



Our Expertise: Public Health

CReSP in review
2023-2025



Who are we?

The Centre for Public Health Research (CReSP) was funded by the Fonds de recherche du Québec – Santé (FRQS) during the expansion of the centre program in 2019. The CReSP is the result of a partnership between the Université de Montréal and the CIUSSS du Centre-Sud-de-l'Île-de-Montréal (CCSMTL), an integrated university health and social services centre. The centre is the first and only major research infrastructure in Québec entirely dedicated to public health and operating within the framework of privileged structural links with an institution responsible for the health of a population, the CCSMTL.

CReSP promotes collaboration between research and practice environments through its proximity to the Direction régionale de santé publique de Montréal (DRSP) and its partnerships with the Institut national de santé publique du Québec (INSPQ), the Institut national d'excellence en santé et en services sociaux (INESSS), the Institut de recherche Robert-Sauvé en santé et en sécurité du travail (IRSST), the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), and members of civil society.

Mission

The mission of CReSP is to produce and promote cutting-edge, relevant knowledge to inform issues concerning human and animal health, the environment, and their interactions. It supports evidence-based public health actions to promote health and equity, prevent disease, and reduce its burden. Our researchers conduct innovative research that meets the highest standards of scientific rigour, ethics, and equity. In doing so, CReSP contributes to improving practices that contribute to public health, transforming research methods, and training the next generation of public health researchers and practitioners.

Scientific Director

Louise Potvin, Ph.D., Full Professor in the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine at the Université de Montréal's School of Public Health, holder of the Canada Research Chair in Community Approaches and Health Inequalities (CACIS).

You can view the full 2023-2025 activity report
on our website: cresp.ca



CRéSP in Numbers



6 themes



74 researchers

9 experts

6 associates

2 honorary members

623 students



8 faculties



5 main partners

A partnership between
the CCSMTL and the UdeM



14 research chairs

and **2** thematic networks



\$272 M
in grants



981
publications

The CRéSP Logo



● The Human

The oval at the top of the drop represents the human head.
The red represents blood.

● Animals

The two lines inside the drop represent a wing or even a paw.
The orange colour is reminiscent of the fur of mammals or the plumage of birds.

● Plants and the Environment

The line inside this drop and the green colour represent foliage.

● CRéSP

The blue colour emphasizes the importance of water to the health of the three elements that make up the logo.

The One Health Approach



Overarching Themes

Since 2023, CRoSP's scientific program has been structured around **six themes**:

Urban health, communities, and territories

Focuses on the exploitation and use of resources, the development of living environments, and decision-making that takes into account the needs of everyone, neglected populations, and the interface between human, animal, and ecosystem health.

Resilience and transformations in healthcare systems and services

Focuses on healthcare and social service systems as determinants of health and public health.

Risks and prevention

Focuses on the impact of socio-ecosystemic determinants of health on all types or groups of populations, including animals and plants.

Alter-global health

Focuses on the interfaces between global changes and structural dynamics (international and national) on the one hand, and the consequences and local environmental and socio-health interventions on public health on the other.

Work and health

Focuses on the prevention of occupational diseases and the promotion of healthy and safe work environments from a sustainable health perspective.

Equity and health

Focuses on structural determinants, that is, the systemic processes that determine inequalities in access to power and resources.

The CRoSP promotes **three pillars** for public health research:

1. **interdisciplinarity** and the **One Health** approach;
2. **collaborative research** with public health practitioners and decision-makers, their partners, and communities; and;
3. **health equity objectives**.

The **One Health** approach is multisectoral and studies the influence of sociodemographic, behavioural, environmental, agricultural, economic, and political determinants on human, animal, and environmental health, well beyond national borders.



Flagship Projects

THEME 01 Urban health, communities, and territories

Healthy PARKS

"I am very proud of this project, which brings together a variety of expertise in a transdisciplinary approach. It embodies the One Health approach by aiming to protect the biodiversity of nature parks while reducing the risk of tick-borne diseases."

