



The Partnership for Women's Health Research Canada (PWHR) was created to coordinate and catalyze national efforts to promote women's health research and its use. It is a collaboration between the Women's Health Research Institute (WHRI; BC), the Women and Children's Health Research Institute (WCHRI; Alberta), Women's College Hospital Institute of Research and Innovation (WCH; Ontario), and IWK Health (Maritimes). PWHR's partner institutions bring together more than 775 women's health researchers who address health issues across the lifespan and come from diverse disciplinary perspectives. Annually, our researchers mentor more than 1300 trainees, ranging from undergraduates to postdoctoral and clinical fellows. PWHR is supported by, directly or via the partner institutions, the BC Women's Health Foundation, the Alberta Women's Health Foundation, the Women's College Hospital Foundation and the IWK Foundation.

2022-2023 IN NUMBERS



Strategic Framework

In 2023, PWHR shared its roadmap for how our partner institutions collaborate and leverage resources to achieve our collective vision: Better health for all women, trans and non-binary people through research equity, excellence, and inclusion.

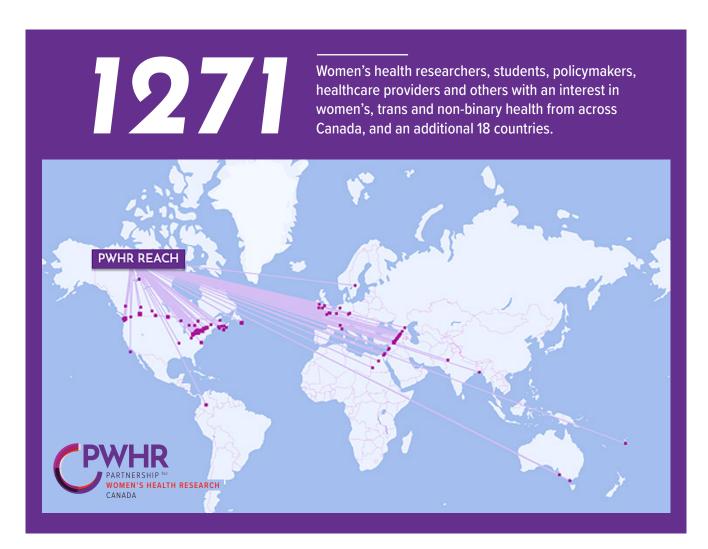






14

Virtual, in-person, and hybrid women's health research events

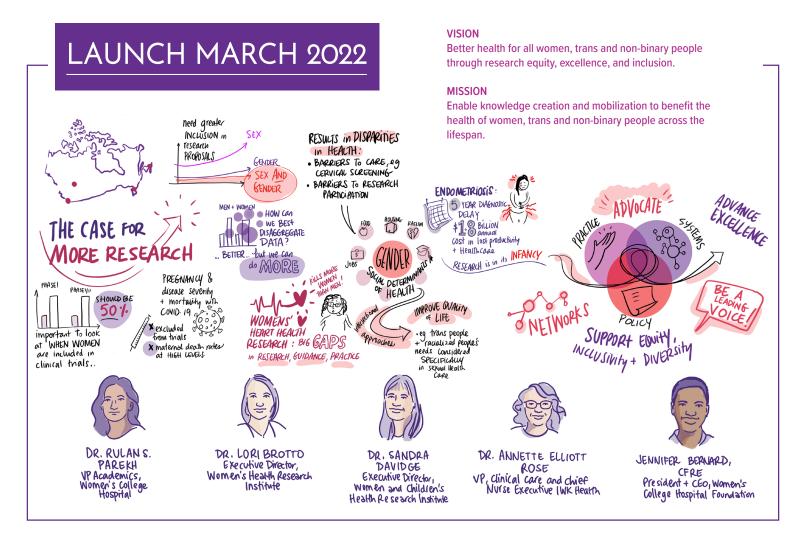


68.8k

Combined impressions and reach through PWHR's social media (X, LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram)



2022-2023 IN PICTURES



PWHR was launched at a virtual event highlighting the urgent need for more research to benefit the health of women, trans, and non-binary people. We welcomed trainees, researchers, community members, donors, healthcare providers, not-for-profits, and policymakers to this national conversation about how the Partnership for Women's Health Research Canada can contribute to positive change.



