

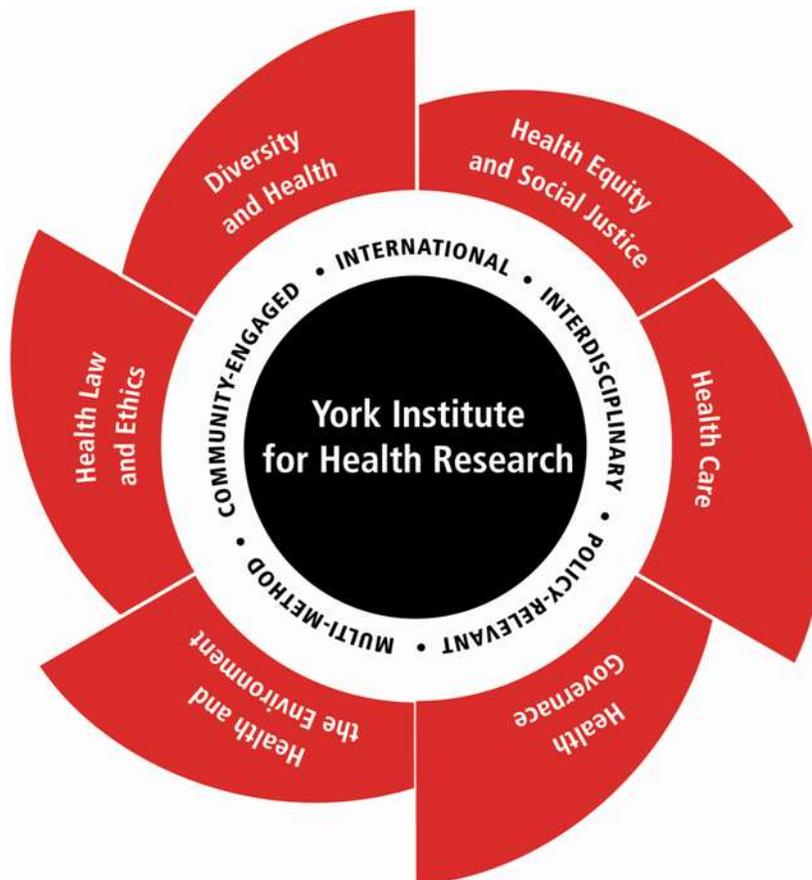
**York Institute for Health Research
Charter Application
2013-2014**

Charter Application

For Organized Research Units

Submitted on November 1, 2013

to the Office of the Vice-President Research & Innovation



1. ORU NAME:

York Institute for Health Research (YIHR)

2. PLAIN LANGUAGE ABSTRACT:

YIHR has a mandate to facilitate, support and conduct health research under six broad themes: Diversity and Health; Health Law and Ethics; Health and the Environment; Health Governance; Health Care and Health Equity; and Social Justice. YIHR develops research through the lenses of community engagement, interdisciplinarity, internationality, multi-method approaches and policy relevance. As an ORU, YIHR has the unique opportunity to bridge faculty gaps that drive interdisciplinary research and to expand new innovative research areas.

3. CATEGORY:

√ Institutional

4. PRINCIPAL APPLICANT AND INSTITUTIONAL SPONSORS:

	Name	Title & Affiliation	Signature
Principal Applicant	Marcia Rioux	Director, YIHR	
Sponsoring Faculty 1	Harvey Skinner	Dean, Faculty of Health	
Sponsoring Faculty 2	Donald Hastie	Dean, Faculty of Science	
Participating Faculty	Martin Singer	Dean, Faculty of Liberal Arts and Political Studies	
Participating Faculty	Lorne Sossin	Dean, Osgoode Hall Law School	
Participating Faculty	Shawn Brixey	Dean, Faculty of Fine Arts	
Participating Faculty	Noël Sturgeon	Dean, Faculty of Environmental Studies	
Participating Faculty	Ron Pearlman	Dean, Faculty of Eductaion	

5. CO-APPLICANT(S):

Name	Title & Affiliation	Signature
Harris Ali	Executive Committee, Faculty of Environmental Studies	
Uzo Anucha	Executive Committee, School of Social Work, Faculty of Liberal Arts	
Pat Armstrong	Director, Re-imagining Long-term Residential Care	
Sarah Flicker	Director, Taking Action	
Sandra Gabriele	Executive Committee, Department of Design, Faculty of Fine Arts	
Stephen Gaetz	Executive Committee, Faculty of Education	
Joan Gilmour	Executive Committee, Osgoode Hall Law School	
Michaela Hynie	Associate Director, YIHR Director, Program Evaluation Unit	
Dayna Nadine Scott	Director, National Network on Environments and Women's Health	
Mina Singh	Executive Committee, Graduate Program in Nursing, Faculty of Health	
Jianhong Wu	Director, Centre for Disease Modelling	

6. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Name	Faculty	Proposed members
Harris Ali	Faculty of Environmental Studies	Not applicable
Uzo Anucha	Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies	
Pat Armstrong	Faculty of Liberals Arts and Professional Studies	
Sandra Gabriele	Faculty of Fine Arts	
Stephen Gaetz	Faculty of Education	

Joan Gilmour	Osgood Hall Law School	
Michaela Hynie	Faculty of Health	
Jennifer Jenson	Faculty of Education	
Marcia Rioux	Faculty of Health	
Mina Singh	Faculty of Health	
Jianhong Wu	Faculty of Science	

7. YIHR PROGRESS

The York Institute for Health Research (YIHR) has fulfilled its mandate in facilitating, supporting, and conducting interdisciplinary health research. YIHR has brought together researchers across campus and external to York to develop integrated, practical and multidisciplinary health research. Its success is reflected in its reputation, at York and globally, as a driver in innovative health research creating impact through engaged scholarship. The value of YIHR shows evidence through scholarly development, change created with individuals and in their communities, and influence on policies in Canada and internationally. YIHR has also shown success in using a business model to encourage growth and be sustainable while maintaining a focus on academic integrity, commitment to training and community engagement. Much of this success has been possible through the collaborative efforts of its members whose dedication to investigating innovative health research is driven and inspired by our partnerships, from local communities to global networks.

Developing and Managing Research

YIHR members have continued to identify the success and value of YIHR in facilitating, supporting and hosting research projects. Researchers have continually expressed that YIHR's expertise and support in project administration and management and grant development (including proposals, budgets, navigating York processes) is extremely valuable to them as researchers. This support is particularly important for the development and administration of large multidisciplinary team grants and for emerging scholars to learn about research processes and seek support. Over the years, YIHR has witnessed the importance of investing in research staff in order to build upon relevant skills, experience and knowledge to support the development of research projects. YIHR has become a holder of research expertise that can be brought together to support research around a broad range of health topics.

As an ORU, YIHR is able to focus on developing and managing research. Learning from its extensive experience since 1990, YIHR continues to maximize its capacity to administer a large number of ongoing projects. For instance, YIHR is currently administering approximately 40 research projects (See Appendix A *YIHR Annual Report 2012-2013* for a list of recent projects).

This capacity has emerged from YIHR's focus and commitment to developing health research, through its ability to attract skilled expertise in research administration and management, and through developing a strong network of researchers who are committed to innovative health research.

Success

YIHR has proven its success in housing small to large research projects, and building upon small to create larger initiatives. Disability Rights Promotion International (DRPI); National Network on Environment and Women's Health (NNEWH); Re-Imagining Long Term Residential Care (RELTC); Center for Disease Modeling (CDM); Program Evaluation Unit (PEU); Taking Action; Grief Reconciliation Initiative (GRI) are proof of the institute's capacity to attract large grants and to transform research projects into multi-year, multi-grant initiatives imperative to building upon scholarly work, developing partnerships, building networks and making lasting impacts in the communities where we work.

Bridging Health Research through Collaboration

As an Organized Research Unit (ORU), YIHR has had the unique opportunity to address faculty boundaries and connect disciplines, faculty, students and research centres while connecting scholars to communities. The YIHR Executive Committee is a prime example of this interfaculty interaction that drives the interdisciplinary nature of YIHR research projects and expansion to new innovative areas of research. YIHR's Executive Committee is comprised of members from six faculties across the university. Making these connections unites a breadth of expertise and innovation to projects and issues, brings new researchers to the area of health and extends health research to less traditional areas of focus, creating opportunities for exciting new synergies, advancing and shaping York's strategic plan into health research.

The interdisciplinary environment has led to investigating interdisciplinary issues and promoting new discussions such as how to bridge social sciences and sciences research at York. Housing local to international research also drives new areas of research and builds upon existing relationships with YIHR. From a history of strong relationships developed in the Jane and Finch area through Program Evaluation; to a comparative study across 5 Canadian provinces, 3 American states, the U.K., Sweden, Germany and Norway in RELTC; to DRPI's global network with projects across each continent. YIHR has a strong international presence with an interdisciplinary research reputation, which has attracted partners to approach YIHR to develop new areas of research.

