



PWHR 2024-2025 IMPACT REPORT

The Partnership for Women's Health Research Canada (PWHR)

was established to coordinate and catalyze national efforts to advance women's health research and its application. This unique collaboration brings together four leading institutions: the Women's Health Research Institute (WHRI; British Columbia), the Women and Children's Health Research Institute (WCHRI; Alberta), Research and Innovation Institute at Women's College Hospital (WCRI; Ontario), and IWK Health (Nova Scotia, with a mandate to serve the Maritimes). Together, PWHR's partner institutions represent a network of more than 915 women's health researchers working across disciplines to address health issues throughout the lifespan. Each year, our researchers mentor over 1,400 trainees, from undergraduate students to postdoctoral and clinical fellows. In all our work, we are committed to ongoing learning and practicing humility to establish mutually respectful relationships and to advance research that values the lived experiences, knowledge systems and priorities of diverse women, trans and non-binary people, particularly those who have been systemically and historically excluded in health care and health science career trajectories.

VISION

Better health for all women, trans and non-binary people through research equity, excellence, and inclusion.

MISSION

Enable knowledge creation and mobilization to benefit the health of women, trans and non-binary people across the lifespan.



2024-2025 IN NUMBERS

9 WOMEN'S HEALTH RESEARCH EVENTS

The PWHR Women's Health Research Seminar Series highlighted cutting edge research that is improving the health of women, trans and non-binary people. PWHR mentoring events and workshops provided opportunities for skills development and networking. These women's health research events brought together researchers, community members including those with lived and living experience, health care providers and administrators, trainees, and policymakers to share and mobilize knowledge that is equitable and inclusive, thereby supporting better health outcomes.

PWHR REACH

January 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025:

1,107

**Participants in women's health
research events**

113.6k

**Combined impressions and reach through
PWHR's social media**

In this period, PWHR reached researchers, trainees, community members, healthcare providers and decision-makers from every province in Canada. While **90%** of attendees resided in Canada, an additional **37** countries participated, involving every continent except Antarctica.



2024-2025 IN PICTURES

Launch of Canadian Institute's of Health Research (CIHR) Institute of Gender and Health Research Priority Plan

IGH's 2024-2029 Research Priority Plan identifies women's health as one of three priority areas for investing in sex and gender research for health equity.



June 13, 2024, Vancouver BC. From left to right: Sheila Nyman, IGH Elder in Residence; Dr. Tamil Kendall, PWHR; Dr. Angela Kaida, IGH Scientific Director; Dr. Sofia Ahmed, WCHRI Women's Health Research Academic Lead, IGH Institute Advisory Board Chair, PWHR Executive Committee; Dr. Glenys Webster, Associate Director, IGH.

WCHRI Research Day

WCHRI research day highlighted the outstanding women's health research being conducted by trainees at the University of Alberta.

November 6, 2024, Edmonton Alberta. From left to right: Dr. Tamil Kendall, PWHR; Dr. Sandy Davidge, Executive Director, WCHRI; Dr. Sofia Ahmed, Women's Health Research Academic Lead, WCHRI and PWHR Executive Committee.



Women's Health Collective Canada (WHCC) Strategic Planning Meeting

February 25, 2025, Toronto
Ontario. From left to right:
Sharlene Rutherford and Lindsay
Robertson, Alberta Women's
Health Foundation (AWHF); Cally
Wesson, BC Women's Health
Foundation (BCWHF); Heather
Creighton, IWK Foundation; Clark
Vallis, Women's College Hospital
(WCH) Foundation; Amy Flood,
WHCC; Sandra Sualim, WCH
Foundation; Dr. Tamil Kendall,
PWHR; Jennifer Gillivan, IWK
Foundation; Aryana Sye, BCWHF;
Trena Crewe, IWK Foundation;
Razel Miciak, AWHF and Daniel
St. Germaine, WHCC.



WHRI 10th Annual Women's Health Research Symposium

This gathering of researchers, trainees, and decision-makers demonstrated how women's health research is driving equity through health innovation across BC and beyond.