PWHR Executive Committee Strategic Planning Meeting (May 2023)

Calgary, Alberta

From left to right: Dr. Lori Brotto, WHRI; Dr. Rulan Parekh WCH, Dr. Annette Elliott Rose, IWK Health, Dr. Sandy Davidge, WCHRI



The Partnership for Women's Health Research (PWHR) Canada & the Society for Women's Health Research (SWHR) Pre-Conference Symposium at the Organization for the Study of Sex Differences (OSSD) Annual Meeting: From Cells to Society: Research and Advocacy to Advance Mature Women's Health

Calgary, Alberta

From left to right: Dr. Rachel Savage, WCH; Dr. Irene Aninye, SWHR; Dr. Liisa Galea, OSSD; Dr. Sandy Davidge, WCHRI; Dr. Annette Elliott Rose IWK Health; Lindsay Horan, SWHR; Jenny Niesluchowski and Emily Lennstrom, Women's Health Collective Canada; Dr. Cindy Barha, University of Calgary



From left to right: Dr. Rulan Parekh, WCH; Dr. Angela Kaida, Scientific Director, Institute of Gender and Health; Dr. Lori Brotto, WHRI





PWHR celebrates the opening of the Vancouver office of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research's (CIHR) Institute of Gender and Health, at SFU's Harbour Centre (May 2023)

Vancouver, British Columbia

From left to right: Cally Wesson, BC Women's Health Foundation; Dr. Kathryn Dewar, WHRI; Dr. Angela Kaida, Institute of Gender and Health; Dr. Tamil Kendall, PWHR



Dr. Angela Kaida, Institute of Gender and Health





In November 2023, PWHR participated in the Women's Health Collective Canada's National Summit "Pathways to Equity," engaging in a strategic national conversation about how to advance women's health research across Canada.

Edmonton, Alberta

Highlighting that 60-70% of those living with chronic pain are women, researchers from PWHR's Partner Institutions offered a special, hybrid research seminar about how research is transforming the diagnosis, treatment and management of women's pain.

Top: Dr. Tamil Kendall, PWHR Bottom: Dr. Sandy Davidge, WCHRI

APPENDIX 1: PWHR EVENTS

MARCH 2022-DECEMBER 2023

PWHR convenes virtual and in-person events to raise the profile of research that benefits the health of women, trans and non-binary people and provides nationally accessible mentoring, networking, and training opportunities.

Mentoring, networking, and capacity building

PWHR holds regular national, virtual mentoring and networking sessions (www.pwhr.org). Mentors are PhD-trained experts who are applying their skills in traditional academic as well as non-traditional research, policy and programming contexts. From March 2022-December 2023, our mentors from academic, non-profit and government settings from across Canada have been: L. Allen Scott, T. Asfaw, A. Benoit, C. Cassidy, M. De Vera, J. Haverfield, J. LeMoult, R. Mason, S. Montesanti, S. Nourpanah, M. Riddell, K. Rossiter, and M. Tremblay.

In 2023, we held our first "Designing and Communicating Women's Health Research" capacity building workshop, with guest experts in science communication from Science Up First, E. Aissia and Dr. K. Sankar.

PWHR's Women's Health Research Seminar Series

PWHR's 2022-2023 Seminar Series: Women's Health Research Knowledge Mobilization to Improve Policy, Practice, and Outcomes.

