

**IPPH-CReSP Summer Institute:
Conducting intervention research with communities to address the structural determinants
of health**

Centre de recherche en santé publique – Université de Montréal
June 16 to 19, 2025

Structural determinants of health are the explicit and implicit rules that create, maintain and erode hierarchical structures and the distribution of power between groups in society. These rules shape the social and environmental conditions that constitute the socio-ecological determinants of health (Heller, 2024). With a critical posture, research on structural determinants of health aims to better understand how these translate into health inequities, and to equip pertinent parties and affected groups to transform them or mitigate their impact on health.

Objectives

The IPPH-CReSP Summer Institute aims to bring together students from across Canada who are conducting research to promote health equity and who wish to explore the structural determinants of health in greater depth. The Institute aims to create a space for exchange between mentors and participants which will favor the development of a shared vision of research on structural determinants of health, its challenges and the research practices we need to understand and address them. The Institute will also foster the emergence of a community of critical researchers committed to their community. By the end of the Summer Institute, participants will have:

1. Deepened their understanding of the mechanisms by which structural determinants of health affect health inequities;
2. Assessed how these mechanisms impact the conduct of critical approaches to public health research;
3. Developed skills to initiate, conduct and disseminate the results of research about the structural determinants of health with concerned communities.

Mentors of the IPPH-CReSP Summer Institute

The Institute is co-directed by Professors [Rod Knight](#) and [Louise Potvin](#) of the Université de Montréal School of Public Health (ESPUM), two recognized leaders in the field of research on health inequities and population health intervention research. The mentoring team will also be composed of experts from across Canada and the United States:

[Malek Batal](#), Université de Montréal
Food security; food systems and One Health; nutrition of Indigenous peoples

[Sarah Fraser](#), Université de Montréal
Knowledge mobilisation, health and well-being among Indigenous peoples, institutional cultures

[Jonathan Heller](#), University of Wisconsin and NCCDH
Health equity, structural determinants of health, power, community organizing

[Elizabeth McGibbon](#), Université St. Francis Xavier
Political economy of health, racialization, marginalization, structural determinants of health





[Lindsay McLaren](#), University of Calgary
Social determinants and political economy of health, dental public health

[Gaynor Watson-Creed](#), Dalhousie University
Health systems, equity, high functioning public health

Who can participate

- Postdoctoral fellows or PhD students (who have completed their doctoral coursework and are currently conducting their dissertation research);
- Registered in a Canadian university in a relevant field (related to the humanities, social sciences or public health). International students registered at a Canadian university are also eligible.
- Participants at the doctoral level are required to have already written a doctoral research protocol. Preference is given to those whose research project is transformative and concerns the structural determinants of health.
- Candidates must commit to attending the entire 4-day duration of the Summer Institute program.

Institute format

Activities will be bilingual: exchanges will be welcome in English and French and participants will be invited to express themselves in either language of their choice. Plenary presentations will be mainly in English. The presentation materials will be available in both languages.

Preliminary Program

The Institute will be held in person at the School of Public Health at the Université de Montréal (Avenue du Parc campus). The Institute will take place from Monday, June 16 (6:30 p.m.) to Thursday, June 19 at 12:00 pm, with an optional field visit to take place on Thursday afternoon. Discussions and plenary presentations will take place in the mornings, while the afternoons will be devoted to group work activities (6 participants accompanied by one to two mentors).

Monday, June 16:

- Arrival of participants
- Evening: icebreaker activity and opening panel discussion
 - Structural determinants of health: a public health issue? What objectives for research?

Tuesday, June 17:

- 8:45 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.: training session on “Developing and maintaining relationships with the communities concerned”
- Evening: free time

Wednesday, June 18:

- 8:45 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.: training session on “Research methods for the co-construction of knowledge”
- Evening: Networking dinner for participants and mentors

Thursday, June 19:

- 8:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.: training session on “Putting results into action—scientific publications and knowledge transfer activities”
 - 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.: Field trip (optional)
-

Cost and conditions of participation

Participation in the Summer Institute is free of charge to participants. Transportation and accommodation costs will be covered by the CIHR Institute of Population and Public Health. Specifically, the following costs will be covered:

- Travel arrangements will be handled by a travel agency (economy-class train, bus or plane);
- Public transit in Montreal (for participants from outside Montreal);
- Accommodation in university campus residences (single occupancy) (for participants from outside Montreal);
- Breakfast (3), lunch (3) and dinner (2) (all participants).

Participants are responsible for the following expenses:

- Transportation in home city to and from the train station or airport;
- Meals and expenses incurred on the Tuesday evening;
- Any other expenses incurred during the stay in Montreal.

To apply:

- Complete the [registration form](#);
- Send us by email (with the subject line “Application for 2025 IPPH-CReSP Summer Institute”):
 1. Proof of registration at a Canadian university (photocopy of student card or copy of academic transcript);
 2. A cover letter (1 page) describing your interest in taking part in the seminar (objectives pursued; academic career objectives; life experiences in relation to the structural determinants of health);
 3. A summary of your research project (1 page);
 4. A CV (2 pages);
 5. A letter of support from the person supervising your doctoral or postdoctoral research (1 page);
 6. An EDI statement that addresses relevant considerations concerning the applicant, as well as the research project (1/2 page).
- All documents must be assembled into a single PDF file in the order presented above.
- The **deadline** for applications is **March 31, 2025**.

Selection of candidates

The selection committee will be comprised of the Summer Institute mentors who will meet in early April to select 30 candidates with diverse profiles.

Selected candidates will be notified by **May 1, 2025**.

Contact

Catherine.chabot.6@umontreal.ca



About the Centre de recherche en santé publique (CReSP)

CReSP is the largest group of interdisciplinary public health researchers. One of the structuring themes of its scientific program, Equity and Health, promotes a transformative research posture based on the valorization of epistemic and methodological pluralism. Researchers in this theme adopt approaches that foster the democratization of knowledge development and exchanges between researchers and communities afflicted by inequities. CReSP supports more effective partnerships and collaborations, focused on the analysis and rectification of structural determinants of health factors. For example, collaborations have been established with the Institut national de santé publique du Québec, the *Direction régionale de santé publique du CIUSSS du Centre-Sud-de-l'Île-de-Montréal* and the knowledge-user network, both provincially and nationally. Our research helps establish new opportunities for collaboration and advances health equity in Quebec and beyond. Finally, CReSP also benefits from a network of pan-Canadian experts working in this field.

About the CIHR Institute of Population and Public Health

The mandate of the Institute of Population and Public Health (IPPH) is to support research into the complex biological, social, cultural and environmental interactions that determine the health of individuals, communities and global populations; and to apply knowledge to improve the health of individuals and populations through strategic partnerships with population and public health stakeholders and innovative research funding programs.

IPPH's mission aims to improve the health of populations and promote health equity in Canada and globally through research and its application to policies, programs, and practice in public health and other sectors.

