

THE RESEARCH NOOK

A Waypoint Research Institute Newsletter

In this edition of ***The Research Nook***:

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WAYPOINT TEAM LAUNCHES THE MHAV-HEARTS PROJECT

A Waypoint team of researchers and clinicians has received \$2.3 million in funding from Ontario's Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence to create a Mental Health Anti-Violence Hub for Empowerment, Advocacy, Recovery, and Trauma Support (MHAV-HEARTS).

The team came together to respond to identified critical gaps in mental health services for people affected by gender-based violence (GBV). Women experiencing GBV have increased risk of mental illness, ethnocultural minorities often encounter additional social barriers, and poor mental health among perpetrators increases recidivism and violence risk. Community GBV programs often lack resources for mental health care. At the same time, hospital-based psychiatric care based on the medical model rarely integrates GBV support. Poor coordination between community and hospital services limits needed wraparound care for survivors and perpetrators alike. The MHAV-HEARTS team will partner with key agencies in Central Ontario and across the province to collectively establish Canada's first GBV-focused mental health hub to close this critical service gap.

MHAV-HEARTS will encompass multiple projects over the next two years, each of which will involve input from practitioners, people with lived experience of GBV, and other stakeholders, overseen by a Community Advisory Board. Projects include a public education campaign and community engagement events, development of a service referral map, creation of a Lived Experience Advocacy Partnership program and training modules for advocates, updates to the [ODARA 101](#) training program, GBV training for Waypoint's clinicians and the addition of GBV-focused content to the [Ontario Structured Psychotherapy](#) program.

Congratulations to [Dr. N. Zoe Hilton](#), [Dr. Elnaz Moghimi](#), [Elke Ham](#), Jaime Charlebois, Melissa Morris, Rhoda Joseph Audu, and Dr. Tejas Srinivas on the launch of the MHAV-HEARTS project!

WHAT'S NEW AT THE WRI



INSPIRE 2025 ✨

On June 3rd & 4th, the Waypoint Research Institute hosted Integrating Science, Practice, Innovation, Research, and Experience (InSPIRE) 2025 in Blue Mountain, Ontario. With approximately 140 attendees and 60 presentations, the event brought together folks working in different areas of research, practice, care delivery, and policy across the mental health and substance use health systems. Thank you to all of our presenters, attendees, panelists and our keynote speaker, volunteers, and the members of our Conference Committee for supporting this event!

[Click here](#) to view the InSPIRE 2025 video.



ODARA TEAM RECEIVES THE 2025 GOVERNOR GENERAL'S INNOVATION AWARD

Congratulations to [Dr. N. Zoe Hilton](#), [Elke Ham](#) and the [Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment \(ODARA\)](#) team for receiving the Governor General's Innovation Award in May. The team was recognized for the development, validation, implementation and evaluation of the ODARA and its professional training programs. The Innovation awards celebrate Canadian innovators whose work is exceptional, transformative, and positively impact the lives of Canadians. The team accepted the award on May 29th at Rideau Hall in Ottawa during Canadian Innovation Week.



Photography credit: MS Anne-Marie Brisson, Rideau Hall © OSGG, 2025



WAYPOINT STAFF COMPLETE MOBILIZEU TRAINING

Congratulations to our 10 Waypoint staff members from the Research & Academics and Data Analytics departments who completed the [MobilizeU](#) course in July! MobilizeU is an 8-week online certificate program for beginner mobilizers interested in learning knowledge mobilization theory and skills. This course is offered annually to [Research Impact Canada](#) member institutions and will be offered again in June 2026. If you are interested in learning more about the MobilizeU program or other benefits of Waypoint's RIC membership, please contact Kristy Allen at kallen@waypointcentre.ca to learn more.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Barbaree, H. E., Perlman, C., **Ham, E.**, Brown, G. P., & Hirdes, J. P. (2025). **Validation of a composite outcome measure for inpatient psychiatry using scales from the interRAI-MH.** *Frontiers in Psychiatry*, 16. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsy.2025.1486734>

O'Donnell, L., Johal, P., **Mauer-Vakil, D.**, Ziegler, C., Morton, E. Banner, D., Barnes, S., & Michalak, E. (2025). **Consensus building in bipolar disorder: A scoping review of consensus methods.** *Journal of Affective Disorders*. 385, 119339. [doi: 10.1016/j.ad.2025.04.170](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ad.2025.04.170)

Rajack, N., **Hilton, N. Z.**, Pham, A., Nunes, K., Ennis, L., & Jung, S. (2025). **Antisociality in intimate partner violence risk assessment: An analysis of the SARA-V2, SARA-V3, and B-SAFER.** *Journal of Criminal Psychology*. <https://doi.org/10.1108/JCP-03-2025-0028>

Davis, J., **Bingham, K. S.**, Easson-Bruno, S., & **Horgan, S. A.** (2025). **Integrated care and community partnerships: promoting equitable social health opportunities for older adults living with complex health conditions.** *Journal of Integrated Care*. Vol. 33 No. 3, pp. 241-259. <https://doi.org/10.1108/JICA-12-2024-0075>

Weissflog, M., **Ham, E.**, Jung, S., **Kim, S.**, Eke, A. W., Campbell, M. A., & **Hilton, N. Z.** (2025). **Measuring coercive control from police reports of intimate partner violence.** *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 99, 102442. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcrimjus.2025.102442>

WRI IN THE NEWS



WAYPOINT RESEARCHER LEADS TEAM TO GOVERNOR GENERAL'S INNOVATION AWARD

May 19, 2025. This article is available on [MidlandToday.ca](https://www.midlandtoday.ca).