March 7, 2025, Vancouver BC.
From left to right: Dr. Tamil
Kendall, PWHR and Dr. Lori
Brotto, Executive Director
WHRI, PWHR Executive
Committee.

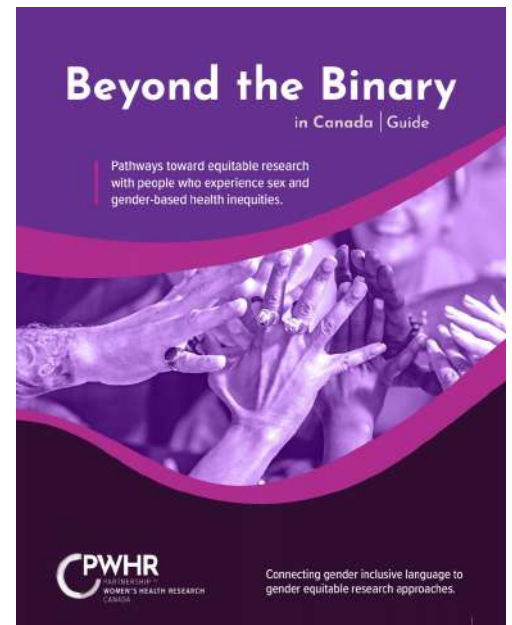
PWHR CAMPAIGNS AND PUBLICATIONS

Beyond the Binary in Canada

In October 2024, PWHR launched the bilingual *Beyond the Binary in Canada Guide* (in [English](#) and [French](#)). The guide offers practical guidance for using gender-inclusive language in research, as well as recommendations for community-engaged, trauma-informed, and resiliency-informed research practices.

This pan-Canadian, multi-stakeholder initiative was led by PWHR in collaboration with the Women's Health Research Institute (WHRI) and engaged community members with lived and living experience of gender discrimination, including cisgender and transgender women, non-binary individuals, and members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, as well as researchers, and knowledge users from all of PWHR's partner institutions.

This initiative was supported by PWHR's partners and their respective foundations, and funded through a planning and dissemination grant from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research – Institute of Gender and Health.



Together Against Misinformation Social Media Campaign

During the Science Up First #Together Against Misinformation campaign (November 12–17, 2024), PWHR released four videos featuring researchers from its partner institutes: Dr. Aisha Lofters, Dr. Colleen Norris, Dr. Gina Ogilvie, Dr. Paula Rochon, Dr. Natalie Rosen, Dr. Simone Vigod, Dr. Alexa Yakubovich, Dr. Paul Yong and Dr. Nese Yuksel. The videos addressed and debunked common myths and misinformation about women's health. The videos reached more than 13,000 social media users.





Welcoming Dr. Nan Chen, PWHR Postdoctoral Fellow

As part of PWHR's strategic commitment to preparing the next generation of women's health researchers, the Partnership welcomed its first postdoctoral fellow, Dr. Nan Chen, in October 2024. Dr. Chen is developing a first-of-its-kind economic model to estimate the return on investment (ROI) for women's health research in Canada, with a focus on women's heart health – the leading cause of premature death among Canadian women.

Her work is being guided by a national advisory group composed of researchers, clinicians, and patient partners. Dr. Chen's initial analysis of cardiovascular research funding

by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) revealed that while investment has grown over the past 20 years, only 13 per cent of funded research in 2023–2024 was specific to women or female populations.

Dr. Chen is now collaborating with Statistics Canada and the national advisory group to model the potential ROI of increasing public investment in women's cardiovascular health research. She is supported by Mitacs, the BC Provincial Health Services Authority, PWHR, and the University of British Columbia.

