at the postgraduate and post-doctoral levels.

In order to facilitate this endeavour the Centre has worked with the community to create a scholarship. This year the Victoria Gerontology Association, along with a number of individuals in the community donated funds to the Neena Chappell Scholarship. The first award will take place in September 2007.
Formal Programs

At the University of Victoria, students are normally admitted for graduate training by the teaching departments (e.g., geography, psychology, nursing, sociology). They must meet the degree requirements of the department and receive a disciplinary-based degree. A small number of students pursue multidisciplinary degrees by special arrangement. A total of 12 departments at the University offer training relevant to aging, with 19 advanced courses on aging and an additional 49 courses with a partial focus on aging. The Centre compiles an inventory of these instructional assets from the University Calendar and publishes it every two years to assist students and others interested in teaching on aging.

Research Affiliates of the Centre are extensively involved in training within their respective departments. They currently serve as primary supervisors for 23 master’s, two doctoral, and one post-doctoral student.

The following theses were completed in 2005-2006 by students whose advisor is a research affiliate of the Centre:

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Supervisor</th>
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<tr>
<td>N. Bottiglia</td>
<td>M Ed</td>
<td>R. Bell</td>
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<td>Y. Ji</td>
<td>MA</td>
<td>N. Chappell</td>
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<td>J. Sturge</td>
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<td>D. Cloutier-Fisher</td>
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<td>K. Biagioni</td>
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<td>P. Loadman</td>
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Postdoctoral Fellows

Arlene Carson, Postdoctoral Fellow, Supervisor N. Chappell
Penny MacCourt, Postdoctoral Fellow, Supervisor H. Tuokko

Student Employment

A substantial number of students at both the undergraduate and graduate levels are employed by Research Affiliates of the Centre or by the Centre itself in a variety of capacities. Students are hired as research assistants, interviewers, coders, data analysts, project coordinators and in other research-related roles. Most of these positions are funded by external research grants, but in recent years we have also employed students through a variety of other mechanisms such as co-op programs, the Federal government’s summer program, and the University’s work-study program.
Who you will find housed at the Centre on Aging’s Offices

