

Toronto
Public
Health
Research

2017

Acknowledgements

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- Cathy Canonizado and Bibi Nasib-Mohammed provided administrative support
- Directors/Managers reviewed proposals for relevance, feasibility, and scientific merit
- REB Members conducted ethics review of proposals
- Donna Ansara, Kate Bassil, Effie Gournis, Dia Mamatis, Kate Mulligan, and Heather Rilkoff supported divisional review of projects for scientific merit
- Tracey dal Bianco, Megan Easto, and Jeff Maus reviewed proposals for privacy and information management issues
- Jane Speakman provided legal expertise

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Highlights

This third Annual Report of Toronto Public Health (TPH) Research profiles key activities related to TPH Research Ethics Review (RER) in 2017.

In 2017:

- TPH marked the second full year of implementing its revised RER Policy and Procedure
- the Research Ethics Board celebrated its second anniversary
- 30 projects were screened to determine if TPH RER was required
- 15 proposals were submitted for RER
- 12 proposals received ethics approval
- REB Member capacity building was undertaken related to:
 - The International Ethical Guidelines for Health Related Research Involving Humans (Council for International Medical Sciences)
 - Informed Consent
 - Emergent Principles and Protocols for Indigenous Health Services Evaluation
 - Best Practices for Protecting Individual Privacy in Conducting Survey Research (Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario)
 - The Tri- Agency Statement on Digital Data Management
 - Storage and Retention of Research Data
- REB Members were provided with the opportunity to virtually attend the PRIM&R (Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research) Annual Conference held in San Antonio, Texas.

Research Ethics Review Policy and Process

The Toronto Public Health (TPH) Research Ethics Review (RER) [Policy](#) outlines the criteria for TPH RER and describes the five step RER process:

- Pre-screening, when necessary, to determine if projects require RER
- Organizational assessment for relevance, feasibility, scientific merit, and privacy and information management issues
- REB review of proposals which receive organizational approval
- Notifying Principal Investigator(s) of the Research Ethics Board (REB) decision
- Ongoing ethics monitoring until completion

In 2017, 30 projects were screened to determine if they required TPH RER. Nineteen of these projects did not require RER. Most of these projects were internal evaluations of TPH programs or quality improvement initiatives.

Fifteen proposals were submitted for TPH RER in 2017. Twelve proposals received TPH REB approval, some of which were submitted in 2016.

More information about the RER process, types of projects requiring RER, and responses to Frequently Asked Questions about the RER process is available on the TPH [RER website](#). If you have other questions regarding the RER Policy and process please contact:

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Research Ethics Board

The Research Ethics Board (REB), which meets monthly, is comprised of 15 Members. Heather Sampson, the REB Chair, is an Assistant Professor, Department of Community and Family Medicine at the University of Toronto (U of T). She also manages the clinical research program at the Michael Garron Hospital/Toronto East Health Network (formerly Toronto East General Hospital).

The following TPH staff were members of the REB in 2017:

- Tara Brown (Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention)
- Nancy Day (Performance and Standards)*
- Dr. Meg Gassanov (Performance and Standards)*
- Dr. Stephanie Gower (Healthy Public Policy)
- Phat Ha (Healthy Public Policy)
- Heather Richards (Healthy Environments)
- Dr. Herveen Sachdeva (Communicable Disease Control)
- Anne Wenger (Healthy Communities)
- Debra Williams-Conliffe (Child Health and Development)
- Linda Wood (Healthy Public Policy)*

External REB members in 2017 were:

- Dr. Patricia Hughes (Community Member)
- Dr. Nancy Kreiger (University of Toronto)
- Maria McDonald (Community Member)
- Dr. Brenda Roche (The Wellesley Institute)
- Dr. Thomas Tenkate (Ryerson University)
- Connie Uetrecht (Community Member)