SCIENCE WITH A PURPOSE: INSPIRE 2025 PANEL TO DISCUSS INTERSECTION OF RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY

May 16, 2025. This article is available directly on the [Waypoint website](https://www.waypointcentre.ca).



DR. N. ZOE HILTON WINS PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

April 24, 2025. This article is available directly on the [Waypoint website](https://www.waypointcentre.ca).



INSPIRE 2025 CONFERENCE BRIDGES RESEARCH AND REAL-WORLD CHANGE

June 9, 2025. This article is available directly on the [Waypoint website](https://www.waypointcentre.ca).

CONFERENCES & EVENTS



WRI STAFF LEAD THE WAY AT INSPIRE 2025

We were pleased to have several WRI projects highlighted by staff at the InSPIRE 2025 conference. A total of 17 presentations were shared focusing on work led by WRI staff and students. Thank you to our team for your presentations!



MAY 13TH WAYPOINT TALKS: BEYOND BYSTANDERS



The recording from our May Waypoint Talks session entitled, “Beyond bystanders: Transforming gender-based and sexual violence prevention through embedded education” is now available. This session was hosted by Rebecca Rappeport, the SVPR Community Outreach and Student Support Worker at Queen’s University and explored transformative strategies to address sexual violence and intimate partner violence (IPV), reframing these urgent issues as wicked problems that require bold, systemic solutions. [Click here](#) to watch the recording!



RECENT PRESENTATIONS

WRI staff have had the opportunity to present at several recent conferences and events, including:

- **Sevil Deljavan and Kristy Allen** presented on “*Working towards a forensic patient-oriented research toolkit: A Canadian example*” and “*Laying the foundation for patient-oriented research in a high-secure forensic hospital*” at the International Association of Forensic Mental Health Services 2025 Conference
- **Dr. Christopher Canning, Sevil Deljavan and Ryan Neil** presented on “Supporting the uptake of patient-oriented research in forensic settings” to the Pride in Patient Engagement in Research (PIPER) Community of Practice
- **Dane Mauer-Vakil and Dr. Nadiya Sunderji** presented alongside their colleagues on, “Approaches to integrate mental health services in primary care: A scoping review of system-level barriers and enablers to implementation” at the Canadian Association of Health Services and Policy Research Annual Conference
- **Elke Ham and Dr. Zoe Hilton** presented alongside their colleagues on, “*Interpersonal trauma, gender, and psychiatric symptom severity: Insights from forensic psychiatric inpatient data in Ontario, Canada*” at the CPA2025: 86th Annual National Convention

THE PCFC CORNER

The Patient/Client and Family Council (PCFC) is involved in a number of research projects with the WRI, particularly ones focused on patient-oriented research (POR).

Patient-oriented research (POR)

POR recognizes that patients have lived expertise of their health condition(s) and the relevant health care systems. POR values this knowledge and engages patients as equal partners to conduct research that is relevant to them. This ultimately leads to better patient outcomes!



BEING PART OF THE CONVERSATION: MY EXPERIENCE AT THE INSPIRE CONFERENCE

By Amber Scott, Experience & Engagement Rep. and Patient Oriented Research (POR) Lead

When I first walked into the InSPIRE Conference, a gathering rooted in Integrating Science, Practice, Innovation, Research and Experience, I wasn't sure what to expect. Conferences like these are usually full of clinicians, researchers, and academics. People like me, people with lived experience in the mental health and substance use system, aren't often centered, or even included. But this time felt different.

For once, I wasn't there as an afterthought or a checkbox. I was there as part of the fabric of the event.

InSPIRE's focus on innovative and inclusive approaches to research and practice stood out from the beginning. Throughout the sessions, I noticed that lived experience wasn't just mentioned, it was genuinely valued. We weren't being spoken about; we were being spoken with. And in some moments, we were leading the conversation.

That kind of inclusion might sound small, but it's not. In spaces where medical language and academic credentials often dominate, feeling seen and heard can be revolutionary. It sends a message that our insights aren't anecdotal, they're essential.

Seeing so many groups talk about the work they've been doing with, not just for, our communities. So many leaders sharing how their patient-oriented research is improving experiences for the people that surround us each and every day, reminded me that this is what meaningful engagement should look like. It's not just about giving feedback at the end; it's about being invited to the table from the very beginning.

More than anything, InSPIRE showed me what's possible when we blend knowledge from experience with knowledge from study. It reminded me that innovation doesn't just come from new technology or data, it comes from connection, humility, and openness to learning from all perspectives.

I left the conference feeling hopeful. Hopeful that spaces like this are becoming less rare. Hopeful that the mental health and substance use sectors are slowly learning to embrace the value of all voices, not just the traditionally credentialed ones. And hopeful that, going forward, no one will have to wonder if they belong in the room. Because they will know they do.

>>> THE WRI IS HIRING!

We are currently recruiting for the following position(s):

- [Student Academic Placement \(TPT\)](#)

Keep an eye on our [Careers Page](#), as we are continually offering exciting employment opportunities within the department!



STORYTELLING FOR CHANGE: A COMMUNITY EVENT

Bringing together researchers, survivors, organizations, and the community to drive solutions to intimate partner violence (IPV).



**Sunday,
August 17th,
2025**



**Hazleton Manor
Vaughan, ON**

To register, please use the following link or QR code: <https://tinyurl.com/3wx3z5pd>

Event highlights:

- A chance to network
- Guest speakers
- Art and entertainment
- Lunch & refreshments included



Use this unique code to access registration:

STORYTELLING

Questions? Email us at connect@ouripvstory.com



SSHRC CRSH



YOUR VOICE MATTERS!

We want your input. What stories or updates would you like us to profile in our next edition? If you have any suggestions or would like to contribute to writing for our newsletter, please email us at waypointresearchinstitute@waypointcentre.ca



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