Updated July 2006
### New Research Grants Awarded in 2005/06

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Principal Investigator</th>
<th>Co-Investigators</th>
<th>Title of Grant</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Funder</th>
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<tr>
<td>K. Chou</td>
<td>N. Chappell &amp; others</td>
<td>Measuring Individualized Care for Persons with Dementia in Long-Term Care Facilities: A Validation Study</td>
<td>2005-2006</td>
<td>HK$94,000</td>
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<td>C. Wolfson S. Kirkland</td>
<td>N. Chappell &amp; others</td>
<td>Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging: Developmental Activities Phase II</td>
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<td>A. Molzahn</td>
<td>M. Pelletier Hibbert R. Starzomski D. Gaudet</td>
<td>Experiences with Chronic Kidney Disease and its Management</td>
<td>2005-2007</td>
<td>$34,064</td>
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<td>J. Kozak</td>
<td>N. Chappell E. Gallagher V. Scott &amp; others</td>
<td>Closing the Knowledge Gap for Seniors &amp; Community Care Collaborative</td>
<td>2005-2008</td>
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<td>D. Smith</td>
<td>Canadian Falls Prevention Curriculum</td>
<td>2005-2008</td>
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<td>D. Cloutier-Fisher P. Keller R. Canesse &amp; others</td>
<td>Participatory Sustainable Waste Management</td>
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<td>Validating Measurement Tools for Caregiver Research</td>
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<td>N. Chappell L. Beattie</td>
<td>Psychological Resilience and the Well-Being of Spousal Caregivers of persons with Dementia</td>
<td>2006-2008</td>
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<td>K. Stajduhar</td>
<td>Communication in Cancer Care: The Trajectory of Interaction Between Patients and Health Care Professionals</td>
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<td>Developing Experts in Psycho-Geriatric Nursing</td>
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<td>C. McDonald</td>
<td>M. McIntyre</td>
<td>Health experiences of adults aging with developmental disability</td>
<td>2006</td>
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<td>Implementing Self-Management Programs in Nisga’a Territories</td>
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<td>Lone mothers, social inclusion, and chronic diseases: A participatory, multimethod, cross-national research program</td>
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<td>Utilization of spinal circuitry and cutaneous feedback for recovery of walking after stroke</td>
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<td>Making an enemy our ally: A pilot study testing the effects of interactive video games on exercise preference in young girls and boys</td>
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<td>Evaluating the effectiveness of the dissemination of Action Schools! BC: A socio-ecological intervention to increase physical activity and healthy eating in school children</td>
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<td>C. Blanchard</td>
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<td>Social ecological determinants of exercise during home-based cardiac rehabilitation: Should gender be considered?</td>
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<td>M. Porter</td>
<td>H. Tuokko</td>
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<td>The Relationship between Parental Efficacy and Child Physical Activity Participation: A pilot study in Greater Victoria</td>
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<td>Using a Social Ecological Approach to Explain Exercise Behaviour from a Gender Perspective in Cardiac Patients not Attending Cardiac Rehabilitation in Nova Scotia</td>
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<td>Leadership for Ethical Policy and Practice</td>
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<td>Assessing Options for Reform of Disability Supports and Income</td>
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<td>N. Chappell &amp; A. Best</td>
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<td>Best Practices for Co-ordinated Health Promotion and Health Services in Midlife</td>
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<td>C. Blanchard, J. Fisher</td>
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<td>Does the theory of planned behavior moderate the relationship between ethnicity and moderately intense physical activity in college-aged students.</td>
<td>2003-2006</td>
<td>$80,303</td>
<td>National Institutes of Health (U.S.) via the Research Center for Minority Institutions</td>
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<td>E.P. Zehr</td>
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<td>Reflex mechanisms of motor coordination during rhythmic human arm movement</td>
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<td>R. Cohen</td>
<td>K. Stajduhar &amp; others</td>
<td>Improving Quality of Life and Informing Social Policy in Palliative Care: Team Infrastructure Funding</td>
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<td>Sociobehavioural Cancer Research Network, National Cancer Institute of Canada (NCIC)</td>
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<td>P. Kirk F. Lau</td>
<td>M. Purkis &amp; others</td>
<td>Overcoming barriers to communication through palliative transitions</td>
<td>2003-2008</td>
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<td>The Canada Century Research Infrastructure Project</td>
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<td>H. Arthur K. King</td>
<td>L. Young &amp; others</td>
<td>Training program for the development of cardiovascular nursing research capacity in Canada</td>
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<td>Institute for Circulatory and Respiratory Health/Heart and Stroke Foundation Fund</td>
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<td>P. McGowan</td>
<td>B. Leslie J. Lu M. Bradshaw F. Hensen A. Dauphinee</td>
<td>Effectiveness of Self-Management Training for Person with Type 2 Diabetes</td>
<td>2004-2006</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>BC Medical Services Foundation</td>
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<td>D. Stienstra</td>
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<td>C. Wolfson S. Kirkland P. Raina</td>
<td>H. Tuokko M. Penning D. Cloutier-Fisher &amp; others</td>
<td>Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging, Developmental Activities – Phase 1</td>
<td>2004-2008</td>
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<td>D. Cloutier-Fisher S. Grzybowski F. MacPhail</td>
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<td>F. Lau</td>
<td>P. Kirk</td>
<td>Communication through End-of-Life</td>
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<td>for Health Research: New Emerging Teams</td>
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<td>D. Hultsch</td>
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<td>Aging and Reaction Time Inconsistency</td>
<td>2004-2009</td>
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<td>M.E. Purkis</td>
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<td>K. Stajduhar</td>
<td>G. Fyles</td>
<td>Family Caregiver Coping in End-of-Life Cancer Care</td>
<td>2004-2007</td>
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<td>D. Barwich</td>
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<td>Palliative Care in Canada: The Economic Perspective</td>
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<td>A. Becker</td>
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<td>Family Caregiving in Palliative and End-of-Life Care: A New Emerging Team</td>
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<td>Adolescent Females, Obesity and Asthma: An Inflammatory State</td>
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<td>L. Gamroth</td>
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<td>Convalescent Care Unit Oak Bay Lodge: Evaluation Research</td>
<td>2004-2006</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
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<td>BC Network for Aging Research Infrastructure Grant</td>
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<td>A. Molzahn</td>
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<td>Experiences with Chronic Kidney Disease and its Management (qualitative aspects of CanPREVENT project)</td>
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<td>C. Wolfson S. Kirkland P. Raina</td>
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<td>Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging: Developmental Activities – Phase II</td>
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<td>S. Thorne K. Stajduhar S. Harris G. Hislop C. Kim-Sing J. Oliffe</td>
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<td>Communication in Cancer Care: The Trajectory of Interaction between Patients and Health Care Professionals</td>
<td>2005-2008</td>
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<td>C. Benoit L. Graves O. Hankivsky J. Johnson</td>
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<td>P. Moss M. Prince</td>
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<td>A Critical Inquiry into the Construction of Contested Illness: Gender, Medicine and Culture</td>
<td>2005-2008</td>
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<td>N. Chappell C. Reid H. Kadlec</td>
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<td>Individualized Care for Dementia Sufferers in Long-Term Care – What’s Best for the Resident?</td>
<td>2005-2008</td>
<td>$316,000</td>
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<td>J. Moreau C. McDonald &amp; others</td>
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<td>Expanding Horizons for Student Nurses: Mental Health and Care of Older Adults as a Placement Choice</td>
<td>2005-2007</td>
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### Research Grants Completed in 2005-2006