YIHR stimulates curiosity in interdisciplinary and collaborative research encouraging its members to collaborate across campus. This is evident in YIHR members' research activity across York research centres. For instance, YIHR members, Dr.s Michaela Hynie and Marcia Rioux collaborated with IRIS on a successful SSHRC Partnership Development Grant, *Living with climate change Mapping Experience and Adaptation in the Global South and North*: Dr. Michaela Hynie collaborated with the Centre for Refugee Studies on its SSHRC Partnership Development grant, *Strengthening the role of social work in the post-genocide recovery of Rwanda*. LaMarsh Centre for Child and Youth Research is a major collaborator with YIHR including partnering, along with the Centre for Refugee Studies, on the recently granted Grand

Challenges Canada grant, *A community-based mental health intervention for maternal mental health in Rwanda* and an ongoing SSHRC Partnership Development Grant, *Expanding the circle*. Dr. Jianhong Wu was awarded The Collaborative Health Research Projects, *Development of an Antimicrobial Resistance Diversity Index*. Dr. Rioux's DRPI project is collaborating with Institute for Research on Learning Technologies to develop on-line training modules and research tools. Individual projects awarded funding through YIHR has also attracted scholars from across the Faculties at York. YIHR has a long standing commitment for collaboration with ORUs across campus, illustrating competence and commitment to values set in York University Strategic Plan 2013-2018.

Engaged Scholarship

YIHR prides itself in developing research that is community-engaged, policy relevant and knowledge mobilizing in order to make an impact and reach a wide audience. This can be seen in the nature of YIHR's research activity.

The CIDA funded research project of Dr. Rioux in India, Bangladesh and Nepal has NGOs with essential roles in the research and outcomes. Her Sida funded research involves regional coordinators in Africa, South and Central America, the Asia-Pacific and Balkans. In each region, NGOs and grass roots organizations are generating and disseminating research results to governments, universities and communities.

Another example are the efforts to support community partners' program evaluations in the York region in partnership with the York University Knowledge Mobilization Unit, facilitated a series of workshops designed to provide community participants with the support and tools needed to improve their skills in evaluation and research methodologies. In collaboration with the Homeless Hub, the Program Evaluation Unit has also developed an on-line course in program evaluation for agencies in the homelessness sector, which was pilot tested in the spring of 2012 with community mental health organizations in a partnership with the Canadian Mental Health Association (Ontario Branch).

Dr. Dayna Scott, Director of the NNEWH initiative, has a strong commitment to community involvement in research. She steered the development of a series of community report-back events to ensure community members involved in the research were kept up to date. Dr. Scott has also been instrumental in forging links with NGOs and community organizations working on environmental health issues in Canada, America and Europe.

Dr. Pat Armstrong, Director of RELTC leads the project, *Healthy Ageing in Residential Places* (HARP) funded by The European Research Area in Ageing. The HARP team is working in collaboration with Ottawa's Bruyère Research Institute to identify healthy ageing strategies for long-term residential care. Comparative, collaborative and case studies are central to the project working with partners in Canada, Sweden, Norway and the UK. The rapid site-switching ethnography methodology is designed to capture rich detail necessary to identify strategies for active, healthy ageing by bringing local and foreign researchers together to study two facilities in each country.

Through continued visibility and evidence-based research, YIHR members are able to direct knowledge created through research to influence policies and practices. For instance, Dr. Marcia Rioux, Director of YIHR sits on the Accessibility Advisory Council committee for the Pan American/Parapan Games in 2015, established to assist the organization in achieving its vision of the “People’s Games”. Michaela Hynie is the Director of the YIHR Program Evaluation Unit initiative (PEU). Due to her work at YIHR and her expertise, Dr. Hynie was asked to be an expert witness to Board of Health by Toronto Public Health staff on issues of the medically uninsured. CDM has been instrumental in developing a reputation for research that is essential to informing policy. Dr. Jianhong Wu, Director of CDM, has been on the Scientific Committee for Models and Methods in Ecology Epidemiology and Public Health 2013, an initiative of mathematical sciences organizations around the world designed to showcase the ways in which the mathematical sciences can be useful in tackling our world’s problems. Dr. Wu is the Principal Investigator for the contract Mathematical Modeling of TB and HCV Early Screening and Early Treatment Cost-Effectiveness, awarded by the Public Health Agency of Canada to provide recommendations on early screening and early treatment cost-effectiveness for TB and HCV. Dr. Pat Armstrong, Director of RELTC initiative, is a CIHR Peer Review Chair and Gender and Work Chair, as well as a Board member of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives and Canadian Health Coalition. Dr. Joan Gilmour, YIHR Executive Member strives to influence policy through her membership on the Advisory Committee of the Law Commission of Ontario project on capacity and decision-making.

