

# Population Health and Prevention Research Interest Group

## O'Brien Institute for Public Health, University of Calgary

### Terms of Reference

#### Introduction

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The O'Brien Institute for Public Health has a vision of Better Health and Health Care, supported by three research themes: Improved Population Health, Enhanced Health Systems Performance, and Innovative Tools and Methods for Public Health.

The purpose of the Population Health and Prevention (PH&P) Research Interest Group is to advance the Institute's Improved Population Health research theme and contribute toward achieving the portion of the O'Brien Institute vision pertaining to 'Better Health'.

Because the membership represent diverse perspectives, traditions, and domains of research and practice, PH&P recognizes the value of broad and inclusive definitions health<sup>1,2</sup> that facilitate action to improve population health status, reduce/eliminate inequities, prevent injury, illness, disease, and premature death, and promote individual and community health.

PH&P recognizes that improving the health of populations requires:

- Action on the broad determinants of health, with an emphasis on upstream interventions addressing root causes.
- Acknowledgement that health inequities are major challenge to be addressed.
- Activities across the health continuum, from primordial to tertiary prevention.
- Action across the lifespan, incorporating a life course perspective.
- Collaborative approaches using multiple strategies, including both agentic (which focus on individual capacities and responsibilities) and structural (which focus on context) interventions.
- Multiple types of evidence to inform health decision-making.

#### Mission

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To provide synergy in research and knowledge support activities among the O'Brien Institute and external stakeholders/partners whose work focuses on improving population health and preventing health inequities.

#### Goals

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1. Promote research, learning, and knowledge translation activities in population health, prevention, and public health practice.
2. Serve as a venue for information sharing and coordination of O'Brien Institute action on population health issues.
3. Contribute to public and policy advocacy efforts on the social determinants of health and health inequities.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.who.int/about/mission/en/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.who.int/healthpromotion/conferences/previous/ottawa/en/>

## Strategies

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- Collaborate on research/planning grants.
- Engage in advocacy activities (e.g. position papers, op-eds, coalition membership).
- Facilitate student training opportunities.
- Plan networking events/symposiums/forums.
- Provide/inform O'Brien Institute voice in outreach, media, fund development activities.
- Organize CHS/ O'Brien Institute Friday PHP seminars.
- Support O'Brien Institute decision making/action related to population health issues.
- Share information and coordinate activities with internal and external partners:
  - AHS PPIH SCN (Population, Public and Indigenous Health)
  - APHA
  - Brenda Strafford Centre on Aging
  - CHS PPH (Population and Public Health) teaching specialization
  - GRIP (Group for Research with Indigenous Peoples)
  - makeCalgary
  - O'Brien Institute Health Policy Centre (in development)
  - Others relevant groups as identified by our members

## Membership

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General membership: Any interested O'Brien Institute member whose work relates to the PH&P mission  
Student membership: PH&P welcomes students and medical residents as affiliate members.

## Meetings

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Meetings of the general PH&P membership will be held 3-4 times per year.

## Decision making

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Decisions will be made by consensus. When consensus is not possible, a majority vote will be taken with PH&P chair serving as a tie-breaking vote when necessary.

## Quorum

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Quorum will consist of those in attendance.

*Approved by PHP co-chairs and PHP membership on June 13, 2016.*