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<td>I. McDowell</td>
<td>H. Tuokko, J. Lindsay, R. Verreault, K. Rockwood, J. Fish, L. Chambers, P. Raina</td>
<td>Cognition in Canada: Analyses of CSHA Results</td>
<td>2002-2005</td>
<td>$346,874</td>
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<td>C. Benoit</td>
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<td>The Impact of Stigma on Marginalized Populations’ Work, health and Access to Health Services</td>
<td>2002-2005</td>
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<td>Z. Wu</td>
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<td>The Consequences of Union Disruption for Women and Children in Canada</td>
<td>2002-2005</td>
<td>$65,929</td>
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<td>L. Young</td>
<td>A. Molzhan, R. Starzomski, S. Parker, B. Budz</td>
<td>Families and Health Care: Explicating the Health Care Experiences of Heart Transplant Recipients and their Families</td>
<td>2002-2005</td>
<td>$72,588</td>
<td>Heart and Stroke Foundation</td>
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<td>P.J. Milliken</td>
<td>M. McDonald, R. Schreiber</td>
<td>The Nature of Theory in Grounded Theory</td>
<td>2003-2005</td>
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<td>P. Stephenson</td>
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<td>New Lands and Contested Identities: Living in Flevoland, the Netherlands</td>
<td>2003-2005</td>
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<td>D. Warburton</td>
<td>R. Rhodes, W. Sheel</td>
<td>Effect of two exercise training programmes on central and peripheral limitations to exercise capacity in spinal cord injured individuals</td>
<td>2003-2005</td>
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<td>Evaluating the Behavioural Economics of Leisure Time Physical Activity</td>
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<td>Study of Nonmarital Cohabitation in Canada</td>
<td>2004-2005</td>
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<td>Z. Wu</td>
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<td>Study of Elderly Immigrants and Health Care Utilization in British Columbia</td>
<td>2004-2005</td>
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<td>Research on Immigration and Integration in the Metropolis</td>
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<td>Alternatives to Treadmill Training for Recovery of Walking After Spinal Cord Injury</td>
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<td>Christopher Reeve Paralysis Foundation</td>
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<td>M. Prince</td>
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<td>Toward a National Cancer Control Strategy for Canada</td>
<td>2004-2005</td>
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<td>M. Stienstra</td>
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<td>Disability Studies in Canada</td>
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<td>Rideau Strategy Associates</td>
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<td>Evaluation Design of the Canada Pension Plan Disability Program</td>
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<td>V. Scott K. Votova E. Gallagher</td>
<td>H. Bawa F. Rajabali G. Hong</td>
<td>Strategies and Actions for Independent Living, RCT of effectiveness of training &amp; multifactorial intervention to reduce falls and injuries among home support clients</td>
<td>2004-2005</td>
<td>$163,000</td>
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<td>P. Moss K. Teghtsoonian</td>
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<td>Illness and the Contours of Contestation: Diagnosis, Experience, Policy -- Workshop</td>
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<td>P. Moss K. Teghtsoonian</td>
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<td>Illness and the Contours of Contestation: Diagnosis, Experience, Policy -- Workshop</td>
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<td>D. Hultsch P. McGee D. Allan</td>
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<td>An examination of the Current State of Adult Day Care Centres within VIHA South Island</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>$8,000</td>
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<td>V. Scott</td>
<td>D. Smith</td>
<td>Taking Steps for the Future: Provincial Falls Prevention Planning</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td>Public Health Agency of Canada, Western Region / Ministry of Health Services</td>
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<td>E. Gallagher</td>
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<td>E.P. Zehr</td>
<td>D.P. Ferris</td>
<td>Efficacy of coupled rhythmic arm and leg movement as an alternative to body weight supported walking training for recovery of walking after incomplete spinal cord injury</td>
<td>2005-2006</td>
<td>$35,000</td>
<td>Rick Hansen Man in Motion Foundation</td>
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<td>Individual Research Grant</td>
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Appendix D