*Resigned in 2017

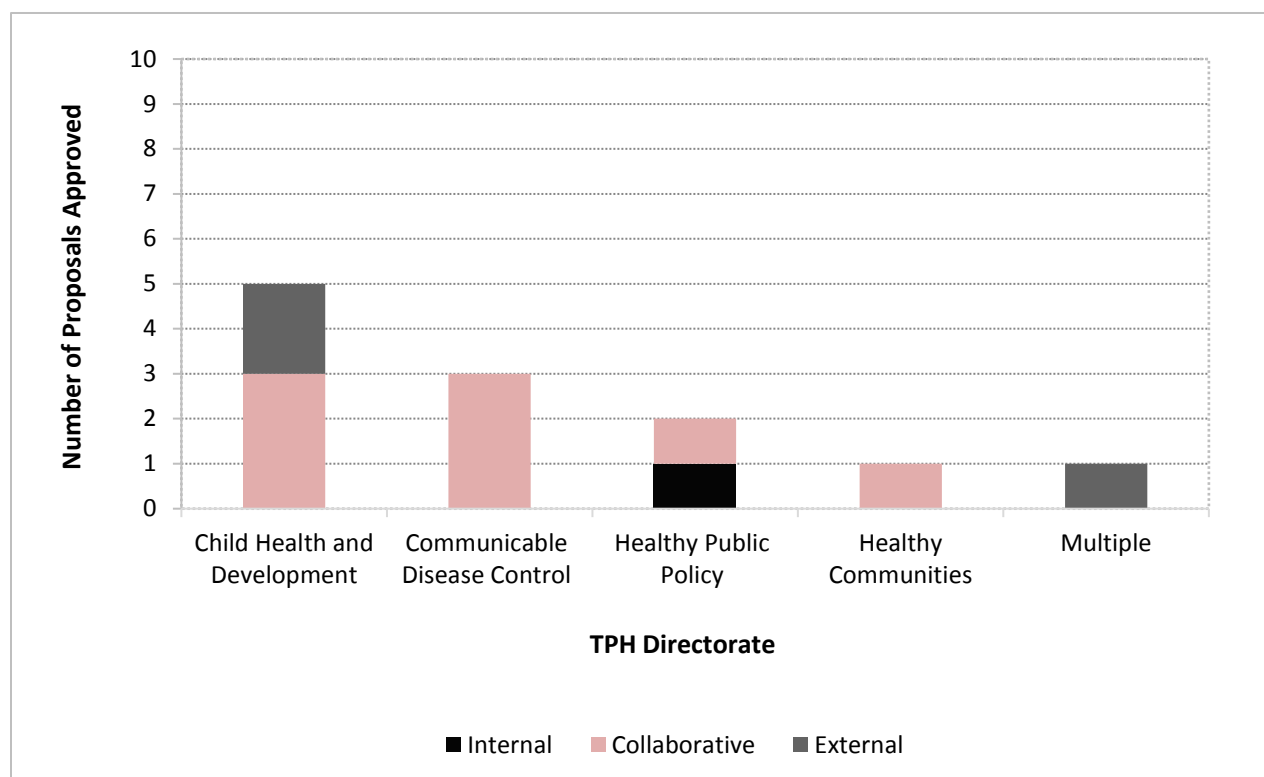
Research Proposals Approved

In 2017, twelve research proposals relevant to six Toronto Public Health (TPH) Directorates were approved through the TPH Research Ethics Review (RER) process. One was an internal project conducted by TPH staff, eight were collaborative projects involving TPH staff and external researchers, and three were conducted by external researchers (see Figure 1).

Relevance of Proposals to TPH Directorates

Most proposals were assessed for feasibility and relevance to Toronto Public Health's mission and mandate by one Directorate. Five were assessed by the Child Health and Development Directorate, three were assessed by the Communicable Disease Control Directorate, two were assessed by the Healthy Public Policy Directorate, and one was assessed by the Healthy Communities Directorate. One proposal of relevance to six Directorates was assessed by the Chief Nurse (see Figure 1). Six Directorates (i.e., Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention, Healthy Environments, Dental and Oral Health Services, Performance and Standards, Strategic Support, and Finance and Administration) did not assess proposals for relevance and feasibility in 2017.

Figure 1: Research Proposals Approved by Type and TPH Directorate Relevance 2017



Research Proposals Approved in 2017

A complete list of all research proposals approved in 2017 is presented below. A key TPH contact person is provided for internal (including research related to contracted services) and collaborative projects.

Internal Projects

1. A Review of the Cooling Centre Program in Toronto
Contact: Stephanie Gower, (Acting) Manager, Healthy Public Policy,
Stephanie.Gower@toronto.ca, 416-338-8101

Collaborative Projects

1. STOMP Early Years: A Pilot Randomized Controlled Trial of an Intensive, Family-Centred Home Visiting Intervention for Young Children with Severe Obesity
Contact: Marie Klaassen, Associate Director, Child Health and Development, Marie.Klaassen@toronto.ca, 416-338-2378
2. Residents' Response to Design Proposals for Outdoor Cooling Spaces at Selected Residential Sites in Toronto
Contact: Kelly Sabaliauskas, Health Policy Specialist, Healthy Public Policy, Kelly.Sabaliauskas@toronto.ca, 416-338-8100
3. Parenting and Addressing At-Obesity Risk Early Years Intervention with Home Visits in Toronto (PARENT): A Pragmatic Randomized Controlled Trial
Contact: Marie Klaassen, Associate Director, Child Health and Development, Marie.Klaassen@toronto.ca, 416-338-2378
4. A Community- Engaged Outcome Evaluation of Toronto Public Health's Raising Sexually Healthy Children for Child Care Workers Workshop
Contact: Mary Gleason, Manager Sexual Health Promotion, Healthy Communities
Mary.Gleason@toronto.ca, 416-338-1675
5. Decentralizing the Delivery of HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) Through Family Physicians and Sexual Health Clinic Nurses
Contact: Arlene Chan, Medical Director, Sexual Health Clinics, Communicable Disease Control, Arlene.Chan@toronto.ca, 416-338-7088
6. HIV Prevention, Supervised Injection Services, and Collaborative Relationships with Police: Development of a Training Program
Contact: Shaun Hopkins, (Acting) Associate Director, Needle Exchange Program, Communicable Disease Control, Shaun.Hopkins@toronto.ca, 416-338-7801
7. Survey on the Knowledge, Attitudes, Practices, and Needs of Ontario Nurses Regarding HIV Pre and Post Exposure Prophylaxis
Contact: Natalie Fawcett, Manager, Sexual Health Clinics, Communicable Disease Control, Natalie.Fawcett@toronto.ca, 416-338-3399
8. Multi-Site Assessment of Prelinguistic Communication in Children Receiving Communication Intervention Services
Contact: Elaine Weitzman, Executive Director, The Hanen Centre, elaine.weitzman@hanen.org, 416-921-1073, Ext. 223.

External Projects

1. Mothers with Intellectual Disabilities: Challenges and Resilience
2. Canadian Nurse Family Partnership (CaNE) Pilot Study
3. Psychological Empowerment and Job Crafting in Registered Nurses in Public Health Units/Departments in Ontario