Lead researcher:
Cécile Aenishaenslin



THEME 02 Resilience and transformations in healthcare systems and services

Citizens' priorities for health policies and the welfare state

"Ultimately, sustainable health policy reform must have public support. However, we still know little about citizens' preferences regarding the difficult choices that governments will have to make to improve health systems, which face recurring crises and immense fiscal pressures. Our project aims to fill this gap."

Lead researcher:
Olivier Jacques



THEME 03 Risks and prevention

Pediatric cancers and prenatal exposure to air pollution: a population-based birth cohort study in Canada

"Childhood cancers are the leading cause of death by disease among children in Canada. The causes of these diseases are poorly understood. This project addresses some of the methodological limitations of existing studies and will contribute to new knowledge about the role of air pollution in the etiology of childhood cancers."

Lead researcher:
Stéphane Buteau



THEME 04 Alter-global health

Project on insecurity in the Sahel and its effects on access to health services (ISEASS)

"People living in unsafe areas are a very difficult population to access for research projects. But this includes almost the entire rural population in some countries in the Sahel! This project attempts to counteract the process of invisibility they face."

Lead researcher:
Thomas Druetz



In situ assessment of workers' exposure to ultrafine particle aerosols from 3D printing processes



**#WeFeedYou, and yet...:
food safety, nutrition, and health of
temporary migrant workers in Québec's
agri-food system**



Dr. Barbara Glaser

ELUZO - Women fighting zoonoses



Michèle Bouchard and Hélène Carabin, co-scientific leads.
Research team: Muriel Mac-Seing, Mylène Ratelle, Cécile Aenishaenslin, François Castonguay, Malek Batal, Rosanne Blanchet, Thomas Druetz

HAND-AI: Artificial intelligence without barriers - Inclusion and equity for people with disabilities

“People with disabilities want to benefit from the technological advances promised by AI. Unfortunately, they are often excluded from the development and implementation processes of multiple AI applications. Intersectoral collaborations (disability, AI, others) are essential to include 1.3 billion people equitably!”

Muriel Mac-Seing and Jean-Noël Nikiema

Development of training tools for agricultural producers and occupational health professionals on health risks and ways to prevent risks associated with extreme weather events: better training for better prevention!

"This project is essential for better understanding and preventing the impacts of climate change on agricultural workers. It will fill a gap in data and research, while proposing solutions to protect their health and strengthen prevention."

Nolwenn Noisel and Maximilien Debia

Knowledge Transfer and Valorization

● Between April 1, 2023, and March 31, 2025, CRéSP organized **34 scientific events** for specialized audiences and the general public. These meetings are often co-organized with research chairs and laboratories linked to CRéSP, partners, and institutions and research groups with which our members are affiliated or collaborate.

The third and fourth Annual Scientific Conferences helped highlight the contemporary issues we face. This is an event by and for the student community, which presents its work orally or by poster alongside research teams and specialists from the field.



The event *Between Sustainable Health and One Health: Building Connections and Bridges*, June 14, 2024

● A new knowledge transfer tool, ***Spotlight on Research at CRéSP***, aims to promote dialogue between research and practice and facilitate the implementation of research results. Five issues have been published on various topics: intersectoral action, food security, cannabis use and mental health among LGBTQ+ youth, research collaborations in educational settings, and the housing crisis in Northern Canada.



● The ***Guide to Responsible Conduct of Collaborative Research in Public Health*** offers “key points to consider” to support research teams and their partners in adopting collaborative practices and good collaborative habits, with the goal of anticipating, preventing, and minimizing negative experiences in collaborative research. This CRéSP guide consists of three tools: a presentation of the key considerations; a checklist with verification points; and a list of online resources.



● The Qollab laboratory, led by Olivier Ferlatte, promotes nuanced and compassionate conversations with ***Chemstory***, a series of podcasts created by gay, bisexual and queer men and non-binary people who share their experiences with chemsex.

Since its launch at Café SAT on June 1, 2023, 26 episodes in French have been posted online, now reaching more than 20,000 listeners of the participants' personal stories. The podcasts are available at qollab.ca/chemstory, on podcast platforms, and on YouTube, with subtitles for accessibility.

