

Our History

The CHC began as The Project for the Study of Traditional Healing Practices in 1984 at the University of Alberta under the direction of Dr. David Young. In 1990, it was officially recognized as an interdisciplinary research project by the University. In 1992, the University approved changing the status of the project to a Centre. In 2002, the Centre moved from the Faculty of Arts to the Department of Family Medicine, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry.

Our Philosophy

"Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity" World Health Organization (WHO). Additionally, CHC embraces the Canadian Aboriginal conception that emphasises physical, mental, spiritual and emotional aspects in wellness definitions.

Goals

The goals of the CHC are to:

- understand the basic principles that maintain and restore health;
- promote these basic principles for the benefit of Canadian society and the international community.

The Centre achieves these goals through a commitment to:

- inter-cultural competence education
- at risk & minorities; vulnerable populations
- ethno-medical research;
- Integrative health initiatives.
- Research on the impact of culture on medicine and health

Major Research Projects

The CHC has several program areas. Once a research proposal is designed, a team of experts is assembled to conduct the project. Research is typically carried out over a one or two year period.

- A study of the impact of music-as-therapy in a refugee camp in Ghana
- A study on IMGs transitioning to Canadian cultural
- A study on young carers in Edmonton
- Major conferences on traditional healers in Canada
- Major analysis of the interaction of medicine and culture
- Major studies on bio-ethical issues in the Muslim community in Edmonton

In addition to projects which are undertaken by Centre members, individual researchers who are affiliated with the CHC also conduct their own projects pertaining to the mandate of the Centre. In the past decade our associated researchers have addressed a variety of cultural and medical issues:

- DNA analysis of medicinal plants in China and in Canada
- Singing and dancing for health in Ghana
- A study on traditional healing among the Sami people in Scandinavia

Currently in Production

- Cultural competency skill for occupational therapists; a workbook (in production)
- Cultural competency skills for pharmacists; a workbook (in production)

Outreach

The board of CHC supports the ongoing Town/Gown Series on the Integrative Health at Roots on Whyte with Le Soleil Health and Wholeness.

Books

Waugh E, Szafran O, Triscott J, Parent R. 2016, Cultural competency skill for psychologist, physiotherapists and counselling professionals; a workbook. Edmonton, Brush Education Inc.

Young, D. Rogers, R. Willier, R. (2015) A Cree Healer and His Medicine Bundle: Revelations of Indigenous Wisdom. Berkeley, CA: North Atlantic. ISBN 978-1-58394-903-0 (paperback) ISBN 978-1-58394-904-7(ebook). 223pp.

Waugh E, Szafran O, Triscott J, Parent R. 2015 Cultural Competence skill for Health Care Professionals; a workbook for caring across cultures. Edmonton, Brush Education Inc.

Barbara Helen Miller. (Editor) 2015 *Idioms of Sami Health and Healing*. (Patterns of Northern Tradition Healing Vol. 2) Edmonton, AB. Polynya Press.

Waugh E, Szafran O, Crutcher R. (Editors) 2011 *At the Interface of Culture and Medicine*. Edmonton, AB. University of Alberta Press.

David G Anderson. (Editor) 2011 *The Healing Landscapes of Central and Southern Siberia* (Patterns of Northern Traditional Series Vol. 1) Edmonton, AB. CCI Press.



Poison Mushrooms Poster (Out of print)

Organizational Structure

The CHC is administered by an Advisory Board, comprised of members in the Faculty of Arts, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry and Faculty of Nursing; it is joined by representatives from the community, along with practitioners, representatives from institutions, and students. Grant funding is the primary vehicle for our ongoing support and direction. The Centre is a full-fledged member of the university community and the Board operates under the jurisdiction of the Faculty Medicine & Dentistry. The Centre also develops programs and projects in partnership with other health and social research-related institutions.

Current Board Members

Mr. Clifford Cardinal, Aboriginal Health, U of A
Dr. Neil Dalal, Asst. Prof Philosophy, U of A
Dr. Michael Frishkopf, Prof Music, U of A
Dr. Lee Green, Chair, Dept. Family Medicine U of A
Dr. Roger Parent, Prof Emeritus, U of A
Ms. Valerie Plante, Private Practice
Mr. Robert Rogers, Asst. Clinical Prof, U of A
Dr. Francisco Valenzuela, Private Practice
Dr. Donna Wilson, Prof Nursing, U of A
Dr. David Young, Emeritus Director

CHC Contact Information

The CHC office is located at:
Centre for Health and Culture (CHC)
Department of Family Medicine
6-10 UNIVERSITY TERRACE
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2T4

Director: Earle H. Waugh, PhD
Ph: (780)-492-6424
Email: earle.waugh@ualberta.ca

Co-Director: Jean Triscott, MD, CCFP
Email: jean.triscott@albertahealthservices.ca

Office Assistant: Peggy Lewis
Ph: (780) 492-8306
Fax: (780) 492-2593

Website:

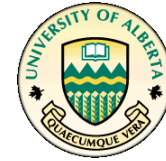
www.familymed.med.ualberta.ca/Home/AboutUs/Focus/CHC/



DR. EARLE WAUGH



DR. JEAN TRISCOTT



Centre for Health and Culture (CHC)



Department of Family Medicine
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta
Canada