The 2022-2023 Women's Health Research Seminar Series addresses processes and outcomes of knowledge mobilization for women's, trans and non-binary health. Knowledge mobilization is an umbrella term that includes a wide range of activities related to the production and use of research results. The Canadian Institute's of Health Research new strategic plan (2021-2031) makes advancing the science of knowledge mobilization a strategic priority to achieve "a future where the gap between discovery and implementation is a thing of the past" (CIHR, 2021). The 2022-2023 Partnership for Women's Health Research Canada seminar series shares experiences, challenges and lessons learned about women's health research knowledge mobilization with communities,





SEPTEMBER 22, 2022

Working with communities to design and implement women's health research.

Opening remarks

Ms. A. Bourgon, Director General of Science Policy, Canadian Institutes of Health Research

Maskwacis Maternal, Child and Family Wellbeing Research Group

Dr. R. Oster, Scientific Director of the Indigenous Wellness Core, Alberta Health Services

Ms. D. Young, Research Assistant, Indigenous Healthy Life Trajectories Initiative

A Community centred approach to self-collection for cervix screening

Ms. L. Smith, Program Manager, Global Control of HPV Related Diseases and Cancer Research Program, Women's Health Research Institute

Dr. C. Nakisige, Gynecologist, Uganda Cancer Institute





NOVEMBER 23, 2022

Partnering with service providers to improve the health of women, trans and non-binary people.

Opening Remarks

Ms. J. Sudds, M.P., then Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Youth, currently Honourable Minister of Families, Children, and Social Development

Working with health and social service providers to improve supports for transgender survivors of sexual assault in Ontario

<u>Dr. J. Du Mont</u>, Senior Scientist, Women's College Research Institute and Professor, Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto

Ms. S. Macdonald, Provincial Director, Ontario Network of Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Care and Treatment Centres

#postbabyhankypanky: A knowledge sharing initiative to promote the sexual health of new parents Dr. N. Rosen, Professor in the Departments of Psychology and Neuroscience and Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Dalhousie University, Halifax





JANUARY 26, 2023

Partnering with policymakers to implement and respond to women's health research.

Opening Remarks

<u>Dr. A. Kaida</u>, PhD, Scientific Director, Institute of Gender and Health, CIHR and Distinguished Professor, Faculty of Health Sciences, Simon Fraser University

Canada's Sexual Health Survey—from idea to implementation

<u>Dr. W. V. Norman</u>, MD, CCFP, FCFP, DTM&H, MHSc, Professor, Department of Family Practice, Faculty of Medicine, University of British Columbia and Co-Director, Canada's Contraception and Abortion Research Team (CART-GRAC).

Obstetrical Anal Sphincter Injury and the pathway to care

<u>Dr. J. Schulz</u>, MD, FRCSC, Professor and Chair, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Lois Hole Hospital for Women, University of Alberta and Alberta Women's Health Foundation Endowed Research Chair

Addressing windows of opportunity to identify and prevent diabetes in women

<u>Dr. L. Lipscombe</u>, MD, MSC, FRCPC, Senior Scientist, Women's College Research Institute, Professor, Department of Medicine and Director, Novo Nordisk Network for Healthy Populations, University of Toronto





MARCH 1, 2023

Digital innovations in abortion care—national and global perspectives.

Reproductive justice in digital life

Ms. J. Erdman, JD, LLM, Professor, MacBain Chair in Health Law and Policy, Schulich School of Law, Dalhousie University

What matters most to people seeking an abortion in Canada? Lessons learned from the development of a decision aid

<u>Dr. M. Brooks</u>, MD, FRSC, Assistant Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Faculty of Medicine, Dalhousie University

<u>Dr. S. Munro</u>, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Faculty of Medicine, University of British Columbia and Co-Director, Canada's Contraception and Abortion Research Team (CART-GRAC)

Innovation is Vital(a): Opportunities and challenges of co-created digital platforms for SMA in humanitarian settings

<u>Dr. R. Gill</u>, MD, MPH, FRCSC, Executive Director and Co-Founder, Vitala Global and Assistant Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto

PWHR's 2023-2024 Seminar Series: Improving Women's Healthcare Through Research.

