

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

# THE CANADIAN INSTITUTE FOR MILITARY AND VETERAN HEALTH RESEARCH

SERVING THOSE WHO SERVE US.



**CIMVHR**  
Canadian Institute for Military  
and Veteran Health Research

**ICRSMV**  
L'Institut canadien de recherche sur  
la santé des militaires et des vétérans

Pour la version française, prière de consulter la page web suivante: [www.cimvhr.ca/fr](http://www.cimvhr.ca/fr)

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**CIMVHR** exists to enhance the lives of Canadian military personnel, Veterans and their families by harnessing the national capacity for research.

With over **60,000** serving members in the Canadian Armed Forces, **25,000** serving members in the Primary Reserve Forces, and over **700,000** Veterans, we have a significant population with unique risks, exposures and experiences. These Canadians require unique standards of health protection, prevention and care.

For **6 Years** we have worked to engage existing academic research resources, facilitate new research, increase research capacity and foster knowledge translation.

At its core, the Institute is built on a strong foundation of committed partnerships with

academia, clinicians, military, Veterans, government, industry and groups of caring Canadians. On that base, CIMVHR has built a network of academic researchers from across Canada, and become the hub for **40 Canadian Universities** and **4 Global Affiliates** who have agreed to join forces in addressing the health research requirements of the Canadian military, Veterans and their families.

Since 2010, CIMVHR has awarded **33** research contracts at **26** institutions and held **6** annual FORUMs showcasing over **795** research projects to **3000** stakeholders, influencing countless policy, practice and research decisions.

All of this, for **one reason** – improving the lives of our troops, Veterans and their families.

**CIMVHR: Serving those who serve us.**

# MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTORS

The Canadian Institute for Military and Veteran Health Research (CIMVHR) stood up in late 2010 in order to build a pan-Canadian research enterprise dedicated to the health needs of Canadian military personnel, Veterans and their families. We hoped this research would serve to inform policy makers, researchers, clinicians, program developers and our key stakeholders in industry and the philanthropic world about the unique health needs of our national heroes. CIMVHR's vision is that the health and well-being of Canadian military personnel, Veterans and their families is maximized through world-class research resulting in evidence-informed policies, practices and programs.

With our 2015 Annual Report, you will see that not only are we fulfilling our mission to enhance the lives of Canadian military personnel, Veterans and their families by harnessing the national capacity for research, but we are also solidly on the road towards our vision.

We are pleased to report on our successes in publishing, such as the launch of our on-line, open-access, peer-reviewed, academic journal, the *Journal of Military, Veteran and Family Health*. New sources of research funding with government and industry have been developed, and we have helped many of you secure successful tri-council grants. CIMVHR is successfully engaging, educating, and supporting the next generation of researchers. Our Knowledge Translation strategies have been enhanced, we've held another successful Forum, met with numerous health professional associations and provincial government stakeholders, and of course, continued our engagement events at partner universities. We are continuing to grow and build our capacity and developing new, meaningful partnerships with academia, government, industry and philanthropy.

CIMVHR's Annual Report for 2015 will highlight the key events that have taken place over the last year.

We are grateful to all of our stakeholders who have worked as one amazing team towards our shared goal of enhancing the lives of Canada's military personnel, Veterans and their families. Thank-you.

## **Dr. Alice B. Aiken**

*Scientific Director, CIMVHR*  
**Associate Professor and Associate  
Director, School of Rehabilitation  
Therapy, Queen's University**

## **Dr. Stéphanie Bélanger**

*Associate Scientific Director, CIMVHR*  
**Associate Professor, Royal Military  
College of Canada**



# RESEARCH

CIMVHR develops and fosters partnerships and processes to ensure the best possible understanding of the current Canadian research landscape as it pertains to military, Veteran and family health research. With this insight, CIMVHR then engages national and international academics to focus their talents on the health needs of our national heroes.



Dr. Steven Fischer

Dr. Steven Fischer's connection with CIMVHR began in 2014 when he presented his research entitled "Near Term Solution to Address Aircrew Neck Pain" at the Institute's annual research Forum in Toronto, Ontario.

