OIPC strategic planning announcement

The Office of Interprofessional Collaboration (OIPC) was established in 2015 with dedicated leads from each of the five Rady Faculty of Health Sciences’ (RFHS) colleges. One of the first innovations was the design and delivery of an interprofessional education (IPE) curriculum, beginning in the fall of 2016. Building on multiple and varied program and faculty iterations over the years, the OIPC landed on a longitudinal approach, grounded in theory and best practices, using a blended learning approach. To date, there have been more than 3,000 learners who have completed the two-year foundational curriculum from the 10 participating programs, including dental hygiene, dentistry, medicine, midwifery, nursing, occupational therapy, pharmacy, physical therapy, physician assistant studies and respiratory therapy. Multiple learners from the different programs have participated in various interprofessional practice opportunities including, Ndinawemaaganag: Interprofessional Community Engagement in Indigenous Communities and Home for the Summer Program, as well as individual experiential learning activities. A scholarly approach has been consistently applied to all activities, as evidenced by multiple peer-reviewed conference presentations and publications over time.

The OIPC has grown over the years; from the initial robust educational offering to practice and community-based learning experiences, as well as fostering research and scholarly activity. In addition to the five college leads, the OIPC introduced several additional roles: the interprofessional practice coordinator (in 2017), the Rady chair in interprofessional collaborative practice (in 2019), the director (education) position (in 2019), a northern and rural student placement coordinator (in 2020) and program assistant, northern and rural student placements (in 2021).

There have been many successes and also challenges over the years, and the time is now appropriate for the OIPC to embark on visioning future goals and activities for education, practice and research in interprofessional collaboration. To this end, a strategic planning process has begun with the facilitation skills of Dr. Colleen Metge. The next step will be the engagement of its many and varied stakeholders to help guide and confirm the OIPC priorities over the next five years. The results of this process will be shared with the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences community as they evolve.

The mission of the OIPC is to inspire RFHS students and faculty to develop their interprofessionalism through learning with, from and about one another to promote the health of Manitobans.
The OIPC says welcome and farewell

Ed: Linnéa Shackel

Welcome to Lanette Siragusa, RN, BN, CEC, vice-dean, education

Throughout her nursing career, Lanette Siragusa has valued the opportunity to work amongst many cohesive, progressive interprofessional teams. She has seen first-hand how coordination and respect among health-care providers can not only improve safety and health outcomes, but also enhance the experiences of clinical providers, patients and families. Prior to joining the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences, Siragusa was Shared Health’s provincial lead for health system integration and quality, chief nursing officer and the co-chair of COVID-19 Incident Command, helping to lead the health system’s response during the pandemic. Her past experiences encompass working in high-risk labour and delivery, and community health, as well as teaching, research and leadership roles, including program director for surgery within the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority. As the new vice-dean for education, Siragusa is thrilled to join the Office of Interprofessional Collaboration team and looks forward to contributing in a meaningful way.

Welcome to Linnéa Shackel, BSc, BSc Pharm, PharmD, RPh, College of Pharmacy lead

Linnéa Shackel joined the OIPC team in October 2021 to cover Alexandra Cooper’s leave. Shackel received her bachelor of pharmacy from the University of Manitoba. In 2018, she moved to Edmonton and completed her doctor of pharmacy from the University of Alberta. Thereafter, Shackel returned to Winnipeg and worked as a clinical pharmacist at St. Boniface General Hospital. Her areas of practice were specialized in cardiology and intensive care. She is now working full time at the College of Pharmacy in the skills lab and maintains a casual position at St. Boniface General Hospital.

Shackel believes application-based learning is essential for student development and highlights the importance of interprofessional collaboration for optimal patient care outcomes.

Welcome to Ceilidh Miller, program assistant, northern and rural/remote student placements, RFHS

Ceilidh Miller started working for the University of Manitoba in January 2018 and has been in various roles in the Dr. Gerald Niznick College of Dentistry, School of Dental Hygiene and Max Rady College of Medicine for the past four years. Miller’s passion for interprofessional collaboration stems from the benefits that the students receive while collaborating with colleagues from different learning disciplines.

The goal of this role is to support opportunities that allow students to have meaningful experiences while on rural placements and to explore the possibility of working in northern and rural communities.
Many thanks and farewell to Margaret Shiels, administrative assistant

Marg Shiels joined the OIPC team in August 2021 to cover Shannon Bloodworth’s leave. She comes to the OIPC with several years of senior administrative experience with roles in both the public and private sector. Prior to joining the OIPC, she spent seven years in the department of surgery as the administrative assistant to the section head of general surgery.

