



FROM THE SCIENTIFIC DIRECTOR

Dear members of the SMRC community,



I am delighted to welcome Dr. Harmehr Sekhon (Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, McGill University) as the newest Associate Scientist within our SMRC team. Dr. Sekhon's experience in integrating technology and AI-based approaches to mental health solutions for older patients supports our research objectives within the Older Adult Care domain. Her recruitment aligns perfectly with our goal of improving the future of health and wellness outcomes by increasing accessibility to innovative support systems and technologies, positioning her as a valuable asset to SMRC in implementing the necessary infrastructures to help older adult patients within our healthcare system.

As we continue in our journey to foster healthier futures for all, SMRC will host a Community Conference with the overarching topic of *Wellness and Behavioural Interventions* on May 8, 2024. Knowledge transfer is particularly important when our research findings actively improve community members' day-to-day care and understanding of health behaviours. At SMRC, we are proud to have researchers devoted in their work to strengthening the foundations of wellbeing. SMRC will hold the event at the Côte-des-neiges public library. Our goal is to reach the largest and most diverse audience with these conferences. To this effect, we've reached out to community organisations within CDN and will partner with them for future presentations. Turn to page 4 of the newsletter to read more about some of our key undertakings in health behaviour and wellness research.

Other community-oriented events, including scientific conferences and other knowledge transfer initiatives, are planned over the coming months. We hope to see you there, and look forward to your participation.

In light of International Women's Day last month, I'd like to take the opportunity to acknowledge our all-female team of full-time researchers at SMRC and our commitment to work that support health priorities for women. We are incredibly proud to have such a strong women-centred presence in our work, which reinforces our commitments towards fostering inclusivity and equity in health research. Being at the forefront of healthcare research, it is clear that we hold great responsibility: SMRC's commitments towards gender diversity simultaneously enriches our scientific discourse and ensures that our work both resonates with and serves the needs of all community members.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that our Annual Report (the Blue Report) will be released later this month. It will provide comprehensive insights into our achievements, initiatives, and overall impacts of our research efforts for the past year. I look forward to sharing our progress with you.

Ari N. Meguerditchian, MD
Scientific Director

IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 - Highlight: Dr. Harmehr Sekhon joins SMRC
- 4 - Highlight: Health Behaviour Research at SMRC
- 7 - SMRC News
- 11 - Academic Output
- 12 - Roster of Oncology Trials
- 14 - SMRC Scientific Series
- 16 - Upcoming Events
- 19 - From the DAUER

Dr. Harmehr Sekhon joins St. Mary's Research Centre



Dr. Harmehr Sekhon, PhD, recently recruited as Assistant Professor (Department of Medicine, Division of Geriatrics) at McGill, joins SMRC as associate scientist on May 1st, 2024. The majority of her work falls under our Older Adult Care research domain.

Background

Dr. Sekhon is currently a Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Fellowship-supported Postdoctoral Research Fellow at McLean Hospital, affiliated with Harvard Medical School. She also is an Alzheimer's Society-supported Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), affiliated with the University of Toronto. She has a strong track record of industry partnerships, including her past work with the Humanoid Robotics Company and the Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA) research group. Dr. Sekhon has over 40 manuscripts published since 2017, 30 of which with an impact factor of at least 4.0, and has been an invited speaker and presenter at more than 20 conferences and annual scientific meetings. She completed both her MSc and PhD in cognition and gait at McGill University's Division of Experimental Medicine.



Research Expertise

Dr. Sekhon's areas of expertise include intervention trials of digital technology (virtual reality, robotics, telehealth, sensors, etc.) in older adults with mental health conditions, often with a specific focus on dementia. Her most recent work in this area is Safety Considerations in the Use of Extended Reality Technologies for Mental Health with Older Adults, published with the American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry (January 2024).

Dr. Harmehr Sekhon joins St. Mary's Research Centre



Research Focus

Dr. Sekhon's work focuses on conducting randomized controlled trials of novel digital technologies created with the purpose of addressing and improving mental health conditions amongst older adults. Her research includes diverse older patient populations including those who are community dwelling, in-patient, and those in long-term care/assisted living facilities. This work looks deeper into quality-of-life indicators, examining the impact of factors such as health status and social isolation.

