

HOPE Centre for Sexual and Gender Minority People

Faculty of Arts, Toronto Metropolitan University

2023 Report

The HOPE (Health Outcome Promotion and Engagement) Centre is the TMU Centre for Sexual and Gender Minority People. It conducts community-engaged, interdisciplinary research to understand and promote the health of people who identify as members of a sexual or gender minority community. Our research studies the health of people who identify as gay, bisexual, lesbian, queer, pansexual, asexual, and other sexual minority people; and the health of trans, genderqueer, non-binary, and other gender minority people, including Indigenous peoples, Black people and people of colour.

Our Centre was approved by the Office of the Vice-President, Research and Innovation (OVPRI) for a 1-year probationary period. Below is our report for 2022-2023, following section 5.2.2 from Policy 144 on Research Centres. We are pleased to report that we have not only created and officially launched the Centre, but we have since been awarded one more CIHR grant and one SSHRC grant, and submitted an additional CIHR grants for the Fall 2022 competition.

5.2.2.1 Scholarly, Research, and Creative (SRC) Activities:

Our current SRC activities include:

1. Our steering committee of faculty and community members continues to meet twice a month.
2. Hiring a new work-study research assistant (RA) for the upcoming academic year to help support the Centre's initiatives
3. Our two active working groups: the Black research group and the Trans Research group. Each group has met at least 3 times in the past year.
4. We created a HOPE Centre website <https://www.thehopecentre.ca/> that outlines our Centre and its current work and social media profiles on Instagram and Facebook to stay engaged with the community and as a platform disseminate knowledge translation of our current activities.
5. HOPE Centre members were awarded 2 CIHR grants and 2 SSHRC grants as Principal Investigators:
 - o [Implementing community-based health promotion capacity for diverse equity-seeking women](#). (Nominated PI, Erin Ziegler, HOPE Centre member; \$405,450 for 3 years)
 - o [Examination of alcohol use, cigarette smoking, and mental health disparities in LGBTQIA+ adults in Canada](#). (Nominated PI, Sarah Dermody, co-investigators include HOPE Centre member Trevor Hart; \$70,000 for 1 year).

- o [Building Gender Diverse Communities: Developing an Informed, Youth-Led, Model of Care for the Trans Youth served by the M'Wikwedong Friendship Centre.](#) (Nominated PI, Julie James, HOPE Centre member; \$17,100 for 1 year)
 - o [Examining the experiences of transgender and non-binary nurses in the workplace.](#) (Nominated PI, Erin Ziegler, HOPE Centre member; \$48,555 for 1 year)
6. The HOPE Centre was granted \$3,000 for our summer Launch event.
 7. The HOPE Centre also applied for external funding to support our fall Symposium events: Gilead and ViiV Healthcare
 8. Lastly, we have been active in publishing our findings on sexual and gender minority (SGM) health. Specifically, our members have published 16 peer-reviewed articles on SGM health.

Our anticipated SRC activities include:

1. Creating a Centre Advisory Board to serve as an arm's-length committee guiding the continued research and financial development of the Centre
2. Maintaining and updating the HOPE Centre's website
3. Conducting funded research
4. Establishing a Terms of Reference and strengthening the Centre's infrastructure
5. Host a community symposium to better support the health of people who live with or are affected by HIV, who are LGBTQ2S+ as well as Black, trans, racialized, Indigenous, and/or live with disabilities, by facilitating community consultation and needs assessment by November 3rd
6. Establishing a biannual newsletter and mailing list following the successful launch of our Centre to foster and maintain community engagement with our Centre's activities.

5.2.2.2 The degree to which the Research Centre has met the stated annual objectives and milestones

Our objectives for our inaugural year were to:

1. Host a launch event to introduce the Centre into the community
2. Hold an Advisory Committee meeting
3. To submit at least 2 grant proposals

As can be seen in 5.2.2.2., we have achieved all of our inaugural year's objectives.

5.2.2.3 How the Research Centre is contributing to the SRC objectives established for the Faculty

Our Centre is also consistent with the Faculty of Arts Academic Plan's Priority #2, which is to Intensify SRC. As noted above, the Centre has already leveraged Dr. Hart's research strengths and experience to increase the number of external grants held by faculty across the Faculty of

Arts. Our grants and publications are also strongly aligned with the Faculty of Arts' focus on both health and well-being and on equity, diversity, inclusion, and access.

5.2.2.4 Financial Statement for the Previous Year and Its Proposed Budget for the Following Year

We received \$4500 from the Faculty of Arts to pay for the time of our community members to provide their feedback on HOPE Centre activities and to attend meetings. We have expended all of these funds on x community members.

We received \$3000 from ViiV Healthcare to help support our launch event.

Our proposed budget, received from the Faculty of Arts, will be \$12,000 for 2022-2023. We will use this money to increase the number of hours we pay for having community members who are both SGM and from racialized communities.

5.2.2.5 Activity Plan with Milestones

June-October 2023: Plan and host community symposium to bring together community members, organizations, and researchers from the Centre in a collaborative setting

July-September: Recruit an additional 1-2 potential community members for our Steering Committee

Milestone #1: Create newsletter highlighting the Centre's achievements and activities by October 31st

Milestone #2: Host first community symposium inviting academic and community members to the event, by November 4th, 2023

Milestone #3: Have Advisory Committee meeting by November 31st, 2023

January-April 2024: Develop grant proposals

Milestone #4: Submit at least one grant proposal by May 31st, 2024