Shiels’s strong desire to make a difference and contribute to truth and reconciliation, inclusion, diversity and equality led her to the University of Manitoba and the Office of Interprofessional Collaboration.

We thank Marg for her dedication and hard work over the past year.

Many thanks and farewell to Dr. Marie Edwards

Many thanks to Dr. Marie Edwards for her leadership within the Office of Interprofessional Collaboration. Edwards leads with such ease, style and inclusivity. She embodies the meaning of shared leadership, a key trait of an interprofessional collaborative professional.

Her vast knowledge regarding policy and procedure, insights into navigating challenging issues, ability to pivot with ease, and her tenacity, goodwill and optimism enabled the OIPC to proceed with the organization and delivery of the curriculum throughout challenging times these past couple of years. It could have been mayhem, but it was not, and this was indeed due to the highly functioning OIPC team and her leadership. With the global COVID-19 pandemic, Edwards rolled up her sleeves and helped the OIPC navigate the transition from a blended curriculum delivery to a complete virtual one, which was no easy feat given the learners across the 10 RFHS programs experienced virtual shifts within their respective programs.

Again, many and huge thanks Dr. Edwards!

Congratulations to Trina Arnold

In 2020, Trina Arnold received the Martha Donovan Leadership Development Award and was invited to attend the Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing Academic Leadership Retreat.

Due to the pandemic, the retreat was indefinitely postponed. As the College of Nursing OIPC lead, Trina has decided to allocate funds and attend the IPEC Interprofessional Leadership Development Program being hosted in Atlanta, Georgia, in June 2022. The program will specifically focus on how to bridge the gap between interprofessional education and the practice environment.

Congratulations to the OIPC education team

In the spring of 2022, the OIPC team was nominated and awarded the Association of Regulated Nurses of Manitoba Outstanding Interprofessional Team Award. This award is presented to a unit, program or interprofessional team that has made a significant and meaningful difference to the health and well-being of a client population in a direct care, education, administrative or research setting.
A tough pill to swallow: designing a novel interprofessional and inter-university education session for healthcare trainees

By: Linnéa Shackel, Heather MacPhee, Justine Hamilton and Ashwini Namasivayam-MacDonald

In November 2021, the pharmacy program at the University of Manitoba partnered with the speech-language pathology (SLP) program at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ont., to design and carry out a novel interprofessional and inter-university event. McMaster University does not have a pharmacy program and the University of Manitoba does not have an SPL education program. The goal of the event was to teach students about dysphagia, drug delivery and the impact they may have on one another. The interprofessional education event was named A Tough Pill to Swallow: Dysphagia Management for SLP and Pharmacy Students. The virtual event took place over two days and consisted of both asynchronous and synchronous learning opportunities.

The IPE event was well received by the students and found to be a successful model of collaborative practice. The four instructors involved wrote a paper to document the event, learner outcomes and goals for future application. The paper was submitted to be published and presented at the 8th International Conference on Higher Education Advances (HEAd’22) in Valencia, Spain, and was accepted. Congratulations to the University of Manitoba’s College of Pharmacy and McMaster’s SPL program on this exciting accomplishment.

OIPC annual report 2020-2021

The OIPC annual report for 2020-2021 is now available on our website at:


RFHS OIPC learner enrollment, 2016-2021

RFHS OIPC longitudinal curriculum 2020-2021
Interprofessional collaboration for anti-racism student learning activity

In January 2022, the first-year Rady Faculty of Health Sciences students had their second synchronous virtual IPE activity. The focus of this activity was on interprofessional teams addressing the broader determinants of health and the role of interprofessional teams for dismantling structural and systemic racism. The activity included a panel discussion by three invited speakers: Debra Beach-Ducharme (Ongomiizwin), Dr. Ian Whetter (family medicine) and Oyin Otubusen (physiotherapist). The panel participants addressed the proposition that interprofessional collaboration is a means of dismantling racism in health care, while also focusing on interprofessional collaboration competencies contextual to dismantling racism in health care. The IPC competencies highlighted included team functioning, interprofessional team communication and patient/client/family/community-centered care. The panelists were also invited to bring their own personal perspectives to this discussion.