The 2023-2024 PWHR Women's Health Research Seminar Series profiles research that is driving advances in healthcare for women, trans and non-binary people. Whether they are working at the bench to advance basic science, at the bedside, or with the broader health, social, and economic policies and systems that shape individual and population health, a fundamental goal of women's health researchers is to improve healthcare. This seminar series highlights how researchers from across Canada are realizing PWHR's vision of "Better health for all women, trans and non-binary people through research equity, excellence, and inclusion."





SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

Research for precision women's health and personalized medicine.

Dedifferentiated and sarcomatous mullerian cancer – development of precision preclinical models to facilitate precision oncology

Dr. CH Lee, M.D. & Ph.D., Associate Professor, University of Alberta & WCHRI

Genetic risk for major depressive disorder and loneliness in sex-specific associations with coronary artery disease

Dr. J. Dennis, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, University of British Columbia & WHRI

Population-based screening for hereditary breast and ovarian cancers.

Dr. M. R. Akbari, M.D.& Ph.D., Associate Professor, University of Toronto, Scientist, WCRI





NOVEMBER 21, 2023

Resolving women's pain: Research-driven innovations.

(Hybrid event, in-person at the Women's Health Collective Canada National Summit: Pathways to Equity, Edmonton, Alberta, and virtual)

A novel approach to optimizing labour analgesia using Programmed Intermittent Epidural Bolus (PIEB)

Dr. A. Munro, BSc Pharm, M.D., FRCPC, Anesthesiologist, IWK Health, Associate Professor, Dalhousie University

An integrative approach to chronic pelvic pain care

Dr. E. Kelly, M.D., Clinical Assistant Professor, University of Alberta & WCHRI

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome and other complex chronic diseases: Advances in diagnosis and treatment

Dr. L. Nacul, M.D. & Ph.D., Director of the Complex Chronic Diseases Program, BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre & WHRI

Rapid access to care for people living with pain: Creation and implementation of the Power Over Pain portal

<u>Dr. R. Bosma</u>, Ph.D., Co-Director, University of Toronto Centre for the Study of Pain & Research Lead, Women's College Hospital

Special Events (2022-2023)

PWHR convenes and co-hosts special events to share knowledge, provide opportunities to profile the research and expertise of our partner institutions and their trainees, and build synergies with national and international organizations dedicated to advancing the health of women, trans and non-binary people.

MARCH 2, 2022 PWHR Launch Event

Virtual event

PWHR's launch featured panel discussion about the urgent need for more research to benefit the health of women, trans and non-binary people and the Partnership for Women's Health Research Canada's plans to promote positive change.

Speakers: L. Brotto (WHRI), S. Davidge (WCHRI), A. Elliott Rose (IWK Health), R. Parekh (WCH), J. Bernard (Women's Health Collective Canada)

MAY 7, 2023

PWHR and Society for Women's Health Research (SWHR) Pre-Conference Symposium From Cells to Society: Research and Advocacy to Advance Mature Women's Health At the Organization for the Study of Sex Differences Annual Meeting in Calgary, Alberta

The symposium offered a cell to society perspective on sex and gender differences in aging that influence heart, brain, and mental health among older women. The importance of researcher and clinician participation in advocacy efforts was highlighted. Attendees learned about how to engage in simple and practical advocacy efforts to contribute to translating evidence into better health policy and care for women, trans and non-binary people.

Speakers: L. Galea (OSSD), C. Barha (University of Calgary, WHRI), R. Savage (WCHRI), I.O. Aninye (SWHR), L. Horan (SWHR)

JUNE 14, 2023

PWHR and Women's Health Research Cluster (WHRC) Women's+ Health Research Trainee Conference

Virtual event

This conference provided trainees from across the country and around the globe with an opportunity to showcase their research on women's+ health through oral and poster presentations. It engaged trainees from a wide variety of fields, including biomedical, clinical, health systems services, and social, cultural, population and environmental health research.