His research caught the attention of the Surgeon General and resulted in Dr. Fischer being awarded the Major Sir Frederick Banting Award for Military Health Research. The Banting Award is presented annually to the Canadian whose research paper the Surgeon General determines to be of the greatest overall value to military health. The winner is invited to deliver a Keynote address at the next Forum. Dr. Fischer presented his research to a plenary of over 550 delegates from academia, healthcare, military, industry and government in Quebec City during Forum 2015.

"OUR RESEARCH TEAM HAS UNIQUE EXPERTISE IN OCCUPATIONAL BIOMECHANICS AND ERGONOMICS. WITH THE NETWORKING, CONNECTIONS, AND SUPPORT OF CIMVHR WE WERE ABLE TO FOCUS OUR CAPABILITIES AND DEVELOP INNOVATIVE NEAR-TERM SOLUTIONS THAT CAN BE APPLIED TO ADDRESS AIRCREW NECK TROUBLE. CIMVHR PROVIDED THE CRITICAL LINK, CONNECTING OUR TEAM WITH DRDC AND RCAF GRIFFON AIRCREW ALLOWING US TO COLLABORATE AND DEVELOP ROBUST SOLUTIONS."

**DR. STEVEN FISCHER**  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF KINESIOLOGY  
UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

# FUNDING RESEARCH

In 2015, CIMVHR began to operationalize its second contract of \$11.25 million over 5 years from the Federal government based on lessons learned through the “Pilot Contract. These directed research requests are operationalized through Public Works and Government Services Canada to serve the needs of the Canadian Forces Health Services Group, Veterans Affairs Canada and Defence Research and Development Canada.

There are currently 26 “Tasks” under the new contract in various stages of completion. Requests to perform new research projects are received regularly. Projects range from 3 months to 4 years in duration and the funding awards range from \$12,000 to \$1,010,000.

As a result of the Pilot Contract (2012-2015), \$5 million was awarded to over 35 teams, to conduct research in areas such as: Mental Health & PTSD, Veteran Health & Transition, TBI/Blast Injuries, Personnel Recruitment & Training, Training of Civilian Health Professionals, Specific Health Issues (neck pain, lower back pain), Family Health & Well-being, Healthcare Administration & Policy, and New Diagnostic and Rehabilitation Technologies.

More specifically, in 2015, twelve research projects were completed by researchers from across Canada.

Principal Investigator	Institution	Project Title
<b>Dr. Alain Brunet</b>	McGill University	Efficacy of Road to Mental Readiness (R2MR) Program in Recruits
<b>Dr. Jack Callaghan</b>	University of Waterloo	Analysis of Electromyography (EMG) and Motion Capture (MOCAP) Data for Aircrew Neck Strain
<b>Dr. Ibolja Cernak</b>	University of Alberta	Effect of Whole Body Exposure to Primary Blast in Mice
<b>Dr. James Ellis</b>	University of Toronto	Investigating Cellular Reprogramming as a Tool for Identifying Neural Based Assays for PTSD
<b>Dr. Michael Esser</b>	University of Calgary	Comparative Effects of Concussion Versus Blast-Induced Traumatic Brain Injury
<b>Dr. Steven Fischer</b>	Queen`s University	Elastomer-Based Helmet System Prototype to Address Aircrew Neck Strain
<b>Dr. Jacqueline Hebert</b>	University of Alberta	Effectiveness of CAREN Treatment for Chronic Non-Specific Low Back Pain
<b>Dr. Giuseppe Iaria</b>	University of Calgary	Measuring Spatial Abilities Using Behavioural and Neuroimaging Approaches
<b>Dr. Ruth Lanius</b>	University of Western Ontario	Default Connectivity as a Predictor of PTSD Symptomatology and Bio-Behavioural Correlates of Autobiographical Memory in Military PTSD Requirement
<b>Dr. Deborah Norris &amp; Dr. Heidi Cramm</b>	Mount St. Vincent University/ Queen’s University	How Operational Stress Injuries (OSIs) affect the Mental Health of Spouses and Children of Canadian Veterans
<b>Dr. Margot Taylor</b>	University of Toronto	MEG Study Protocol
<b>Dr. Claude Vincent</b>	Laval University	Development of a Psychiatric Service Dog Pilot Study



