

The Research Nook



Storytelling for Change

On Sunday, August 17th, 2025, [Our IPV Story](#), Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care and Queen's University hosted Storytelling for Change: A Community Event. This event brought together researchers, people with lived experience (i.e., intimate partner violence survivors.), community organizations and others to discuss the importance of Intimate Partner Violence Lived Experience Co-Research.

Storytelling through poetry and art

Storytelling for Change attendees were able to experience storytelling through poetry, art, Pecha Kucha talks and presentations from Dr. Samra Zafar, MP Melissa Lantsman, Cher Obediah, Dr. Wendy Aujla, and the IPV Story team. These powerful presentations and messages inspired conversation for the afternoon World Café conversations exploring how to better implement co-research strategies and tools in the IPV research space.

Art installations, dancing and more

Mixed in with traditional presentations were arts-based and mindfulness activities. This included an interactive dance activity from the Hoor Dance Group, graphic recordings and an interactive art installation created by Brittany Datchko and Fuselight Creative, and a soundbath led by Keke Shadane Chambers. A special thanks to all the exhibitors and funders who supported this event!



Explore event highlights

[Click here](#) to watch the video and see photo highlights from the event.

What's New at the WRI

Celebrating Dr. Andrea Waddell

Congratulations to [Dr. Andrea Waddell](#) on her selection as a [2025-26 AMS-Fitzgerald Fellow](#) in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Human-Centered Leadership. This two-year professional development program, created by the University of Toronto's Dalla Lana School of Public Health in partnership with AMS Healthcare, aims to support early- and mid-career health system leaders in developing knowledge, skills and capacity around AI in health care, public health and health systems. Congratulations Dr. Waddell!

Symposium on Participatory Research

Dr. Christopher Canning's presentation in Germany

In September, Dr. Christopher Canning gave a keynote presentation entitled, "Participation on whose terms? Power, pluralism, and patient leadership in mental health research" at the University of Rostock in Germany. Exploring the involvement of marginalized people with lived experience of mental disorders and dementia, this symposium gathered national and international experts to share their insights, spark dialogue, and explore new approaches around participatory research.



[Dr. Christopher Canning's](#) keynote presentation in Rostock, Germany.

Congratulations Dr. Bernard Le Foll

Dr. Le Foll Elected as a CAHS Fellow

Congratulations to [Dr. Bernard Le Foll](#), who was elected by the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences (CAHS) as a 2025 fellow in August. CAHS fellows are unpaid volunteers who are nominated by their institutions and peers and selected in a competitive process based on their internationally recognized leadership, academic performance, scientific creativity and willingness to serve the Academy and advance research across all disciplines. Congratulations Dr. Le Foll!



Conferences & Events

Waypoint Talks



Our September **Waypoint Talks** session, The Basics of Clinical Trials, was hosted by Dr. Dawn Richardson from Clinical Trials Ontario. This session explored what clinical trials are, why they are done, how people find them, and what participants rights are in trials. Learn more about this session and [watch the recording here](#).

Upcoming events

Click the links below to learn more and register for our upcoming Waypoint Talks sessions this fall:

- Friday, October 24th: [Mobilizing Evidence for Mental Health Decision Makers](#), hosted by the [STREAM Lab](#)
- Tuesday, November 18th: [Transformative Climate Action in Mental Health Organizations](#), hosted by [Dr. Carolyn Houlding](#) & [Dr. Barna Konkoly-Thege](#)



The MHAV-HEARTS team attending & presenting at the Knowledge Hub conference.

Recent Presentations

MHAV-HEARTS team explores the Knowledge Hub

The Mental Health Anti-Violence Hub for Empowerment, Advocacy, Resilience, and Trauma Support ([MHAV-HEARTS](#)) team had the opportunity to attend and present at the national Knowledge Hub conference in October. Focusing on a theme of Innovations in Addressing Gender-Based Violence and Trauma and Violence-Informed Health Promotion. Congratulations to the MHAV-HEARTS team on their poster and presentations!



