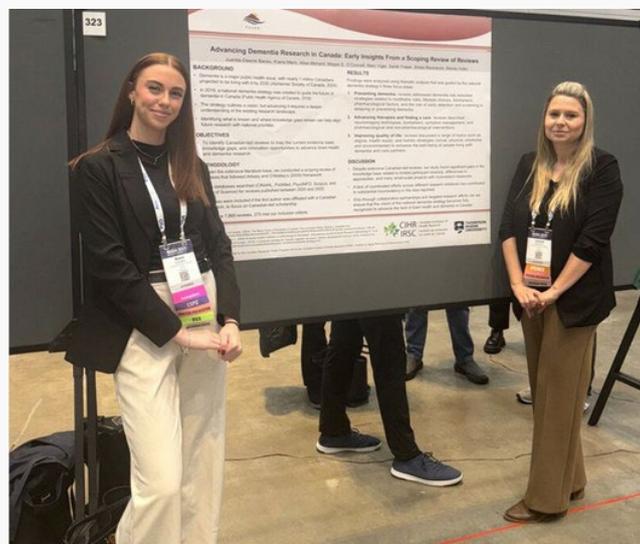


Honouring Excellence in Research: Bacsu Receives Scholar Award

Dr. Juanita-Dawne Bacsu has been named a 2025 Scholar Award recipient by Michael Smith Health Research BC. Her work continues to break new ground in reducing dementia-related stigma and advancing health equity for rural older adults with dementia. This Scholar Award will fund her new research that pioneers wildfire support for rural people living with dementia and their care partners, helping communities build safer and more resilient emergency responses. Dr. Bacsu is among 26 scientists and health professionals across British Columbia being honoured this year for their transformative contributions to health research.

Leading Conversation on Aging: Highlights from the GSA Conference

The PHARR Centre made a strong showing at the Gerontological Society of America (GSA) Conference in Boston on November 12-15, 2026, delivering five presentations. Highlights included a symposium on Challenges and Opportunities for Centers on Aging: Leadership, Diversity, and Advocacy, alongside two poster presentations, a mentoring consultancy talk, and a presentation at the Center Directors on Aging Interest Group meeting. Beyond the podium, Dr. Bacsu connected with members of the two international GSA programs she leads. Through AGES, she brought together early career faculty to advance gerontological mentorship across North America, and through the LEAD Program, she connected with directors of centers on aging to strengthen leadership and innovation in research.



Kiana Mero and Dr. Bacsu presenting at the GSA Conference.

New Findings Shared at Rural Dementia Action Research Summit

The PHARR Centre had the opportunity to share their dementia research at the 18th Annual Rural Dementia Action Research (RaDAR) Summit on November 20, 2025. The summit showcased leading rural dementia research from across Canada and brought together researchers, community partners, and stakeholders for a powerful day of learning and collaboration!

Join us on
social media!
@PHARR_Centre



PHARR Centre Hosts Scoping Review Workshop: Sparking Research Momentum

The PHARR Centre hosted a Scoping Review workshop on November 27, led by Dr. Bacsu, teaching researchers how to conduct a scoping review from start to finish. The session drew over 30 participants who learned practical skills and research tools to advance their projects. Special thanks to All My Relations and TRU Research Services for organizing the event and providing great snacks and swag!



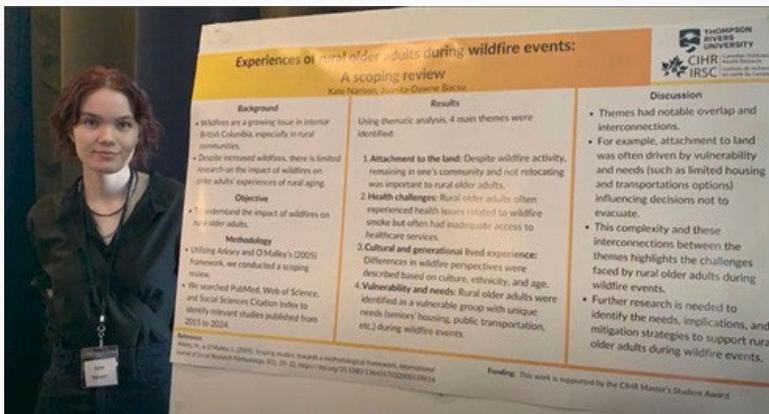
Scoping Review Workshop at the PHARR Centre

Mapping the Future of Brain Health Research in Canada

Dr. Bacsu and a national team of researchers, including PHARR Centre faculty, wrapped up the groundbreaking project, Mapping Brain Health and Dementia Research in Canada. The initiative produced a national overview of brain health and dementia research in Canada, including an environmental scan, focus-group findings, a scoping review, and a final report with infographics that highlight priorities for future research. The team shared the findings in Ottawa on November 18, 2025, with CIHR and members of the Dementia Research and Innovation Funders Alliance. Explore the full report on the PHARR website, <https://pharr.trubox.ca/publications/>.

Celebrating Kate Nanson's Thesis Defense Success!

Congratulations to Kate Nanson, a CIHR-funded graduate student and research assistant at the PHARR Centre. She successfully defended her Master's in Nursing thesis under the supervision of Dr. Juanita-Dawne Bacsu. Her research focuses on supporting rural older adults during wildfire events, a timely and crucial topic as wildfire risk continues to grow across Canada. This achievement is a proud moment for Kate and the PHARR Centre, and we celebrate her dedication and contributions to rural health research.



Kate Nanson presenting her research

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