Michael A. Verlezza

# SUPPORTING RESEARCH FUNDING

In 2015, CIMVHR also helped researchers obtain over \$10 million in funding from national funding agencies. This includes a CIHR Foundation Grant; two CIHR Project Grants; a CHRP (Collaborative Health Research Projects) Grant, a joint initiative of CIHR and NSERC; a SSHRC grant; and a significant US Department of Defence research award for a Canadian team.

Health Canada has committed \$5M over 5 years to help mobilize and promote the uptake of research to better address the health and wellness of Canadian Forces personnel, Veterans, and their families. Matching Health Canada’s funding to CIMVHR, The True Patriot Love Foundation has committed \$5M over 10 years. Available to CIMVHR research partners, TPL funds will support direct research and targeted programming designed to improve the mental health and well-being of this important and significant population.

Through this year’s True Patriot Love research funding, CIMVHR supported the ongoing work of Dr. Jacqueline Hebert at the University of Alberta who works in discovering the latest technology for amputees using the Computer Assisted Rehabilitation Environment (CAREN) system. We were also able to support the innovative work of Alyson Mahar, an epidemiologist at Queen’s University, who is working with Ontario health administrative data to discover the unique health needs of Veterans and military families. And we were able to offer funding to our Fulbright Scholar, Mike Verlezza to ensure his research time at CIMVHR was successful.

**“CANADA’S SAFETY NET IS BROADER. THEY HAVE PROGRAMS IN PLACE BEFORE YOU TAKE THE UNIFORM OFF TO SET YOU UP FOR SUCCESS.”**

## MIKE VERLEZZA

Michael A. Verlezza was CIMVHR’s Fulbright scholar in residence from September 2014 until May 2015. Since retiring as an infantryman of the United States Army, Michael has sought ways to continue supporting the men and women of the military. While with CIMVHR his research focused on what he knew deep in his bones, US VA care. Among his findings: more than its overburdened US counterpart, Canada’s Veteran care system makes a greater effort to ensure there are enough clinicians more widely available to provide mental health treatment.

# REWARDING EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH



BGen H.C. Mackay, Dr. Deniz Fikretoglu and Ms. Bronwen Evans



Ms. Nora Spinks, Dr. Alla Skomorovsky and Col (Retd) Russell Mann

## Banting Award

The Major Sir Frederick Banting MC, RCAMC Award for Military Health Research is awarded annually at the Military and Veteran Health Research Forum and sponsored by the True Patriot Love Foundation. The award is adjudicated by the Surgeon General of the Canadian Forces and honours Major Sir Frederick Banting, the world-renowned physician and Nobel Prize-winning researcher who discovered insulin. The award recognizes high quality Canadian research that addresses military health issues.

**2015 Winner:** Dr. Deniz Fikretoglu of DRDC for her paper *Perceived Need for Mental Health Care in Canadian Military and Civilian Populations: Implications for Workplace Mental Health*. This study contributes to an important discussion about the complexity of pathways to care and points to the need for comprehensive approaches to overcoming barriers to care.

## Colonel Russell Mann, Military Family Health Research Award

As part of the Military and Veteran Families in Canada Initiative this award was presented at Forum 2015 to recognize high-quality Canadian research that increases our understanding of military and Veteran family health. The award is named after Colonel Russell Mann (Ret'd), a recognized national leader and a key supporter of the Military and Veteran Families in Canada Initiative.

**2015 Winner:** Dr. Alla Skomorovsky for her presentation *Work-Family Conflict and Well-being among Single Parents in CAF: The Role of Coping*. Dr. Skomorovsky works at DND and is researching work-family conflict and well-being among CAF parents, as well as the intersection of stress coping strategies, personality and psychological well-being among CAF members.