In order to facilitate engaged scholarship, YIHR continuously seeks to share its knowledge through its networks and to outreach to new audiences. YIHR research has built knowledge mobilization into its projects as a vital component for ongoing engaged research. For instance, CDM has planned an extensive number of events that have successfully brought together researchers and key public health decision makers to share perspectives and experiences in the areas of public health, screening, treatment, the social determinants of health, and scientific research, including mathematical modelling. Key outcomes from workshops focus on common goal-setting and the identification of a coherent strategy for action.

NNEWH undertook research in 2011-2012 related to the plastics manufacturing process in the automotive industry, with a focus on women workers who are members of the Canadian Autoworkers (CAW) union in Windsor, Ontario. These aims were achieved through focus groups employing participatory hazard-mapping and body-mapping exercises, an in-depth literature review, and a collaborative workshop with our partners and invited guests.

The RELTC project encourages academics and partners to think collaboratively through the practical implications of theory and the theoretical implications of practices and processes. It creates conditions for new developments in theory, empirical results, processes of collaboration, policy and practices not only about conceptualization of care and their implications but also about ways of doing and sharing research, filling major gaps in knowledge about long-term care. The success of these strategies is evident through a book, multiple publications, events, and presentations, as well as a proposal for a methods text. Throughout the project, the RELTC team is engaging in knowledge translation at conferences, in journals and in books using produce plain language documents, as well as technical reports and presentations for the media, community groups, employers, policy-makers and unions.

DRPI develops numerous workshops each year across the globe. A notable event was the DRPI Conference, *Monitoring Disability Rights: An exploration of recent models and their advantages and disadvantages* held at York University from May 26th to May 27th, 2012 gathering 27 participants from four different international regions. The papers given at that conference are now being compiled into a book (for which a publisher has been secured).

Taking Action has hosted community events across Canada organized by Aboriginal youth leaders in HIV prevention over the last two years. Taking Action goes beyond traditional scholarly dissemination tools bringing new methodologies to research, particularly beneficial for working with youth in communities. For instance, Taking Action supported youth in developing their own digital video storytelling to talk about HIV/AIDS in their own communities and to support research being mobilized into action. Taking Action Reports are developed by Aboriginal leaders incorporating the art inspired by or created by youth in the Taking Action research project. In the last year, Taking Action has developed a Training Manual, Youth Story, Full Report and Metis Report, and is currently developing another training manual that community members can use to facilitate the development and screening of videos by youth leaders in their communities.

Training

YIHR has been successful in engaging York students in YIHR activities, creating training opportunities on research projects, and consulting student representatives who sit on the Executive Committee. Last year, YIHR students organized a Student Committee to act as a liaison with York students to collaborate on new ideas for developing health-related research opportunities at York. This year's YIHR Student Committee has grown to incorporate subcommittees that will lead new YIHR student activities including Communications, Research Development Workshop Series, YIHR Symposium and Health Tomorrow journal. Notable successes include the organization of the *YIHR Annual Graduate Student Symposium* that fosters discussion and research dissemination between students across disciplines engaged in health-related research.

YIHR research has created student opportunities in health research at York. Each research grant seeks funding for graduate assistantships and research assistantships to foster training for York students from an array of disciplines. Currently, YIHR is housing graduate students in Environmental Studies, Anthropology, Fine Arts, Health and Critical Disability Studies. YIHR also hosts post doctorates to support their training and to match new scholars with experienced researchers in the field.

YIHR stays informed on training opportunities at York and has been granted funding to develop teaching and training gaps, consistent with the objectives of the academic environment at York. For instance, the Ontario Training Centre Graduate Diploma in Health Services and Policy Research (a 10 year initiative) at YIHR was completed last year with 36 graduates. OTC graduates have been very successful in obtaining employment in health services fields and in going on to do applied research in university programs. The Program Evaluation Unit developed

an evaluation online course for the Homelessness Sector, offers program evaluation training to numerous community organizations, including the Toronto District Public Libraries, and developed a Program Evaluation Certificate at York University. Last year alone, DRPI trained 475 people with disabilities across the globe to engage in disability rights monitoring and the process of empowerment through an understanding of their entitlement to rights shared by others in the population. CDM has been running a very popular Summer School series on Mathematics for Public Health since 2006. The 2013 school had 71 students selected globally from a wide range of backgrounds in biology, epidemiology, qualitative sciences and public health.

Health Research at York

As a result of the extensive success and activity at YIHR, York University has become known for innovative health research globally. YIHR brings a large number of grants to York, as well as its local to international networks, providing potential research opportunities, raising the York profile on a global scale. Research findings also have led to the stimulation of new, innovative ideas for further research by faculty at York University. In an iterative process, lessons from one piece of research have generated research hypothesis for new research.

