



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
O'Brien Institute for Public Health
Brenda Strafford Centre on Aging

Brenda Strafford Centre on Aging

Annual Report on 2017-18 - Highlights Proposed Work Plan for 2018-19

Prepared for members of the Advisory Committee, 19 March 2018

I. Highlights from 2017-2018 Centre on Aging Initiatives

Interdisciplinary Research	Interdisciplinary Education	Community Engagement	Engagement with Policy Environment
<p>I. Catalyst Grant: <i>Recipient: Dr Meghan McDonough (Kinesiology), with co-applicant: Dr. Jennifer Hewson (Social Work): “Social participation, physical activity, and resilience among older adults living alone.”</i></p> <p>II. Environmental Scan: <i>We have identified and confirmed 72 University of Calgary faculty members with an aging-focus, representing all faculties except Education, which has established our core constituency. See attached report.</i></p> <p>III. Eight Cities and the Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging (CLSA): <i>University of Ottawa is leading this CIHR-funded project using CLSA data to compare health and well-being across municipalities and nationally; Hogan sits on the Knowledge Translation working group, Toohey sits on the Indicators working group.</i></p> <p>IV. O’Brien Institute for Public Health/Community Health Sciences Seminar – What can the CLSA do for you? <i>Hogan, Toohey, and City of Calgary partner Raynell McDonough presented an informational seminar to raise awareness, provide research examples, and highlight policy relevance of the CLSA, and to announce a new Centre on Aging initiative to encourage researchers to consider accessing the data set; 60 attended (25 Feb ‘18).</i></p>	<p>I. Funds for student-led initiatives: <i>Dispersed (@ \$5,000): Social Work (Gerontology Interest Group) Nursing (Gerontology Research Unit) Medicine (Cancer and Cellular Aging PD) Declined, but under consideration for future: Kinesiology, Psychology, Sociology</i></p> <p>II. Scholarships and Fellowships: <i>Finalized Terms of Reference for Barrie I. Strafford Scholarships for Interdisciplinary Aging Studies – to be awarded for 2018-19 academic year via Graduate Awards Competition results</i></p> <p><i>Dr. Barrie I Strafford Postdoctoral Scholar Award: Guadagni/Poulin (@\$25K/yr for 2 years): Effects of aerobic exercise on cognition and brain structure and function in adults at risk of Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias: The mediating role of sleep</i></p> <p>III. Summer studentship (May-Aug 2017): <i>The Centre hosted an undergraduate summer student to focus on our environmental scan, and offered several opportunities for professional development and immersion into Calgary’s gerontology community.</i></p> <p>IV. Student poster competition during Resilience in Aging (Oct 3, 2017): <i>Students from a range of faculties submitted 15 posters with an aging-focus. Prizes were awarded for “top poster” and “people’s choice”.</i></p>	<p>I. Resilience in Aging (Oct 2-3, 2017): <i>Nationally and Internationally-acclaimed gerontology scholars Janine Wiles (University of Auckland, NZ) and Andrew Wister (Simon Fraser University, BC) addressed over 260 attendees. Panel discussions and concurrent sessions featured several local researchers and community partners:</i></p> <p><i>(i) Resilience and Age-Friendly Cities (ii) Innovative Technologies for Resilience and Aging-in-Place (iii) Resilience in Long Term Care settings (iv) Caregivers: Deconstructing policy dependence on informal networks of care (v) “Our Place”: An intergenerational community gardening and horticultural therapy program (vi) Innovative, place-based interventions to prevent and address late life homelessness</i></p> <p>II. Sponsorships: <i>AgeWell (Sponsored lunch) W21C Reverse Trade Show (Seniors panel) Shades of Grey (Vendor’s table) Walk21 (Keynote speaker with aging focus) AB Association on Gerontology – Nibble Nosh & Network event Community Rehabilitation and Disability Studies (CRDS) (Cognitive aging in persons with Intellectual Disabilities) BME 2018 Industry Days (Student session)</i></p> <p>III. Other initiatives: <i>Long Term Care (LTC) Culture Change Collaborative (participating stakeholder)</i></p>	<p>I. Municipal: <i>In conjunction with Walk21, we co-hosted a stakeholder meeting with Age-Friendly Calgary to provide an opportunity to learn from Peggy Edwards, keynote speaker at Walk21, who is renowned for her work with the WHO to establish the age-friendly framework, and who maintains extensive involvement with Age-Friendly Ottawa, especially in areas of walkability, accessibility, and housing; 21 attended.</i></p> <p><i>Our evolving partnership with the City’s Age-Friendly Calgary personnel in support of efforts to evaluate the implementation of the 2015-2018 Seniors Age-Friendly Strategy culminated in (i) successful application for CLSA data access; and (ii) an invitation by the CLSA to forge an inaugural partnership, that may be emulated by other cities in the future.</i></p> <p>II. Provincial: <i>(i) Hogan invited by the Minister, Seniors & Housing to participate in a Seniors Advisory Forum focusing on (i) Affordable housing/community supports; (ii) Ageism; (iii) Labour force and older workers (Nov ‘17) (ii) Hogan invited by the Minister, Education to participate in a roundtable discussion on addressing ageism via improvements to Alberta’s K-12 curriculum (Feb ‘18)</i></p> <p>III. Internal (University) involvement: <i>Toohey is a member of the Health Policy Centre Planning Council.</i></p>