Trainees (oral presentations): M.S. Alam, A. Broulliard, C. Hippman, M. Park, B. Stagg, K. Zaki-Metias.

Judges: E. Onyango (University of Alberta, WCHRI), H. Brown (University of Toronto, WCH), H. Hunsberger, (Rosalind Franklin University, Women's Health Resarch Cluster); C. Barha (University of Calgary, WHRI); M. Paynter (University of New Brunswick, IWK Health).

PWHR EXECUTIVE



DR. LORI BROTTO (She/Her)

Women's Health Research Institute (WHRI)

Dr. Lori Brotto is the Executive Director of the Women's Health Research Institute located in Vancouver, British Columbia, a Professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University of British Columbia, and a registered psychologist. Dr. Brotto also holds a Canada Research Chair in Women's Sexual Health and is the Director of UBC Sexual Health Research. Her research primarily focuses on developing and testing psychological and mindfulness-based interventions for women with sexual desire and arousal difficulties and women with chronic genital pain.





DR. SANDRA DAVIDGE (She/Her)

Women And Children's Health Research Institute (WCHRI)

Dr. Sandy Davidge is the Executive Director of the Women and Children's Health Research Institute located in Edmonton, Alberta, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences, a former twoterm Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Maternal and Perinatal Cardiovascular Health and Distinguished University Professor at the University of Alberta. As an internationally renowned research leader in women's health, Dr. Davidge has published over 280 scientific articles on her pioneering studies that are focused on understanding the causes of pregnancy complications, such as preeclampsia and intrauterine growth restriction, and the long-term impact on cardiovascular health for the mother and her child.



@WCHRIUofA



DR. RULAN PAREKH (She/Her)

Women's College Research Institute (WCH)

Dr. Rulan Parekh is the Vice President, Academics at Women's College Hospital. In her role, Dr. Parekh leads the advancement of the hospital's goal to build sustainable, world-class research, innovation and education. Dr. Parekh is a clinician-scientist, and an international leader in clinical epidemiology and translational research in kidney disease. She is also a staff nephrologist at Women's College Hospital and Hospital for Sick Children, as well as a Professor of Pediatrics and Medicine in the Departments of Medicine, Paediatrics, Epidemiology and Health Policy and Management Evaluation at the University of Toronto.



@DrRulanParekh
@WCHospital



DR. ANNETTE ELLIOTT ROSE (She/Her) IWK Health

Dr. Annette Elliott Rose is the Vice President, Clinical Care & Chief Nurse Executive at IWK Health, which offers primary, secondary and tertiary services for children, youth and women. She leads an interprofessional team of health care providers and health leaders to support evidence-informed health system decision making, discovery, health professional education and clinical service delivery for women, children and youth in the Maritimes. Annette holds a Master of Nursing and PhD in Nursing from Dalhousie University and is an adjunct faculty member in the Dalhousie University School of Nursing. She is also a Research Associate with the World Health Organization Collaborating Centre on Health Workforce Planning and Research, Dalhousie University. Annette is committed to designing and supporting systems of health and social care that are focused on individual, family and community needs with a broad understanding of health that is grounded in health equity and social justice.

STAFF



DR. TAMIL KENDALL (She/Her)

Tamil Kendall is the Director of the Partnership for Women's Health Research Canada. For more than twenty years, she has worked at the intersection of research, policy and practice in the field of women's health and rights with community-based organizations, universities, government and the United Nations. In addition to her role with PWHR, Tamil is an adjunct professor at the University of British Columbia.

X @TamilKendall

PWHR's office is located on the ancestral and unceded territory of the Coast Salish peoples – x^wməθk^wəy əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səl ílwəta?/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. Our acknowledgement, gratitude, and respect extend to all the First Nations communities on whose traditional territories PWHR builds relationships.