YIHR is also a leader in developing interdisciplinary research and bringing together multidisciplinary research teams at York University. This has meant that new ideas have been spurred at York from the innovation of YIHR's interdisciplinary work. YIHR is a driver in collaboration, from working across faculties to across ORUs. YIHR is able to offer its experience with other units on fostering collaborative research, consistent with the objectives outlined in York University Strategic Research Plan 2013-2018.

8. CHARTER PROPOSAL

a) Promising Research Opportunities

Pursuing Research

YIHR took very seriously the suggestion to concentrate on core areas of strength from the review of the 2012-2013 YIHR Annual Report. The YIHR Executive Committee has made the decision to maintain its broad scope. YIHR recognizes the benefit of maintaining its existing values: interdisciplinary, community-engaged, international, multi-method approaches and policy-relevance that have guided research on its wide-ranging themes: Diversity and Health; Health Law and Ethics; Health and the Environment; Health Governance; Health Care and Health Equity; and Social Justice. Commitment to these research values ensures that YIHR maintains and builds upon lasting, ethical, scholarly engaged and innovative research identified by its Executive Committee and consistent with the foundation that YIHR was built upon. These themes have proven to be successful in guiding the scope of YIHR research, inspiring innovative interdisciplinary research while staying adaptive and responsive to emerging research areas. The broad scope of YIHR has reflected the mandate of major funders such as CIHR, NSERC and SSHRC.

YIHR will continue to collaborate with its local, national and international partners in order to discover new areas of research in demand, as well as to consult the YIHR Executive Committee- looking to health experts in faculties across campus. YIHR will also seek to attract one or more of the new York research professorships and Canada Research Chairs, when they become available.

At the same that YIHR will consult its members on emerging research, YIHR will also map potential research through calls for proposals to match with researchers across the York community. This approach creates a blueprint for bringing in emerging scholars and faculty members who have not previously been principal investigators on grants. As well, this approach has been successful in expanding capacity through bringing together new perspectives to interdisciplinary teams.

Areas in which YIHR foresees expanding include epigenetics, global health, health informatics, health economics, health systems restructuring, health care decision-making, health effects of environmental degradation, workplace health, social determinants of health, labour rights, and program evaluation. Epigenetics is a new window for looking at the intersection of biological and social factors in determining health outcomes. Our existing interdisciplinarity gives us an edge in moving in this direction and keeping the discourse truly interdisciplinarity. Increasing reliance on technology in global health makes health informatics and health technology timely. An increasing number of research grants targeting these areas, particularly large interdisciplinary and community-based initiatives makes us well situated to pursue these research areas. A recent surge in issues related to underemployment/unemployment/precarious employment of marginalized groups in the research calls from the national and international government has led YIHR to look at expansion into this area. In addition, increasing emphasis by governmental and non-governmental funding bodies to evaluation efficacy of programs makes expansion of the program evaluation unit into additional training highly valuable. Relevant to this is the increasing demand of limited resources for health care and optimal design of disease control and health promotion and protection, the CDM's strategic expansion into health economics and dynamic optimization develops York's capacity for research in science-informed public health policy. YIHR has tracked these expanding areas of interest in researchers interests at York and through funding opportunities.

The Program Evaluation Unit (PEU) has realized its capacity to expand is dependent on engaging additional faculty and leadership in order to develop projects in demand. PEU will continue to develop a Program Evaluation Certificate at York that will increase highly skilled professionals in the field, while also building upon the capacity of the Program Evaluation Unit.

YIHR is also working directly with faculties to initiate the intersection of research and scholarship. The Dean of the Faculty of Health is financially assisting the development of a course on Disability and Aboriginality that comes out of a SSHRC Partnership Development grant. The course will be a first in Canada and will be situated in 2 graduate programs and the new undergraduate program in Global Health. We are also working towards the development of a Program Evaluation Diploma in collaboration with the Institute for Social Research.

YIHR as an ORU

YIHR has been sustainable, since 1990, in maintaining a focus on health research. This focus has created momentum at YIHR in developing and expanding new areas in health research at York and across the globe. YIHR seeks to maintain its mandate through supporting and inspiring health research at York by faculty and students.

As an institutional-based ORU, YIHR is able to draw faculty from different disciplines and backgrounds to bridge the gaps and develop new innovative areas in health research that break faculty boundaries. YIHR membership is fluid, not fixed. This means that YIHR will draw expertise to meet project opportunities and needs. Also in part because of the institutional status of YIHR, research will cross faculty themes looking at interdisciplinary issues that will result in innovative research. The institutional nature of YIHR inspires this interdisciplinary curiosity, encouraging new discussions across faculties that may not be as well situated in a faculty. We ground ourselves in the faculty research themes and support faculty to find the partners that address groundbreaking work.

