

A Message from the Director

The Canadian Health Adaptations, Innovation & Mobilization (CHAIM) Centre has just passed its 5th anniversary. Over this time, we have evolved in terms of our activities, priorities, and engagement of students, faculty, and health workers. Significant to this anniversary was that we took the time to reflect on what we have accomplished to date, and evaluate collectively where we would like to go.

To do this, this past summer we conducted interviews to hear the ideas of students, researchers, community members, advisory committee members, and the directors of other research centres at Carleton. A big thank you to all of you that gave us your time and thoughts! Among many great suggestions, this newsletter was a result of the expressed interest to know more about what the CHAIM Centre is doing on an ongoing basis. We will also be posting a summary report of this review on our newly refreshed website, after it has been received and discussed by the Advisory Committee in November. However, you'll be seeing and hearing more from us in the coming months as we begin to implement other excellent ideas for how the CHAIM Centre can support and promote health research that has an impact on the wellness of Canadians.

This past year has been a tumultuous time for the health of Canadians, from the impacts of COVID-19 to the heightened awareness of environmental and social justice issues, which were particularly pronounced as a result of the Black Lives Matter movement. The CHAIM Centre has sought to play a role in relation to these issues. We have been sharing information extensively about COVID-19 through social media (follow us on twitter - [@CHAIM_Centre](#)). We have also actively engaged numerous students to work on creating tools that could be incorporated into curriculum to highlight the relevance of ethno-racial issues in health research. We're pleased to present you with more information about all of these issues through our stories in this newsletter, and will continue to keep you informed through our website and on twitter.

Stay safe and healthy!

Kim Matheson, Director



Statement on Black Lives Matter and Announcement of Ethnoracial Analysis Project

Earlier this year, the CHAIM Centre [released a statement](#) affirming our support for the Black Lives Matter movement and providing links to resources for educating ourselves and others about the persistence of structural racism in all areas of society, including health care. Since then, social media initiatives like [#BlackInTheIvory](#), [#BlackInNeuro](#) and [#NeuroRacism](#)



have spotlighted the issue of racism in science and academia. To help support these important conversations here at Carleton, the CHAIM Centre collaborated with faculty in the Department of Neuroscience on an Ethnoracial Analysis (ERA) project. Through this initiative, and with funding support from the [Discovery Centre](#), students were paired with faculty members to conduct targeted literature reviews assessing how racial considerations were included (or excluded) in a given

area of research. These analyses will be used to facilitate conversations about ethnoracial analysis in various Neuroscience courses in the fall semester. The CHAIM Centre has also produced [a series of educational videos](#) exploring questions of why race matters to science, what it represents, and how ethnoracial analyses can be ethically incorporated into research. For more details on the ERA project, contact the CHAIM Director, [Kim Matheson](#).

Recent Activities

In reaching our 5-year anniversary as a Carleton University Research Centre, the CHAIM Centre took the opportunity to reflect on what we've accomplished so far as well as to consider new opportunities to meet our objectives going forward. In June and July of 2020, 36 internal and external stakeholders comprising students, faculty, advisory committee members, community members, and other research centre directors were interviewed to gather feedback on the CHAIM Centre's structure, activities, and plans for the future. **We want to extend a huge thank you to those who took the time to share their insights and opinions with us this summer!** After careful consideration of everyone's responses, a number of new initiatives are now underway:

- The CHAIM Centre will be coordinating the establishment of working groups centred around five key research areas:
 - One Health
 - Environmental and Occupational Health
 - Social and Cultural Determinants
 - Mental Health
 - Probing Questions and Issues

More details on these working groups will be shared in the coming months. However, if one of them interests you to become involved with, please get in touch with [Kim Matheson](#).

- We are investing in our communications plan to ensure that everyone stays up to date with happenings at CHAIM. This includes bringing on interns from the School of Journalism & Communications, a website re-design (to be launched shortly), renewed focus on our social media channels, the introduction of this newsletter (which will be released twice annually in September and March), and strategizing on how to offer other resources that enable effective knowledge dissemination and translation.
- We are working to put together a Speaker's Bureau of researchers and community members with expertise on a variety of health topics. See the Upcoming Events and Opportunities section for more details.
- We are exploring potential strategies for the CHAIM Centre to support and engage more researchers, and to be more financially sustainable.

