

**2018-19**

**Sex, Gender, & Health: An Interdisciplinary Casebook**

Dr. Stacey Ritz

\$5000.00

The book is tentatively titled “Sex, Gender, & Health: An Interdisciplinary Casebook”. As editor of the casebook, I would write front matter for the book including a substantial discussion of why it is important to develop a nuanced understanding of how sex/gender influence health, and a rigorous discussion of the concepts of “sex” and “gender” themselves. Students from the 2018 iteration of HTHSCI 2T03 as well as those in the future offerings of the course will be invited to submit their case study projects for possible inclusion in the casebook. I would take responsibility for ensuring that the cases are of a high caliber for inclusion in such a resource, giving significant editorial direction, and sending them for review by experts in the field as appropriate. The students who developed the case studies to be included would be credited as authors of their chapters.

I propose to develop the electronic textbook through eCampusOntario’s Open Educational Resources platform (<https://openlibrary.ecampusontario.ca/>), which would be issued under a Creative Commons copyright license. An electronic format is ideal for the evolving nature of this project, with new cases being added each year with each iteration of the course. The eCampusOntario platform has the ability to order printed and bound copies of the book at any time for those who prefer a hard-copy format.

**The Morocco-Canada Network for Maternal and Infant Health: Determining Research Priorities and a Framework for Action**

Dr. E. Amster

\$5,000.00

This meeting is designed to introduce 8 McMaster faculty members and one family medicine resident to the determinants of health for women and children in Morocco, with especial attention to the social status, gender, and cultural factors that influence maternal and infant health for women in Morocco. Participants will meet directors of NGOs, Moroccan midwives, nurses, and physicians who work with women and interview and visit women's associations in the High Atlas Mountains. The benefit to McMaster is to "train the teachers," introducing McMaster teaching faculty to the determinants of health for women in a global context, introduce them to gender issues for Muslim women in a moderate Islamic country, and provide food for thought for training McMaster health professional students in cultural humility.

## 2016-17

**Women and Disability in Medical Narrative and Culture:  
A Cross-Disciplinary Seminar for Medical Learners (The Case of Frida Kahlo)**

Submitted by applicants: Bahar Orang and Melody Mikhail  
Departments: Medicine, Gender Studies & Feminist Research  
Project Supervisor: Dr. Amster  
\$10, 000.00

This interdisciplinary course aims to address the dearth of medical research concerning the experiences of queer women living with disability. Our proposed course centers the work and life of Mexican painter, Frida Kahlo. The relative silence in medical humanities and related research concerning her identity as a queer, racialized woman who was forced from medical training following the onset of disability allows us to develop a learning seminar that can be flexible in structure. Taking Kahlo as a figural centrefold provides the opportunity to implement the course's learning objectives broadly, by offering various formulations of the course to medical educators who may not have the resources to implement the full semester course we envision. This seminar brings together Health Sciences, Feminist, Art History, and Medical Humanities research to emphasize to medical learners the importance of developing competencies to think critically about the unique experiences of queer women with disabilities.

**The Gender Lady: The Fabulous Dr. May Cohen**

A documentary film by Drs. Cheryl Levitt & Barbara Lent  
\$10,000.00

## 2013-14 – Fall Call

**Teaching Physical Assessment of the Well Woman: Development of an Education Resource for Midwifery Students**

Beth Murray Davis, Midwifery and Ob/Gyn  
\$20,227.20

This project will address a learning challenge in the midwifery curriculum. Specifically, midwifery students are required to learn physical assessment of the health, childbearing woman, however, the educational resources underpinning this learning are not effective. Traditional textbooks cover physical assessment of both men and women, and are focussed on pathology. This creates a disconnect between the learning resources and the practical examination required during clinical practice. Our project proposes to fill this gap through the development and evaluation of an interactive e-textbook. The textbook will include theoretical content, based on current lectures

developed by midwifery instructors, but will also include interactive elements such as, animation, pop-up glossary and quizzes. The textbook will integrate high definition videos produced as part of this project. IT will be piloted in September 2014 with 30 midwifery students. Evaluation will focus on learner knowledge acquisition and the acceptability and educational impact of the e-textbook.

**Leaning IN- Gender and Leadership**

Anne Wong, Program for Faculty Development  
\$14,000.00

The purpose of this study is to explore the role of gender in leadership in the Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS) at McMaster University. We examine why faculty take on leadership roles and whether there are gender differences in perceptions, styles and approaches to leadership. The study population will be FHS faculty leaders. A mixed methods triangulation design will be used. Interviews will be conducted with participants to elucidate motivations, perceptions of leadership and approaches. The participants will also complete the Multifactor Leadership Questionnaire™ and the Thomas Killam Inventory™ to elucidate leadership and conflict management styles. Descriptive and inferential statistical analysis will compare female and male responses. Analysis and integration of the two components will provide a multidimensional approach to the phenomenon of gender and leadership. Findings from this study will be used to better inform and support leadership development in the FHS.