Looking forward, Dr. Sekhon's vision for the future is to leverage novel and cutting-edge technologies to improve the lives of older adults. She intends to conduct randomized controlled trials and mixed method studies to assess technological interventions for improving health outcomes, quality of life, mental health, and loneliness in older adults with and without cognitive impairments. This will primarily be done through Virtual Reality (VR) based interventions, Artificial Intelligence driven application interventions, and telemedicine and digital applications.

Her expertise aligns closely with SMRC's research emphasis on improving the accessibility of care for older adults, and we eagerly anticipate the valuable contributions she will bring upon joining our research community in May.

She will be presenting her work on **Technological Interventions for Older Adults: An Exciting Opportunity** as part of our ongoing Scientific Series lectures. Her presentation will take place on June 20th, 2024, from 12pm to 1pm at the McCusker conference room within SMRC, and via Teams.

Bridging the Gap: Health Behaviour Research at SMRC



Understanding health behaviours, the foundation of well-being

Health behaviours are the actions individuals take that affect their health and well-being. These can include a wide range of activities or habits, such as what we eat and drink, how much physical activity we engage in, our sleep patterns, and whether we smoke or use alcohol or drugs. Positive health behaviours, like eating nutritious foods and exercising regularly can help prevent disease and improve our overall health. Negative health behaviours, such as smoking, can increase the risk of health problems. Understanding and modifying health behaviours is a key step towards leading a healthier life.

The SMRC approach: from fundamental studies to practical applications

To create healthier communities, understanding the impact of health behaviours and finding better ways to support them is paramount. Through various programmes of epidemiological and observational research, scientists at SMRC are investigating how health behaviours impact health outcomes. In addition, SMRC researchers apply their expertise in interventional and implementation methodologies to ensure that patients have access to the right tools to help them adopt the health behaviours shown to improve outcomes. Despite its size, SMRC boasts an exceptional range of expertise, enabling a comprehensive approach to health research that spans from fundamental studies to practical applications.

Showcasing SMRC's impact: pioneering research in action

Advancing cancer prevention and survivorship through lifestyle insights

Dr. Anita Koushik, holder of the inaugural McGill Chair in Community Cancer Care, is spearheading a comprehensive research program aimed at unraveling the etiology of cancer. By focusing on the identification of modifiable lifestyle factors, her work aims to revolutionize prevention and risk-assessment strategies, especially concerning ovarian cancer. Dr. Koushik works with large datasets to explore how an individual's health behaviour across the lifespan can influence not only the risk of developing cancer but also the prognosis and quality of life for those who are living with the disease.

Bridging the Gap: Health Behaviour Research at SMRC



Dr. Koushik's research is particularly concentrated on the effects of physical activity, caffeine, and alcohol consumption on ovarian cancer risk, providing valuable insights that could guide prevention efforts and support survivors in their recovery journey.

Empowering individuals for behavioural change through self-care innovations

Dr. Sylvie Lambert, holding the Canada Research Chair in self-care and illness self-management support interventions, focuses on developing tools for behavioural change and self-care, particularly for cancer patients and their caregivers. TEMPO is one of the notable projects within her program of research, and offers a web-based, self-directed platform for managing psychosocial and physical challenges. Designed for men with prostate cancer and their caregivers, TEMPO integrates coping skills training with a home-based exercise program. This intervention allows users to improve communication, cope with cancer challenges, and increase physical activity without direct healthcare professional guidance, showcasing how health behaviours can be positively transformed through targeted, low-cost innovations. Dr. Lambert's approach has led to the development of several self-management support tools, adapted to different populations, which use evidence-based solutions to equip patients and their caregivers with the resources to make informed decisions and goals related to their health behaviours. She is also leading several studies that explore how such programs can be implemented in the real world, outside of the research context.

The role of physical activity in diabetes management

SMHC is also participating in a ground-breaking multi-center trial which aims to set new benchmarks in the management of diabetes through physical activity. Dr. Kaberi Dasgupta, (RI-MUHC), is leading the RESET for remission study. Local SMHC clinician investigators Dr. Roy Eappen, Dr. Renata Sava and Dr Annick Gauthier are ensuring SMHC patients can participate in this joint Canada-UK project. The randomized clinical trial aims to help young individuals with type 2 diabetes reverse this condition.

Bridging the Gap: Health Behaviour Research at SMRC



Dr. Dasgupta explains “Our innovation is the combination of the diet with supervised exercise, to understand the added benefits.” Those in the active intervention arm of the RESET study receive a low-calorie diet and exercise at a gym, under supervision. Individuals interested in more information are welcome to contact reset@muhc.mcgill.ca.

