



2S/LGBTQ+ HEALTH HUB MIDTERM REPORT



The 2S/LGBTQ+ Health Hub is supported
by the Canadian Institutes of Health
Research (CIHR)




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If there is anything in this report that you wish to discuss, please do not hesitate to reach out to:



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SUMMARY

The 2S/LGBTQ+ Health Hub continues to advance intersectional, community-based health research, training, and mentorship across Canada. Since 2022, the CIHR-funded health research training platform has supported trainees, alumni, and members of the public by facilitating accessible, intersectional, and community engaged learning on 2S/LGBTQ+ health and health research, emphasizing equity, diversity, and inclusion. Trainees have gained valuable research, leadership, and knowledge mobilization skills through peer mentorship, interdisciplinary collaboration, and attending national learning and networking events such as the CBRC Summit and our own 2S/LGBTQ+ Health Hub Rendezvous. The Hub's success is reflected in strengthened academic-community partnerships, increased national visibility, and the development of an accessible training platform that amplifies lived experience and fosters lasting connections for those engaged in 2S/LGBTQ+ health research.



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ABOUT THE HUB

The 2S/LGBTQ+ Health Hub is a collaboration between over 50 community leaders, scholars, researchers, and healthcare providers from across Canada. We are a national platform that offers training, networking, mentorship, and capacity-building to emerging leaders in 2S/LGBTQ+ health and research.

Objectives

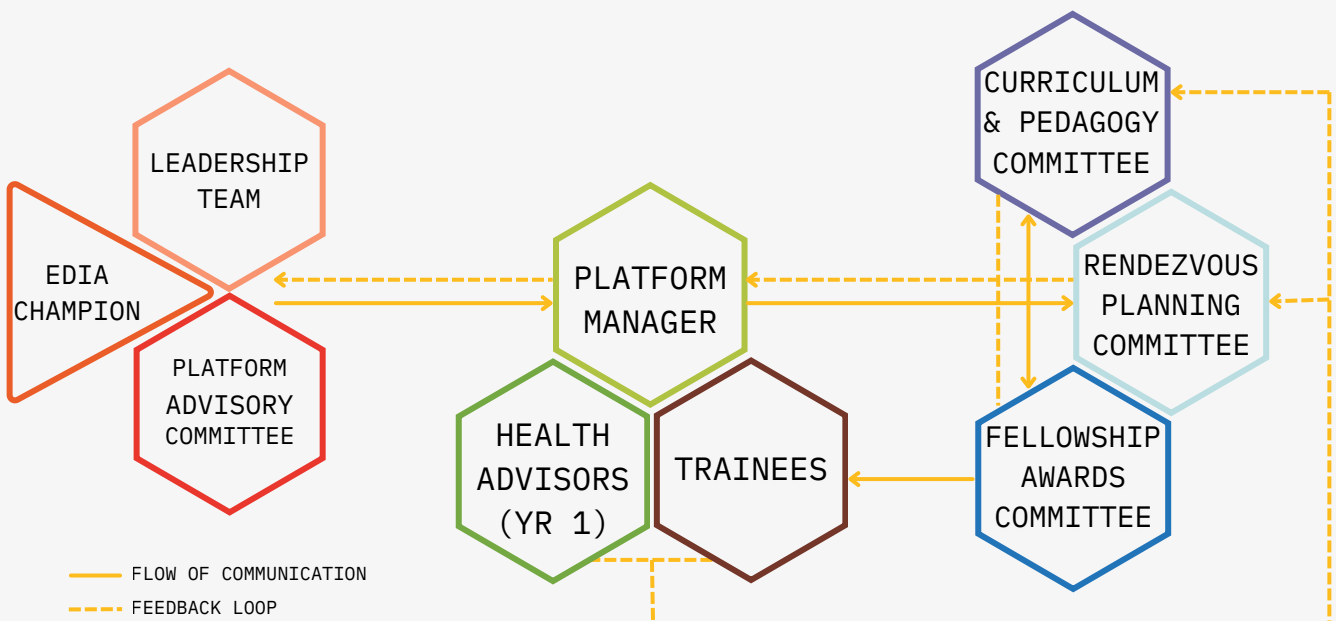
1. Build an integrated, cross-sectoral training hub focused on capacity-building and community-based interventions benefiting 2S/LGBTQ+ health.
2. Foster an interdisciplinary training network, with engaged partners and mentors, supporting a new generation of investigators/practitioners in academia, government, healthcare, and community.
3. Develop an innovative and sustainable education and training program, including both in-person and online elements.
4. Champion Indigenous self-determination, anti-oppression, anti-racism, and accessibility in research and training contexts, supporting and amplifying the work of Indigenous, Black, and other people of colour.

Platform Structure

The scope of our platform is possible because of our large interdisciplinary team. In the committees sections below we outline the key roles that our members play. Members of our leadership team (co-principal investigators) all chair a core committee of the Hub and report back to the leadership team.

