



Quarterly Newsletter, August 2019

IN THIS ISSUE:

- We've Moved!
- Funding Announcements
- Congratulations!
- Community
- Policy
- Practice
- Research

CGSHE has moved!



We are so excited to have moved into our new CFI-funded community and clinical research space at 647 East Hastings St. We will continue to keep our CGSHE research/admin offices at St. Paul's Hospital (11th Floor, 1190 Hornby Street). Thanks to the many staff who helped set up the new space. [Stay tuned](#) for our official opening and community open house/drop-in in September!!

Funding Announcements

CGSHE and partners receive \$1 million from WAGE

[The CGSHE has been awarded \\$1 million](#) from the Ministry of Women and Gender Equality (WAGE). The funding will support our work developing best practices for working with criminalized and marginalized women and gender diverse people who are survivors of gender-based violence. CGSHE will undertake this work with our partners Atira, WAHRS, SWUAV, SWAN, and Unlocking the Gates.

Thanks to Dr. Mike Allard, UBC Faculty of Medicine Associate Dean in Health Engagement, and Honourable Dr. Hedy Fry for making the June 25th announcement at our new East Hastings space. [Read the full announcement.](#)



The [AESHA Project](#) will receive funding for another five years with two project grants for our work with the AESHA cohort (PI: Dr. Goldenberg) and our ethno-qualitative work (PI: Dr. Krüsi)! Congrats to Andrea, Shira, and the AESHA team!

The [IRIS Project](#) (Drs. Goldenberg & Lavergne) will receive five years' funding for sexual and reproductive health among immigrant and refugee women in BC. Congrats Shira, Ruth and the IRIS team!

Congratulations!



CGSHE's Dr. Jean Shoveller first woman appointed as chair of CIHR

The CGSHE's Associate Director [Dr. Jean Shoveller](#) has been appointed Chair of the Governing Council of our national health research funding body, Canadian Institutes of Health Research ([CIHR](#)). Dr. Shoveller is the first woman named to this position. Congrats Jeannie! [Read the full announcement.](#)

CGSHE's Dr. Travis Salway is the recipient of a Scholar Award from the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research ([MSFHR](#)) for his work focused on LGBTQ2S+ sexual and mental health. CGSHE recently welcomed Travis as Research Scientist and Assistant Professor and we are excited to work with Travis in this new role. [Read more about Travis' work.](#)

CGSHE Clinician Scientist Dr. Mei-ling Wiedmeyer has been promoted to Clinical Assistant Professor at UBC effective July 1. Mei-ling is a physician working on migrant and refugee health with the IRIS Project. [Read more about Mei-ling's work.](#)

CGSHE Research Scientist Dr. Kathleen Deering joins the UBC Department of Medicine as Assistant Professor as of July 1. Kathleen was one of the original co-Principal Investigators on the SHAWNA Project, and we are thrilled to have her officially back! She will return full-time from maternity leave as of Sept 1. [Read more about Kathleen's work.](#)

Congratulations to Dr. Elena Argento for both a successful PhD defence and a CIHR Health Policy Fellowship with Vancouver Coastal Health. Elena completed both her MPH practicum and research assistant work and her PhD with CGSHE/UBC on the AESHA project. She has made many important contributions to AESHA on the evaluation of laws and policies including PCEPA, as well as to CGSHE external consultancy projects over the years with WHO and PHAC. We look forward to seeing where her next steps take her!



