Greetings to all CHS members, and I am pleased to be back for my final year as head of department, after an invigorating administrative leave in 2018. I want to once again profusely thank Sharon Bruce for the outstanding work that she did as acting head in 2018, and wish her a fulfilling research leave during the first half of 2019. Some of the fruits of her work last year can be seen below, and elsewhere in this newsletter.

The winter term teaching program has begun, with our large graduate and undergraduate student enrollments. We are in the midst of the admissions process for our graduate program for the fall of 2019, and it looks as though we will have another large enrollment of MSc and PhD students. The review processes for our MPh and Diploma graduate programs are ongoing, but will be completed later this year; in the meantime, the status quo continues with respect to admissions to those programs. The departmental retreat which was held last year was very helpful in planning the way forward for these and other departmental activities. Thanks to all of our faculty members and support staff who have contributed to the successful delivery of these programs. A much anticipated and prepared for accreditation review of the College’s undergraduate medical education program culminates in an accreditation visit in April 2019, and our UGME team has done tremendous work in anticipation of accreditation, and in responding to various issues arising.

There have been some major developments over the past several months with respect to research and research support. Because of the success of departmental faculty members over the past few years with Tri-Council grant funding, and because of a recent injection of additional funds by the federal government into the Canada Research Chairs program, we were recently given approval by the University of Manitoba central administration (in particular the Office of the Vice-President, Research and International), to recruit three new CRCs to the department. These are designated as recruitment positions, for new faculty members. Sharon Bruce was very helpful last year in landing these positions in CHS, through a faculty-wide competitive process. They are in: artificial intelligence for complex data, in collaboration with the CHI; analytic techniques in population data science and data curation, based at MCHP; and health economics.

In addition, we are recruiting for a new CRC in Program Science and Global Health, to be based at the CGPH. We also anticipate applying for a new retention CRC Tier 1 this year. Search committees have been established for all four CRC Tier II positions, and we will therefore be in a very busy recruitment mode over the next several months. If all of this recruitment is successful, the department will have 12 CRCs by the end of this year, including eight Tier 1 and four Tier 2 Chairs, which is quite remarkable.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that Linda Diffey has been selected for the Indigenous Scholar academic position, the recruitment to which began last year. It is a joint appointment between Community Health Sciences and Ongomizwin Indigenous Institute of Health and Healing. Linda will be starting her position on April 1, 2019, subject to approval by the President and Board of Governors of the University of Manitoba. Please join me and Dr. Catherine Cook, vice-dean, Indigenous, Rady Faculty of Health Sciences, in welcoming Linda to the department, to Ongomizwin and to the faculty.

As you all know, Shannon Turczak took over from Kathy Bell as the department’s executive assistant last January, and the transition has been seamless. I have only worked with her for the past two months, but she has provided tremendous support, and I’m sure will be a key departmental fixture in the months and years to come.
Dr. Tracie Afifi won the 2017 Article of the Year in Child Abuse & Neglect, the official journal of The International Society of the Prevention of Child Abuse & Neglect (ISPCAN). This paper was chosen as Article of the Year out of the 238 manuscripts published in Child Abuse & Neglect in 2017. The criteria for the award are: a) novel nature of the paper, b) potential to advance the field, and c) high academic quality. Afifi TO, Ford, D, Gershoff E, Merrick M, Grogan-Kaylor A, Ports KA, MacMillan HL, Holden GW, Taylor CA, Lee SJ, Peters Bennett R. 2017. Spanking and adult mental health impairment: The case for the designation of spanking as an adverse childhood experience, Child Abuse & Neglect 2017;71: 24-31.

Dr. Meghan Azad received the 2018 International Society for Research in Human Milk and Lactation (ISRHML) Ehrlich-Koldovsky Award recognizing junior investigators making outstanding original scientific contributions to the study of human milk and lactation.

Dr. Elizabeth Wall-Wieler, postdoctoral fellow and research associate in CHS, has been nominated for a University of Manitoba Distinguished Dissertation Award.