Harnessing the power of diverse expertise at SMRC

Health behaviours are crucial in determining health outcomes, and SMRC's comprehensive research efforts stand out for their depth, innovation, and commitment to public well-being. Our unique blend of epidemiological, observational, interventional, and implementation research not only bridges the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application but also empowers individuals and communities to make informed health decisions. The diverse expertise within our small but dynamic team enables us to tackle a broad spectrum of health challenges, making a significant impact on both local and global health landscapes. Through our ongoing research and dedication to translating findings into actionable strategies, SMRC continues to be at the forefront of fostering healthier communities, one evidence-based step at a time.

Stay tuned for our Community Conference event on **Wellness and Behavioural Interventions**, taking place on May 8th, 2024. For more details, please turn to page 18.

C.A.R.E. Grants: Updated Terms of Reference

The SMRC CARE Grant Committee has completed the most recent round of revisions to the Terms of Reference. Click on the following links to learn more:

- [CARE Career Development Fund](#)
- [CARE Project Grants](#)

The Competition Attracting Research Excellence (CARE) grants program was established in 2008 with the support of the St. Mary's Hospital Foundation. The goal of this program is to assist St. Mary's Hospital healthcare professionals and/or researchers directly or indirectly involved in patient care to attain scientific excellence.

SMRC strengthens its ties to the neighbourhood

True to its mission of community engagement, SMRC recently participated in two meetings within the CDN-NDG borough to build bridges with community organizations: the Round Table on the Nourishing Community Development Plan consultation in NDG (March 13, 2024) and the 2nd Grand meeting on Strategic Planning in CDN (March 14, 2024).



These two local events highlighted the importance of collaborative research partnerships, emphasising the need to develop community engagement consultation plans upfront to involve communities in research projects. By creating spaces for dialogue on local community health needs, SMRC will expand feedback mechanisms to external partners to guide and co-create a long-term research project.

Analysing the main health issues and challenges at the territorial level, as well as mapping health partners are tools that promote a better understanding of actors and interventions and thus ensure greater cohesion in research activities. In the end, SMRC aims to forge new collaborations and equitable community partnerships for better health. The objective is to develop joint collaborative research activities and projects in the future, involving health actors and non-health actors from diverse backgrounds (including) gender, race and sexual orientation) in support of research, implementation research, and integrated service delivery. To maintain dialogue with community organizations, SMRC will soon be involved in future activities of CDN Mental Health Table.

Nina Morena awarded McGill Memorial Scholarship

Congratulations to Nina Morena for receiving the John Williamson Frederick Peacock Memorial Scholarship by McGill University's Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, valued at \$5,000.

This scholarship will go towards funding Nina's PhD project titled *Knowledge making and online literacies of young people with metastatic breast cancer*, under the supervision of Dr. Ari Meguerditchian.



Dr. Sylvie Lambert appointed to Scientific Committee of new RRCancer research axis

Congratulations to Dr. Sylvie Lambert on her appointment to the Scientific Committee of the Cancer Network's new axis, "Système de santé apprenant et équitable" (SSAE). The creation of the SSAE was announced at the most recent Canadian Cancer Research Conference.

To help accelerate the integration of innovations in cancer research, researchers like Dr. Lambert across Canada are applying concepts and methods from the science of implementation. These efforts will be applied to the entire continuum of oncology care in this new RRCancer axis.

[Click here to learn more about RRCancer's new SSAE axis.](#)



Dr. Sylvie Lambert receives FRQS grant

Dr. Lambert also recently received \$250,000 in grant funding from Oncopole, the cancer hub at the Fonds de recherche du Québec (FRQS), for her project *Le bon soutien, au bon moment, à la bonne personne: Mise en œuvre des soins par étapes dans un programme de réhabilitation interdisciplinaire pour les survivants d'un cancer de la tête et du cou à la suite de la radiothérapie*. The aim of this project is to ensure that CTC (Head and Neck Cancer) survivors can adequately manage the post-treatment effects of radiotherapy on their physical and mental health.

[Find out more about this project here.](#)

Dr. Maria Abu Khalil granted a Tomlinson Award

Congratulations to Dr. Maria Abou Khalil, Colorectal surgeon at SMHC and an SMRC associated scientist, for being granted the Tomlinson Award from McGill University's Department of Surgery.

