



University
of Victoria

Graduate Studies

Notice of the Final Oral Examination
for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

of

CORRENE DECARLO

MSc (Lakehead University, 2008)

BSch (Queen's University, 2005)

**“Systemic Inflammation, Mild Cognitive Impairment and Alzheimer’s disease:
Findings from The PREVENT Study”**

Department of Psychology

Thursday, February 18, 2016

9:00AM

David Turpin Building

Room A136

Supervisory Committee:

Dr. Stuart MacDonald, Department of Psychology, University of Victoria (Supervisor)

Dr. Holly Tuokko, Department of Psychology, UVic (Co-Supervisor)

Dr. Dorothy Williams, Vancouver Island Health Authority, Victoria (Outside Member)

External Examiner:

Dr. Alina Solomon, Department of Neurology, University of Eastern Finland

Chair of Oral Examination:

Dr. Douglas Nichols, School of Exercise Science, Physical and Health Education, UVic

Abstract

The search for reliable early indicators of age-related cognitive decline represents an important avenue in aging research. Most research on late-life development charts cognitive change as a function of chronological age (CA), however, although CA is a commonly used developmental index, it offers little insight into the mechanisms underlying cognitive decline. In contrast, biological age (BioAge), reflecting the vitality of essential biological, represents a promising operationalization of developmental time. My overall programmatic doctoral research interests involve the identification of biological risk factors that predict age-related cognitive decline, impairment and dementia. In this dissertation document, I present; an overview of my empirical contributions to the BioAge and cognitive aging literature throughout my doctoral training; the dissertation project which examines the links between systemic inflammation, mild cognitive impairment and Alzheimer's disease using preliminary data from The PREVENT Study; and a discussion on the broad implications of the project results and future directions in BioAge research.