Congrats to four CGSHE team members receiving CIHR trainee awards:

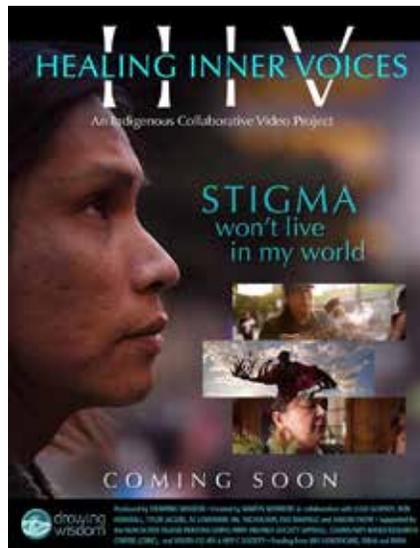
Bronwyn McBride for her PhD work with the AESHA Project on the evaluation of the new sex work laws (known as PCEPA) among im/migrant sex workers (supervisors: Drs. Shannon and Goldenberg).

Margaret Erickson for her PhD work with the SHAWNA Project, evaluating the impact of prison health transition on sexual health and HIV outcomes among women living with HIV (WLWH) (supervisors: Drs. Krüsi and Martin).

Ariel Sernick for her masters work with SHAWNA on youth living with HIV in partnership with YouthCO (supervisors: Drs. Shoveller and Krüsi).

Dr. Mei-ling Wiedmeyer for her master's research on sexual and reproductive health research (SRHR) with immigrant and refugee women in BC (supervisor: Dr. Goldenberg).

Community



Healing Inner Voices film

We can't wait for the upcoming release of the film [HIV: Healing Inner Voices](#), an Indigenous collaborative documentary film produced by Drawing Wisdom. [Lulu Gurney](#) (Peer Research Associate / Qualitative Interviewer, SHAWNA) and [Flo Ranville](#) (Community Health Associate / Qualitative Interviewer, SHAWNA) were two of eight Indigenous people who collaborated with filmmaker Martin Morberg to produce this documentary exploring “the realities of living with HIV.” Drawing Wisdom says, “This powerful film resounds with resilience, the healing power of Indigenous culture, and most of all the strengths and voices of its makers. Honest and moving, this film will be a tool for healing.” [View the trailer](#) and stay tuned for upcoming screenings of the film.

Policy



Drs. Shira Goldenberg and Mei-ling Wiedmeyer

CGSHE and the SFU International Refugee and Newcomer Program co-hosted a one-day Interdisciplinary Migration and Refugee Workshop, co-chaired by CGSHE Research Scientist and SFU Assistant Professor in Global Health Dr. Shira Goldenberg. [Read the final report and round-up here.](#)



Left: CGSHE staff, students, and faculty at the workshop. Right: Dr. Gerardo Otero, Naima Osman, Dr. Shira Goldenberg, Dr. Mei-ling Wiedmeyer, and Dr. Sharalyn Jordan provide interdisciplinary perspectives highlighting structural precarity faced by im/migrants.



*Flo and Desire sharing the SHAWNA photovoice report, titled *Through Our Own Eyes*, with the Minister of Justice David Lametti.*

SHAWNA Community Health Associate / Qualitative Interviewer [Flo Ranville](#), Peer Research Associate [Desire Tibashoboka](#), and CGSHE's [Dr. Andrea Krüsi](#) joined the 8th Symposium on HIV, Law and Human Rights hosted by the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network.



Qualitative assistant project coordinator Alka Murphy, PhD student Bronwyn McBride, indoor outreach/interviewer Shelly, and Dr. Andrea Krüsi.

The AESHA team recently headed to DC for the annual Law & Society conference to share AESHA's work on evaluating PCEPA.

AESHA recently hosted our annual Community Advisory Board meeting. The CAB struck a working group to finalize our report on the evaluation of PCEPA that we hope to bring back together this summer. Thanks to all those community members and sex worker-led representatives who joined us – Pivot Legal, PACE Society, WISH Drop-in Centre Society and the MAP Van, Safe, Atira, WAHRS, and SWUAV – and who continue to fight for change in prohibitive policies impacting sex workers' health, safety and human rights.