Spotlight

In the fall of 2019, six teams of Carleton students from a variety of disciplines took part in the CHAIM Centre's third annual [One HEALth \(Human, Environment, and Animal Links to Health\) Challenge](#). The topic of the 2019 Challenge was to design an urban space that promoted the health benefits of companion pets. The winning team was selected by a panel of expert judges. Members of the 2019 winning team were interviewed on CBC's All in a Day, and were each awarded a paid research internship (in partnership with the



Discovery Centre's [I-CUREUS program](#)) with a faculty member of their choice. Read on to learn about some of their experiences:

"The goal of the Working Upstream to Prevent Youth Homelessness Research Project is to transform schools into sites of youth homelessness prevention. This is done by mapping existing political practices and policies, as well as consulting with a team of formerly homeless youth in order to build a better educational response to youth homelessness in Canada. Since starting my internship, I have gained insight into the inner dynamics and workings of research projects, and have expanded my knowledge on the issue of youth homelessness in Canada. I am currently in the midst of writing my first policy brief, which encourages taking an intersectional approach to Canadian youth homelessness. In the months to come, I hope to write an additional policy brief regarding the role of companion animals in an educational response to youth homelessness in Canada. This idea was inspired by the research I did for the 2019 One Health Student Challenge."

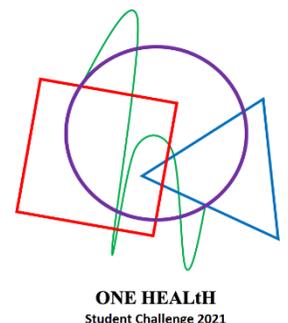
—**Mary Catharine Dorscht, 3rd year student in Public Affairs and Policy Management; working with Dr. Jacqueline Kennelly (Department of Sociology and Anthropology)**

"Taking part in the One Health Challenge gave us the chance to consider different perspectives and contexts of scientific evidence, policies, and social and environmental considerations that go along with an issue facing marginalized populations. My group and I were very passionate about the topic and after winning the Challenge, I was able to continue similar work through the Ethnoracial Analysis Project (led by Dr. Kim Matheson and Dr. Paul Villeneuve). The project's goal was to investigate the inclusion and exclusion of participants from different racial backgrounds in the current neuroscience literature and evaluate the implications of these considerations. My focus was heart disease in disadvantaged populations and after analyzing the research, I summarized the findings in a report for my instructor to integrate into their curriculum for the fall semester. I was also involved in developing alternative resources (i.e. informative videos) to be provided to students to help engage with the current issues concerning race in research. I am very grateful for the opportunity to contribute to a project that was inspired by the current social climate and demands for change. I was able to combine my interests and my background in neuroscience, as well as work in collaboration with other students and instructors along the way."

—**Melissa Carvalho, 4th year student in Neuroscience and Mental Health; working with Dr. Kim Matheson (Department of Neuroscience)**

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

- The CHAIM Centre is creating a **Speaker's Bureau** of researchers and community members with expertise on a variety of health-related topics. The goal of the Speaker's Bureau is to leverage the expertise of academic and community-based health researchers who are willing to present community talks or keynote addresses, participate in workshops or panel discussions, or speak to students. Not only do such talks increase the mobilization of knowledge to the health sector, but it provides a basis for learning about each other and promoting partnerships and collaborations. If you are interested in being included on the CHAIM Centre Speaker's Bureau, please email us at chaimcentre@carleton.ca or click [here](#) to provide us with the basic information needed.
- At the encouragement of students, we have decided to proceed with this year's **One HEALTH Student Challenge**. However, because of the COVID-19 restrictions, the Challenge will be fully online and has been moved to the Winter 2021 term. The pandemic has exposed issues of neglect, social isolation, and loneliness among older adults in Canadian society, and so the 2021 Challenge will invite teams to design an intervention that brings together young and older adults in a manner that is mutually beneficial and sustainable. The full posting of the 2021 One HEALTH Student Challenge will be on our website shortly.



COVID-19 Knowledge Mobilization

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a huge effort to mobilize resources and increase collaboration across the research and healthcare sectors in Canada. The CHAIM Centre has compiled some key links and resources that are listed below, as well as on our website:

- [Research Canada](#) maintains a listing of reliable resources on health research and government efforts in response to COVID-19
- [CanCOVID](#) is a network of researchers and healthcare stakeholders Mandated by Canada's Chief Science Officer whose goal is to facilitate communication and collaboration across sectors and communities in response to COVID-19
- [The COVID-19 Canada Open Data Working Group](#) maintains a database of updated epidemiological data derived from publically available information on COVID-19 cases in Canada
- [COVID-19 Resources Canada](#) is a collaborative grassroots hub intended to bring together resources, build capacity, and aid in the coordination of COVID-related research activities. They also oversee a [volunteer sign-up program](#) where students, medical professionals, and researchers with different skillsets can offer to assist in the fight against COVID-19

Contact Us

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Don't forget to follow us on twitter! [@CHAIM_Centre](#)