II. Environmental scan of aging-related research activities and educational opportunities at the University of Calgary

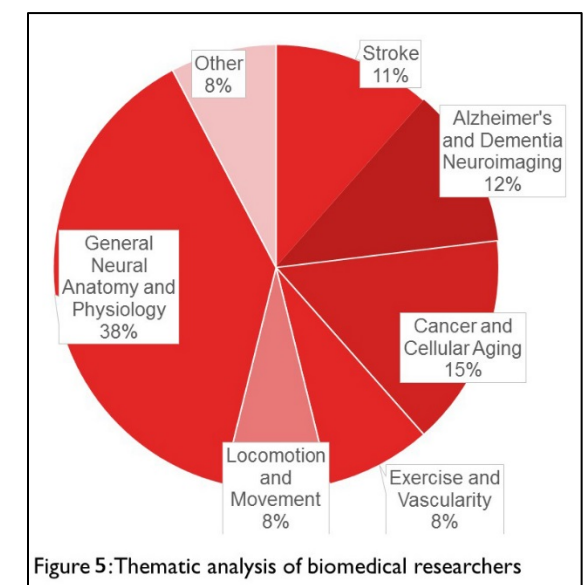
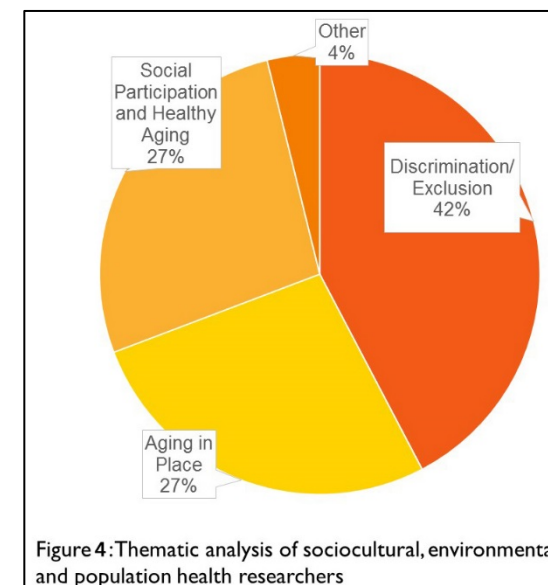
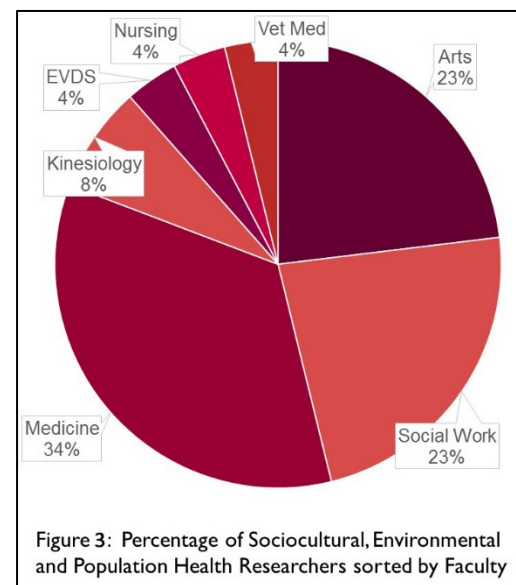
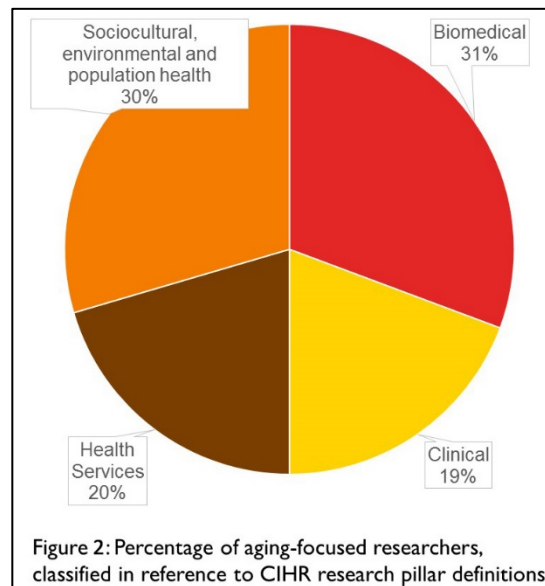
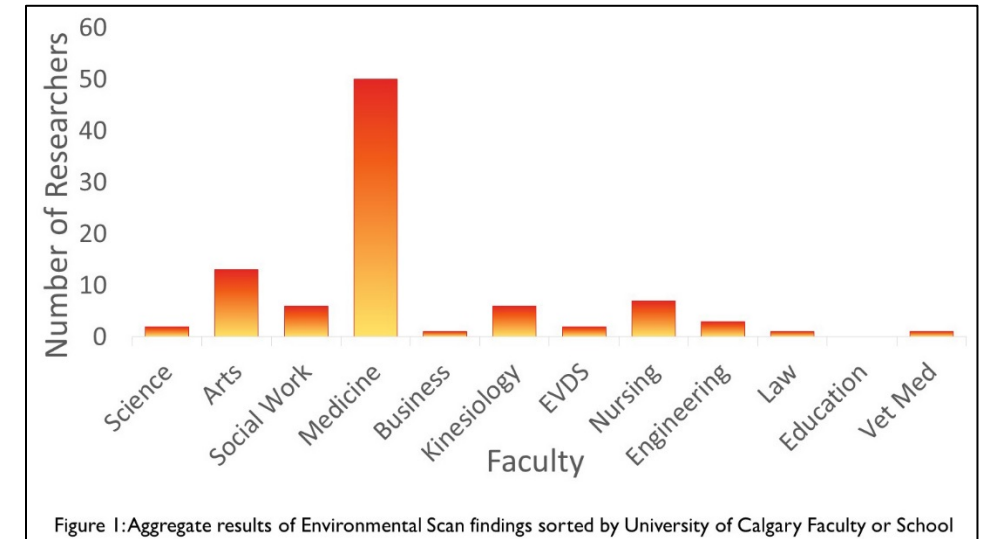
Objective: To systematically review all aging-focused research, education, community outreach, and policy-oriented activities currently taking place across the University. This review is intended to identify both opportunities and gaps, to strategically develop resources that will support the growth of University of Calgary capacity in these four focus areas.

