

AIM-HI NETWORK

ANNUAL REPORT

July 2018 – April 2019



INTRODUCTION

The Alberta Indigenous Mentorship in Health Innovation (AIM-HI) Network is one of eight Indigenous mentorship nodes funded until 2022 by the Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR). The AIM-HI Network exists to enhance capacity in health research led by Indigenous scholars in Alberta. Our activities are designed to support Indigenous graduate students and new investigators who are in health research disciplines, recruit Indigenous students to health research careers, generate evidence on wise practices for Indigenous mentorship, and advocate to institutions to enable Indigenous promotion and success in academic and in health research more broadly. We are pleased to share this report, which details the activities occurring between July 2018 and April 2019.

AIM-HI NETWORK OBJECTIVES

1. Identify supports for success and resilience while overcoming barriers that impact Indigenous learner success and new investigator transitions from study to workforce that largely neglects the socio-political histories caused by colonization and settler colonialism.
2. Reorganize health research mentorship around cultural and community principles and values to address the dynamic, transactional facets of career development for Indigenous learners.
3. Expand and enhance an intergenerational mentorship network among Indigenous mentees, in relation to Indigenous and non-Indigenous community and academic mentors, to build an inter-disciplinary community of practice committed to Indigenous health research.
4. Develop a knowledge base on wise mentorship practice for the training of Indigenous health researchers that leads to better career outcomes, as well as sustained professional and community relationships.
5. Advocate for continued systemic change necessary to equitably promote Indigenous health researchers for success in academia and beyond.



CORE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Cheryl Barnabe	University of Calgary	Medicine	Métis
Lindsay Crowshoe	University of Calgary	Medicine	Blackfoot
Cora Voyageur	University of Calgary	Sociology	Dene
Robert Henry	University of Calgary	Sociology	Métis
Karlee Fellner	University of Calgary	Education	Cree/ Métis
Cheryl Currie	University of Lethbridge	Public Health	Settler
Rita Henderson	University of Calgary	Medicine	Settler
Jennifer Leason	University of Calgary	Anthropology	Saulteaux
Adam Murry	University of Calgary	Psychology	Apache

This core team meets monthly to review progress and identify new opportunities that will support the AIM-HI mandate.

COORDINATORS AND VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to those who have provided support and dedication to the AIM-HI Network over the past year:

Alycia Clifford – Jillian Barnes – Elaine Boyling - Sharon Foster – Emerald Kains – Melissa Lindberg - Tessa Linkert - Melissa Shouting – Thomas Snow – Amy Totten



COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The community advisory committee provides guidance to the AIM-HI Network CEC, including the identification of a new ideas and emerging opportunities; connection to communities through the province; and insight into mentee experiences and challenges.

Cora Voyageur	U of Calgary Department of Sociology
Jennifer Leason	New Investigator Representative
Pearl Yellow Old Woman	Graduate Student Representative
Michael Broadfoot	Undergraduate Representative
Andrea Kennedy	Mount Royal University Faculty of Nursing
Sherri Chisan	University nuhelot'jne thaiyots'j nistameyimâkanak Blue Quills
Bonnie Healy	Alberta First Nations Information Governance Centre
Esther Tailfeathers	Indigenous Health Strategic Clinical Network, Alberta Health Services
Angeline Letendre	Canadian Indigenous Nurses' Association and Alberta Cancer Prevention Legacy Fund
Francine Dudoit	Director, Native Hawaiian Healing, Waikiki Health

OPERATIONAL COMMITTEES

The leadership and oversight of AIM-HI activities is distributed through 7 Operational Committees, which are:

Intergenerational Mentorship Gatherings and Sweats: Karlee Fellner

Annual Retreat: Cora Voyageur and Jennifer Leason

Mentor Development: Lindsay Crowshoe

Communications and Collaborations: Cheryl Barnabe

Student Stipends: Cheryl Barnabe

Recruitment: Robert Henry and Jennifer Leason

Evaluation: Cheryl Currie, Rita Henderson, Adam Murry



INTERGENERATIONAL MENTORSHIP GATHERINGS AND SWEATS

Mandate:

Support the academic success, leadership skills, psychosocial needs and cultural affirmations of mentees through experiential learning, oral knowledge sharing, and cultural and academic mentorship

Achievements:

Sweats were held at Tsuut'Ina and Kainai in September 2018. We honour the memory of Elder Lloyd Ewenin Jr who poured the sweat at Tsuut'Ina for AIM-HI, who passed this year.