The Tomlinson Award is awarded to outstanding young surgeons and surgical scientists who will lead in widening the bounds of surgical knowledge and innovation, for the benefit of both McGill and Montreal communities. The goal of this award is to encourage honorees to initiate a productive and transformative academic career. The Young Surgeon's Endowment Fund (Tomlinson Fund) will provide Dr. Khalil annual salary support matched by SMRC to be directed towards research or academic purposes that align with the Department of Surgery's academic mission. This award totals in \$30,000 in annual stipends for a total of three years.



Dr. Talia Malagòn receives CIHR grant



Congratulations to Dr. Talia Malagòn on receiving \$310,000 in grant funding from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) on her project *Evaluating Potential for Screening with Emerging Multi-Cancer Early Detection Tests in Canada*.

This project will use simulation modeling to generate evidence needed to evaluate potential impacts of screening with multi-cancer early detection tests in Canada. Multi-cancer early detection tests are tests which look for DNA shed by cancer cells in the blood. Because this DNA can sometimes be detected before the cancer becomes clinically apparent, it may be possible to use these tests for cancer screening in asymptomatic populations to detect cancer earlier, and to test for multiple cancers at the same time.

[Find out more about Dr. Malagòn's project here.](#)

Dr. Ari Meguerditchian recognised by Society of Surgical Oncology



Congratulations to Dr. Ari Meguerditchian on receiving recognition by the Society of Surgical Oncology at its annual conference in Atlanta (March 2024) for his contributions to promoting collaboration between surgical oncologists internationally, namely in the fields of education and research.

He currently serves as Secretary – Treasurer on the executive committee of the Canadian Society of Surgical Oncology and has established the CSSO Research Grants Program to support the launch of young Canadian surgical oncologists entering into practice.

Dr. Anita Koushik presentation at the 15th Annual Conférence of the Coalition Priorité Cancer au Québec

In March 2024, SMRC's Dr. Anita Koushik presented at the 15th Annual Conférence of the Coalition Priorité Cancer au Québec.

The goal of the annual conference is to keep attendants, including health care professionals, researchers, patients, survivors, advocacy groups and others, informed on the latest in cancer care and research. Dr. Koushik gave an overview of current knowledge on the role of lifestyle factors on the risk and recurrence of cancer, presented some findings from her team's research program on vitamin D and sleep.



Academic Output



Peer-reviewed scientific publications

Fontaine G, Poitras ME, Sasseville M, Pomey M-P, Ouellet J, Brahim LO, Wasserman S, Bergeron F, Lambert S. Barriers and enablers to the implementation of patient-reported outcome and experience measures (PROMs/PREMs): protocol for an umbrella review. *Systematic Reviews*. 2024; 13(1):96.

<https://doi.org/10.1186/s13643-024-02512-5>

Lambert S, Loban K, Gignac A-S, Magalhaes M, Brahim LO, Chehayeb S, Wasserman S. From patient-reported outcomes (PROs) to family-reported outcomes (FROs): Acceptability and perceived usefulness of routine screening in cancer care. *Palliative and Supportive Care*. Published online 2024:1-9.

<https://doi.org/10.1017/S147895152400035X>

L'Espérance K, Abrahamowicz M, O'Loughlin J, Koushik A. Childhood body fatness and the risk of epithelial ovarian cancer: A population-based case-control study in Montreal, Canada. *Prev Med*, 2024;178:107794.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ypmed.2023.107794>

Mésidor M, Liu Y, Talbot D, Skowronski D, De Serres G, Merckx J, Koushik A, Tadrous M, Carazro S, Jiang C, Schnitzer M. Test negative design for vaccine effectiveness estimation in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic: a systematic methodology review. *Vaccine*, Published online December 9, 2023.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.vaccine.2023.12.013>

Wu VS, Sabud T, Smith A'B, Lambert SD, Descallar J, Lebel S, Bamgboje-Ayodele A. The Evaluation of the Suitability, Quality, and Readability of Publicly Available Online Resources for the Self-Management of Fear of Cancer Recurrence. *Current Oncology*. 2024; 31(1):66-83. <https://doi.org/10.3390/curroncol31010005>

Yaffe, M. J., McCusker, J., Lambert, S. D., Haggerty, J., Meguerditchian, A. N., Pineault, M., Barnabé, A., Belzile, E., Minotti, S., & de Raad, M. Self-care interventions to assist family physicians with mental health care of older patients during the COVID-19 pandemic: Feasibility, acceptability, and outcomes of a pilot randomized controlled trial. *PLOS ONE*, Published online February 15, 2024.