APPENDIX: PWHR EVENTS

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

PARTNERSHIP FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH RESEARCH CANADA

Person-Centered Approaches to Research & Women's Healthcare Delivery

SEMINAR SERIES 2023-2024
Improving Women's Healthcare through Research

Dr. Hélène Côté, (PhD): The BCC3 experience with community-engaged research on healthy aging in women living with HIV

Dr. Dana Ross (MD): Transforming healthcare through asynchronous trauma-informed care (TIC) education

A FREE, NATIONAL & VIRTUAL EVENT HOSTED BY:



REGISTER at pwhr.org



Dr. Hélène Côté
Professor
University of British Columbia (WHRI)



Dr. Dana Ross
Assistant Professor
University of Toronto (WCRI)

 JAN 24 , 2024

09-10:00 a.m. PT

11-12:00 p.m. CT

01-2:00 p.m. AT

10-11:00 a.m. MT

12-1:00 p.m. ET

[Watch the recording](#)

January 24, 2024

Person-Centered Approaches to Research and Healthcare Delivery

The BCC3 Experience with Community-Engaged Research on Healthy Aging in Women Living with HIV	Dr. Hélène Côté, PhD Professor, University of British Columbia & WHRI
Transforming Healthcare Through Asynchronous Trauma-Informed Care (TIC) Education	Dr. Dana Ross, MD Assistant Professor, University of Toronto & WCRI

PWHR 2024-2025 Impact Report 9



Celebrate International Women's Day

with the **Partnership for Women's Health Research Canada**

Digital Innovations: Expanding women's informed choice and access to quality healthcare

A FREE, NATIONAL & VIRTUAL EVENT

MARCH 1ST | 9AM PT - 10AM MT - 11AM CT - 12PM ET - 1PM AT



Dr. Ibukun Abejirinde
Scientist
Women's College Hospital Research Institute



Dr. Gina Ogilvie
Senior Scientific Advisor
Women's Health Research Institute



Dr. Carla Prado
Professor
U of A (Women and Children's Health Research Institute)



Dr. Simone Vigod
Senior Scientist
Women's College Research Institute





[Watch the recording](#)

March 1, 2024

Digital Innovations: Expanding Women's Informed Choice And Access To Quality Healthcare

Panel Chair	Dr. Ibukun Abejirinde, MD, MSc, PhD Scientist, Women's College Hospital Research Institute, Assistant Professor, Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto
Digital Health for Chronic Disease Prevention and Treatment	Dr. Carla Prado, PhD, RD Professor, Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Science, University of Alberta, Member, WCHRI Camila Orsso , PhD Student
Leveraging Digital Platforms to Improve Cervical Cancer Screening Rates	Dr. Gina Ogilvie, MSc, PhD, MD Professor, School of Population and Public Health, University of British Columbia, Senior Scientist BC Centre for Disease Control, Senior Scientific Advisor Women's Health Research Institute Nadia Mithani , PhD Student
Innovations in Treatment Delivery for Perinatal Mental Illness	Dr. Simone Vigod, MD, MSc, FRCPC Senior Scientist, Women's College Research Institute, Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation, University of Toronto Neesha Hussain-Shamsy , PhD Candidate





Beyond the Binary Canada Knowledge Exchange

 Virtual + eventbrite.ca

 Wednesday October 16th, 2024



9:00 to 11:00 am Pacific
 10:00 am to 12:00 pm Mountain
 12:00 to 2:00 pm Eastern
 1:00 to 3:00 pm Atlantic





October 16, 2024

Beyond the Binary Canada Knowledge Exchange

Welcome	Elder Sandy Leo Laframboise
The National Beyond the Binary Resource Package Overview	Dr. Lori Brotto, PhD, R. Psych Professor, University of British Columbia & WHRI Executive Director Heather McCain Founder and Executive Director of Live Education Transform Society
Trauma and Resiliency-Informed Research and Good Practices	BC. Pomeroy Expert in Trauma and Resiliency Informed Practice (TRIP) Dr. Dana Ross, MD, MSc, FRCPC Assistant Professor, University of Toronto, Staff Psychiatrist, Women's College Hospital
Sharing Implementation Strategies for Inclusive Language and Gender-Equitable Research	Dr. Kathryn Dewar, PhD Senior Research Manager, WHRI and member of UBC C&W REB Dr. Bethan Kingsley, PhD Research Associate, WCHRI Jack Woodman Vice President Strategy, Quality, Risk and Privacy at Women's College Hospital.