Dr. Alexander Kumar, a UK based physician who has research links with members of the University of Manitoba Department of Community Health Sciences, published an article entitled “Picturing health: global primary health care” in the October 20, 2018 issue of the Lancet. One of the featured health workers is Dr. Bruce Martin. The article highlights Dr. Martin’s many contributions to the health of northern peoples. https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(18)32515-7/fulltext

CHS Faculty Collaborate on New High School Family Studies Curriculum
On October 17, 2018, members of the Department of Community Health Sciences joined with community partners from the Sexuality Education Resource Centre (SERC) and Community Financial Counselling Services (CFCS) to provide resources to 70 high school human ecology teachers on the new grades 9-12 family studies curriculum. The event was held at the Canad Inns Destination Centre Fort Garry with financial support from the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences, the Manitoba Association of Home Economists, and Manitoba Education and Training.

Dr. Ashley Stewart-Tufescu (CHS; Red River College) and Joan Durrant (CHS) provided the frame for the day’s content by introducing participants to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the three pillars of participation, protection and provision, which led to discussion of what a rights-based approach to teaching might look like in the classroom.

Jared Star (SERC; CHS master’s student) led a session on comprehensive sexuality education from a rights-based approach. In addition to providing examples of how to teach consent, he provided participants with ideas on how to handle some of the more difficult questions that teachers encounter when teaching sexuality education in less supportive family and community contexts.

Sally Massey-Wiebe (CFCS) and Dr. Karen Duncan (CHS) focused on how the move to financial empowerment provides a rights-based approach to thinking about financial well-being. Massey-Wiebe gave participants an overview of the importance of personal income tax filing as the “doorway” to other benefits and led an interactive session demonstrating how behavioural economics can help us understand and counteract the barriers to making good financial decisions.

To wrap up the day, Drs. Stewart-Tufescu and Durrant introduced participants to the research on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), highlighting the link between number of ACEs experienced and negative social and health outcomes in adulthood.

The new family studies curriculum is part of an update to the Province’s Human Ecology Curriculum for Middle and Senior Years. The update is highly anticipated, and Susan Lee, human ecology/home economics consultant with Manitoba Education and Training, who led the work notes it has to remain relevant for at least 20 years. Members of the Department of Community Health Sciences with teaching responsibility for the Family Social Sciences courses were one of the groups consulted to advise on the content of the new curriculum.

The undergraduate medical education curriculum addresses many different topics throughout the four years of the program. Some subjects, particularly those that challenge the status quo and/or bring to light structural inequities, privileges, and biases can be uncomfortable for students. While this discomfort may result in critical reflection and insight for some learners, some learners may reject or resist this content.

As a collaborative initiative between the Office of Educational and Faculty Development, the Indigenous Health course, and the Population Health course, a workshop on Teaching & Student Resistance took place on November 2, 2018. This workshop aimed to provide professional development for faculty and staff who facilitate content that may invite student resistance. The workshop provided a forum for about 20 faculty and staff to discuss their experiences, and shared practical strategies for instructors to implement when teaching these types of curricular content. Sincere thanks to Dr. Jason Brooks (www.phenomenaldocs.com) for facilitating this workshop!
The Office of Community Engagement is developing a new website focusing on Medical Curriculum, pipeline programs and social accountability. A presentation on Service Learning in the Undergraduate Sciences Accreditation Boot Camp on November 6, 2018, featured Ian Whetter and Karen Cook from the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences, facilitated by RFHS student volunteers. Thank you to all volunteers for their work throughout the 11 weeks and for participating in sessions developed and led by their colleagues in the Department of Public Health Sciences.

The draft copy is complete and the Social Accountability Committee is reviewing. Thank you to Chelsea Jalloh, UGME population health coordinator, Jennifer Otisi-Didi, community engagement assistant and co-lead, Office of Community Engagement for their work on this important document.

The scan is an initial snapshot that will hopefully spark dialogue and information sharing between RFHS colleges/programs and community partners. Results can be used to increase understanding of social accountability educational initiatives within RFHS, to create opportunities for inter-college dialogue and collaboration, and to explore methods to streamline and strengthen relationships between RFHS and community partners.

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**Rady Faculty of Health Sciences – Social Accountability Committee**

The committee has been operating since spring 2018 and consists of RFHS college reps as well as community members, appointed by Dean Dr. Brian Postl. One of the first tasks of this committee was to undertake a scan of the various colleges to see where and how social accountability is incorporated. Meaningful work is already taking place between RFHS colleges/programs and community partners. The overarching goal of the scan is to gather information about existing social accountability initiatives within RFHS education experiences, and to share this information within RFHS, with community partners and the RFHS Social Accountability Committee.