## Via Rail Student Research Award

Awarded to the best student researcher presentation at Forum 2015.

**2015 Winner:** Ms. Linna Tam-Seto, Queen's University for her presentation *An Environmental Scan of Programs and Services for Families of Veterans with Operational Stress Injuries*

## CIMVHR Editors' Choice Award

Awarded to the best scientific poster at Forum 2015

**2015 Winners:** Ms. Andrea Stelnicki & Dr. Kelly Schwartz from the University of Calgary for their poster *How Children Respond to OSI: Social, Emotional, and Behavioural Outcomes in Children of Military Parents*

## Homewood Mental Health Treatment Award

An award for the best presentation focusing on improving or innovating clinical mental health practice.

**2015 Winner:** Dr. Craig Bryan, The National Center for Veterans Studies and the University of Utah for his presentation *Brief Cognitive Behavioural Therapy to Prevent Suicide Attempts in the Military*

# BUILDING THE NEXT GENERATION OF RESEARCHERS

In 2013, **Wounded Warriors Canada** made a ten-year commitment to training a future generation of researchers by funding an annual \$36,000 for a PhD scholarship in Military and Veterans Mental Health. Students are funded for \$18,000 each year for two years and are supervised by CIMVHR researchers working on a topic in one of CIMVHR's priority research areas that is of significant potential importance to improving the physical or mental health or wellbeing of military or Veteran populations or their families.

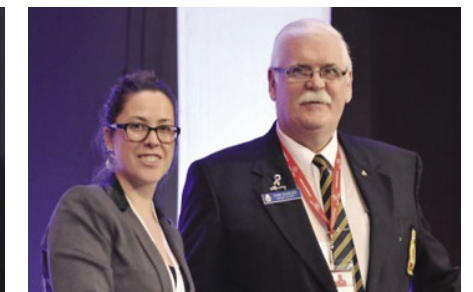
In November 2015, Wounded Warriors Canada presented Helena Hawryluk with a doctoral scholarship to further her research on adolescents living on a Canadian Armed Forces Base who are experiencing reintegration to long-term parental separation post Afghanistan. This study aims to determine the needs of Canadian adolescents living in military families to assist the helping professional community in developing appropriate supports and interventions



Mr. Eloge Butera, Mr. Scott Maxwell, Padre Phil Ralph, Ms. Helena Hawryluk, Dr. Duncan Shields and LCol (Retd) Chris Linford



Padre Phil Ralph, Ms. Helena Hawryluk and Dr. Duncan Shields



Ms. Ashleigh Forsyth and Mr. Tom Eagles

## Royal Canadian Legion Masters Scholarship

The Royal Canadian Legion donated \$30,000 and entrusted CIMVHR to administer a Masters Scholarship opportunity in military and Veteran health research. The scholarship will address the unique issues facing Veterans and their families through thorough and systematic research of the needs over the life course of those who have served our nation.

At Forum 2015, The Royal Canadian Legion presented Ashleigh Forsyth with a Masters Scholarship to support her research that addresses important issues in the mental health and well-being of military Veterans.

# EDUCATION

A cornerstone of CIMVHR is educating the next generation of researchers in military, Veteran and family health. CIMVHR administers scholarship opportunities, provides access to information about research funding opportunities and offers a first-of-its-kind graduate program.

For Alyson Mahar and Linna Tam-Seto, PhD Candidates focusing on military and Veteran health research, engagement with CIMVHR extends beyond research. These young scholars worked with Dr. Heidi Cramm, CIMVHR's head of knowledge translation, to focus specifically on student engagement. At Forum 2015 Alyson and Linna created opportunities for students to network and have an opportunity to augment their education experiences through their connection with CIMVHR.



Linna Tam-Seto and Alyson Mahar

Alyson Mahar is a PhD candidate in the Department of Public Health Sciences at Queen's University and is one of the first student researchers to have her study published in JMVFH. The preliminary results from her initiative to study the health and health care of Canadian Forces Veterans in Ontario appear in the first issue of the journal.