Publication link:

<https://www.emeraldinsight.com/doi/full/10.1108/JHOM-02-2018-0061>

**Patient-Level Counseling Aids for Improving Contraceptive Decision-Making**

Brigid Deneley, Ob/Gyn  
Supervisor: Dr. Dustin Costescu  
\$16,000.00

In Canada, 39% of pregnancies are unintended and approximately half of these pregnancies end in abortion. Unintended pregnancy can have far reaching emotional, economic and social consequences for women and their families. Our study proposes to examine what effect a structured, multicultural, patient level information video would have on women's choices about contraception, specifically the preference for Long Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC). This video would be a Canadian resource for women and partners who wish to learn more about contraceptive methods in a patient-level, culturally-competent and practical format, that could be utilized without the need for health care professional administration.

## **2012-13 – Winter Call**

### **Guiding Practice for Medical Students and Physicians: Increasing competencies in caring for LGBTQ2+ Patient Populations**

Sarah MacIsaac and Melissa Bota (MD Program)

Supervisor, Dr. Rob Whyte

\$10,000.00

As medical students within the McMaster community and future physicians in the Canadian health care system, we have identified gaps in current approaches to LGBTQ2+ care within the medical school curriculum as well as a shortage of LGBTQ2+ health resources for physicians looking to improve their expertise in this area. The principal goals of this project are to implement and evaluate various educational interventions aimed at increasing medical student and physician competence in meeting the unique health care needs of LGBTQ2+ patients. These interventions will include organizing a continuing medical education seminar for practicing physicians, working with the medical school curriculum planning committee to train and incorporate transgendered standardized patients into the undergraduate MD program, and hosting an interprofessional conference on issues surrounding LGBTQ2+ health. The impact of these approaches will be evaluated using survey-based research tools.

## **2011-12**

### **Postpartum Depression in Women of SouthAsian Origin in Canada: An Education Initiative and SouTh Asian BiRth cohort (START) Sub-Study**

Dr. Rebecca Anglin, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences

\$25,000

According to the 2006 Census, 19.8% or 6.2 million Canadians are foreign-born and several studies have demonstrated an increased risk of postpartum depression in immigrant mothers. South Asians are the fastest growing immigrant population in Canada, but to date the risk of postpartum depression in these women has not been systematically studied. We propose to collect reliable information on postpartum depression in this population as part of the SouTh Asian biRth cohort (START) study, a prospective longitudinal birth cohort of South Asian women in the Peel region, Ontario, Canada. We will conduct focus groups to explore their understanding and experience of postpartum depression and their perception of the barriers and facilitators to diagnosis and treatment. This information will be used to develop postpartum depression educational initiatives for South Asian women and health care providers, and knowledge uptake and utilization will be assessed using a post-intervention evaluation.

**Gender Competency in the Health Sciences: A Pilot Study to Inform Continuing Professional Development Initiatives**

Dr. Marcel Doré, Department of Family Medicine  
\$25,000

Cultural competence has been incorporated into the continuum of health education. Little work has been completed in the area of gender competence. We will focus on roles that CPD providers could play in helping deliver content and practice in the area of gender competence beyond undergraduate and postgraduate training. A better understanding of gender-competent education at various points along this continuum is required. We will explore and develop an understanding of gender competence as it pertains to the education of our health professionals. This requires a focused literature search and information gathering from experts on culture competence, health professional education, and curricular change. We will then analyze and disseminate findings from this study in an end-of-project half-day workshop in which we not only present the results of our work, but also seek input from the workshop attendees in developing the next stages of a program of research on gender competency in CPD.

**2008-09**

**Gender and Health E-Module: Exploring Gender Narratives**

Lisa Fu / Joshua Smalley (FHS students)  
\$10,000

Our student-led working group intends to develop an e-learning module relevant to gender and health education. This module would build upon the Narrative Medicine movement through the exploration of patient stories. These stories will be explored through the close analysis of short works of literature, fine art pieces and a series of video clips using actors portraying patient narratives. Throughout the e-module, participants will be asked to reflect upon their own perspectives and the stories they encounter.

We intend to implement this module in a Gender and Health Series in the 2010-11 academic year. This series will be comprised of an interprofessional and interdisciplinary group of students that will meet regularly to work through and discuss the modules.