Key Takeaways: Reflections On and Learnings from the Beyond the Binary Canada Process	<p><u>Dr. Fritz Pino, MSW, PhD</u> Associate Professor, Faculty of Social Work, University of Regina</p> <p><u>Teffer Adjemian</u> Communications Officer, BioCanRx</p> <p><u>Dr. Natalie O. Rosen, PhD, R. Psych</u> Professor, Dalhousie University, Departments of Psychology & Neuroscience and Obstetrics and Gynaecology, & IWK Health</p> <p><u>Dr. Tamil Kendall, PhD</u> Director of the Partnership for Women's Health Research Canada.</p>
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PWHR 2024 - 2025 Seminar Series
Menopause (mis)Information

Virtual + eventbrite.ca

Thursday November 14th, 2024

9:00 to 11:00 am Pacific
10:00 am to 12:00 pm Mountain
12:00 to 2:00 pm Eastern
1:00 to 3:00 pm Atlantic

Speakers:
Dr. Nese Yuksel
Dr. Iliana Lega
Luwana Listener
Dr. Marina Adenade

Facilitator:
Shirley Weir

 [Watch the recording](#)

November 14, 2024

Menopause (mis) Information

Misinformation on Menopausal Hormone Therapy	<p><u>Dr. Nese Yuksel, BScPharm, PharmD, FCSHP, MSCP</u> Professor, University of Alberta, WCHRI member, President Canadian Menopause Society</p>
Dispelling Common Myths about Menopause: Info for Women and Care Providers	<p><u>Dr. Iliana Lega, MSc, FRCPC, MD</u> Assistant Professor, University of Toronto, Staff Endocrinologist, WCH, Scientist, Women's College Hospital Research and Innovation Institute</p>

Community-Led Menopause Research in Maskwacîs, an Indigenous Community	Luwana Listener Research Coordinator, Maskwacîs Wahkohtowin Research Group, WCHRI member
Results from HER-BC: Health and Economics Research on Midlife Women in BC	Dr. Marina Adshade, PhD Faculty, University of British Columbia & WHRI member

PWHR 2024 - 2025 Seminar Series Women's Heart Health: Inclusion for Research and Practice Excellence

Virtual + eventbrite.ca
 Wednesday February 12th, 2025
 9:00 to 11:00 am Pacific
10:00 am to 12:00 pm Mountain
12:00 to 2:00 pm Eastern
1:00 to 3:00 pm Atlantic

[Watch the recording](#)

February 12, 2025

Women's Heart Health: Inclusion for Research and Practice Excellence

Canadian Women's Heart Health Alliance: Advocating for Sex- and Gender- Equity	Lisa Comber, KTPC, BA University of Ottawa Heart Institute Knowledge Translation Manager, Canadian Women's Heart Health Centre and Canadian Women's Heart Health Alliance
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Women's Heart Health: Sex Differences and a Decade of Research	<p><u>Dr. Tara Sedlak, MD, F.R.C.P.C.</u> Cardiologist, Vancouver General Hospital and BC Women's Hospital Associate Professor, Division of Cardiology, UBC Researcher, Centre for Cardiovascular Innovation Director, Leslie Diamond Women's Heart Health Clinic</p> <p><u>Emilie Théberge, MSc</u> Clinical Research Coordinator, UBC Research Coordinator and Analyst, Leslie Diamond Women's Heart Health Clinic</p>
Menopause and Cardiovascular Health	<p><u>Dr. Sofia Ahmed, MD</u> Professor, University of Alberta Academic Lead, Women's Health Research, WCHRI</p>
Maximizing Research Impact and Improving Cardiovascular Health for Women	<p><u>Dr. Kerri-Anne Mullen, BSc, MSc, PhD</u> Assistant Professor, School of Epidemiology and Public Health, University of Ottawa Scientist and Director, Canadian Women's Heart Health Centre, University of Ottawa Heart Institute Chair, Canadian Women's Heart Health Alliance</p> <p><u>Jennifer Monaghan, BA, LLB</u> Lawyer Co-Chair, BC Recovery & Rehabilitation Steering Committee and Interior Health Stroke Innovation and Research Strategic Planning Committee Member, Executive Committee, StrokeCog Recovery Trials Member, Canadian Women's Heart Health Alliance Member, Heart & Stroke Foundation</p>
National Health Funding for Women's Cardiovascular Research	<p><u>Dr. Nan Chen, PhD</u> Postdoctoral Fellow, PWHR at UBC</p>

