

The Research Nook



Register for Research in Reach

The Waypoint Research Institute and the PCFC are excited to host our first Research in Reach knowledge exchange day at Waypoint on **Tuesday, May 5th in the TD Auditorium**. This event is open to all members of the Waypoint community who are interested in learning more about current research, evaluation and quality improvement, data analytics, and other projects taking place at Waypoint.

Key Details

- This event is open to **all Waypoint staff, regional patients and outpatients**.
- We ask all attendees to please register through [this link](#) by Wednesday, April 29th.
- While we are asking folks to register for the event, please feel free to drop in throughout the day or for specific presentations if you cannot join for a whole session.
- Light refreshments will be provided throughout the day. Lunch will be provided for all attendees joining for the full day.
 - **Note:** Full-day attendance may be limited due to space.

We hope to see you there!

If you have any questions, please reach out to us at

researchevents@waypointcentre.ca.



Waypoint Research Institute	
Morning Agenda MAY 5 2026	
8:00 - 9:00 am	Arrival Altium Auditorium (AT-0604) Coffee & tea to be provided
9:00 - 9:10 am	Welcome & Opening Remarks Jodie Erb & Dr. Christopher Canning
9:10 - 10:50 am	Project Presentations Format: 15 minute presentations providing a brief overview of a project, program, best practice or policy, with 5 minutes for questions.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring staff and patients' perceptions of artificial intelligence (AI) in mental health care: Stephanie Jones & Lauren Caspell • From insight to action: Partnership driven solutions for improving upstream identification of at-risk older adults: Heather MacDonald • Getting to the heart of the matter: Lijayya Byrch & Helen-Balshaw Walker • Health system integration: What we do and why should you care?: Helen Balshaw-Walker, Lijayya Byrch, Zoe Findlay, Meghan Gray & Courtney Winsan • Evaluating a total-care based nursing model in a tertiary forensic mental health hospital: Kimberly Belfry
10:50 - 11:10 am	Morning Break/Poster Session Full list of poster presentations included on p. 3
11:10 am - 12:10 pm	World Café Session Format: 20-minute presentation and interactive activity in small groups. Attendees will rotate tables 3 times during the session.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluating the implementation, effectiveness and scalability of the Behaviour Agent Success (BSA) program: Joselyn Jorgoff & Isabelle Lim • Widening our view of harm: Reducing ambiguity in patient harm reporting in mental health care: Katie Wright and Katie Dring • Reducing staff exposure to trauma in psychiatric settings: Translating healthcare worker insights into a trauma-informed implementation manual: Linda Zhou & Eike Ham • Effectiveness of internal family systems therapy in borderline personality disorder: Sonja Komlosy-Tege
12:10 - 1:00 pm	Lunch Break

Event Schedule

[Click here](#) to view the Research in Reach event schedule.



What's New at the WRI

Mitacs Students at Waypoint



Through the Breakthrough Fund, \$250,000 was raised at An Evening to Shine the Light Gala to embed six graduate students and postdoctoral fellows directly in Waypoint's clinical and research programs. Leveraged through the Mitacs Accelerate program, this supports eight interns over three years. Their work is having a direct applied impact in the following areas:

- **Greg Procknow:** Advancing patient-oriented research in forensic setting and exploring how patients understand education as part of recovery.
- **Liam Doyle:** Evaluating and refining ODARA risk assessment tools used across justice and healthcare systems.
- **Valentina Tamayo Velasquez:** Supporting development and piloting of the AI early warning system for adverse event prediction.
- **Dane Mauer-Vakil:** Using mixed methods approaches to understand substance use gaps and needs in forensic mental health care settings.
- **Andrea Krishnapillai:** Conducting an environmental scan on equity-focused measurement frameworks and outcome indicators, with an emphasis on integrating the EDI lens into mental health research and evaluation.

Mhaven Updates

The RESPECT Framework is now live

The Mhaven team is excited to share the RESPECT Framework, a guide for engaging survivors of intimate partner violence in research. Building on the RESPECT study, the codeveloped framework provides a practical approach to conducting ethical, equitable, and intersectional participatory research with IPV survivors. The framework and more information about the study can be found [here](#).

May website launch

Mhaven will be launching its website in mid-May – a centralized, survivor-informed digital hub designed to connect individuals impacted by IPV with mental health supports, resources, and services. Stay tuned!



The Experience Issue

Click here to read Mhaven's first newsletter, [The Experience Issue](#).

Conferences & Events

Collective Beginnings Event

Mhaven's Collective Beginnings event, held on March 5, 2026 at Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care, brought together researchers, clinicians, community partners, and individuals with lived and living experience of intimate partner violence (IPV) to help shape the future of the project. The day focused on building relationships, establishing a shared vision, and identifying priorities for strengthening mental health responses to IPV. Through a mix of presentations, panel discussions, and interactive activities, participants shared thoughtful insights and experiences that will continue to guide the ongoing development of Mhaven and its efforts to create a more connected, responsive system of mental health supports for individuals impacted by IPV.



Collective Beginnings

Attendees explore a collaborative collage and art installation created throughout the event.