This module will explore patient and societal perspectives of mastectomy from differing viewpoints including those of women, men and individuals who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered

**Using Qualitative Research to Develop a Program for HIV-Positive Women at an Outpatient HIV Clinic**

Allyson Ion / Dawn Elston (SIS Clinic)  
\$9,100

The goal of this project is to identify the unique challenges, barriers and needs of female patients at the SIS Clinic, 66.6% of whom are newly diagnosed (since 2001) and are of childbearing years (18-50 years of age). Enhancing our understanding is essential to improving service delivery, improving cultural competency among clinic staff, building capacity for delivering women-focused services and developing long-term strategies for translating knowledge about HIV best practices in caring for women and children. Our objects for this project are:

- To understand and be sensitive to the complex and diverse needs of the SIS clinic population
- To develop, implement, and evaluate educational intervention aimed at:
  - Reducing barriers
  - Facilitating communication
  - Improving service delivery To encourage long-term knowledge translation and exchange activities among SIS clinic staff related to cultural competency and sensitivity.

**2008-09**

**Planting Seeds: The Growth of Community-Centred Health Initiatives / 11<sup>th</sup> Annual International Women's and Children's Health Conference.**

Joan Chan / Jillian Korolnek (FHS Students)  
\$7,500

As an interprofessional and interdisciplinary educational conference examining the interplay between gender and health globally, the International Women's and Children's Health (IWCH) Conference is congruent with the promotional mandate of McMaster's Gender and Health Educational Initiative (GHEI). The IWCH Conference is submitting a proposal to the GHEI Education Grant for \$7,000 with the hope of receiving additional funds if available. Fund will be put towards our \$15,000 budget and allocated towards venue rental, advertising and promotion, and keynote speaker and workshop facilitator costs. The theme of the 11<sup>th</sup> annual IWCH Conference is "Planting Seeds: the growth of community-centred health initiatives". We will explore this theme using several methods designed to create a forum for education, dialogue, and collaboration.

**Helping Health Professional Learners be Comfortable and Confident with Sexual Health Screening: Instructor Resource DVD**

Dr. Kristina Trim (Bachelor of Health Sciences Program)

\$10,000

We are interested in developing a learning module that helps health professional instructors and learners feel comfortable initiating conversations about HPV sexual health screening for young adults and their patients. Current learning modules available through the SOCG focus on how HPV is transmitted and the clinical science of the HPV vaccine, but less focus is on how practitioners should approach patients about their sexual health screening (i.e., risk factors, vaccination, pelvic examinations and PAP smears). We intend to develop a DVD with print and video resources that provide practical tools instructors can use with their health professional learners. It will be designed to improve health care learners; comfort and confidence (i.e., medical, nursing, and BHSc students) initiative conversations about sexual health with adolescents, their parents and young adults.

## **2008-09**

### **Teaching the History of Health and Medicine: Towards a More Gender-Balanced Approach**

David Wright (Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Neurosciences/History)

\$7,960

The history of health and medicine is an important subject at McMaster University, due in part to the popularity of the BHSc, Health Studies and History programs on campus. Despite the proportion of women enrolled in these programs (over 60% in each case), the content of my own course (BJSC 3Y03: A History of Health and Health Care in Canada), is, admittedly, still too dominated by the “great men” of medical history. Currently there are only three lectures out of twenty three specifically devoted to women’s role in health history: one of the ‘first’ women doctors in Canada; a second on the history of nursing; and a third on the history of birthing and birth control. This application for a gender and health education grant would assist in refreshing the 3Y03 syllabus in a way to reflect not only the innovations in gender and health history, but also reflect the changing interests of the student body.



**2006-7**

**Changing Perceptions: Intimate Partner Violence and the Health Care System**

Mohit Bhandari / Sonia Dosanjh

\$5,000

It has been often said that intimate partner violence crosses all lines including race, age, ability difference, class (or income) and education levels. We propose to organize a third workshop for faculty, residents, medical students, and other health care professionals to identify and address issues for victims of violence present in medical education and practice, particularly in the area of surgery. The workshop will focus on the diversity of victims with a focus on the following particular areas: same sex partner abuse, intimate partner violence in different cultural/racial groups, intimate partner violence among victims living with a disability. The goals of this workshop are: 1) to provide a forum where health care professionals can discuss diversity and violence issues with surgery and allied professions; 2) to explore specific screening and assessing tools for victims of violence from diverse communities; 3) to discuss strategies to address these issues.

**Development of an InterProfessional Module on Gender and Poverty**

Patty Solomon

\$5,000

The InterProfessional (IP) Education Initiative in the Faculty of Health Sciences is developing a “menu” of events for students to select activities for the purpose of achieving competencies related to IP practice. The Gender and health Collaborative Curriculum Project has developed self-directed e-learning modules for physicians and medical students, and has encouraged us to adapt the Gender and Poverty module for IP students. Project outcomes include: integration of Gender and Health education into the IP curriculum; faculty trained to facilitate Gender and Health in an IP context; increased student awareness of the roles, behaviours and relationship of women, men, boys and girls in relation to issues of poverty and health; creation of a framework for adapting other existing modules into sustainable resources for IP student use. In addition, students would not only learn about various scopes of practice, but also about professional issues of gender, roles, and behaviours.