She was recently awarded the Michael Smith Visiting Research Scholarship from CIHR to work with Dr. Nicola Fear & Sir Simon Wessely at the King's Centre for Military Health Research, King's College London, United Kingdom.

Linna Tam-Seto, PhD candidate in the School of Rehabilitation Science at Queen's University worked with a team from Queen's University and Mount Saint Vincent University that examined the impact of Operational Stress Injuries on the mental health and well-being of military and Veteran families. At Forum 2015, she was awarded the VIA Rail Canada Student Research Award for her presentation on *An Environmental Scan of Programs and Services for Families of Veterans with Operational Stress Injuries*.

"CIMVHR HAS MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR ME TO CONNECT WITH REAL KNOWLEDGE USERS, AND TO SEE HOW THE RESULTS OF MY RESEARCH ARE RELEVANT AND IMPORTANT TO IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF VETERAN AND MILITARY FAMILIES."

**ALYSON MAHAR**

"I VALUE THE OPPORTUNITIES THAT CIMVHR PROVIDES TO EMERGING RESEARCHERS. AT FORUM 2015 I WAS GIVEN THE CHANCE TO PRESENT MY RESEARCH TO NEARLY 600 PEOPLE AND TO NETWORK WITH SENIOR RESEARCHERS"

**LINNA TAM-SETO**





### **CIMVHR Graduate Level Courses**

In the fall of 2012, CIMVHR launched its first graduate level course, in the form of a webinar, at the Royal Military College of Canada and at Queen's University. Offered annually, the webinar examines the health-related issues associated with active military personnel, Veterans and their families. The course is part of an ongoing program to capitalize on the knowledge of accomplished researchers and will develop a new generation of graduate students who will further research in the field of military, Veteran and family health. In 2015 the course was offered to 30 graduate students from across Canada.

A special feature of the webinar is the annual public lecture. In 2015, Dr. Heidi Cramm delivered a presentation on *Knowledge Translation in Military, Veteran, and Family Health Research*, which was widely viewed by many of our stakeholders. Each special lecture is available for download on the CIMVHR website.

**For information on scholarships and courses go to [www.cimvhr.ca](http://www.cimvhr.ca)**

"I CANNOT EMPHASIZE ENOUGH HOW MUCH THIS COURSE HAS HELPED IMPROVE MY FRONT LINE SERVICE DELIVERY THROUGH MY UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION OF MILITARY CULTURE OF OUR CLIENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES AS WELL AS THE UNIQUE HEALTH ISSUES THEY FACE".

**MAGGIE MARTIN**

FIELD NURSING SERVICES OFFICER (FNSO) FOR VETERANS AFFAIRS  
CANADA (VAC)

# KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION

Effective knowledge translation is key to the success of CIMVHR and every effort is made to ensure professional, concise, timely and relevant communications activities that engage and inform all stakeholders about the value and importance of military and Veteran health research. To that end, in February 2015 CIMVHR launched the *Journal of Military, Veteran and Family Health (JMVFH)* an open-access, online, fully peer-reviewed, scholarly journal that publishes world class research through University of Toronto Press. JMVFH provides a forum for a uniquely Canadian perspective on contemporary issues affecting military-Veteran populations and their families. The second issue, published in November 2015, received, like the first one, over 30,000 views on our website, making JMVFH one of the most popular journals of its kind.

For researchers and clinicians who publish in JMVFH, the journal ensures the highest standards of rigor, and allows for cross-disciplinary themes and research questions. It also allows for the sharing of preliminary results from new therapies, and helps to generate the next great breakthroughs.

For policy makers, clinicians, researchers and program developers who read JMVFH, the journal allows the most current evidence to inform new policies, treatments and programs. The inter-disciplinary nature of the journal also allows for a broad perspective of cutting-edge research to inform timely, relevant work.