CGSHE's Executive Director and UBC Prof [Dr. Kate Shannon](#) attended the three-day UN-AIDS Expert Consultation in Geneva. Dr. Shannon joined leading global policy experts and leading activists from communities of sex work, trans women, gay men and men who have sex with men (MSM), and people who use drugs. The Consultation focused on setting human rights targets in global HIV response. We can't meet the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) or achieve the [Fast-Track strategy](#) to end the AIDS epidemic without monitoring and addressing human rights among key populations.

Practice



CGSHE Speaker Series

CGSHE launched our [Speaker Series](#) in Spring 2019 at St. Paul's Hospital. Please join our next speaker series in September with Dr. Charlotte Loppie, a Professor in the School of Public Health and Social Policy and Director of the Centre for Indigenous Research and Community-Led Engagement (CIRCLE) at the University of Victoria. Please RSVP to Dr. Loppie's talk [here](#).

You can also check out our [past CGSHE Speaker Series events online](#) in case you missed them! A special thanks to our speakers so far:

- Dr. Carmen Logie, "Intersectionality, Sexual Health and Criminalization"
- Dr. Wendy Norman, "Advancing Sexual Health Equity and Well-Being: Ponderings on Equity and Fertility"
- Dr. Travis Salway, "Creating Integrated Sexual and Mental Health Care to Reduce Population Health Inequities"
- Dr. Andrea Krüsi, Flo Ranville, and Lulu Gurney, "HIV Stigma, Disclosure, Criminalization and Access to Care: SHAWNA Project"

CGSHE is committed to building **Indigenous Cultural Safety and Humility** across our work. A special thanks to Elder Oldhands for opening, flagging and blessing of our new community/clinical research space. [Brittany Bingham](#), CGSHE Indigenous Research Advisor, is organizing Indigenous Cultural Safety training across CGSHE senior leadership and staff to be led and hosted by VCH Aboriginal Health. Our CGSHE Indigenous Cultural Safety Committee has some exciting ideas to come!



LGBTQ/2S/+ Mental Health Roundtable

Did you know CGSHE's Dr. Salway hosts an **LGBTQ/2S/+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer / Two-Spirit* / +) Mental Health Roundtable**? The Roundtable aims to regularly bring together service providers, community organization staff and volunteers, researchers, and others interested in LGBTQ/2S/+ mental health in order to exchange ideas, raise awareness, and find points of collaboration with regard to mental health-related needs of LGBTQ/2S/+ individuals in British Columbia. [Click here for details of the LGBTQ2S+ Roundtable.](#)

Alongside partners across Canada, the CGSHE is working on a **national blueprint for gender-based violence response** with the Ministry for Women and Gender Equality (WAGE). We look forward to sharing experiences from Vancouver alongside other community, academic, and social justice groups.

Research

The AESHA team at CGSHE is piloting the role of Community Health Associates to provide community-based testing. In this pilot, multi-lingual community staff in massage parlours provide rapid HIV point-of-care tests; HIV pre- and post-testing counselling; and self-collection of samples for some STI tests. The role was developed in collaboration with nurse educators and the STI program at the BC Centre for Disease Control. Our Research Coordinator [Sarah Moreheart](#) was [recently interviewed](#) for Prevention in Focus about this exciting project, which “allows sexual health testing, education, and support to be delivered to individuals who may otherwise not engage in the healthcare system because of stigma against sex work, language barriers, immigration concerns, or other barriers.” A key benefit of this approach is that Community Health Associates are able “to better reach sex workers through language-specific and sex worker-friendly sexual health education, testing, and support.” The AESHA team hopes that if successful, this community testing approach can be rolled out more widely in BC so that multi-lingual community members with lived experience can provide “peer-to-peer” testing and self-collection of samples for some STI tests in a sex worker-positive sexual health approach. Read more about this promising work, the details of the role, and the challenges of this project in “[Views from the frontlines: HIV testing by lay providers.](#)” Thank you CATIE for reaching out to Sarah for her insight!

CGSHE is Growing!