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0297937>

Roster of Oncology Clinical Trials



Bladder cancer

A Phase 3, randomized, study of neoadjuvant chemotherapy alone versus neoadjuvant, chemotherapy plus Nivolumab or Nivolumab and BMS-986205, followed by continued post- surgery therapy with Nivolumab and BMS-986205 in participants with muscle-invasive bladder cancer. [CA017-078]

Breast cancer

A Phase III Study of Trastuzumab Deruxtecan (T-DXd) with or without Pertuzumab vs Taxane, Trastuzumab and pertuzumab in HERs-Positive, first-line Metastatic Breast Cancer [Destiny]

Identification and evaluation of patients at risk of developing cardiotoxicity after receiving chemotherapy for breast cancer, leukemia or lymphoma [CarChem]

Registre cancer du sein métastatoque [Groupe McPeak-Sirois]

“A Clinical Trial to Determine the Efficacy of Five Years of Letroxole Compared to Placebo in Patients Completing Five Years of Hormonal Therapy Consisting of an Aromatase Inhibitor (AI) or Tamoxifen Followed by an AI in Prolonging Disease-Free Survival in Postmenopausal Woman with Hormone Receptor Positive Breast Cancer” [NSABP-42]

Lung cancer

A Phase III, Randomised, Open-Label Study of Savolitinib in Combination With Osimertinib Versus Platinum-Based Doublet Chemotherapy in Participants With EGFR Mutated MET-Overexpressed and/or Amplified, Locally Advanced or Metastatic Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer Who Have Progressed on Treatment With Osimertinib [SAFFRON]

An Open-label, Multicenter, Phase 3 Randomized, Active-Comparator-Controlled Clinical Study of Pembrolizumab (MK-3475) in Combination With Sacituzumab Govitecan Versus MK-3475 Monotherapy as First-line Treatment in Participants With PD L1 TPS Greater than or Equal to 50% Metastatic Non-small Cell Lung Cancer [KEYNOTE D46/EVOKE-03]

A phase 3 study of Pembrolizumab (MK-3475) in combination with concurrent chemoradiation therapy followed by Pembrolizumab with or without Olaparib vs concurrent chemoradiation therapy followed by Durvalumab in participants with unresectable, locally advanced, stage III non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). [MK 7339-012]

Roster of Oncology Clinical Trials



Lung cancer - continued

A randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled phase 3 study of Pembrolizumab (MK-3475) in combination with concurrent chemoradiation therapy followed by Pembrolizumab with or without Olaparib (MK-7339), compared to concurrent chemoradiation therapy alone in participants with newly diagnosed treatment-naïve limited-stage small cell lung cancer (LS-SCLC). [MK 7339-013]

A Phase 2 Study to Evaluate the Efficacy and Safety of Pembrolizumab plus Investigational Agents in Combination with Etoposide and Cisplatin or Carboplatin for the first line Treatment of Participants with Extensive Stage Small Cell Lung Cancer [MK3475-B99]

A Phase 3, Multicenter, randomized, open-label trial to compare the efficacy and safety of pembrolizumab (MK-3475) in combination with Lenvatinib (E7080/MK-7902) versus docetaxel in previously treated participants with metastatic Non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) and progressive disease (PD) after platinum doublet chemotherapy and immunotherapy [MK7902-008]

A Phase 3 Randomized, Placebo-controlled Study to Evaluate the Safety and Efficacy of Pemetrexed + Platinum Chemotherapy + Pembrolizumab (MK-3475) with or without Lenvatinib (E7080/MK-7902) as First-line Intervention in Participants with Metastatic Non squamous Non-small Cell Lung Cancer [MK7902-006]

A Phase 3 Study of Pembrolizumab in Combination with Carboplatin/Taxane (Paclitaxel or Nab-paclitaxel) Followed by Pembrolizumab with or without Maintenance Olaparib in the First-line Treatment of Metastatic Squamous Non-small Cell Lung Cancer (NSCLC) [MK7339-008]

