

ANNUAL REPORT

2018-2019



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Respiratory Research Centre

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

MEDICINE.USASK.CA/RESPIRATORYRESEARCH

WHO WE ARE

RRC 2018-2019 | 02

The Respiratory Research Centre (RRC) is a multidisciplinary centre at the University of Saskatchewan. Founded in October 2017, the RRC strives to fulfill the patient-oriented mandate by undertaking interdisciplinary and intersectoral research in the respiratory field addressing chronic respiratory conditions, including their prevention.

The Centre maintains a diverse membership to support knowledge building and understanding in order to develop and evaluate innovative approaches to health care design and delivery.

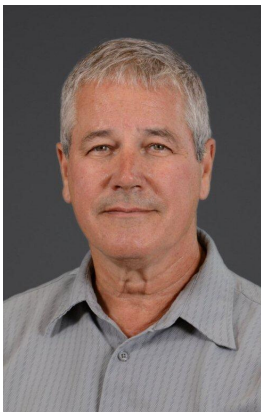
OUR MISSION

- Build knowledge and understanding of respiratory health and well-being across the life span and within at-risk groups, using patient/person, family, population-health, and 'One Health' focused approaches;
- Enable and undertake interdisciplinary and intersectoral research in the respiratory field addressing chronic respiratory conditions, including their prevention;
- Develop and evaluate innovative approaches to health care design and delivery for persons with respiratory illness and disease that also optimize health and well-being, are attentive to healthcare system expenditure and value, support quality improvement, and acknowledge public and professional educational needs and perspectives;
- Ensure meaningful application of research findings using an integrated knowledge translation approach, utilizing and coordinating the activities of the RRC with UofS students and faculty, other universities/institutions, government, private industry, health regions and care delivery systems, the Saskatchewan Health Quality Council, First Nations, national and international professional societies, and others.



GOVERNANCE

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The Executive Committee (formerly Steering Committee) of the RRC is currently headed by Drs. Rob Skomro, John Gordon, Mark Fenton and Josh Lawson. Guidance and oversight of the RRC is managed by Executive Director, Dr. Donna Goodridge.

MEMBERSHIP



The RRC membership has developed a membership confirmation process for current and new members. All previous year members have been contacted by e-mail and offered terms of membership for review and acceptance. Under the new confirmation process, members now have the opportunity to indicate level of membership as one of the following: Academic, Student, or Affiliate Members. This renewal process will allow the RRC to more appropriately gauge levels of participation and determine eligibility for RRC initiated funding opportunities. Renewal of RRC membership consists of returning the acknowledgement of membership terms and, providing an updated CV annually.

Currently, the RRC e-mail distribution stands at 108 recipients. Interested stakeholders include a diverse array of University departments and partnering organizations which include:

4

PATIENT FAMILY
ADVISORS

11

STUDENTS

8

SASKATCHEWAN
HEALTH AUTHORITY

6

EMERGENCY MEDICINE

6

KINESIOLOGY

5

LUNG ASSOCIATION

2

SCPOR & HEALTH
QUALITY COUNCIL

MEMBERSHIP

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As of October 2019, there are 55 confirmed "active" RRC Members. These members are representative of the following departments, colleges and external organizations.

College of Medicine

Department of Medicine

Donald Cockroft	Darcy Marciniuk
John Gordon	Masud Rana
Brian Graham	Erika Penz
Vernon Hoepfner	Thomas Hurst
Thomas Hurst	Kelsey Tallon
Anderson Tyan	Karen Laframboise
George Katselis (CCHSA)	Josh Lawson (CCHSA)
Shelley Kirychuk (CCHSA)	Donna Goodridge
Luan Manh Chu (CCHSA-GS*)	
Ulfat Khanam (CCHSA-GS*)	
David Schneburger (CCHSA-PDF)	

Department of Emergency Medicine

Segun Oyedokun
Brittany Ellis
Andrew Donaur

Department of Physiology

Juan Janowski

Department of Pediatrics

Darryl Adamko

School of Rehabilitation Science

Scotty Butcher

Cancer Research Cluster

Sylvana Papagerakis

College of Arts & Science

Colleen Dell

College of Kinesiology

Saija Kontulainen

External Stakeholders

Tristan Etcheverry	Tracey Sherin
Dana Higgins	Sue Timmerman
Brittany Kachur	Zhang Xuekui
Jacqueline Mann	Trent Litzenberger
Jennifer Salahub	Jaimie Peters
Dana Schmidt	Dawn Demchenko