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**Canu Program**

Canu is back at Bannatyne campus for another 11-week after school program for inner-city youth who convene each Thursday and participate in fun and interactive health science activities. The students in grades 7-9 rotate between various colleges and programs throughout the 11 weeks and participate in sessions developed and facilitated by RFHS student volunteers. Thank you to all volunteers for providing these enrichment experiences for our community youth!

**Accreditation**

Ian Whetter and Karen Cook presented at the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences Accreditation Boot Camp on November 6, 2018. Their presentation focused on Service Learning in the Undergraduate Medical Curriculum, pipeline programs and social accountability. A new Office of Community Engagement website is being developed to highlight some of these initiatives, including the service learning component and newly established Social Accountability Committee.

**Canadian Conference on Medical Education (CCME)**

Karen Cook, Ian Whetter, Chelsea Jalloh and service learning counterparts in eastern universities submitted an abstract for workshop presentation at CCME in April 2019. The workshop abstract – “Developing Partnerships between Community Organizations and Universities to Deliver Service Learning Experiences for Medical Students” – was accepted and will be presented on April 15, 2019 in Niagara Falls, Ont.

**New Research Grants**


Montgomery, J, Shooshtari, S, Wirth, K. Describing the pathway to an autism spectrum disorder diagnosis. University of Manitoba, University Collaborative Research Program (UCRP). 2018-2019. $21,800

**New Publications**


REPORTS, BOOKS, CHAPTERS


WORKSHOPS


PRESENTATIONS


Azad M. Effecting change through research: Designing your studies to influence policy and practice. Invited speaker at The Royal Institute of Mental Health Research and the Mach-Gaesslen Foundation, Ottawa ON, Canada, October 24, 2018.


Affi TO. The effects of child maltreatment on mental health: How we can move towards prevention. Invited speaker at The Royal Institute of Mental Health Research and the Mach-Gaesslen Foundation, Ottawa ON, Canada, October 24, 2018.

Affi TO. Effecting change through research: Designing your studies to influence policy and practice. Invited speaker at The Royal Institute of Mental Health Research and the Mach-Gaesslen Foundation, Ottawa ON, Canada, October 24, 2018.


Mignone J. Diseño, implementación y evaluación de proyectos y programas en ciencias sociales y en ciencias de la salud que sigan un enfoque intercultural. Centro de Lecturas, Escrituras y Oralidades. Facultad de Educación, Universidad de Antioquia, Colombia, November 6, 2018.

Mignone J. The experience with open access publication. Librarian seminar. Dafoe Library, The University of Manitoba, October 24, 2018.


Wall-Wieler E, Roos LL, Bolton J. Duration of maternal mental health-related outcomes after an infant’s death: A retrospective matched-cohort
study using linkable administrative data. Oral presentation at the IDPLN conference: Banff, AB, September 11-14, 2018.


CONFERENCE ABSTRACTS


PUBLIC SERVICE

Affi TO. CTV National News at 6 pm. Georgia school brings back the paddle. Live interview with Merella Fernandez. September 10, 2018

BOLD IDEAS

BOLD IDEAS COLLOQUIUM SERIES

Bold Ideas Colloquium Series moves beyond just a story or list of facts – it showcases ideas that take certain evidence and draws a larger conclusion for the benefit of family, community, population and public health. Bold Ideas provides diversity in topics and speakers and helps us to:

• Contribute to new or extend existing faculty, student and resident scholarly thinking and networks,
• Ask new questions,
• Think local when a particular topic cannot be addressed globally,
• Think global where we reflect outward so that other communities can learn from our community,
• Reflect inward when we learn or adapt from the world not known or familiar to us (locally).

SPEAKERS INCLUDE

October 5, 2018: Cara Brown, Claudiyne Chevrier, Sanjida Newz, CHS Graduate Students. “Celebrating Bold Ideas Students”.

October 12, 2018: Pierre Plourde, Carmen Tse, “Echinococcus Multilocularis - Who Knew We Had A Deadly Parasite In Winnipeg”?


October 26, 2018: Milena Pirnat, “The benefits of Online Patient Communities”, According to a Hemophilia Mother.


November 9, 2018: Danya Fast, “We Don’t Belong There”: New Geographies Of Homelessness, Addiction, and Social Control in Vancouver’s Inner City.”

November 23, 2018: Christine Kelly, “What’s different about working under Self and Family Managed care in Manitoba”?

November 30, 2018: Lyle Mckinnon, “Toward a unified field theory of HIV transmission.”


October, 2018.