A Phase 3 Study of Pembrolizumab in Combination with Pemetrexed/Platinum (Carboplatin or Cisplatin) Followed by Pembrolizumab and Maintenance Olaparib vs Maintenance Pemetrexed in the First-Line Treatment of Participants with Metastatic Non squamous Non-Small-Cell Lung Cancer [MK7339-006]

Hematology

Statins for Venous Event Reduction in Patients with Venous Thromboembolism
[The SAVER Trial]

Information:

Franca Cantini

Program Manager, Oncology Clinical Trials

franca.cantini.comtl@ssss.gouv.qc.ca



St. Mary's Research Centre Scientific Series



Scientific Series Recap: Thursday, February 22, 2024

Lay mental health self-care: the innovative DIRECT care model

Dr. Mark Yaffe



Infrastructure supporting patient mental health, particularly that which can be self-administered, are integral in providing accessible and comprehensive care to older adults with depression and chronic physical conditions. On February 22nd, Dr. Mark Yaffe, Professor of Family Medicine at McGill University, spoke to the St. Mary's community about the DIRECT research group's depression self-care toolkit specifically created for community-based patients.

Key takeaways from the presentation included:

- An overview of the self-care tools provided in the toolkits (core CBT tools, informational materials adapted to specific issues, etc., provided in various media formats to increase accessibility – web, paper, CDs, and more).
- Example use cases for the self-care toolkits and how they differ in method and effect from traditional therapy solutions when addressing mental health care.
- The lay guidance model with CBT tools generally increases engagement with self-care tools and decreases symptoms of depression and anxiety.

For more information on the project and an in-depth look at the research behind it, [check out the full publication here](#).

In closing the event, SMRC Scientific Director Dr. Ari Meguerditchian took the opportunity to congratulate Dr. Yaffe and the DIRECT research team on the award they had recently received from the Canadian Coalition for Seniors' Mental Health. The Seniors' Mental Health Outstanding Care and Integrative Practice Award received by the team recognized their contributions, innovation and intercollaboration. A plaque will be displayed in the research centre.

*This presentation can be credited for clinical staff (continuing medical education)

Contact: christina.raneburger.comtl@ssss.gouv.qc.ca

Form: <https://forms.office.com/r/G55ZuLS11Q>

St. Mary's Research Centre Scientific Series



Scientific Series Recap: Thursday, April 4, 2024

The relationship-centred approach with older people, or how to promote the well-being of all

Dr. Anne Bourbonnais



Using a relationship-centred approach when working with older adults living with cognitive impairments can help caregiving staff and family care partners better understand the sometimes difficult or out-of-the-ordinary behaviour that these patients may show. On April 4th, Dr. Anne Bourbonnais, Professor in the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Montreal, shared her research with our research community on facilitating these approaches when caring for older adults.

Key takeaways from the presentation included:

- Thinking about what unites us can help increase our empathy and compassion; this includes recognising that the behavioural attitudes of older persons living with cognitive impairment might show up differently depending on their circumstances and experiences.
- The relationship-centred approach helps us to provide better care for older people and to promote their well-being, as well as that of their loved ones, caregivers and carers.
- Key strategies for implementing this approach include starting gradually with care, include all those affected in carrying out the approach, and offering coaching, mentorship, and guidance wherever possible.

Anne Bourbonnais, RN, PhD is a full professor in the Faculty of Nursing at the Université de Montréal, the Chairholder of the Canada Research Chair in Care for Older People and of the Research Chair in Nursing Care for Older People and their Families. She is also a researcher at the Research Centre of the Institut universitaire de gériatrie de Montréal (CRIUGM). She has expertise in the care of older people living with a major neurocognitive disorder. As a researcher, she is particularly interested in the behaviours of these older people and the development of interventions to promote their well-being, as well as that of their family care partners and caregiving staff, from a clinical and social perspective.

*This presentation can be credited for clinical staff (continuing medical education)

Contact: christina.raneburger.comtl@ssss.gouv.qc.ca

Form: <https://forms.office.com/r/G55ZuLS11Q>

Upcoming Events

Thursday, May 2, 2024

Scientific Series: Dr. Patrick Cloos

Dr. Patrick Cloos is an Associate Professor from l'Université de Montreal (School of Public Health - Department of Social and Preventive Medicine). He will be presenting a lecture on **“Migrants without medical insurance”** as part of SMRC's Scientific Series.