Mechanical Engineering

Daniel Chen
Carey Simonson

Pharmacy & Nutrition

Allison Cammer
Holly Mansell

WCVM

Julia Montgomery
Andy Allen

Math & Statistics

Li Xing

Patient Family Advisors

Bill Schaffel	Bill Hails
Candace Skrapek	Dawn Schmidt
Karen Webb	

School of Public Health

Edris Haghiri (GS*)
Razi Mahmood (GS*)

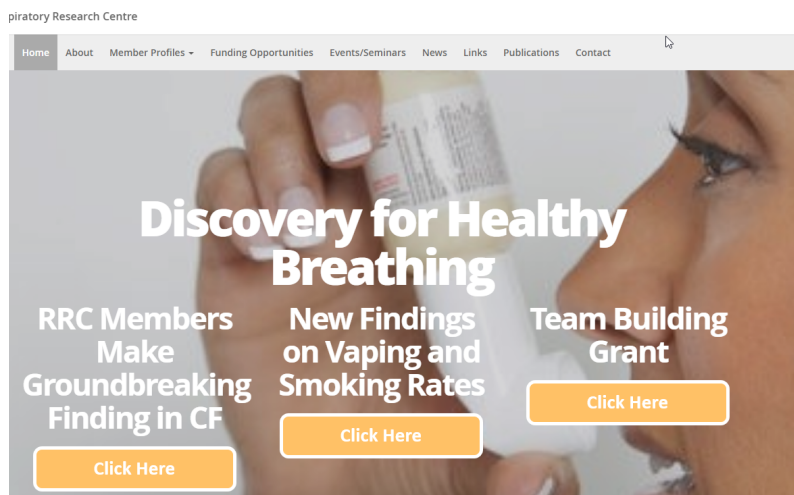
*GS - Graduate Student

WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT

Our website (<https://medicine.usask.ca/respiratoryresearch/index.php>) has undergone major renovations since the previous year.

The website has been used as a tool to communicate relevant funding opportunities, advertise workshops and seminars and to profile outstanding respiratory researchers at the University of Saskatchewan. To date, the website features profiles of the following researchers: Juan Ianowski, Brian Graham, Darcy Marciniuk, Rob Skomro, Mark Fenton, Donald Cockcroft, Julia Montgomery, Josh Lawson, Holly Mansell, Vernon Hoeppner, John Gordon and Erika Penz. We will continue to interview and feature stories on respiratory researchers within the province.

In addition to the above listed features, the website now also links to the HARVEST repository. Through this mechanism, the Center is able to share publications through a searchable database by topic area and/or author. The Centre is in the process of obtaining permission from members to upload to the repository. To date, we have secured agreement from 4 members.



NEW STAFF MEMBER

Former Research Coordinator, Thilina Bandara moved on to other challenges in September of 2018. Interviews for a successor took place in October, 2018 and we were pleased to welcome Ms. Britney Duncan in the position of half-time Research Coordinator beginning in October, 2018.

A position description for the position of Research Facilitator was developed in collaboration with the Manager, OVDR and Human Resources in the College of Medicine. Interviews took place in December 2018. Britney Duncan was the successful applicant and, assumed the half-time Research Facilitator position beginning in January, 2019.

GRAD STUDENT AWARDS

This award providing funding to studies who have demonstrated academic and research excellence and who are planning to pursue a respiratory health research that reflects the aims of the RRC. Guidelines and application packages were developed for this competition. Meetings were held with the Assistant Dean of Graduate Studies, College of Medicine to discuss alignment of this competition with the College of Medicine's CoMGRAD awards.

The competition closed January 15, 2019. Applications were ranked by the Executive Committee February 20, 2019. Applications were of high quality.

The intent was to fund one doctoral and one Master's level student, as with the previous year's call. Doctoral student, Hussain Aslan and, Master's student Flynn Herriot were awarded full scholarships.

Hussain will be working under supervisor, Dr. Scotty Butcher (KIN) on a project titled "Feasibility of High Intensity Functional Training model in Patients with Stable Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease."