PWHR 2024-2025 Seminar Series

Equity, inclusion, and social justice for better perinatal outcomes

📍 Virtual + Eventbrite.ca

📅 Wednesday March 5, 2025

🕒 9:00 to 11:00 am Pacific
10:00 am to 12:00 pm Mountain
12:00 to 2:00 pm Eastern
1:00 to 3:00 pm Atlantic



[Watch the recording](#)

March 5, 2025

Equity, Inclusion, and Social Justice for Better Perinatal Outcomes

Knowledge Mobilization to Address
Pregnancy-Related Near-Miss Events and
Death

[Dr. Isabelle Malhamé, MD, MSc, FRCPC](#)

Clinician Scientist, Obstetric Medicine and Assistant Professor,
Department of Medicine, McGill University Health Centre
Principal Investigator, Laboratory for Pregnancy & Postpartum Health
Improvement (LOUVE) Research

[Dr. Modupe Tunde-Byass, MD, FRCPC](#)

Associate Professor of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, University of Toronto
Co-founder, Women Health Education Made Simple (WHEMS)

Inuit Perinatal Health Hub: Building Inuit-Specific Resources and Support	<p><u>Mary Ann Forbes</u> Research Project Team Lead, Inuit Perinatal Health Hub Project, University of Calgary</p> <p><u>Dr. Patti Johnston, BA, BSW, MSW, PhD</u> Assistant Professor, Faculty of Social Work, University of Calgary</p>
Justice and Equity in Perinatal Services Hub	<p><u>Gabrielle Griffith</u> Founding Member, Ontario Black Doula Society Regional Coordinator, RESPCTT, Birth Place Lab, UBC</p> <p><u>Bhavya Reddy, MPH</u> Public Health Researcher, Global Maternal Health PhD Candidate, School of Population and Public Health, UBC</p> <p><u>Dr. Saraswathi Vedam, RM, PhD, FACNM, Sci D</u> Lead Investigator, Birth Place Lab, UBC Professor, Midwifery, UBC Health Professional Investigator, Michael Smith Health Research Institute Health Professional Investigators</p>

PWHR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



DR. LORI BROTTTO (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. SOFIA AHMED (She/Her)

Women and Children's Health Research Institute (WCHRI)

Dr. Sofia Ahmed is the Academic Lead – Women's Health Research at WCHRI. Dr. Ahmed is a nephrologist, a Professor in the Department of Medicine and the University of Alberta Chair in Sex and Gender. A champion of women's health across the life cycle and a clinician-scientist with a focus on sex and gender differences in human kidney/cardiovascular outcomes, she is the Chair of the CIHR Institute of Gender and Health Advisory Board, Chair of the Canadian Medical Association Journal Governing Council and President of the Organization for the Study of Sex Differences.



DR. RULAN PAREKH (She/Her)

Research and Innovation Institute at Women's College Hospital (WCRI)

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.



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.



The PWHR office is located on the ancestral and unceded territory of the Coast Salish peoples – xʷməθkʷəy̓ əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səl̓íl̓wətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. Our acknowledgement, gratitude, and respect extend to all the First Nations communities on whose traditional territories PWHR builds relationships.