The 3 committees chaired by the leadership team are:

1. Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee;
2. Fellowship Awards Committee, and;
3. Rendezvous Planning Committee.





PROGRAM ROAD MAP

The 2S/LGBTQ+ Health Hub received funding for 6 cycles (2022-2028). We have worked to accomplish the following steps to develop our health research training platform as outlined in our initial CIHR grant application. As we have reached the midterm point of our grant, we are looking towards sustainability strategies. Processes such as recruitment, training, evaluation, and curriculum development are iterative, and initiated annually.



Phase 1: Planning, Developing & Pilot Testing

- ✓ Hired a full-time platform manager (and half-time admin assistant too!)
- ✓ Hosted our first Rendezvous meeting (two-day, in-person planning session)
- ✓ All committees formed and meeting schedules established
- ✓ Online LMS (Canvas) strategy established
- ✓ Hired website/branding partner “The Public” to design website
- ✓ Initial pilot cohort (10 fellows and 6 Health Advisors supported by SPOR Supplemental funding) trialled and evaluated Phase 1 curriculum content



Phase 2: Recruitment, Training & Mentoring

- ✓ *ILPs* replaced by *Personal Narrative* assignments, allowing trainees to highlight individual needs and reflect on program experiences.
- 🔄 Calls for trainees launched annually (2022, 2023, 2024, 2025 so far)
- 🔄 New Co-Is added (6 in total since original grant application).
- 🔄 Traineeship elements developed and refined.
- 🔄 Trainee alumni integrated into training and mentoring



Phase 3: Evaluation & Sustainability

- 🔄 Program evaluation and tracking established, and continued to date
- 🔄 Annual reporting reviewed by leadership team, to continuously improve the Hub
- 🔄 Seeking additional funding opportunities beyond those already secured
- 🔄 Working with the Curriculum committee to develop additional learning materials, including open learning modules/resources



PROGRAM METRICS

	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26
APPLICANTS	24	104	98	71
FUNDED TRAINEES	16	25	22	20
ACADEMIC	10	20	17	13
COMMUNITY	6	5	5	7
ACTIVE MENTORS	20	36	32	33
OPEN LECTURES	5	9	8	TBD
ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS	59	70	66	73

Participant Location

British Columbia:51

Alberta:4

Saskatchewan:5

Manitoba:8

Ontario:56

Québec:18

New Brunswick:4

Prince Edward Island:2

Nova Scotia:11



Organizations Involved

32 Universities

24 Community Partners

7 Health Authorities



Thanks especially to the CBRC for making it possible for all our trainees to attend the CBRC Summit



PLATFORM PROGRAMMING

The 2S/LGBTQ+ Health Hub features two learning streams: our fellowship program, which provides tailored learning, mentorship, and network building opportunities for emerging leaders in 2S/LGBTQ+ health research, and our public platform which offers open, asynchronous, and self-directed resources for anyone interested in building their capacity around 2S/LGBTQ+ health.