Following the panel, students were separated into breakout rooms to engage in small group discussions to build and reflect on concepts presented earlier in the session. Each breakout room had a facilitator present to ensure ground rules were respected and to encourage a psychologically safe environment for the students. The OIPC was elated to have 39 volunteer facilitators from various professional backgrounds. Additionally, in response to student requests and experiences in 2021, optional debrief sessions were available following the activity for learners and faculty members who wished to participate. The event would not have taken place without the support and assistance of all the facilitators and organizers. Much appreciation and thanks to those who participated!

Reflections from the panelists

“I was honored to be invited as one of the panelists in the IPE event that touched on dismantling racism. Taking part in this conversation allowed me to share some of my experiences with racism as a racialized Canadian and some of my thoughts on White privilege. It was indeed an eye-opening session, and I was also grateful to learn some Indigenous history with Debra Beach Ducharme and Dr. Ian Whetter’s thoughts on White privilege from the lens of a White Canadian was also thought provoking and informative. The student participants asked many questions regarding tackling racism. All in all, this was a forum I was glad to be a part of.”

— Oyindamola Otubusen (Oyin), B.Pharm, MPT

“I am a second-generation Indian Day School Survivor. Dog Creek day school taught me to be ashamed of my Indigenous identity and I was physically punished for speaking my language. On an individual level, the long-term impact of Indian day school has left me and my family suffering from significant intergenerational trauma. As a learner, and later as an educator, I encountered racism and micro aggressions on a regular basis but I survived. It is important to bridge this information with policy changes necessary in the process of decolonizing institutions across Manitoba.”

— Debra Beach Ducharme, Director of Indigenous Health Integration, Ongomiizwin Education, University of Manitoba
Nature prescribing – an interdisciplinary initiative now in Manitoba

By: Angie Woodbury, fourth-year medical student, University of Manitoba

PaRx is an evidence-based nature prescription program that first launched in British Columbia through the BC Parks Foundation in 2021. Spearheaded by Dr. Melissa Lem, a family physician in B.C. and president-elect for the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment, this initiative has now successfully launched in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario. Even more exciting, as of January 2022, health care providers registered with PaRx can now prescribe Parks Canada Discovery passes to eligible patients (while supplies last).

This partnership is really important to us because it removes the financial barrier that sometimes exists for people to access nature.

PaRx has been in Manitoba for six months now and it’s all thanks to the endorsement of a group of interdisciplinary health-care organizations, including Pharmacists Manitoba and the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences. Unique to the Manitoba launch team is the focus on interprofessional collaboration. It was crucial to Anna Cooper Reed, a social worker and researcher, and me (Angie Woodbury, medical student) that this initiative be interdisciplinary. Holistic care involves effective communication and collaboration between all members of the health-care team. Health is also impacted by social determinants. Various members of the health-care team, including social workers, occupational therapists and physiotherapists, are uniquely trained to address these social determinants of health.

So why do we prescribe nature? Evidence supports that two hours of nature time a week (at 20-minute intervals or greater) significantly increases health and wellbeing. Being in nature has been shown to increase energy and mood, increase your lifespan, reduce stress and anxiety, reduce pain and improve heart health. We prescribe nature specifically with a written prescription because written prescriptions are better received by patients than oral advice.

So how can you get involved? In the fall of 2022, Rady Faculty of Health Sciences students will be invited to learn more about nature prescribing by taking part in a case-based workshop. Details regarding dates and registration information to follow. Email umwoodb5@myumanitoba.ca for further questions regarding the initiative. If you are a healthcare provider (MD, OT, PT, pharmacist, RN, NP or psychologist) register on our website to get your own unique prescriber code and prescription pad. For more information, visit https://www.parkprescriptions.ca/en/prescribers.

Angie Woodbury is a fourth-year medical student at the Max Rady College of Medicine at the University of Manitoba, and a soon-to-be first-year resident in pediatrics at McMaster University. For the past year, she’s been involved with the Canadian Federation of Medical Students HEART Network (Health and Environmental Response Task Force). They are a group of medical students advocating for incorporation of planetary health into medical curricula and raising awareness about the link between climate change and health. Planetary health is one of her passions and Woodbury is particularly interested in the relation between environment and child health outcomes.