Dr. Mark Zamorski

Dr. Mark Zamorski, Winner of the 2013 Major Sir Frederick Banting MC, RCAMC Award for Military Health Research, was a contributor to the first edition of the *Journal of Military, Veteran and Family Health*. His article *Are Military Personnel with a past history of mental health care more vulnerable to the negative psychological effects of combat* (Mark A. Zamorski, Kimberley Watkins and Corneliu Rusu, Volume: 1, Issue: 1, pp. 14-25) was downloaded a record 187 times in the first week of publication.

“JMVFH GIVES RESEARCHERS AN ESSENTIAL PLATFORM FOR PUBLISHING OUR WORK ON THE UNIQUE ASPECTS OF MILITARY, VETERAN, AND FAMILY HEALTH IN CANADA. I AM PROUD TO HAVE BEEN AN AUTHOR OR CO-AUTHOR ON THREE PUBLICATIONS IN JMVFH, AND I WILL BE CONTRIBUTING MANY MORE IN THE FUTURE.”

**DR. MARK A ZAMORSKI**  
SENIOR MEDICAL EPIDEMIOLOGIST, DIRECTORATE OF  
MENTAL HEALTH, CANADIAN FORCES HEALTH SERVICES  
GROUP





## FORUM 2015

For 6 years, CIMVHR has been hosting this gathering and each year it grows to include more research, a larger delegation and better opportunities to network, connect, educate and learn. CIMVHR co-hosted Forum 2015 with the University of Laval, in Quebec City, and were honoured to have the expertise of Dr. Brad McFadyen and Dr. Luc Hebert on the planning team.

With an unprecedented number of abstract submissions, Forum 2015 featured over 180 presentations that represented research being undertaken across the country and around the world.

An esteemed delegation of over 600 researchers, clinicians, industry, government, students, military and retired Veterans vividly demonstrated their commitment to our troops, present and past, and their families.

Year after year, Forum gets bigger and better – shining a light on ground-breaking and innovative research and communicating it to the stakeholders who will carry it through to clinical practice.

“... FORUM 2015 HAD SUCH A PROFOUND IMPACT ON HOW I THINK ABOUT MEDICINE - BRINGING PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD REALLY BROADENED MY UNDERSTANDING OF THE SCOPE OF THE HEALTH PROBLEMS IN THE CANADIAN ARMED FORCES AND VARIOUS ANGLES (AND COMMON GROUND) PEOPLE ARE EMPLOYING TO PROBLEM SOLVE... REALLY AN UNBELIEVABLE EXPERIENCE”

**FORUM 2015 PARTICIPANT**

### Forum 2016: November 21-23, Vancouver, BC

For information on how to Register, Present, Sponsor, go to [www.cimvhr.ca](http://www.cimvhr.ca)



Hon. J. Michel Doyon, Lieutenant Governor of Québec, delivers the Keynote address during the Gala Dinner.



LCol Suzanne Bailey, Royal Canadian Medical Service, presents her poster during the Scientific Poster Session & Networking Lunch.



Bonhomme Carnaval welcomes the delegation to Quebec City during the Networking Reception.



Dr. Nicola Fear, King's College London, delivers the Keynote address during the Tuesday Lunchtime Plenary.

# SPREADING THE WORD: 2015 AT A GLANCE

**LEGEND**

- Speaking
- Publication
- Event/Course
- Media

JMVFH launched

Assistive Technology -  
The Key to Successful  
Re/integration  
Dr. Rory Cooper,  
CIMVHR Public Lecture

Presentation to the  
The Health Action  
Lobby Group (HEAL)

Presentation: to  
Mount Saint Vincent  
University

"Canadian military  
honours the  
dedication of Dr. Alice  
Aiken" – Queen's  
Gazette

Blog: Dean on  
Campus

Presentation:  
Federation for the  
Humanities and  
Social Sciences

Presentation:  
University of  
Ontario Institute of  
Technology

Global  
News: "Feds  
to fund 2  
new studies  
on equine  
therapy for  
veterans"