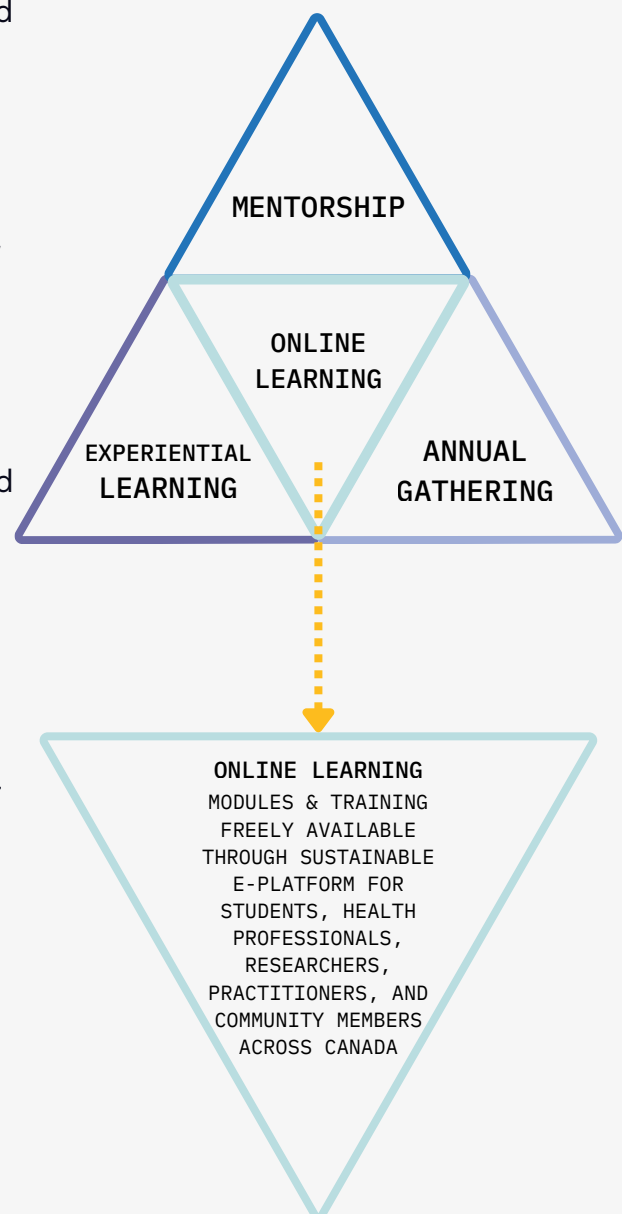
2S/LGBTQ+ Health Hub Fellowship

In the first half of our grant, we have developed a strong fellowship program for trainees. At least one annual in-person gathering has been arranged for each fellowship cohort. Mentorship matches have been made (2 mentors per trainee), and evaluations of the mentorship program have been conducted, for both mentors and trainees.

A key aspect of this program is online learning, which involves synchronous online seminars and asynchronous learning modules (online learning management system, Canvas, provided in-kind by University of Toronto).

Open 2S/LGBTQ+ Training Resources

We continue to build our publicly available online resources. With the development of our new website (2slgbtqhealthhub.ca) we now have space to host recorded content, such as previously recorded lectures and seminars. The Curriculum & Pedagogy Committee is working on the continued development and curation of publicly available 2S/LGBTQ+ health resources, incorporating feedback from previous training cohorts to offer learning that is intersectional, relevant, accessible, and engaging.





PLATFORM WEBSITE

The 2S/LGBTQ+ Health Hub has developed an online home at 2slgbtqhealthhub.ca. We offer a space for people to find information on various topics through the lens of our network members. The site hosts a library of our public lectures and learning resources, alongside event listings, calls for participants, and mentor and fellow bios. Network members can login to the site to update their bios and submit research summaries. Our calls for participants and events listings accept submissions from the general public. All content is categorized by research methods, areas of focus, and communities engaged, making for a comprehensive search experience that allows website users to easily access content that meets their interests.

From the Hub

Primers. Research primers are a unique, Hub-produced offering that introduce key frameworks and learnings on various 2S/LGBTQ+ health topics.

Lecture Series. Our public lecture series runs throughout the year offering live online, in-person, or hybrid talks from experts in our network, and beyond. After live lectures, recordings are posted alongside a comprehensive summary of key takeaways and resources.

From our Network

Publications. Our site hosts a list of scientific publications from our mentors and fellows.

Research Summaries. Research summaries highlight the ongoing work of our mentors and fellows.

External Resources. We offer a curated directory of external resources, pulling together expertise from our broad network and beyond.

Search Term
Search

METHODS	AREAS OF FOCUS	COMMUNITIES	LOCATION
Archival Research	Advocacy	2S/LGBTQ+	National
Arts-based Methods	Aging	Gender Diverse	International
Clinical Practice	Conversion Therapy	Men	Urban
Clinical Trials	Digital Health/Technology	Non-binary	Rural
Community-Based Research	Family	Trans	Regional
Critical Theory	Gender Affirming Care	Women	
Decolonial/Anti-colonial Methods	Harm Reduction	Bisexual	
Epidemiology	Health Equity	Gay	
Ethnography	Health Services	GBMSM	
Evaluation	HIV	Lesbian	
Evidence Synthesis	Homelessness	Queer	
Implementation Science	Intimate Partner Violence	WSW	
Indigenous Methods	Mental health	Two-Spirit	
Intersectional Approaches	Nutrition	Indigenous	
Knowledge Translation	Planetary Health/Justice	Black	
Mixed-Methods	Policy	East/Southeast Asian	
Qualitative	Poverty	Francophone	
Quantitative	PrEP	Latina/Latino/Latinx/Latine	
Survey Methods	Relationships	Middle Eastern	



LEADERSHIP TEAM

Executive Leadership Team: Our team of PIs from across Canada oversee the operations of the 2S/LGBTQ+ Health Hub, and ensure that our collective training objectives are being met and that we are accountable to our core EDIA commitments. Members of the leadership team participate as co-chairs of subsequent Health Hub committees, and interact directly with trainees through mentorship and training module delivery.



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UofT



HANNAH KIA
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UBC



JACQUIE GAHAGAN
Principal Investigator
MSVU



MARK GILBERT
Principal Investigator
UBC & BCCDC



NATE LACHOWSKY
Principal Investigator
UNBC



ALLIE SLEMON
Principal Investigator
UVic



MICHAEL KWAG
Executive Team
CBRC



CIANN WILSON
EDIA Champion
Laurier



ANNA PENNER
Program Manager
2S/LGBTQ+ Health Hub



PLATFORM ADVISORS

Platform Advisory Committee (PAC): The PAC is responsible for providing advice on the direction of all Hub learning activities and advising the core leadership team on sustainability. The PAC is currently co-chaired by Dr. Ciann Wilson and Dr. Edward Ou Jin Lee. Full Platform Advisory Committee meetings are held on a bimonthly basis. The Platform Advisory Committee continues to advise on all Health Hub activities, prioritizing sustainability and an EDIA focus.