Often York faculty turn to YIHR due to its shared interest in health. To some researchers, YIHR may be an encouragement and incentive to step outside of their area of comfort. To some, YIHR may feel like a stronger affiliation than their tie to their Faculty, creating new spaces for faculty members to find affiliations.

York researchers often look to YIHR to provide expertise and support in project administration and management and grant development. YIHR provides expertise and knowledge on research processes. This includes providing expertise to researchers on how to navigate funding opportunities, particularly on CIHR calls and on some tri-council joint initiatives, and informing and updating researchers on York University policies and processes.

YIHR will continue to seek to expand health research. This includes examining potential areas that researchers introduce to YIHR, matching researchers with relevant funding opportunities, and supporting the development of new applications.

YIHR has large networks to draw from that make building research teams a strong competence. YIHR will continue to link researchers with beneficial networks, including drawing together faculty, experts, partners and communities that share areas of interest. YIHR will continue to support ties between researchers and students, including matching students with related research projects, finding research opportunities for students, and finding sustainable ways to develop student-faculty collaboration.

YIHR will also continue to promote engaged scholarship. Part of this means disseminating research. YIHR will ensure that it supports and disseminates information on health related events and conference opportunities at York University and externally. It will encourage YIHR members to attend these events. Through established methods, YIHR will showcase researcher's work on YIHR website, Facebook page and twitter account, as well as assist researchers in developing knowledge mobilization tools including project summaries and description of new knowledge that emerged from research.

Aligning with University Strategic Research Plan and Academic Plan

The YIHR Executive will strategically look at the University Strategic Research Plan 2013-2018 and the York University Academic Plan 2010-2015 as a guide to its work. Already many of these areas are being pursued. The Executive and Director and Associate Director review its research initiatives through this lens while at the same time recognizing that new and innovative ideas also need to be pursued.

The York University's Strategic Research Plan (SRP) conveys many objectives that have been evident in the foundation and development of YIHR's mandate. These include research that promotes interdisciplinarity, local to global, socially engaged, graduate opportunities and knowledge mobilization. YIHR will continue to promote these values in its own research and across campus, as well as continue to broaden the scope of health research to include building healthy lives, communities and global health. Many of the research areas that have been identified in the SRP are being combined in YIHR projects such as using digital medias, socially engaged research and individual, community and global health. YIHR will link YIHR researchers with York led opportunities to expand these areas, as well as provide guidance to emerging scholars in the field who request support from YIHR. YIHR will also seek new opportunities that have been highlighted within the SRP including identifying opportunities to work with the Faculty of Engineering to promote healthy living such the design of infrastructure to ensure accessibility.

The York University Academic Plan 2010-2015 corresponds with YIHR's core values in training including academic quality, student success, and engagement and outreach. As highlighted below, under Enhanced Training on page 26, YIHR develops unique opportunities for students through engagement with students across-disciplines, faculty and research, as well as through outreach at York and with YIHR partners, particularly on interdisciplinary and international research. YIHR will continue to create research opportunities for students, as well as create communities that promote students involvement and success. YIHR also shares a commitment to equity at York University. YIHR challenges systemic and structural discrimination and barriers to access, and promotes equity through its research while creating opportunities for students with multiple perspectives, identities and experiences.

Anticipated sources of external funding

YIHR will continue to submit funding proposals to peer reviewed granting agencies and not for profit organizations including Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), Grand Challenges Canada, International Departments of Development (England, Canada, Australia, Sweden and others), Workplace Safety and Insurance Board Research Advisory Councils (WSIB RAC), Health Canada, Heritage Canada, Mitacs, Toronto Public Library, YMCA, Stars of Hope, Handicap International, hospital foundations and other government departments at both the federal and provincial levels. This is not an exhaustive list but provides ideas of where we know funding proposals will likely receive a warm reception.

YIHR will also investigate fundraising opportunities to leverage the current grants to gain further and on-going funding and sustainability. We hope that York University fundraisers will actively support YIHR work.

Enhancing Training

YIHR will continue to connect students with diverse faculty members and opportunities in health research. YIHR attracts graduate students to York due to their interest in YIHR research, such as disability and marginal rights, cross-cultural health issues, community-engaged research with local populations, and health informatics and health analytics. International work on large scale projects often attracts top students who want to work in socially engaged research and, while looking for programs, see the extent of the international research done at YIHR and the opportunities for their involvement. In its recruitment of students for research, YIHR is sensitive to the need to enable opportunities for students from diverse backgrounds.