Methods:

(i) A tabular matrix of aging-focused research areas, course offerings, and community involvement was compiled via systematic Web-based searches of the University of Calgary public Web site; databases such as Medline; academic and professional profiles on ResearchGate, LinkedIn, and other public-facing sites;

(ii) Researchers will be invited to confirm data and provide permission for the Centre on Aging to compile a comprehensive listing for our Web site as per CHREB Ethics Certification REB17-1052.

Selected preliminary findings (aggregate):



III. Centre on Aging priorities for 2018-2019

Our overarching aim is to continue to shift University of Calgary aging-focused capacity from “multidisciplinary” to “interdisciplinary”

Interdisciplinary Research	Interdisciplinary Education	Community Engagement	Engagement with Policy Environment
Approximate expenditures: \$75,000	Approximate expenditures: \$150,000	Approximate expenditures: \$15,000	Approximate expenditures: \$15,000
<p>I. Catalyst Grants: <i>We will fund up to two catalyst grants for interdisciplinary aging studies.</i></p> <p>II. Eight Cities and the Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging (CLSA): <i>Work will continue on this project; a team meeting is anticipated in October 2018, to coincide with the Canadian Ass’n on Gerontology conference.</i></p> <p>III. CLSA Data Access Grants: <i>The Centre will provide funding for up to three projects to offset the CLSA data access fee of \$3,000 on a first-come-first-served basis.</i></p> <p>IV. CLSA Data Collection Site: <i>The Centre will support salaries and expenditures related to ongoing data collection for the CLSA (Hogan is Calgary Site Principal Investigator)</i></p> <p>V. “Town Hall”/Networking Event(s): <i>We will bring together our University of Calgary community of researchers to (i) garner feedback on ways that the Centre can serve their needs and interests, and (ii) raise awareness of work happening across disciplines to grow networks and facilitate potential collaborations</i></p>	<p>I. Funds for student-led initiatives: <i>Social Work (Gerontology Interest Group) Nursing (Gerontology Research Unit) Medicine Kinesiology Psychology Sociology EVDS</i></p> <p>II. Scholarships and Fellowships: Barrie I. Strafford Scholarships for Interdisciplinary Aging Studies – to be awarded to one Master and one Doctoral student for 2018-19 academic year via Graduate Awards Competition results</p> <p>Dr. Barrie I Strafford Postdoctoral Scholar Award: Tam-Tham/Holroyd-Leduc (@\$12K/yr for 2 years, matched by CSM): <i>Improving palliative care in long term care: Exploring the changing role of family physicians in multidisciplinary care teams through qualitative and quantitative methods</i></p> <p>III. Summer studentship (May-Aug 2017): <i>The Centre will host an undergraduate summer student assist with our City of Calgary/CLSA evaluation project.</i></p>	<p>I. Centre on Aging Events: <i>Method’s Hub – Dr. Annette Leibing presentation “‘Situated Prevention” – Studying the ‘new dementia’”(Apr 2018)</i></p> <p><i>We are exploring a collaborative event with McCaig Institute for Bone & Joint Health</i></p> <p><i>Planning 1-2 public events on timely topics. Initial ideas include Social Isolation and Loneliness (Dr. Norah Keating from UofA); Aging in New Canadian Populations (Dr. Turin Chowdhury; Dr. Ilyan Ferrer); public screening of “Cracked” – a research-informed drama addressing stigmatization aimed at persons living with dementia and their caregivers</i></p> <p>II. Sponsorships: Promoting Healthy Brain Aging and Preventing Dementia (Supporter-level sponsor) Shades of Grey (Vendor’s table) THIRD ACTION Film Festival (Sustainer-level sponsor plus named Resilience in Aging award) CDN Ass’n on Gerontology 2018 Educational & Scientific Meeting (Booth)</p> <p>III. Other initiatives: <i>Continued involvement in the Long Term Care (LTC) Culture Change Collaborative (participating stakeholder)</i></p>	<p>I. Municipal: <i>We will continue to work with the CLSA and our City of Calgary partners to solidify details of the inaugural partnership set in motion in 2017-18. We also anticipate completing the evaluation analysis proposed to the CLSA, with reports to City Council planned.</i></p> <p>II. Provincial: <i>Continued contributions to the Seniors Advisory Forum focusing on (i) Affordable housing/community supports; (ii) Ageism; (iii) Labour force and older workers (Ministry of Seniors and Housing) and addressing ageism via improvements to Alberta’s K-12 curriculum (Ministry of Education) as requested.</i></p> <p><i>As the LTC Culture Change Collaborative evolves, the Centre may be positioned to assist with efforts to disseminate policy-relevant information to the relevant governmental organizations.</i></p> <p>III. Internal (University) involvement: <i>Toohey will continue to contribute to the O’Brien Institute’s Health Policy Centre Planning Council, with a launch of this new entity anticipated in 2018.</i></p>
Other operational expenditures (approximate) - salaries, travel, memberships, equipment, etc.: \$110,000		TOTAL ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES FOR 2018/19: \$365,000	