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!

Exploring Artificial Intelligence in Mental Health Care

PCFC Engages Patients in Conversations of Artificial Intelligence in Mental Health Care

The Patient/Client & Family Council is taking an active role in helping shape how artificial intelligence (AI) is understood and used in mental health care by ensuring that the patient voice is front and center in emerging research.

PCFC has been hosting focus groups with patients to explore their perspectives on AI technologies, for the AI Preferences Research project lead by Jennifer Crawford. These focus groups aim to gather patients level of understanding of AI, how they feel about AI technologies being used in mental health care, and their comfortability with AI accessing their medical information to inform decisions about their care.

These insights gathered through focus groups will help researchers identify key areas of patient understanding, curiosity, trust and concern regarding AI technologies.

With the inevitability of AI becoming more embedded in health care, it's important that patients have the opportunity to share their voice and directly inform the practices that will guide their care. This work is to ensure that as technology evolves, the values and priorities of patients remain at the heart of innovation.

Recent Publications

Wilkialis, L., Kim, S., Hassan, A.N., Le Foll, B. **Polysubstance Use Disorders in Individuals with Cannabis Use Disorder: Results from a Nationally Representative Sample (National Epidemiologic Survey on Alcohol and Related Conditions).** *Cannabis Cannabinoid. Res.* 2025 Jul 25. [doi: 10.1177/25785125251363122](https://doi.org/10.1177/25785125251363122)

Evans, C., Canning, C., & Bullock, H. L. (2025). **Patient Roles and Patient Knowledge in Learning Health Systems.** *The International Journal of Health Planning and Management.* <https://doi.org/10.1002/hpm.70019>

Moghim, E., Canning, C., Evans, C., Deljavan, S., Allen, K., Zimmermann, K. **A Focused Ethnography of Researchers Navigating Power Dynamics When Implementing Patient-Oriented Research Practices in a Forensic Mental Health Setting.** *International Journal of Forensic Mental Health.* 2025;0(0). [doi:10.1177/14999013251382955](https://doi.org/10.1177/14999013251382955)

Zhao, J., Junes, S., Canning, C., Jull, J., Mishra, A., Waddell, A., Zisman-Ilani, Y., & Hilton, N.Z. **Patient engagement in forensic mental health care: a scoping review.** *BMJ Mental Health.* 2025;28:e301678. <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjment-2025-301678>

Mauer-Vakil, D., Lee, K., Dissanayake, J., & Bullock, H. (2025). **Implementing publicly funded psychotherapy services: What can Ontario learn from England.** *Health Reform Observer – Observatoire des Réformes de Santé,* 12(1). <https://doi.org/10.13162/hro-ors.v12i1.5712>

WRI In the News



Waypoint Centre to host Canada's 1st mental health and anti-violence hub

September 25, 2025. This article is available on [CTVNews.ca](https://www.ctvnews.ca).



Forty-seven new Fellows elected to the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences

August 19, 2025. This article is available on the [CAHS-ACSS website](https://www.caahs-acss.ca).



'Nothing about us without us'

July 15, 2025. This article is available on the [Waypoint website](https://www.waypoint.ca).



Meet Florence Tang: Knocking out research goals and cold cases

August 22, 2025. This article is available on the [Waypoint website](https://www.waypoint.ca).

WRI Opportunities

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



Geriatric Research in NSM

A hub for geriatric research in North Simcoe Muskoka

The Geriatric Research in North Simcoe Muskoka (NSM) team is pleased to share the launch of their website and newsletter. With a mission to become a national leader in research related to the implementation and evaluation of integrated models of care for older adults living with complex and chronic health conditions, the website will highlight the research, projects, and upcoming events led by the team.

Sign up for the newsletter [here](#) to stay up to date on their work!

Welcome to the hub of
geriatric research.

Geriatric research in the North Simcoe Muskoka (NSM) region.

Explore the website

[Click here](#) to explore the website and resources from the Geriatric Research in NSM team.

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

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