Anna Cooper Reed is a PhD student at the Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation, and holds a master of social work from the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work at the University of Toronto. Cooper Reed has practiced social work in the community, long-term care and hospital, predominantly working with older adults. She is currently a research associate at the Bruyère Research Institute. In her role at Bruyère, Cooper Reed is currently working as part of the research team led by Dr. Amy Hsu on the COVID-19 Immunity Study, where she is co-leading research exploring COVID-19 vaccine education in long-term care. She is the co-founder and past president of the Emerging Leaders for Environmental Sustainability in Healthcare.
IP Research Summary
By: Dr. Gayle Halas, Rady chair in interprofessional collaborative practice

Research chair highlights
A participatory action research team developed through a collaboration with faculty from nursing and internal medicine (cardiology). It is a remarkable partnership with community-based partners, including the Salvation Army Centre of Hope. The team (Gayle Halas (NPI), Sonia Udod, Lorraine Avery, Kristy Rebenchuk, Al Wiebe, Shuangbo Liu and Pernell Jones) was awarded $24,991 from the University Collaborative Research Program to conduct a two-year research project with the goal of co-developing and testing the concept of a transition or ‘step down’ process, which includes both a peer-support worker (process) and a designated shelter unit (structure) to support individuals who are homeless and discharged from hospital.

Student research
The OIPC team would like to showcase the work of Miray Eskandar as part of her Independent Research Topics Course in the bachelor of health sciences program. Her research project is entitled Patient and/or Caregiver Experiences of Interprofessional Team-based Primary Care. Under the supervision of Dr. Gayle Halas and Dr. Teresa Cavett, Eskandar is seeking to understand how patients and carers experience interprofessional, team based primary health care, starting with an exploratory phase in one primary care clinic site. She has interviewed patients in primary care and will be presenting her findings within the next couple of months.

Research in development?
Questions that are currently driving the IP collaborative practice research agenda:

• What does collaboration look like within a health workforce caring for older adults? For long COVID? For substance use disorders?
• How does IPE translate to practice? Is this affected by leadership capacity?
• How is collaboration evident in transitions in care and the pathways among different providers? What are patients/ caregivers’ experiences of team-based primary health care?

Several projects are being proposed (and seeking funding) – but the OIPC invites you to consider these questions! Gayle Halas is always interested in working with students who are pursuing a research question/thesis/dissertation related to teamwork and various innovations in interprofessional collaboration! Contact: Gayle.Halas@umanitoba.ca.

Research connections
The Canadian Institutes of Health Research has supported the development of a pan-Canadian research network under the Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR). This network – called the SPOR Primary and Integrated health-care research network has a Manitoba node. This pan-Canadian network is taking on some new wings! The network and its provincial nodes will continue to facilitate connections to other researchers/projects, build capacity through connected data collection and curation, and advance the translation of research to policy and practice. The network has supported several projects in Manitoba and cross-jurisdictional collaboration, and has championed the development of a community of patients/public members who are eager to partner on research and its relevance to the ‘end user’!

More info at: https://manitoba-pihcinet.com/aboutmpn/what-is-spor/
In 2021-2022 the Rady Travel policy provided financial support to 184 of the 249 students who were on rural placements (excludes medicine) in Manitoba. These placements include expansion into eight new communities.

The centralized tracking of all Rady rural placements allows us to map out which communities will have students from various disciplines on placements at the same time. We then connect those students with the hopes that they will come together to discuss their experiences, explore and connect with the community.

Feedback from students has been positive. The policy has removed some of the financial barriers that prevented students from signing up for rural placements.

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**Student voices**

“Practicing pharmacy in a rural setting is a lot different than in the city. You’re working, collaborating with dieticians and physiotherapists, whereas in the city you’re mostly working with other pharmacists. Then after work, you can go for a run or kayak, and there are deer everywhere. It’s so beautiful.”

- Erin Lee (doctor of pharmacy student)
OIPC MEMBERSHIP

Trina Arnold, RN, BN, MPH, College of Nursing lead
Melissa Balness, northern and rural placement coordinator
Shannon Bloodworth, administrative assistant
Moni Fricke, BMR (PT), PhD, College of Rehabilitation Sciences lead, OIPC director
Gayle Halas, PhD, Rady chair in Interprofessional Collaborative Practice
Laura MacDonald, RDH, PhD, Dr. Gerald Niznick College of Dentistry and School of Dental Hygiene lead
Camisha Mayes, MD, CCFP, Max Rady College of Medicine lead
Lisa Mendez, BMR (OT), MOT, interprofessional practice coordinator
Ceilidh Miller, Program Assistant, northern and rural student placements
Linnéa Shackel, BSc, BSc (Pharm), PharmD, RPh, College of Pharmacy lead
Lanette Siragusa, RN, BN, CEC, vice-dean, education

Due to COVID-19, staff may be working remotely. Please email OIPC@umanitoba.ca with any questions.