YIHR will continue to link students with opportunities available at York University, in order to take advantage of those opportunities that have been developed without. YIHR will specifically and strategically promote and target the development of training areas that need to be developed to promote an ethic of research in health research among students.

YIHR plans to enhance a vibrant student experience at YIHR. Successful engagement in the first YIHR Student Committee has illustrated the need to create additional student space and opportunities in health-related research at YIHR. The research coordinator along with YIHR members will work with York students to encourage, support and succeed in the development of the student-led events.

1. YIHR Student Committee will be influential in creating student run initiatives, as well as engaging York students with YIHR research.
2. Research Skills Development Workshops-YIHR student members are developing a seminar series to encourage research skills development for undergraduate students at York. The series will also foster interdisciplinary discussions among students and with YIHR researchers throughout the year. This is articulated by students as a key goal of their student experience.
3. *Health Tomorrow: Interdisciplinarity and Internationality* journal- YIHR students will continue to lead the journal out of YIHR. The online peer-reviewed journal offers a forum for students to become involved in interdisciplinary health research and share their findings with others in a collegial environment. Students who have moved on to other universities but have been involved in this while at York are continuing to maintain their engagement and drawing in students from other universities.
4. *YIHR Annual Student Symposium*. For many students this is their first experience of presenting a paper. Beyond that, this Seminar provides a common ground for students to think about the interdisciplinary of issues relating to health and their work. It is incumbent on them to present work and respond to questions from students from other Faculties. It

attracts broad based student population involvement and challenges them to broaden their findings and research.

5. *CDM Incubation Day and Summer School*: The Incubation Day, coordinated by and organized for CDM trainees, will continue to provide an opportunity these trainees to showcase the accomplishments. The CDM summer school has gained an excellent reputation in the relevant modelling, medical and public-health communities. The goals are to encourage more developing scientists to become interested in this field and to encourage communication between mathematical modellers and public health scientists and epidemiologists who have been historically unaware of the uses of mathematical modeling. York University is a Principal Sponsoring University of the Fields Institute which has been supporting the summer school series since 2006.

YIHR students understand the value of collaboration. They are seeking to strengthen communication, participation and collaboration with other student groups including CRS Student committee and GRASP.

Engaging in knowledge mobilization

In addition to promoting York faculty and student engagement, YIHR is dedicated to engaged scholarship through knowledge mobilization activities. YIHR is developing a new website to better showcase the activity going on at YIHR and to disseminate more information from research projects, including project descriptions, lessons learnt, tools developed by the projects and partners involved. This objective will be achieved through the development of a new YIHR website, project podcasts and videos and further use of the YIHR facebook page and twitter account.

Communication & Planning at the Faculty of Health is supporting the development of podcasts and videos for emerging YIHR projects. With the assistance of York design students, YIHR is developing an electronic newsletter to highlight our work and inform the York community and people in the health field. In addition, each of the YIHR initiatives are looking for new tools that will better engage and disseminate research materials so that they are useful in the community, internationally and for policy. For instance, DRPI is developing more attractive publications and presentation of materials through working with Sandra Gabriele, YIHR Executive member from Faculty of Fine Arts. YIHR would also like to develop more external communication such as press releases for project news and reports, as well as work in conjunction with York media. Developing new strategies will be instrumental in showcasing YIHR research activity, as well as disseminating the rich and vast range of knowledge created through YIHR research projects that is valuable to a wide range of stakeholders.

Uniqueness of YIHR's Mandate

YIHR has a unique mandate for health research that is interdisciplinary, innovative, wide in scope and is local, national, regional and international. A unique characteristic that sets YIHR apart from other research units among universities is its breadth of research: geographical- from local to international, community- to governance-engagement and across health areas. Together and individually these qualities make YIHR unique.

It is difficult to identify research units with comparable mandates. In many cases, research units have a very specific mandate. For example, the University of Victoria has a specific Centre for Aboriginal Health Research, Simon Fraser has a research Institute on Mental Health, Law, and Policy and McGill University and McMaster University have centres that focus on clinical research to parallel their medical schools. While other institutes have broader mandates more similar to YIHR, such as the University of Alberta, Carleton University and The Dalla Lana School of Public Health, those research institutes take on a different mandate. For instance the University of Alberta has separated institutes that represent different areas of health research, unlike YIHR which merges areas and disciplines of health areas to promote innovation and collaboration. Carleton University has a Centre for Research on Health but the umbrella is more restricted and the institute is fairly new limiting their areas of research. The Dalla Lana School of Public Health has a broad mandate that is interdisciplinary but its mandate focuses on public health at the global level, dissimilar from YIHR's local focus.

b) Other benefits that have not been fully captured- Not applicable

c) Expectations, Deliverables and Evaluation Metrics

YIHR's key expectations are:

1. YIHR will continue to develop and conduct interdisciplinary, community-engaged, international, multi-method approaches and policy-relevant research.
2. YIHR will continue to draw on multiple sources previously used to be sustainable.
3. YIHR will continue to conduct engaged scholarship.