Presentation: *Advancing the  
health of Canada's military and  
Veterans: How can clinicians,  
researchers and universities  
contribute?*, Dalhousie  
University

Blog: "Measuring research  
impact at CIMVHR" - The  
Federation for the Humanities  
and Social Science Queen's

Queen's Gazette: "Aiken joins  
College of New Scholars"

Webinar: *Issues in the Health  
of Military Personnel, Veterans  
and their families*

CIMVHR Public  
Lecture: *Knowledge  
Translation in Military,  
Veteran, and Family  
Health Research*  
Guest speaker: Dr.  
Heidi Cramm - Head  
of Knowledge  
Translation, CIMVHR

Queen's Gazette:  
"Honouring  
extraordinary  
contributions to  
veterans"

Otago Daily News:  
"Veterans research link  
focus"

JAN

FEB

MARCH

APRIL

MAY

JUNE

JULY

AUG

SEPT

OCT

NOV

DEC

CIMVHR co-hosts  
CDAI Roundtable  
on Mental Health –  
Caring for our Own,  
Ottawa

Esprit de Corps:  
"CIMVHR: SERVING  
THOSE WHO SERVE  
US"

Presentation:  
University of Regina  
*Building a pan-  
Canadian Research  
Network*

Appearance at the  
Standing Committee  
on Veteran's Affairs

Queen's Gazette:  
"Journal pushes  
boundaries of military  
health research"

Presentation: The  
International Society  
for Military Ethics,  
Belgrade, Serbia

Presentation:  
Memorial University's  
Military Families  
Research Group

CIMVHR hosted an open house in new  
location at Kingston Hall.

The Future Canadian Soldier  
and Enhancement of Human  
Performance: Research Meets  
Policy conference - jointly hosted  
by CIMVHR and the Centre for  
International and Defence Policy

Queen's Gazette: "CIMVHR relocates  
to Kingston Hall"

Presentations made at University  
of Otago Veterans themed  
symposium (Dunedin, NZ), and  
at the Australasian Services Care  
Network bi-national workshop  
(Christchurch, NZ)

Presentation: University of British  
Columbia

JMVFH – 2nd issue  
published

Forum 2015, Quebec  
City

Remembrance Day  
address, Queen's  
University

# PARTNERSHIPS



Dr. Luc J. Hébert and Dr. Bradford McFadyen

**Academic Partnerships:** Essential to the success of our mission to advance Military and Veteran Health Research is the ability to identify, engage with and learn from the many stakeholders committed to the health and well-being of Canada's military, Veterans and their families. CIMVHR develops partnerships with these organizations and individuals, and then connects them to each other using a hub-and-spoke model – an efficient model for networking and knowledge exchange.

In 2015, CIMVHR welcomed 5 new universities to the network, bringing the total to 40! They are Brock University, Trinity Western University, St. Mary's University, University of Windsor and Royal Roads University. Their involvement in the Canadian MVHR-Network includes, but is not limited to:

- Collaborative/Consortial Research
- Joint applications for external funding
- Sharing of knowledge and best practices
- Cooperative academic and cultural exchange programs
- Joint conferences, symposia and workshops
- Shared speakers and other public events

CIMVHR is also promoting collaborative initiatives involving institutions or consortia in other countries or regions to better understand the health consequences of military service on a global level. The CIMVHR model makes it easier for researchers from other countries to work together on specific research initiatives.

An overarching aim of these partnerships is to develop international standards for knowledge translation and research protocols.

By the close of 2015 CIMVHR signed agreements with 4 international universities – University of Otago, New Zealand; the Centre for Trauma and Stress Studies at University of Adelaide, Australia; University of Alabama, U.S.A; and with King's Centre for Military Health Research, King's College, London.