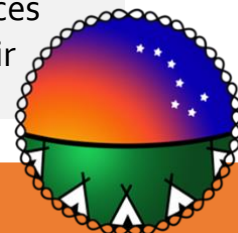
Mentee Forum Theatre Dialogues: In partnership with the Undergraduate Medical Education Program and the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Calgary, Indigenous students participated in four Forum Theatre Dialogue events through fall 2018 and winter 2019, led by Michele Decottignies from Stage Left Productions.



Lecture and discussion with Paul L.A.H. Chartrand

AIM-HI Network hosted an Intergenerational Mentorship Gathering with Mr. Paul L.A.H. Chartrand in collaboration with ii' taa'poh'to'p and the Faculty of Arts, University of Calgary on February 11, 2019. Mr. Chartrand was a commissioner for the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, and shared his wisdom and experiences of advocacy for Indigenous Peoples.

We are very proud of the work of Indigenous graduate students who successfully launched SAGE (Supporting Aboriginal Graduate Enhancement) at the University of Calgary this year. Their events will provide safe spaces for Indigenous graduate students to share their experiences with their peers, mentors and campus community and to further develop their professional, academic and personal skills.



COMMUNICATIONS AND COLLABORATIONS

Mandate:

Expand knowledge of AIM-HI to mentees and community and identify emerging opportunities

Events Hosted:

AIM-HI Network Breakfast at UAlberta:

September 25, 2018

Lecture by Dr. Brenda Elias (University of Manitoba): Dignity Promotion and the Social Epigenetics of FASD

October 3, 2018

Public Lecture and Discussion with Paul L.A.H. Chartrand: Royal Commission of Aboriginal Peoples – in collaboration with ii' taa'poh'to'p and the Faculty of Arts, University of Calgary

February 11, 2019

Collaborations:

Hotii ts'eeda - Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR) – NWT
SAGE UCalgary

Alberta First Nations Information Governance Centre

Population, Public and Indigenous Health Strategic Clinical Network

Canadian Indigenous Nurses Association as hosts of the World Indigenous Cancer Conference 2019

Events Attended:

2018 National Gathering of Graduate Students, hosted by Ombaashi and Thompson Rivers University

July 9 – 13



RECRUITMENT



Mandate:

Mini Health Professions Day

February 13, 2019

Promote health research careers to a new generation of Indigenous students

Achievements:

Indigesteam/Power to Choose Program: AIM-HI Faculty and Mentees sponsored a day at the Cumming School of Medicine, and provided sessions to promote health science research careers to Indigenous high school students

August 2018

University of Lethbridge Career Fair

September 19, 2018

Fort McMurry Educational Forum

October 11, 2018

Mini Health-Professions Day: In collaborations with the Undergraduate Medical Education program and the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Calgary, a mini health professions day was held at the Cumming School of Medicine with students from Siksika. The students participated in a health research session...

February 13, 2019

Over the next year, watch for the release of our Digital Storytelling videos, where AIM-HI Network mentors and mentees share why they have pursued careers in health research!



CONNECTING MENTORS AND MENTEES

The AIM-HI Network launched a Member Enrolment Form, to support identifying mentor-mentee connections. Thank you to those who have agreed to mentor, your support of a student is invaluable.

You can sign up for mentoring and being mentored at:

<https://obrieniph.ucalgary.ca/aim-hi/member-enrollment-form>

MENTOR DEVELOPMENT

Mandate:

Provide resources or support mentorship, build knowledge and skills in Indigenous mentorship

Achievements:

Over 2018-2019, we developed an Indigenous Mentorship Model based on literature review and input from our Indigenous faculty and collaborators. Over the next year we will be producing podcasts to support faculty who are mentoring Indigenous scholars.



STUDENT STIPENDS

Mandate:

Provide funding awards to Indigenous scholars in health research careers.

Achievements:

In 2018 – 2019, the AIM-HI Network distributed over \$130, 000 to Indigenous students through a variety of stipends and travel bursaries. We thank the University of Lethbridge for directly funding 2 of the Undergraduate Summer Student Stipend Awards.