Three PAC members have been accepted as trainees over the course of the grant. To maintain strong student/trainee representation on the PAC and in all grant activities, a call for new PAC members will be circulated to bolster membership in the latter half of the grant.

FELLOWSHIP AWARDS

Trainee Fellowship Awards Committee (FAC): The mandate of the Trainee Fellowship Awards Committee (FAC) includes developing and implementing standards for the recruitment and evaluation of trainee fellowship applicants. This committee has been chaired by Co-PI Nate Lachowsky (UVic) for the first half of the grant. Co-PI Allie Slemon has taken over as chair for upcoming years.

Application Process Updates

2024/25: Introduction of Airtable for application collection, video submission option

2025/26: New EDIA self declaration component (with input from EDIA Champion/PAC)

Key Application Data

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
TOTAL APPLICATIONS	24	104	98	71
ACADEMIC/ COMMUNITY SPLIT	11/0*	85/19	68/30	44/27
ORGS	9	50	54	46
PROVINCES/ TERRITORIES	3	10	10	9
TOTAL AWARDS	11	25	22	20

*Note: The first call for applications only sought academic applicants. A SPOR supplement grant supported trainees that represented community organizations (Health Advisors), who were selected through a separate process administrated by the CBRC.



RENDEZVOUS PLANNING

Summit/Rendezvous Planning Committee (RPC): The Rendezvous Planning Committee is responsible for planning and executing the platform’s annual in person meetings. This group is chaired by Mark Gilbert (BCCDC), and has a rotating membership, to ensure inclusion of perspectives from the location of upcoming Rendezvous meetings. The RPC is critical in operationalizing cost and resource sharing agreements secured prior to Year 1 of the platform. The Rendezvous gatherings that have occurred so far have been noted by trainees and platform members as essential to the building and continued development of working relationships, peer support, and shared resources.

Rendezvous meetings typically coincide with the CBRC’s yearly Summit event, or are held in addition to the CBRC Summit. We are grateful for the support from CBRC to engage our trainees annually at Summit. This conference is one-of-a-kind and grounds our trainees in meaningful, current health research, while also showcasing the strength of the 2S/LGBTQ+ health research community.

“Overall, I was able to develop so many strong relationships with peers and fellow advocates, which in some ways have tremendously inspired me to go down a different path in doing meaningful work to support and advance 2SLGBTQ+ health. It's one of the best things that has ever happened to me, especially when I grew up in an environment where a lot of the things we discussed, shared and connected over would have never been remotely possible. Thank you for this opportunity, and thank you for considering me as a fellow.” (Trainee, 2024)

The Two Spirit Symposium at CBRC Summit is an annual two day that pre-conference gathering, organized exclusively for Two-Spirit and queer and trans Indigenous folks. Over the course of our grant, we have financially supported symposium and the wonderful Two-Spirit led work that surrounds the Symposium, and have financially/ logistically supported our Two-Spirit and trans Indigenous trainees who wish to participate.

	GATHERINGS	EVENTS	LOCATION	ATTENDEES
2022/23	1	Fire Up!: 2S/LGBTQ+ Health Hub Planning (ancillary to CBRC Summit)	Vancouver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16 Trainees • 6 Health Advisors • Co-Investigators
	2023/24	2	CBRC Summit 2023	Vancouver
Rendezvous 2024: Knowledge into Action			Saskatoon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 22 Trainees • 1 Trainee Alumni • 5 Co-Investigators • 2 Collaborators
2024/25	2	CBRC Summit 2024	Vancouver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21 Trainees
		Rendezvous 2025: The Knowledge in the Room	Toronto	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21 Trainees • 4 Trainee Alumni • 4 Co-Investigators
2025/26	1	Rendezvous 2025 (ancillary to CBRC Summit)	Montreal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19 Trainees • 1 Trainee Alumni • 2 Co-Investigators



CURRICULUM & PEDAGOGY

Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee (CPC): This committee is responsible for overseeing and providing feedback on the content and design of the training platform. The committee is co-chaired by Hannah Kia and Daniel Grace. The CPC developed the core curriculum of the 2S/LGBTQ+ Health Hub, along with a blueprint for substantive areas to be addressed in open lectures and webinars.

The CPC is currently leading the continued curation and development of the public offering of training tools available on 2slgbtqhealthhub.ca.