**2005-6**

**Gender Diversity in Nutrition Needs for Optimal Health: Development of Web-Based Teaching Tool**

Stephanie Atkinson / Fouad Yousif

\$5,000

Gender diversity in nutritional needs and applications to improve health and disease preventions in target human populations are not well-developed topics in nutrition education programs. We propose to develop unique educational resources on three relevant topics: 1) iron – what meets the needs of women maybe toxic to men; 2) gender differences in nutritional needs of athletes; 3) women's nutrition and bone health. For each topic, web-based programs will be developed and implemented as a new and effective teaching tool that is tailored to the specific learning needs of students in the programs of undergraduate medicine, biochemistry and health sciences, graduate medical sciences and sub-specialty medical trainees.

**Victims of Intimate Partner Violence: A Health Care Provider's Guide to Identification, Assessment and Intervention**

Mohit Bhandari / Sonia Dosanjh

\$5,000

Gender and violence play a part in patient outcomes and rehabilitation among female and male patients. We propose to organize a second workshop for surgical faculty, residents, medical students, and other health care professionals to identify and address issues for victims of violence present in medical education and practice, particularly in the area of surgery. The workshop will focus on three particular areas: gender socialization, the perspectives of both victims and perpetrators of violence, and the role of health care providers when violence has been identified. Specifically, the goals of this workshop are: 1) to provide a forum where medical professionals can discuss gender and violence issues within surgery and allied professions; 2) to identify and discuss screening and assessing tools for victims of violence; 3) to brainstorm and formulate strategies to address these issues.

## 2005-6

### **Identifying Gender Differences in Adolescents' Descriptions of Irritable Mood**

Khrista Boylan / Peter Szatmari

\$5,000

Irritability is a core feature of depressed mood in adolescents and is associated with significant impairment in quality of life. Recent studies have begun to measure irritability clinically, but only in adults. Although clinicians who assess and treat adolescents are aware that their patients are irritable, they have no standardized tools to measure irritability or tools to treat irritability. Further, gender difference in presentation exist in adults and need to be understood for adolescents. In this study, we will further the development and validation of a new scale to measure irritability to make it specific to adolescents. We will also describe the gender differences in irritability in a clinical sample of adolescents. Translation of the findings about gender and adolescent irritability will be done through teaching sessions with teen mental health clinicians, grand rounds presentation and publication.

## 2004-5

### **Women's Health Issues Associated with Physical Disability – A Web-Based Interactive Module for Rehabilitation Students.**

Liliana Coman / Julia Richardson

\$5,000

The goal of this project is to support the existing curriculum in women's health which takes a developmental perspective and involves conditions with gender specific issues managed by physiotherapists. We plan to develop a web-based application to enhance students' knowledge around women's health. In the development of the curriculum we have addressed issues: 1) which are common in women, 2) for which women are at high risk; 3) where the severity is higher in women; 4) which are experienced exclusively by women. We will develop a software map which will include text and audio narrative, interactive video and dynamic content pages on these issues.

### **Gender Sensitivity and Surgery**

Mohit Bhandari / Victoria Patenall

\$5,000

Gender differences play a part in patient outcomes, prevalence of physical disabilities after surgery, and rehabilitation among female and male patients. We propose to organize a workshop for surgical faculty, residents, medical students and other health care professionals to identify and address gender issues present in medical education and practice, particularly in the area of surgery. This workshop will focus on three particular areas: career choice, professional behaviours, and patient outcomes. Specifically, the goals of this workshop are: 1) to provide forum where medical professionals can discuss gender issues within surgery; 2) to identify and discuss the gender issues pertaining to career choice, professional behaviours, and patient outcomes; and 3) to brainstorm and formulate some ways of addressing these issues.

## **2004-5**

### **The Resident, the Computer and the Tutor: E-Learning and Women's Mental Health**

Leslie Born / Meir Steiner

\$5,000

Currently, residents in Psychiatry and Obstetrics and Gynecology receive occasional lectures on mental illness related to reproductive cyclicity, but have little or no patient exposure. In previous years, the instructional experience has been frustrated by minimal audience interaction and a lack of engagement. A new format for teaching residents and clerks about mental health and the reproductive life cycle is proposed, one that is based on contemporary styles and principles of learning. This e-learning pilot project, involving educators from Psychiatry, Obstetrics and Gynecology, and e-Learning Innovation at McMaster University and St. Joseph's Healthcare, consists of electronic tutorials for the mastery of core competencies and a subsequent interactive group tutorial. It is hoped that this educational initiative will increase the awareness and expertise of both psychiatrists and ob/gyns in recognizing and handling the psychological problems they see on a regular basis.