



Gender and vulnerable populations

A cross-cutting theme that incorporates sex- and gender-based analyses into all phases of project design, data collection and analyses

Known as OPEN, the Ontario Pharmacy Research Collaboration is a \$5.77 million multi-institutional and interdisciplinary research program comprised of a number of projects that are examining the quality, outcomes and value of new and emerging medication management services that pharmacists and other healthcare professionals provide.

Gender and vulnerable populations

OPEN's Gender and vulnerable populations team incorporates gender- and sex-based analyses throughout all phases of the program's research and knowledge-translation activities. Three tenets of sex- and gender-sensitive analysis guide the team's research.

1. Both a person's sex and gender are important, as they can affect the use and effectiveness of medication, the interactions between patients and pharmacists, health-related behaviours, the experience of illness, available social support, and other elements central to the research.
2. The gender of pharmacists, patients and physicians is important for understanding their interactions, including prescribing and health-related behaviours such as adhering to treatment.
3. Gender roles and structures intersect with other dimensions to shape health-related experiences.

Opportunities for students

Undergraduate and graduate students on OPEN's projects are provided with individual and collaborative experiential and applied-learning opportunities to develop and enhance their training and research skills. Student training focuses on sex- and gender-based analyses, knowledge

translation, and pharmacy practice and health service research skills. Importantly, students learn from and network with other researchers, their peers and knowledge users, strengthening research rigour as findings are put into practice.

Research based, knowledge-user driven

OPEN has strong ties to its knowledge users — individuals from a number of organizations who rely on this team's expertise to further inclusiveness in pharmacy practice and medication management studies, while improving quality and accessibility of healthcare in Ontario.

Project researchers

Project leads: Drs. Martin Cooke and Nancy Waite, University of Waterloo

Project members: Drs. Feng Chang and Katie Cook, University of Waterloo; Drs. Lisa McCarthy and Beth Sproule, University of Toronto

Would you like to learn more?

If you'd like more information about the work of this cross-cutting theme, please contact **Katie Cook**, MA, research coordinator of the Gender and vulnerable populations team.

k7cook@uwaterloo.ca • (519) 888-4567, ext. 21371

You can also visit www.open-pharmacy-research.ca/themes/gender-vulnerable-populations

OPEN's funding

Funded primarily by the Government of Ontario