Current Trainee Curriculum Modules



Module 1: Intro to the Health Hub



Module 2: Intersectionality & Positionality



Module 3: Indigenist 2S/LGBTQ+ Health Research & Practice



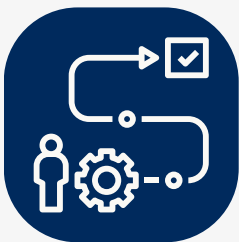
Module 4: Stigma & Wellbeing



Module 5: Critical Methods & Approaches



Module 6: Working Within our Communities



Module 7: Research Evidence to Policy & Practice



Module 8: The Care We Dream Of





TRAINEES

2022/23

Marianne Chbat, McGill
Ty Silver, CBRC
Tin D. Vo, UofT
Srutika Sabu, ASAAP
William Flett, CBRC

Stephen Juwono, McGill
Matt Ashcroft, UofT
liz Walker, Laurier
Trevor Goodyear, UBC
Kelly Davison, UVic

Anna Balagtas, Pocket Doula
David Kinitz, Stanford
Laine Halpern Zisman, UVic
Charlie Davis, Laurier
Maxi Gaudette, UdeM
Berto Uday Norbert, UManitoba

2023/24

Furqan Waleed, YouthCo
Jared Star, UManitoba
Hicham Boubidi, AGIR
Jacob Barry, TransCare+
Piotr Burek, UVic
Nini Longoria, UWO
Remy Quiroga, UVic
Jordan Ramnarine, UofT

Milo Ira Applejohn, SFU
Chris Pang, Dalhousie
Bridget Simpson, VCH
Kavya Chandra, uSask
Alex Wells, UVic
Ace Chan, UBC
Kieran Hart, PQWCHC
Ratanak Ly, UPEI

Jad Sinno, UofT
Marie-Michèle Paquette, UdeM
Calvin C. Fernandez, UBC
Simon Ouellet, UdeM
Mallory Solomon, Lakehead U
Jasmine Murchison-Perley, UNB
Kaan Goncu, UBC
Timothy Lim, UofT
Alexander Watson, UManitoba

2024/25

John Segui, UofT
Joshun Dulai, UofT
Jess Crawford, UManitoba
Shayan Novin, UofT
lonnes leloup, EMBERS
Hannah Crouse, Carleton
Adam Arca, UBC
Anthony amato, UVic

Kiarah O'Kane, UBC
Mel Tsai, UBC
Jesse Thandi, TransCare+
Isaac Wright, UCalgary
Idin Fakhrajahani, UofT
Sarah Mangle, UdeM
Megan Muise, UNB
Mattie Walker, UVic

Gabrielle Griffith, McMaster
Robert Lamoureux,
Ribbon Community
Ljudmila Petrovic, Collective Healing
Sean Morgan, UVic
Nolan E. Hill, Centre for Sexuality
Louis-Thomas Bouchard Morin,
USherbrooke

2025/26

Erin Dekker, Laurier
Azka Ahmed, SERC
Michael Butac, TMU
Moni Sadri, Laurier
Winter Kraemer, UofT
Andrés E. Montiel, UBC
Reem Alameddine, UQAM

Ripun Chhabra, Birth Mark
Thomas Tri, York University
Emma Ronayne, UNBC
Raphaël Jacques, UQAM
Sharita Henry, UVic
Em Mittertreiner, UNB
Taty Wb, Sherbourne Health

Maxe F. Giguère, Collectif LGBTQ
Mykel Denny,
Wabanaki Two Spirit Alliance
Louis-Marc Ron Renaud, ULaval
Naomi Maldonado-Rodriguez, UBC
Rodrigo Sierra Rosales, UBC
Jessica Johnson,
Rooted Birthwork Collective



MENTORS

The 2S/LGBTQ+ Health Hub's mentorship program represents a core component of our CIHR-funded training platform, designed to strengthen national connections in 2S/LGBTQ+ health research. The program mobilizes a multidisciplinary network of mentors that includes both grant-affiliated investigators (Co-I's, applicant level partners, and collaborators) and external experts from academia, community organizations, and health sectors. This flexible and responsive model ensures that trainees are supported by mentors whose expertise aligns with their research interests, methodological needs, and professional goals. Matching is carried out collaboratively: trainees are invited to identify potential mentors of interest, including individuals not yet connected to the grant, which has contributed to expanding our network and fostering new collaborative relationships that may develop into future co-investigator roles.

Through this structure, the mentorship program provides trainees with targeted academic guidance, career development support, and community-engaged perspectives that are essential for advancing equitable 2S/LGBTQ+ health research in Canada. Mentorship meetings focus on learning goals defined by the trainee and contribute directly to building research capacity, facilitating interdisciplinary exchange, and fostering sustainable partnerships across sectors. Our mentorship model not only supports the current trainee cohort but also strengthens their longer-term impact in the Hub by offering them opportunity to mentor future cohorts, and enabling ongoing integration of new leaders into the platform's national training ecosystem.