Dr. Cloos' areas of interest include social and preventive medicine, health anthropology, global health/planetary health, social inequalities in health, international migration, racism, climate change and the Caribbean. These stem both from his professional experience and his interdisciplinary training: medicine, public health and the humanities/social sciences. Dr. Cloos has clinical experience as a hospital doctor and humanitarian experience with Médecins sans Frontières, in a wide variety of contexts: urban centers and climatic disasters (Philippines), rural areas (Lao PDR), refugee camps (Afghanistan) and armed conflicts (Liberia and Sierra Leone). He has also held the position of Head of Health Services at the Ministry of Health in Dominica, Caribbean.



Dr. Cloos is interested in the historical, structural and experiential dimensions of health. He is also interested in migration trajectories and the links between migration status, racism and health, as well as migration and health in the context of climate change.

Dr. Cloos' Scientific Series lecture will take place from 12-1pm on Thursday, May 2, 2024 in the Jane McCusker conference room at SMRC. Participants can also attend virtually via Teams. More details on this presentation to come.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Scientific Series: Dr. Rebecca Wyse

Dr. Rebecca Wyse is a Cancer Institute NSW Early Career Research Fellow at the University of Newcastle, Australia (School of Medicine and Public Health). She will be presenting a special guest lecture on the topic of **“Digital in cancer care & in primary schools to promote healthy eating”** as a part of SMRC’s Scientific Series.

Dr. Wyse is a behavioural scientist specialising the development of behavioural interventions for the prevention and treatment of chronic disease. She has previously worked across cancer, cardiovascular disease, obesity and asthma, and specialises in the development of digital behavioural interventions for these patient and community groups. Dr. Wyse recently pivoted from focusing on primary prevention to an expanded focus on secondary prevention and treatment within the clinical environment, building new collaborations with the Hunter New England Local Health District and local clinicians. Her research aligns with the UN Sustainable Development Goal #3 – ‘Good Health and Wellbeing’, and the Engagement Priorities of The University of Newcastle (‘Better, Healthier Living’; and ‘Connected Communities’).



Dr. Wyse’s Scientific Series lecture will take place from 12-1pm on Wednesday, May 22, 2024 in the Jane McCusker conference room at SMRC. Participants can also attend virtually via Teams. More details on this presentation to come.

Upcoming Events



Community Conference

SMRC will be hosting our first Community Conference on **May 8, 2024** with the overarching theme of **Wellness and Behavioural Interventions**.

Join us for an insightful look into healthy behaviour indicators, and how local environments affect food insecurity.

Refreshments will be provided.

[Register here to participate in person.](#)

No RSVP required for online participation.



Centre de recherche de St. Mary
St. Mary's Research Centre

08.05.2024
12-1:30pm

Community Conference



Wellness & Behavioural Interventions



Bibliothèque de Côte-des-Neiges
5290 Chem. de la Côte-des-Neiges, Room 1-103

SMRC's Community Conferences aim to connect research with communities and healthcare professionals by encouraging the exchange of knowledge. The upcoming Community Conference will focus on the overarching theme of **Wellness and Behavioural Interventions**, addressing the social determinants of health (such as tobacco and physical activity) to improve health outcomes.

Presenters



Dr. Louise Potvin

Professor, Department of Social and Preventive Medicine, University of Montreal

"Que deviennent les personnes qui utilisent le don alimentaire pour la première fois?" (FR)



Dr. Anita Koushik

Professor, Department of Oncology, McGill University

Facteurs nutritionnels susceptibles de provoquer un cancer (FR)

Scan to Join Online:



St. Mary's Research Centre is embedded in St. Mary's Hospital Centre, an installation of the Montréal West Island Integrated University Health and Social Services Centre and affiliated with McGill University.



FONDATION DE
L'HÔPITAL
ST. MARY

ST. MARY'S
HOSPITAL
FOUNDATION



Researchers' Advisory Committee

The RRASU (Research and Regulatory Affairs Support Unit) of our CIUSSS wants to create an Advisory Committee made up of researchers from different fields and at different stages of their careers, to obtain their feedback related to the implementation, modification, and proper application of the research regulatory framework, and more generally, or various research-related issues.

The committee will meet 3 times a year, with the first meeting scheduled for early May. More information will be sent to interested people. Write us if you have any questions at recherche.comtl@ssss.gouv.qc.ca