

It is not enough to produce world-class health research if the results do not impact the health of individuals. The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) have a mandate to excel "...in the creation of new knowledge **and its translation** into improved health for Canadians, more effective health services and products and a strengthened Canadian health-care system."

Participatory Research at McGill (PRAM) opened in September 2006 with a mission **to further scholarship and promote the expertise for participatory research (PR) and integrated knowledge translation (IKT) in health at McGill University**. The Royal Society of Canada defines PR as "systematic investigation, with the collaboration of those affected by the issue being studied, for purposes of education and taking action or effecting social change." As described by CIHR, **knowledge translation (KT)** is a broad concept. It encompasses all steps between the creation of new knowledge and its application to yield beneficial outcomes for society. In addition, it asserts that the KT process occurs in a complex system of interactions among stakeholders.

Integrated Knowledge Translation (IKT) describes a different approach to research with researchers and research-users working together to shape the research process — collaborating on setting the research questions, deciding the methodology, being involved in data collection and tools development, interpreting the results, and helping disseminate and implement the findings <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/39033.html>. End-users may include clinicians, health managers, policy makers, patients and their families, community and advocacy organizations. **Integrated KT** as outlined by CIHR follows the collaborative or partnership principles of **Participatory Research**.

PR and IKT bring researchers into partnerships with all the appropriate stakeholders, to enhance the relevance of health care research. By **engaging community and other stakeholders** throughout the research this **participatory** approach assures that problem- or action-oriented research better meets the needs of the individuals, organisations or systems it is intended to benefit. It helps assure that the various end-users are providing expertise to increase relevance throughout the process and are well positioned to act expediently on the research results, thus accelerating the uptake of **knowledge to action**.

Strategic Planning within the McGill Faculty of Medicine's Research Design Group (Spring 2010) has made a call to "establish and fund a broad base clinical resource centre to support clinician scientists and *integrated knowledge translation*." **Participatory Research at McGill (PRAM)** is an existing resource presently fulfilling many aspects of this mandate, with an academic team led by inaugural director Ann C. Macaulay CM MD FCFP and Associate Director Jon Salsberg MA PhD (cand.).

Within McGill over the past five years, PRAM has built capacity:

- created new knowledge about the processes and outcomes of Participatory Research and Integrated KT within a wide spectrum of settings and partnership types
- provided CME and faculty development within the Faculty of Medicine
- developed a PR / Integrated KT curriculum for CIHR
- promoted community and citizen engagement
- co-investigated or collaborated on numerous research grants across McGill for our PR/IKT expertise
- promoted the KT imperative in health research (includes end of grant KT and Integrated KT)
- achieved recognition that PR and Integrated KT are core competencies for primary care research
- trained undergraduate, graduate and post-doctoral trainees
- created 2 new graduate courses in participatory research (FMED 603 & 604) (FMED 603 is mandatory for all students in MSc Experimental Medicine: Family Medicine Option)
- mentored individual faculty, researchers, and clinical units- i.e. very interdisciplinary
- promoted tenure and promotion reform within the Faculty of Medicine
- worked to create an institutional culture accepting of partnered research
- promoted PR and Integrated KT on various boards and committees inside and outside McGill

Outcomes for the McGill Community:

Through its capacity building operations, **PRAM will continue to produce the following outcomes for McGill:**

- Enhance competitiveness vis-à-vis other institutions in garnering research funding that (increasingly) calls for a partnership or Integrated KT component to the design
- Increase faculty, researchers' and associated clinicians' capacity to undertake partnered research
- Increase faculty, researchers' and associated clinicians' capacity to move research findings into action
- Increase capacity to **engage citizens and community** in setting and fulfilling research priorities (in accordance with the University's mission as well as CIHR's Citizen Engagement Framework)
- Help evolve existing undergraduate and graduate curricula to better prepare future researchers and clinical scholars to undertake PR and Integrated KT research
- Represent McGill nationally and internationally to funders, boards, agencies and organisations interested in fostering partnership and Integrated KT research
- Provide the foundation to develop an Integrated KT clinical resource centre (this would be the first in Canada)
- Situate McGill as a world leader in PR / Integrated KT Research

PRAM Snapshot: In 2010-2011, PRAM...

- Undertook funded realist synthesis of the benefits of participatory research (2 articles published; 1 under review)
- Led, or co-investigated on fourteen (**14**) new or existing grants resulting in over **\$8.9 million** in successful funding (**\$236,000** directly to PRAM; another **\$95,000** administered by PRAM)
- Collaborated on the development of eleven (**11**) other projects inside and outside the McGill community
- Delivered a booster session to our CME-accredited faculty development workshop under the Office of the Associate Dean (Faculty Development)
- Funded one (**1**) post-doc; five (**5**) graduate student trainees
- Provided (unfunded) guidance or supervision to seven (**7**) other trainees
- Is the academic home to an ongoing medical-student-initiated global health PR project in Ecuador (which won *Best Poster* among McGill medical student research bursary projects)
- Authored or co-authored twelve (**12**) peer-reviewed publications and seven (**7**) conference presentations
- Invited presentations: national and international: ten (**10**); McGill: six (**6**)
- Our flagship project, the Kahnawake Schools Diabetes Prevention Project (KSDPP), honoured with the *2010 CIHR Partnership Award*.
- Promoted upstream capacity for Aboriginal professional and research careers
- Led the McGill initiative to institute a mandatory Indigenous Health Curriculum into undergraduate medical education
- Hosted seven (**7**) monthly seminars featuring internal and external PR /IKT speakers

(Source: PRAM 2010-11 Annual Report - http://pram.mcgill.ca/ann_report.php)