Mentors

Aaron Devor, UVic

Áine Humble, MSVU

Amaya Perez-Brumer, UofT

Anna Balagtas, Pocket Doula*

Beth Jackson, PHAC

Bridget Simpson, VCH*

Carmen Logie, UofT

Celeste Pang, MRU

Charles Furlotte, STU

Ciann L. Wilson, Laurier

David J Brennan, UofT

Daniel Grace, UofT

Devan Nambiar, GMSH

Edward Ou Jin Lee, UdeM

Francisco Ibanez-Carrasco, UofT

Gabrielle Griffith, McMaster*

Gianni Lorello, UofT

Hannah Kia, UBC

Idil Abdillahi, TMU

Ivan Leonce, Collective Healing

Jacquie Gahagan, MSVU

Jaris Swidrovich, UofT

Javi Fuentes Bernal, UdeM*

John Segui, UofT*

Jorge Flores-Aranda, UQAM

Laine Halpern Zisman, UVic

Lori Ross, DLSPH

Mac Stewart, UofT

Mark Gilbert, UBC

Maryam Khan, Laurier

Michelle Tam, Harvard

Milo Ira Applejohn, SFU*

Murdoch Leeies, UManitoba

Nathan Lachowsky, UNBC

Olivier Ferlatte UdeM

Phillip Joy, MSVU

Randy Jackson, McMaster

Roberta Timothy, UofT

Robert-Paul Juster, UdeM

Sarah Chown, Ribbon Community

Sarah Reddington, MSVU

Tin D. Vo, UofT*

Trevor Goodyear, UBC

Troy Grennan, BCCDC

TJ Salway, SFU

Trevor Hart, TMU

William Flett, CBRC*

Zack Marshall, UCalgary

Zena Sharman

**Former 2S/LGBTQ+ Health Hub Trainee*



LECTURE SERIES

Over the past three years, we have successfully evolved our open access training mandate through the development of a dynamic live lecture series that complements our core fellowship programming. We have hosted over 20 public lectures, both virtual and in-person. This live format has proven particularly effective in fostering real-time dialogue, community engagement, and knowledge exchange between researchers, practitioners, and community members. By featuring distinguished external speakers, these lectures have expanded our reach beyond our existing network members, creating accessible learning opportunities for healthcare professionals, students, and community stakeholders across Canada.

2023

HIV, Stigma & Well-Being: Past to Present Finding Purpose and Meaning

Devan Nambiar (Gay Men’s Sexual Health Alliance)

Crescent Moon: Supporting Family Members of LGBTQ+ Muslims

Rahim Thawer (University of Alabama)

Confronting Conversion Therapy Panel

Matt Ashcroft (CBRC), Syre Klenke (Wizard of Ads), & Nick Schiavo (Carleton University)

Undoing Suicidism: Queering, Transing, Crippling and Maddening (Assisted) Suicide

Alexandre Baril (University of Ottawa)

Dancing Outside the Lines: Trans People and the Choreography of Reproductive Health Care

A. J. Lowik (University of Lethbridge)

This is Our Care: Drawing on the Lived Experiences of Transgender and Gender Diverse People to Build Community-Driven Gender-Affirming Care

Hannah Kia (University of Victoria)

Harms of Peer Research

Lori Ross (University of Toronto) & Merrick Pilling (Toronto Metropolitan University)

Gender & Sex in Methods and Measurement: Guidance on Precise, Accurate and Inclusive Research Design

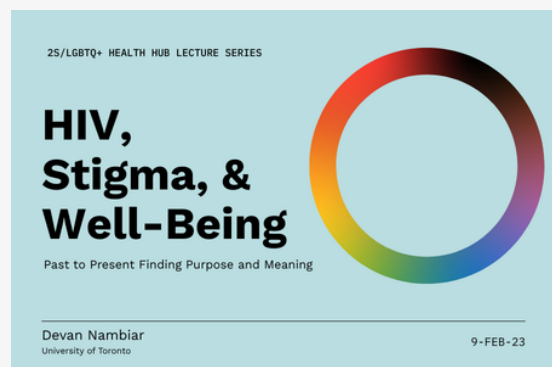
Sari van Anders (Queen’s University) & TJ Salway (Simon Fraser University)

The Social Determinants of Aging

Amina Jabbar (McMaster University)

The Youth/Elders Program: The Need for Intergenerational Connections

Usman Khan and leZlie lee kam (Youth Elders Program)





2024

Critical Methodologies

Tin D. Vo (University of Toronto)

La recherche participative avec les arts et son impact sur les communautés 2S/LGBTQIA+

Oliver Ferlatte (Université de Montréal)

Is it 'Loneliness'? Narratives of Social Connection & Disconnection Among LGBTQI Older Adults

Celeste Pang (Mount Royal University)

Not a Virus: HIV Science as Art

Brent Allan (Advocate/Advisor) & Daniel Cordner (Art Direction/Graphic Design)

Colors of Inquiry: Exploring Queer Arts-Based Research

Philip Joy (Mount Saint Vincent University)

MindMap BC: Mapping Two-Spirit, trans and queer affirming mental health supports

Samira Karsiem & TJ Salway (Simon Fraser University)

What is your Knife, and how are you using it?