Check out some of our amazing thinkers and changers in gender equity and sexual health research, policy, and practice here in BC, Canada, and globally.

Staff!

Welcome to [Rachel Taylor](#) (BA, MPub) who joins CGSHE as our new Digital Engagement and Knowledge Translation Coordinator. Rachel has worked in social services, accessibility services, and communications. She will be helping us grow CGSHE’s network and coordinate our digital strategy. She believes the knowledge and experiences of marginalized people, gender-diverse people, and sex worker communities must inform policy that affects their health and lives, and she is excited for the opportunity to help make this happen. Rachel is l̓nupiaq on her mother’s side and settler on her father’s, and volunteers with the Indigenous Voices Awards and the Indigenous Editors Circle. She has been living in Vancouver, BC as an uninvited guest on Coast Salish territories for 18 years.

The SHAWNA Qualitative Team welcomes [Sindi Addorisio](#) as our new Qualitative Research Coordinator. Sindi started volunteering with AIDS Vancouver in the late 90s with a program called Boys ‘R Us and eventually became the coordinator. In 2003, she received her social work diploma and started working with the Portland Hotel Society

at Insite as a mental health program worker. Between 2005 and 2008, Sindi started working at the NAOMI study as program worker and relief clinical coordinator, then as a research assistant with the SALOME study. In 2009, she worked as the recruitment coordinator for the At Home/Chez Soi national study, then as the research coordinator for the follow-up study of At Home/Chez Soi in 2013. Sindi moved to Edmonton, her hometown, in 2015 and started working for the largest inner-city agency in Edmonton as the street outreach manager, then as the drop-in/Winter Emergency Response programs manager. While in Edmonton, she also conducted her own quantitative and qualitative research study, funded by the University of Alberta, and presented her data at the National and International Harm Reduction conferences. Sindi is married and has two sons, Zac (13) and Benjamin (11).

[Brenna Bezanson](#) has been involved in the Trans Health Research Project since very nearly the beginning, and is excited to join the CGSHE team as the interim Project Coordinator for this study. Brenna's professional life has been consistently inconsistent, bouncing from healthcare to hair styling, call centre to sex work, administrative support to project management. Despite these many career shifts, community work has remained a constant in Brenna's life, joining her first board of directors at the age of 15 as a youth representative for her local sexual health clinic. Since deciding to make activism the focus of her career, Brenna has had the privilege to work with many community organizations in Vancouver, and to learn and unlearn with some of the most intelligent, wise, and patient mentors and peers. Since late 2017, Brenna has been a lead consultant on the operational evaluation and redesign of the VCH Trans Specialty Care program, one of Canada's leading primary care clinic programs for trans and gender diverse individuals. When not at work Brenna is most likely sitting in front of a sewing machine, reading a book, or swooning over someone else's dog.

Students!

A special kudos to all our summer / practicum students from SFU and UBC bringing new ideas and energy to the table.

- Amy Mawdsley (SHAWNA Project)
- Kristen Faulkner (SHAWNA Project)
- Cassandra Parsons (SHAWNA Project)

Thank You Dr. Duff!



Congratulations and best of luck to [Dr. Putu Duff](#) who is making a big move to Nova Scotia to be closer to family. Putu has been with CGSHE for eight years and made important contributions to reproductive justice work with marginalized women in BC, as well as to global health projects on ethical considerations in working with marginalized communities in Indonesia and Argentina. Putu has taken on an exciting new role with the NS Health Authority. She plans to continue to work with CGSHE in an Associate Research Scientist role. As Putu said, "You haven't seen the last of me!" We can't wait to see what this next chapter brings for her.

Faculty members, students and staff: please remember to send your updates to info@cgshe.ubc.ca to be included in our quarterly newsletter! For faculty interested in joining us, please reach out to megan.bobetsis@cgshe.ubc.ca to get connected.

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CGSHE is located on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tseil-Waututh First Nations.

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