Flinn is working under Dr. Juan Ianowski on the project "Nebulized Hypertonic Saline-Triggered Increase in Mucociliary Clearance Rate is Mediated by the Nervous System."

KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION HIGHLIGHTS

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RESEARCH SEMINARS

December 4, 2018

"The air we breathe: Asthma,
not just a human health
concern"

Dr. Julia Montgomery, WCVN



January 15, 2019

Graduate Student
Seminar

Brendan Murray,
Upkardeep Pandher
Razi Mahmood,



KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION HIGHLIGHTS

RESEARCH SEMINARS

February 12, 2019

"A Two-eyed Seeing approach
for respiratory wellness in
Saskatchewan First Nations
and Métis"

Drs. Malcolm and Alexandra
King



May 14, 2019

"Whooping Cough - In need
of new vaccines"

Dr. Volker Gerdts, Dept of
Veterinary microbiology,
VIDO

KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION HIGHLIGHTS

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NETWORKING EVENT

In keeping with the mandate of the RRC to promote interdisciplinary and intersectoral research the RRC sponsored a Networking Event on September 13, 2018. The event was purposed to honor recipients of the 2018 SHRF-LAS Ideas that Inspire Research Grants, as well as the graduate students who were awarded funding through the RRC, their supervisors and supporters of the RRC. Attendees were also invited to display respiratory health-related posters to share work with colleagues from across campus. 45 faculty, health care professionals and, graduate students attended the event which exceeded our initial expectations.



KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION HIGHLIGHTS

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ADVANCES IN RESPIRATORY RESEARCH: WHAT PATIENTS AND FAMILIES NEED TO KNOW



As knowledge translation and health equity continue to be central to the RRC mandate, the Center has been eager to facilitate closing the information gap regarding respiratory health outcomes. As such, the Center held an inaugural knowledge translation event with the intent to promote engagement between members of the community with a history of respiratory illness and/or experience providing to support to those affected by such illnesses and researchers from the U of S. The event was hosted on May 10, 2019 at the Holiday Inn Express and Suites and partially supported by a research Connections grant from the SHRF. The half-day event hosted 61 attendees representing clinicians, researchers and the lay community. The event received excellent evaluations and requests for future sessions were indicated. The next KT event will be held May 1, 2020 with a focus on sleep apnea.



RRC FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

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Visiting Scholar Grant Competition

The Center announced its inaugural Visiting Scholar Grant in April 2019. The Visiting Scholar grant is intended to promote faculty development and build a community of scholars in respiratory-related research by hosting a distinguished scholar or practitioner. Guidelines and application packages were developed for this competition.

The competition closed on June 1, 2019 and, an adjudication committee composed of 4 RRC members reviewed applications. Dr. Josh Lawson was the successful applicant and, has nominated Dr. Jan Zejda to visit the University in March of 2020.

Team Building Grant

The RRC has also developed a competition with the intent of encouraging interdisciplinary collaboration in respiratory research. The Team Building grant had an initial launch of June 10, 2019 and, offers 4 grants of \$25,000 each for multidisciplinary teams of at least 3 researchers interested in conducting human health and translational research projects with the aim of applying that knowledge for the benefit of patients. Teams must be composed of at least one RRC member.

Applications will be reviewed and evaluated by an independent adjudication. Results will be announced in December 2019.

UPCOMING PROJECTS

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JAMES LIND ALLIANCE

The Respiratory Research Centre has begun initial planning to become the first Priority Setting Partnership (PSP) in Saskatchewan. The James Lind Alliance (JLA) is a UK-based non-profit initiative that brings patients, carers and clinicians together to identify and prioritize evidence uncertainties. The aim is to make sure that health research funders are aware of the issues that matter most to the people who need to use the research in their everyday lives.

To date, the RRC has had 6 meetings with potential partners and Executive committee members to discuss readiness to undertake the PSP process. The RRC has also met with the Patient Family Advisory Council to gauge support and determine level of participation. And, the Centre has reached a tentative agreement with SSRL to provide data analysis support.

The RRC has been assigned a JLA advisor to facilitate the process and Andre Letendre, Cultural Services Advisor with the First Nations and Metis Health, has joined this project to assist with engaging First Nations and Metis people with OSA. The initial steering meeting was held September 2019. Ethics and implementation planning are currently underway.



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College of Medicine

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE
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<https://medicine.usask.ca/respiratoryresearch/>