Zena Sharman (LGBTQ+ health advocate)

Fat at the Intersections

Jill Andrew (former MPP)

Stigma and Wellbeing in 2S/LGBTQ+ Communities

Jad Sinno (University of Toronto)

2025

Using Arts-Based Research Methods in Social Justice Research

Celeste Pang (Mount Royal University)

Cancer Person

Rae Spoon (Music Artist)

To maximize the impact and accessibility of this knowledge, all live lectures have been recorded and are being converted into publicly accessible resources on the Hub's website, with all archived recordings scheduled to be posted by the end of the 2026/27 cohort term. This archival approach ensures that the valuable insights, methodologies, and community wisdom shared during these sessions remain available for ongoing learning and reference, extending the reach of our training platform well beyond the live event participants and creating a growing, freely accessible library of 2S/LGBTQ+ health scholarship and practice expertise.





ADDITIONAL GRANTS

SPOR SUPPLEMENT: HEALTH ADVISORS

\$150k in additional funding

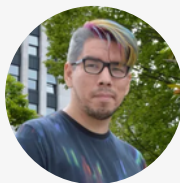
Through the 1-year SPOR supplement funding used in 2022/23, the 2S/LGBTQ+ Health Hub engaged 6 community-based Health Advisors (knowledge users with lived experience) in our first trainee cohort. Health Advisors experienced our traineeship program first-hand, offered feedback, and contributed to the development of subsequent programming.



ANNA BALAGTAS
Pocket Doula



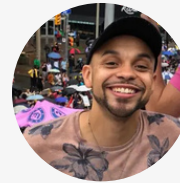
BERTO UDAY NORBERT
UManitoba & CBRC



WILLIAM FLETT
CBRC



SRUTIKA SABU
Alliance for South Asian
AIDS Prevention



MATT ASHCROFT
UofT & CBRC



TY SILVER
CBRC

CAFÉ SCIENTIFIQUE: 2S/LGBTQ+ COMMUNITIES IN HEALTH RESEARCH

\$8k in additional funding

Through a 1-time grant operated in 2025, members of the 2S/LGBTQ+ Health Hub, along with external advisory council members, produced a two part online workshop series titled: 2S/LGBTQ+ Communities in Health Research: A community dialogue about power, pitfalls, and possibilities. Planned outcomes include production of knowledge translation pieces regarding best practices when participating in community based health research.

COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

- Simon Ouellet, UdeM*
- Sarah Mangle, UdeM*
- Hannah Crouse, Carleton*
- William Flett, CBRC*
- Mallory Solomon, Lakehead U*
- lonnes leloup, EMBERS*
- Idin Fakhrjahani, Uoft*
- Claudio Roman
- Suehyun Cho
- Dwayne Shaw

*Health Hub Trainee Alumni



PLANNING AND DISSEMINATION GRANT

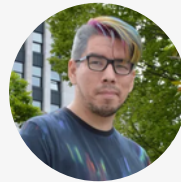
\$25k in additional funding

This grant supported our 3rd cohort's second in-person event: Rendezvous 2025 in Toronto, Ontario. The Summit was grounded in Indigenous ways of knowing. It opened with a welcome from a Two-Spirit Elder, and included two plenary sessions led by alumni of the Two-Spirit/Indigiqueer Health Hub.

A Learning Summit occurred at the Rendezvous, featuring 19 peer-led sessions. The funds from this grant supported the administration of knowledge mobilization workshops prior to the Summit, where participants could join 10 drop-in workshops to build skills in presenting, facilitating, and sharing knowledge. The funding also allowed for past trainees to take part as Peer Mentors, who chose their own topics and formats, presenting in creative and accessible ways beyond traditional academic language.

After the event, 100% of evaluation survey respondents said they were satisfied or very satisfied, and all agreed they could take part in ways that felt comfortable for them.

PEER MENTORS



WILLIAM FLETT
CBRC



MALLORY SOLOMON
LakeheadU &
Ontario Native
Women's Association

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH ACTIVITY

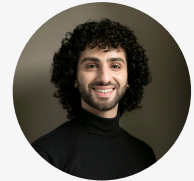
Beyond our core grant obligations, the reach and reputation of the 2S/LGBTQ+ Health Hub has catalyzed additional research activity that speaks to the strength of our community partnerships and the trust the Hub has built as a platform for rigorous, community-grounded scholarship. The two projects highlighted below were secured independently of our CIHR funding, and reflect the ways in which the Hub's network, values, and visibility have created conditions for new and meaningful work to take root. It is this type of work that both extends our impact and deepens our connections to the communities we serve.



ADDRESSING STIGMA ACROSS THE LIFE COURSE: A CRITICAL EXPLORATION OF INTERVENTIONS AND PROGRAMS FOR QUEER PEOPLES IN CANADA

Banting Postdoctoral Fellowship

This fellowship was awarded to Jad Sinno, an alumni of the Health Hub trainee program, to review and further develop interventions and public health initiatives aimed at reducing queer stigma in Canada. By exploring the successes and gaps of stigma interventions, Jad's research will provide valuable insights to improve healthcare services for queer communities and promote social justice. Ultimately, this research is a necessary step for promoting the health and wellbeing of queer individuals in Canada. The findings of this research will be integrated into training programs to better equip future practitioners to address queer stigma effectively. A key outcome of this research project is the development of an education curriculum to be made available through 2S/LGBTQ+ Health Hub.