● **Nancy Beauregard and Véronique Dupéré**, in collaboration with the DRSP, the Fédération étudiante collégiale du Québec, Force Jeunesse, and Réseau réussite Montréal, presented a brief to the Committee on Economy and Labor of the Assemblée nationale du Québec as part of the special consultations and public hearings on Bill 19 on the regulation of child labour on April 17, 2023.

Funding

The CRoSP's community of regular researchers conducted more than **476 research projects** between April 1, 2023, and March 31, 2025. These projects rely on strong inter-faculty and interthematic collaboration and often involve specialists from provincial, national, and international public health organizations.

The following grants are associated with regular CRoSP researchers, either as principal investigators or co-investigators.

	Number of projects	Amount of funding
Theme 1	48	\$33,416,828
Theme 2	47	\$27,949,897
Theme 3	128	\$87,349,775
Theme 4	45	\$28,193,356
Theme 5	63	\$20,085,269
Theme 6	145	\$75,373,605
Total	476	\$272,368,730

Grant types	Amount
Research grants	
FRQS	\$15,406,889
FRQSC	\$23,169,668
FRQNT	\$7,425,962
CIHR	\$113,903,884
SSHRC	\$10,840,687
NSERC	\$14,670,740
Other funding agencies	\$68,848,737
Total	\$254,266,567
Research contracts	\$2,502,966
Research chairs	\$11,148,734
Salary grants	\$2,922,537
Other	\$1,527,926

Scientific Publications

This table covers the period from January 1, 2023, to March 31, 2025.

Type of publications	Number of publications
Journal articles	756
Preprints	103
Books and book chapters	45
Other	77
Total	981

Outreach

CRoSP members are leaders in a wide variety of public health fields. They have received numerous awards, honours, and distinctions, and have continued to contribute to scientific committees, expert groups, scientific events, peer review committees, and journal editorial boards at the provincial, national, and international levels.



Katherine Frohlich, Scientific Director of the IPPH,
and Louise Potvin, Scientific Director of CRoSP.

Between January 1, 2023, and March 31, 2025, they participated in **877 conferences, including 491 as guest speakers**. In addition, our members hold or co-hold 14 research chairs and co-lead two thematic networks.

The official appointments of our research members announced between April 1, 2023, and March 31, 2025, are a testament to their excellence:

- **Maximilien Debia**, Vice-Dean of Student Life and Faculty Affairs and Faculty Secretary at the School of Public Health at the Université de Montréal.
- **Katherine Frohlich**, Scientific Director of the Institute of Population and Public Health at the Canadian Institutes of Health Research.
- **Pascale Lehoux**, Scientific Vice President of INESSS.
- **Nathalie de Marcellis-Warin**, member of the board of directors of the Fonds de recherche du Québec.
- **Annie Pullen Sansfaçon**, Associate Vice-Rector for First Peoples Relations at the Université de Montréal. This position was created in 2023, and the CRoSP researcher is the first to hold it.
- **Vardit Ravitsky**, President of the Hastings Center, a centre of excellence in bioethics



At a glance

The Canada Excellence Research Chair in One Urban Health

Today, more than half of the world's population lives in cities, unique ecosystems that offer both challenges and opportunities for the well-being and health of the people who live there.

The Canada Research Chair in **One Urban Health** brings together a wide range of disciplines and expertise to analyze and develop interventions to make cities more pleasant and conducive to health and well-being. Our member **Evelyne de Leeuw** holds the Chair, while **Cécile Aenishaenslin**, **Katherine Frohlich**, **Yan Kestens**, **Louise Potvin** and **Michèle Bouchard** are part of the scientific core. **Noémie Harriet** is the principal coordinator of this CERC.

More specifically, the eight years of funding for the Chair provide opportunities to explore governance mechanisms within the city for a **One Urban Health** approach. Projects of varying scope and duration will be implemented. Opportunities will be seized and developed with academic, institutional, community, and citizen partners.

For more information

cresp.ca