Articles Published in Refereed Journals June 2005 - June 2006


**Books, Chapters, Monographs**


Appendix E

Presentations from June 2005 - June 2006


Benoit, C. (2006). Health disparities among two vulnerable populations: Preliminary findings. Simon Fraser University, Faculty of Health Sciences. Burnaby, BC.


Chappell, N. (2006). Care and caregivers: Recent research on dementia in B.C. BCNAR workshop on Dementia Research, Vancouver, BC.


Foster, H. (2005). Why geography is more important than genetics. Dine with a Scientist, Dunsmuir Lodge, University of Victoria, Victoria, BC.


Foster, H. (2005). Geography: A key to health? Health Sciences Program, Division of Continuing Studies, David Strong Building, University of Victoria, Victoria, BC.


Kirk, P. (2005). 2 Workshops: How long have I got, doc?: Aids to talking to patients and families and Tired all the time: An interdisciplinary approach to fatigue management. B.C. Hospice & Palliative Care Association Annual meeting, Surry, BC.


Molzahn, A.E. (2005). Quality of Life Measurement. Federal University of Sao Paulo, Sao Paulo, BRA.


Moss, P. (2006). What’s there and what isn’t? Thinking about texts, truths, and analysis. Qualitative Inquiry Group, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON.


Scott, V. (2006). National patient fall initiative in Canada. Transforming Fall Prevention Practices, University of South Florida College of Nursing, University of South Florida. Clearwater, FLA.


Young, L.E. (2005). Reflecting on family nursing, pre-conference educational tour for 46 nurses from Japan Prior to the 7th International Family Nursing Conference, Victoria BC.


Young, L.E. (2006). Bringing health promotion into reality. 2 Workshops in concurrent sessions for Health Promotion, prevention, and population health: Working Towards a common understanding. Vancouver Coastal Health, Richmond, BC.


Zehr, E.P. (2005) Neural control of rhythmic arm movement: implications for recovery of walking after neurotrauma. University of Michigan, Departments of Kinesiology and Bioengineering. Ann Arbor, MI

Zehr, E.P. (2005) Neural control of rhythmic arm movement: implications for recovery of walking after neurotrauma. McGill University, Jewish Rehabilitation Hospital, Montreal, QC.