JAD SINNO
DLSPH, UofT

ADVANCING 2-SPIRITED HEALTH EQUITY: LEARNING THROUGH THE NARRATIVES OF 2-SPIRITED PEOPLE IMPACTED BY HIV

Connaught Community Partnership Research Program

The Advancing 2-Spirited Health Equity project is a community-based, Indigenous-led research project developed by 2-Spirited People of the 1st Nations, and championed by the 2S/LGBTQ+ Health Hub. This community partner collaboration has received \$100k in funding from the Connaught Community Partnership Research Program at University of Toronto.



The project focuses on the physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, and cultural wellbeing of Two-Spirit, Indigiqueer, and trans Indigenous people living with HIV, especially those living outside urban centres in Ontario. Grounded in Indigenous methodologies, relational accountability, and storytelling as research, the project will culminate in a documentary film shared through community feasts, sharing circles, and the Hub. It pursues three objectives: advancing qualitative research and knowledge mobilization through film; documenting the methodological process to build evidence for working across knowledge traditions; and building relationships to catalyze future grant applications that advance community health priorities. By centring 2-Spirited voices and increasing capacity among researchers, trainees, healthcare providers, and policy makers, this project lays the groundwork for more equitable, culturally grounded care for Indigenous communities across Ontario and beyond.



FUTURE DIRECTION OF THE 2S/LGBTQ+ HEALTH HUB

As the 2S/LGBTQ+ Health Hub moves forward with its current cohort of trainees, the foundations for sustained, community-rooted impact are already taking shape. The mentorship connections being forged, the skills being built, and the networks being established today will ripple outward through the field for years to come. With two additional cohorts of trainees on the horizon, the Hub's capacity to cultivate the next generation of 2S/LGBTQ+ health researchers and practitioners will only deepen, carrying forward a vision of health and wellbeing that is as diverse and resilient as the communities it serves.

Current Cohort

The 2025/26 cohort comprises 20 trainees drawn from universities and community organizations across at least five provinces, from the Atlantic to the West Coast. Their work collectively spans mental health, health equity, gender-affirming care, advocacy, sexual health, reproductive justice, and policy. There are particularly strong threads around trans and gender diverse health, Indigenous and Two-Spirit communities, and the needs of racialized, immigrant, and newcomer populations. Several trainees bring expertise in queer family-building, fertility, and perinatal care, extending the Hub's reach into areas of growing community need. Methodologically, the cohort reflects a deep commitment to community-based, qualitative, and decolonial approaches, alongside critical theory and arts-based methods. Roughly a third are embedded in community organizations rather than academic institutions, underscoring the Hub's commitment to training leaders who are already working directly alongside the communities they serve.

Looking Ahead

To sustain and expand on the momentum generated in the first half of our platform operations, the Hub is pursuing strategic opportunities to deepen community connection and amplify the reach of its trainees' work.

A key upcoming initiative is a Knowledge Dissemination Symposium that will bring together the full ecosystem of the Hub in one space, creating the conditions for the kind of intergenerational, community-rooted knowledge exchange that sits at the heart of the Hub's mission.





UPCOMING GRANT:

SUPPORTING 2S/LGBTQ+ HEALTH COMMUNITY-BASED RESEARCH AND INTERGENERATIONAL MENTORSHIP: A KNOWLEDGE DISSEMINATION SYMPOSIUM

JAD SINNO & DANIEL GRACE

\$50k in additional funding

The proposed Knowledge Dissemination Symposium builds on the Hub's core commitment to training and capacity-building by bringing 2S/LGBTQ+ community members, patient partners, mentors, and trainees together in person. The Symposium centres 2S/LGBTQ+ people (particularly those who navigate intersecting forms of systemic oppression in healthcare) not only as consumers of knowledge, but as its creators and mobilizers. Through co-led dissemination activities, participants will shape how research on mental health, gender-affirming care, healthcare access, and more reaches the communities that need it most. The Symposium will also foster the kind of intergenerational mentorship the Hub was built around: bidirectional, community-rooted exchanges between seasoned experts and emerging researchers that bridge knowledge gaps and support professional growth. The outputs: accessible knowledge resources, strengthened networks, and community-informed recommendations, will carry forward into policy, clinical practice, and community supports long after the event itself.

Closing

The 2S/LGBTQ+ Health Hub was built on the premise that 2S/LGBTQ+ communities deserve health research that reflects their lived realities, is informed by their expertise, and is led by people with deep ties to these communities. Mid-way through our grant, the platform has made meaningful progress toward that goal.

Across trainees, mentors, curriculum, events, and partnerships, what this report documents is both a record of accomplishment and a foundation for what comes next. The Hub has developed into a national training ecosystem with demonstrated reach, growing alumni engagement, and a clear trajectory toward sustainability. The work ahead, including two additional trainee cohorts, a Knowledge Dissemination Symposium, and the continued development of open learning resources, will build on that foundation in concrete and lasting ways.



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