The key expectations for YIHR research remain the impacts of its research and its sustainability. The impacts of current and envisioned research done under the auspices of YIHR includes impacts on health status of citizens in Canada and internationally, impacts on policy and programs, and impacts on students and researchers in the development of a broad and cross disciplinary cohort. The creative potential of research at York through the initiatives of YIHR is central to its work and to its relevance to the university.

A template for evaluating those expectations should be developed and will likely be a key initiative in the coming year under the new Director. For example, a matrix would be the populations to which the research is directed – that is, what is the balance of local, provincial, national and international work (the latter divided between the global north and the global south). These matrices need to be balanced with the current general topics and principles, developed and endorsed by the Executive that have so successfully guided YIHR for the past few years. Current evaluation metrics identified include:

1. YIHR will continue to be sustainable:
 - Continue to draw from multiple sources that have been successful
 - Number of projects remain continuous
 - Increase in CIHR applications and grants
 - Broader set of funders attracted to YIHR work

- Increase interest and attain grants through the Division of Advancement at York (to date YIHR has not attained grants through the Division)
 - Funding to support a position for grant development on an ongoing basis
 - Expand space to support anticipated increase in research projects
 - Increase requests for application support from new scholars and researchers who have not yet been a principal investigator
2. YIHR will continue to develop and conduct interdisciplinary, community-engaged, international, multi-method approaches and policy-relevant research.
 - Mix between local, national, regional and international projects remain constant
 - Involvement of diverse populations across research projects
 - Research proposals identify objectives to impact policy, for knowledge mobilization and to engage communities
 - Evidence of new expertise and perspectives involved in research projects
 - Cross faculty representation on YIHR Executive Committee
 3. YIHR will continue to conduct engaged scholarship.
 - Maintain and build upon local, national, regional and international networks
 - Increase number of student opportunities on research projects, including representation of students from across disciplines
 - Develop new ways for students to develop health research skills that can transfer to research experience
 - Hold 4 post doctorate positions
 - Continued organization of YIHR Student Symposium
 - Organization of events and seminars from each initiative

YIHR's success has been attributed to the hub and spoke model structure that maximizes its capacity to successfully facilitate, support and host a broad range of interdisciplinary research. Part of this success is attributed to staff at YIHR who are aware of the importance of working together to build the Face of Health at York. It is a team of very dedicated staff who understand that we need to: increase institutional grants and general grants; support researchers, both seasoned and new, in attracting new and innovative research opportunities; and make YIHR sustainable in terms of students, faculty members and financial resources. The kind of support we receive from our team is invaluable to the growth of YIHR and representative of an internal culture that fosters this drive.

While YIHR has continued to expand, its level of expansion and growth in funding depends heavily on its ability to invest into grant development. YIHR recognizes that growth requires increased administrative expertise and support on an ongoing basis. Therefore, a further monitoring tool would be to look at the sustainability of YIHR in light of current funding environment and the shifting landscape of granting generally. YIHR faces challenges in resourcing its efforts as funding is difficult to obtain directly from grants and thus is only available through direct funding from the university or through tri-council overhead. These challenges are not likely to change in the near future and so there has to be an exercise in planning that directly addresses these issues with an eye to future funding sources. A new Director will need to lead a process of renewal that is closely matched with the funding

environment that we now face. This means that, while YIHR is currently able to both maintain its level of activity and growth, it will require a much greater engagement of the York development officers to begin to fill those gaps which are opening up currently. Developing matrices which can predict these funding environments (as has been done over the past 10 years) so that the funding is diversified enough to cover the shortfalls that occur with, for example, tri-council funding are important. Diversity will include international grants, private sector grants and government grants, all of which provide overhead and administrative support. YIHR will develop an economic model based on the last five years to assist in future planning and funding strategies. YIHR will also seek resources to invest in a project management software to support the development of a planning and monitoring tool, as well that can be used for managing research grants.

12. Directorship

Marcia Rioux, the current Director is leaving her post. There is currently an on-going search for a new Director for YIHR by VPRI beginning in July 2014.