Graduate Student Mentorship Stipends for 2019:



Congratulations to (pictured left to right):

Andrew Stewart, MD-PhD program, Community Health Sciences, University of Calgary

Chloe Crosschild, MSc program, Nursing, University of Lethbridge

Erica Hurley, PhD program, Nursing, University of Alberta

Ashley Cornect Benoit, PhD program, Community Health Sciences, University of Calgary

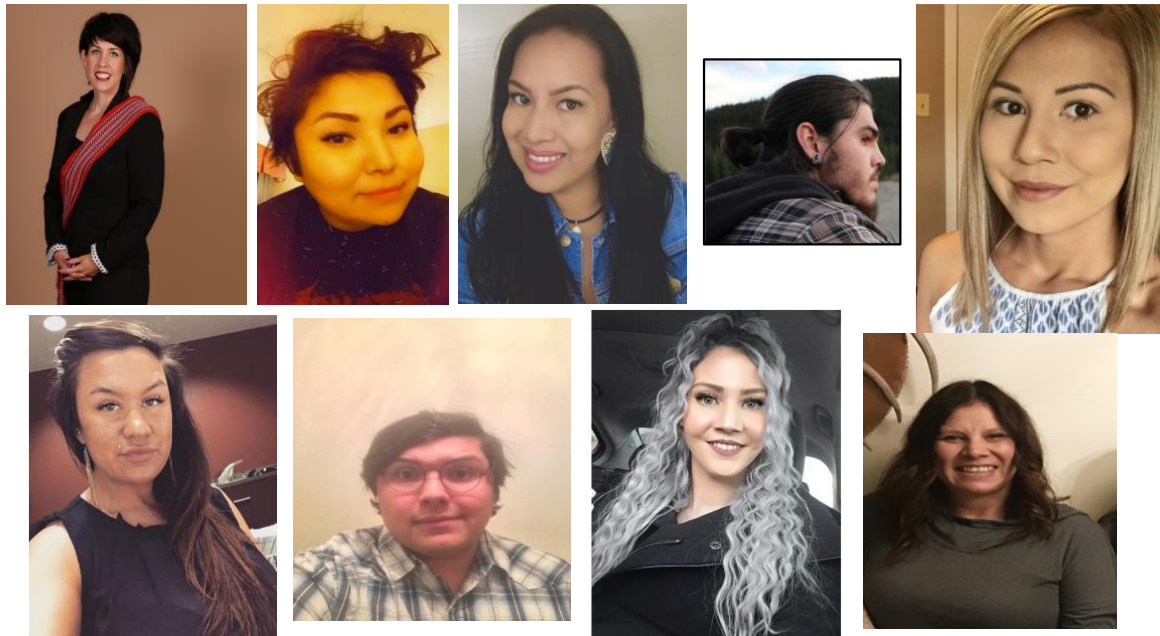
Nicole Eshkakogan, PhD program, Sociology, University of Alberta

Pearl Yellow Old Woman, PhD program, Community Health Sciences, University of Calgary

Sharon Foster, PhD program, Anthropology, University of Calgary

Nevada Lynn Ouellette, MEd, Counselling Psychology program, University of Lethbridge





Undergraduate Summer Student Stipends for 2019:

Congratulations to:

Shelley Wiart, Athabasca University (supervisor: Dr. Janelle Baker)

Claire Heavy Head, University of Lethbridge (supervisor: Dr. Janice Victor)

Melissa Shouting, University of Lethbridge (supervisor: Dr. Silvia Koso and Ms. Kelsey Berg)

Michael Broadfoot, Mount Royal University (supervisor: Dr. Pattie Pryma)

Reanna Arcand, Mount Royal University (supervisor: Dr. Cynthia Gallop)

Marlena Bullee, Mount Royal University (supervisor: Dr. Cynthia Gallop)

Louis Crowshoe, University of Calgary (supervisor: Dr. Rita Henderson)

Amber (Buffy) Bromley-Grier, University of Calgary (supervisor: Dr. Karlee Fellner)

Valerie Fox, University of Calgary (supervisor: Dr. Jen Leason)

Undergraduate Travel Bursary:

Congratulations to:

Jillian Bear Chief, Mount Royal University



AIM-HI Network Field School in collaboration with Dr. Andrea Kennedy, Mount Royal University, and Francine Dudoit-Tagupa, Director of Native Hawaiian Healing / Pu'uhonua, Waikiki Health: Local -to-Global Indigenous Service Learning in Alberta and Hawaii, February 2020

Congratulations to:

Erica Hurley, PhD program, Nursing, University of Alberta

Jenna Galway, BSc Nursing program, Grande Prairie Regional College

Nevada Lynn Ouellette, MEd Counselling Psychology program, University of Lethbridge

Sharon Foster, PhD program, Anthropology, University of Calgary

Taylor Behn-Tsakoza, BSc Health and Physical Education program, Mount Royal University

National Gathering of Graduate Students 2019 Travel Bursary:

Congratulations to:

Daniel McKennitt, post-doctoral fellow, University of Alberta

Karen Pheasant, PhD, University of Alberta

The students funded through the Alberta First Nations Information Governance Centre/AIM-HI Network Experiential Internship Opportunities will be announced in May 2019.

We are also accepting Travel Bursary applications for attending the 2019 Blue Quills Four Ceremonies Gathering Cultural Camp in May 2019. See the application information on our website, <https://obrieniph.ucalgary.ca/aim-hi/student-stipends-bursaries>



EVALUATION

Mandate:

Identify needs to ensure alignment with activities offered by AIM-HI, and evaluate the effect of the network

Achievements:

Our mentee survey was launched in the fall of 2018, providing important information on barriers and needed supports for Indigenous students. We have also hosted focus groups with students to discuss these issues in more detail. Thank you to those who participated! The survey will be sent out annually to gather information on how the AIM-HI Network can meet Indigenous scholar needs, and future focus groups are planned as well.

Our mentor survey has been developed and will be launched in May 2019.

ADVOCACY

One of the objectives of the AIM-HI Network was to influence change in the academy to provide a more supportive structure for Indigenous scholars.

The AIM-HI Network faculty are active participants in discussions led by the Vice-Provost for *ii' taa'poh'to'p* to accomplish this objective.

The AIM-HI Network also successfully negotiated with the University of Calgary Faculty of Graduate Studies to ensure the new policy on mandatory funding of graduate students did not negatively impact Indigenous students through clawing back of AIM-HI or other external awards.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Funding Support:

Canadian Institutes of Health Research

Office of the Vice-President of Research, University of Calgary

Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Lethbridge

O'Brien Institute for Public Health

Additional in-kind support for activated was provided by Mount Royal University and the Native Centre



Academic Partner Institutions:



THE YEAR AHEAD

Gatherings and Events:

'Decolonizing Healthcare Congress Day', Cumming School of Medicine, June 22, 2019
Indigenous Mentorship Panel and opportunities to volunteer during the World Indigenous Cancer Conference, September 17-19 2019
AIM-HI Network Annual Retreat, fall 2019
Intergenerational Mentorship Gathering with Francine Dudoit-Tagupa, October 4, 2019
National Gathering of Graduate Students at University of Victoria, hosted by IMNP- Pacific Northwest, May 2020
Focus Groups with Indigenous Scholars on Mentorship

Stipends:

Travel Bursaries for Blue Quills Four Ceremonies Gathering Cultural Camp and NGGS 2020
Graduate Student Mentorship Stipends
Undergraduate Summer Student Stipends
AFNIGC/AIM-HI Network Experiential Internship Opportunity
PPIH SCN/AIM-HI Network Experiential Internship Opportunity
Local to Global Indigenous Health Service Learning: Alberta - Hawaii Field School
Writing Retreats

Media:

Launch of New Website
Mentor Survey and Resource Podcasts
Digital Storytelling Videos

Advocacy, continued recruitment and engagement activities, and growth of collaborations and connections



Social Media & Networking:



Website: Full details about AIM-HI events, member enrolment, events, news and student stipends and bursaries can be found at

<https://obrieniph.ucalgary.ca/aim-hi/>



Facebook: Upcoming events and funding opportunities are posted on our AIM-HI [Facebook page](#).



Weekly Newsletter: Our newsletter is distributed to over 170 members – subscribe at mailman.ucalgary.ca/mailman/listinfo/aim-hi-l