Recent Presentations

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

- **Zoe Findlay**, **Dr. Andrea Waddell** and **Jolene Wintermute** presented a poster entitled, *"Voices from the frontline: Challenges & insights from urgent mental health care workers in a rural context"* at the 2026 ECHO Ontario Conference in Toronto, ON
- **Dane Mauer-Vakil** and **Dr. N. Zoe Hilton** presented a poster entitled, *"The clinical profile of forensic inpatients with bipolar disorder at a Canadian high-security institution"* at the Centre for Youth Bipolar Disorder's World Bipolar Day Research Symposium in Toronto, ON
- **Dr. Andrea Waddell** presented a paper on, *"Identifying evidence-based practices in Substance Use Disorders - The role of people with lived experience"* at the International Forum for Quality and Safety in Healthcare in Oslo, Norway

WAYPOINT TALKS

Cyberstalking and social media:
Keeping up with an ever-changing crime



WILL FOX

Waypoint Talks

Click here to watch our March Waypoint Talks session, [*Cyberstalking and Social Media.*](#)

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!

Introducing Jonathan Phillips

My name is Jonathan Phillips, and for the past three years I have had the privilege of providing Peer Support at Waypoint and within the surrounding community. In this role, I have worked closely with individuals experiencing mental health and substance use challenges, walking alongside them in their recovery journeys and offering supportive, compassionate, and person centred care. I deeply value the trust that people place in me and take great pride in the meaningful relationships I have been able to build.



Throughout my time as a Peer Support Worker, I am grateful to have been provided with many diverse opportunities to learn and grow from. These include collaborating with multidisciplinary teams, connecting with the Spiritual Care team, and supporting patients on the high secure forensic units as they navigate their paths toward recovery. Each experience has strengthened my commitment to peer-based support and reinforced the importance of collaboration, empathy, and respect.

I have recently transitioned into the role of the Waypoint Research Institutes Patient Oriented Lead and am very excited to take on this new responsibility. I look forward to getting to know the WRI team more deeply and contributing to the current and future projects. The strong relationships I have established with many patients at Waypoint places me in a unique position to help create opportunities for meaningful engagement, including participation in research initiatives.

I am motivated to support and encourage individuals who are interested in becoming involved in research, helping them explore new and enriching experiences where their voices and lived experiences can make a meaningful difference for themselves and others. I am enjoying learning about the innovative and impactful initiatives the WRI is involved in and am especially enthusiastic about contributing to research that is timely and relevant to our evolving global context, including projects focused on artificial intelligence.

Recent Publications

Dolatabadi, E., [Tamayo Velasquez, V.](#), Dabboussi, A., [Wen, D.](#), [Crawford, J.](#), [Waddell, A.](#), El Morr, C. **Advancing Psychiatric Safety With the Predictive Risk Identification for Mental Health Events Tool: Retrospective Cohort Study.** *JMIR Ment Health* 2026;13:e84318. doi: [10.2196/84318](https://doi.org/10.2196/84318)

[Kim, S.](#), [Tang, F.](#), [Wilkialis, L.](#), [Hassan, A. N.](#), Fung, K. P., & [Le Foll, B.](#) (2026). **Racial discrimination in healthcare and public settings as a predictor of suicidal ideation onset among U.S. adults with baseline depressive symptoms.** *Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology.* <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00127-026-03060-0>

[Kim, S.](#), Fung, K. P., Rajack, N., [Tang, F.](#), Patrikar, A., Fung, K., Friesen, E. L., Kurdyak, P., & [Le Foll, B.](#) (2026). **Equity-related determinants of frequent emergency department visits for substance use disorders: A population-based study in Ontario, Canada.** *International Journal of Social Psychiatry.* 1-13.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/00207640261419135>

Seaward, H., [Hilton, N. Z.](#), Keulen-de Vos, M., [Ham, E.](#), Sandri, A., Wangmo, T., & Elger, B. (2026). **Older male inpatients in secure mental health settings: an international comparison of mental illness, substance use, risk assessment, psychotropic and psychosocial treatment.** *Journal of Forensic Psychiatry & Psychology.* <https://doi.org/10.1080/14789949.2026.2635080>

Thompson, B. J., [Ham, E.](#), [Hilton, N. Z.](#), & Ornstein, T. J. (2026). **Interpersonal Trauma, Gender, and Psychiatric Symptom Severity: Insights from Forensic Psychiatric Inpatient Data in Ontario, Canada.** *International Journal of Forensic Mental Health.* <https://doi.org/10.1177/14999013261435128>

Papp-Zipernovszky, O., Horvát, B., Dávid, A., Rafael, B., Tóth-Njers, S., Strausz, D., Gyóllai, M., Molnár, T., Sallay, V., [Konkolý Thege, B.](#), & Martos, T. **Is (critical) health literacy a key to better psychosomatic functioning in patients with inflammatory bowel disease? Testing a mediation model.** *Frontiers in Psychiatry.* <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsy.2026.1643641>

WRI In the News



**Advancing better care
through hospital-enabled
research**

February 2026. This article is
available on [OHA.ca](https://www.oha.ca).



Smoking cessation study

February 6, 2026. This article is
available on the [Waypoint website](https://www.waypointresearch.ca).

WRI Opportunities

We are currently recruiting for the following position:

- [Research Scientist- Implementation \(FTP\)](#)
- [Senior Research Analyst \(TFT\)](#)

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



IAFMHS Workshop

How to Conduct Participatory Research in Forensic Settings

[Dr. Christopher Canning](#), [Kristy Allen](#) and [Sevil Deljavan](#) will be hosting a pre-conference workshop at the [International Association of Forensic Mental Health](#) conference in Helsinki, Finland on June 15, 2026. This half-day workshop will interactively explore guidelines and strategies for conducting patient-oriented research and related participatory research approaches in forensic mental health settings. This workshop will be of value for researchers, service providers, service users, and others interested in participatory research methods in forensic mental health settings.



Register today!

[Click here](#) to learn more and register.

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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