Testimonials

Trainee support

"I really appreciate your support for my post-doctoral program of study. Thank you for this incredible opportunity to pursue my research endeavors in geriatrics and gerontology." – Helen Tham-Tam, Dr Barrie I Strafford Post-doctoral Fellow

"Thank you very much Ann, David, and the Brenda Strafford Centre on Aging. This funding is very much appreciated to help support the activities of the Gerontology Interest Group and promote greater awareness about aging in our faculty and on campus." – Dr Jennifer Hewson, Faculty Lead for the Gerontology Interest Group (Social Work)

Sponsorship

"Your support is deeply appreciated by CRDS and the larger community. A number of people came up to me during and since the event to let me know how useful it was to have been in attendance. My meetings with Hefziba the next day also sparked further discussions which may be a catalyst for a future collaborative research project between universities." – Dr Anne Hughson, Community Rehabilitation and Disability Studies (CRDS) (Workshop by Dr Hefziba Lifschitz on aging in persons living with intellectual disabilities)

"The event would not have been a success without your involvement. Aside from the much needed and appreciated financial contribution, thank you for everything from the promotion of the event, to opening remarks, great questions, and your help with the Café Tables." – Julia MacGregor, W21C (AGE-WELL NCE Calgary Roadshow)

Resilience in Aging Public Event

"Congratulations on a successful event! I found the presentation on Monday evening to be very informative and thought Janine Wiles was an excellent speaker." – Attendee (LP)

"The keynote speakers were a great fit for the program and the whole program was quite inspiring. The networking was outstanding as there seemed to be a great mix of service providers, health care professionals, community members, and researchers." Lorraine Venturato (Nursing) Planning Committee Member and Concurrent Session presenter

"I was very impressed at the turnout and had great conversations with seniors. The keynote speakers were great and had excellent insights on Resilience in Aging. I enjoyed mix of qualitative and quantitative perspectives provided and also have some contacts that wanted to follow up on potential projects which is great." Navjot Virk (Brenda Strafford Foundation) Planning Committee Member and Concurrent Session presenter

"We had a very lively bunch of connections after our presentation, including with three funders who were in the room. The opportunity for our program staff and volunteers to co-present and join in the conference was also extremely empowering and exciting for our team. What a superb event...you should be pleased with the quality and outcomes." – Sonja Jakubec (MRU) Concurrent Session presenter

Dr Yeonjung Lee assigned to her class of 23 social work undergraduate students registered in SOWK 553.03 S03 (Gerontology) a viewing of keynote speaker Dr. Wister's presentation (Link: <https://obrieniph.ucalgary.ca/aging>) and asked the students to reflect on the content and highlight questions they would pose to Dr. Wister. Dr. Lee then scheduled a telephone interview with Dr. Wister to pose the questions as an interview, to record and share with students.