“CIMVHR AND ITS ANNUAL FORUM HAVE PROVIDED A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO INTERACT WITH THE CANADIAN FORCES, VETERANS AFFAIRS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS, AS WELL TO CONNECT WITH DIFFERENT RESEARCHERS WITHIN THE CIMVHR NETWORK. CO-HOSTING FORUM 2015 PROVIDED US WITH A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO SHOWCASE UNIVERSITÉ LAVAL AND ITS RESEARCHERS ON A NATIONAL STAGE.”

**DR. BRADFORD J. MCFADYEN**  
LAVAL UNIVERSITY RESEARCHER, CIRRIIS

**DR. LUC J. HÉBERT**  
LAVAL UNIVERSITY RESEARCHER, CIRRIIS



Scott Murray and Richard Birtwhistle

## INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS

In order to ensure that our research is supported and recognized in the broader defence and health communities, CIMVHR has made a concerted effort to partner with relevant and caring industry partners. 2015 saw the ongoing support of General Dynamics through a prominent display at their industry booth at the international CANSEC exhibit, as well as their ongoing support of research about PTSD at the Royal Ottawa Hospital.

CIMVHR also formed a new, meaningful alliance with Calian, who are supporting a \$105,000 grant to Dr. Richard Birtwhistle and the Canadian Primary Care Sentinel Surveillance Network (CPCSSN). CPCSSN is the first pan-Canadian multi-disease electronic medical record surveillance system. They have information on over 1 million patients, and now, thanks to Calian, new clinics will be added to the network for the next 3 years and a military family identifier will start to be added to the fully anonymized data.

CIMVHR also partnered with IBM and Lockheed who jointly offered a financial and technical support grant to Dr. DJ Cook, neurologist, and his team at Queen's University and McGill University who research innovative methods for diagnosing mild traumatic brain injury.

“WE FEEL A SPECIAL SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY TO MEMBERS OF THE CANADIAN ARMED FORCES (CAF), VETERANS, AND THEIR FAMILIES. PART OF THAT COMMITMENT IS OUR CONTRIBUTION TO CIMVHR THAT FUELS IMPORTANT RESEARCH. WE ARE PROUD OF THIS RELATIONSHIP AND PROUDER STILL THAT WE CAN DO A SMALL PART TO SUPPORT THE LARGER CAF COMMITMENT”

**DAVID IBBETSON**  
VP AND GENERAL MANAGER OF  
GENERAL DYNAMICS MISSION SYSTEMS CANADA

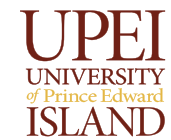
“CALIAN FUNDS RESEARCH TO SUPPORT EVIDENCE INFORMED CARE FOR THE FAMILIES OF OUR MILITARY AND OUR VETERANS, AND OUR CONNECTION WITH CIMVHR PLAYED A ROLE IN MAKING THIS POSSIBLE.”

**SCOTT MURRAY**  
VP HEALTH SERVICES, CALIAN

“IBM CANADA IS EXCITED AT THE PROSPECT OF COLLABORATING WITH CIMVHR AND OUR INDUSTRY PARTNERS TO EXPLORE HOW IBM'S ADVANCED COMPUTING AND ANALYTICS CAPABILITY CAN SUPPORT LEADING EDGE HEALTH RESEARCH FOR CANADA'S MILITARY, VETERAN'S AND THEIR FAMILIES.”

**DAVID ANTHONY**  
DIRECTOR, IBM CANADA FEDERAL PUBLIC SECTOR

# 40 UNIVERSITY PARTNERS



# GOVERNANCE

## Board of Directors

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Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences, Queen's University

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Chief Executive Officer, Canadian Physiotherapy Association

### **Mr. Michael Burns**

CEO Invictus Games Toronto 2017.

Co-Founder, True Patriot Love Foundation

### **Hon. Myra Freeman**

Former Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia

### **Commodore (Retired) Hans Jung**

Former Surgeon General, Canadian Forces Health Services

### **Dr. Pat Heffernan**

Vice-Principal Research, Royal Military College of Canada

### **Dr. William Montelpare**

Professor, Margaret and Wallace McCain Chair in Human Development and Health Applied Human Sciences, University of Prince Edward Island

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