

HOPE Centre for Sexual and Gender Minority People

Faculty of Arts, Toronto Metropolitan University

2022 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 OVPRI for a 1-year probationary period. Below is our report for 2021-2022, following section 5.2.2 from Policy 144 on Research Centres. We are pleased to report that we have not only created the Centre, but we have been awarded two CIHR grants in our first year.

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

Our current SRC activities include:

1. We have created a steering committee to guide Centre activities. This committee includes faculty and community members. This committee meets twice a month.
2. Hired a work-study RA to help support the Centre's initiatives
3. We have created two active working groups: the Black research group and the Trans Research group. Each group has met at least 6 times in the past year.
4. We created a HOPE Centre website <https://www.thehopecentre.ca/> that outlines our Centre and its current work
5. Both the Black Research Group and the Trans Research Group have applied for funding
6. HOPE Centre members were awarded two CIHR grants as Principal Investigators:
 - o [Developing an Adapted Gender Minority Stress and Resilience Model to Explain Alcohol Use and Harms among Transgender Youth who Drink](#) (Nominated PI, Sarah Dermody, co-investigators include HOPE Centre member Trevor Hart; \$100,000 for 1 year). This grant is a Catalyst Grant offered by the CIHR Institute of Neurosciences, Mental Health, and Addiction
 - o [Sexual and mental health of Black queer communities during the COVID-19 pandemic](#) (Nominated PI, J. Garrett-Walker, a non-TMU academic member of the Centre, co-investigators include HOPE Centre members Garfield Durrant, HOPE Centre community member, and Trevor Hart; \$87,390 for 1 year). This grant is a Catalyst Grant offered by the HIV/AIDS Community-Based Research funding line at CIHR.

7. HOPE Centre members are also in the process of developing 2 additional CIHR grants for submission in September 2022:
 - o Stimulant Use, Mental Health, and STBBIs Among Gay, Bisexual, and other Men who Have Sex with Men (GBM): Identifying Treatment Targets to Disrupt the Syndemic (Nominated PI, Trevor Hart, co-investigators include Sarah Dermody)
 - o A Study of Minority Stress and its Impact on Transgender Adult's Alcohol Use and Related Harms (Nominated PI, Sarah Dermody, co-investigators include HOPE Centre member Trevor Hart)
8. Lastly, we have been active in publishing our findings on SGM health. Specifically, our members have published 46 peer-reviewed articles and 4 book chapters 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. Hosting a launch event to introduce the Centre into the community

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. Create our first Steering Committee, including both faculty members and community members.
2. To create working groups to develop research proposals
3. To submit our first research 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 used this money.

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

July-October 2022: Develop grant proposals

Milestone #1: Submit at least one grant proposal by October 31st, 2022

September-November 2022: Invite potential members and prepare for 1st Advisory Committee Meeting

Milestone #2: Have Advisory Committee meeting by November 31st, 2022

December 2022-May 2023: Develop grant proposals, organize first open house for HOPE Centre

Milestone #3: Hold first open house event for HOPE Centre, inviting academic and community members to the event, by May 1st, 2023

Milestone #3: Submit at least one more grant proposal by May 31st, 2023