Dean's Message

Welcome to our new style of annual report for keeping in touch with our FHS community. 2018 has been a year of looking forward. We have built a research strategy focused on 6 global challenge areas that require interdisciplinary solutions. We need to work together across our strengths in FHS and with our local and global partners to find real-world solutions to challenges in mental health and addictions, infectious diseases, health systems and policy, developmental trajectories of health and disease across the human life course, and human influences on our environments that impact health. We build tools to help address these challenges, whether they be better ways to harness big data, or social and technological innovations. But most importantly, we view these challenges through the lens defined by our values of social justice and reduction of health inequities. We are excited to be strengthening our commitment to indigenous students and research.

This year, we engaged our FHS community in building our 2018-23 academic strategic plan. We made a commitment to improve the student experience and are excited about our plans for an FHS Student Commons to open in 2019. Curricular reforms are underway to best link our interdisciplinary research with teaching and to enhance experiential learning opportunities for our students with our committed community partners. Finally, we are looking to grow our FHS faculty in 2019 to meet the needs of our research challenge areas and our students. We look forward to the implementation stage of our ambitious strategic plans in collaboration with our global partners.
45 graduate students were given the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to travel to either Durban, South Africa or the U.S/Mexico border at San Diego/Tijuana. At these locations, students had first hand experiences, meeting local health care professionals and community members.

Earlier this year, Krista Stelkia received the Canadian Institute of Health Research doctoral award. This will allow her to investigate the role of racism on Indigenous health, specifically First Nations people living with chronic health conditions, during her PhD.

Bruce Lanphear is part of a research team investigating the role of lead exposure in children. At the conclusion of a long term study, they were able to determine that reducing residential lead exposure led to improved neurobehavioural outcomes in children, especially a reduction in anxiety.

FHS students & researchers discovered that the use of household air purifiers by pregnant women in areas with low air quality led to improved fetal growth, birth weight, and maternal health. The study highlighted the need to improve air pollution for public health.

As in previous years, undergraduate co-op students were given the opportunity to work with Destiny Reflection in India. Students were able to work with sex trafficking survivors, who learned how to manufacture fashion accessories to build their skills in order to escape their past.

FHS students & researchers, in collaboration with Ethiopian clinician-researchers, discovered high levels of HIV drug resistance in children who were failing their first-ever HIV treatment regimen in Southern Ethiopia. The study revealed the urgent need for improvements in medical treatment.

5 under graduate students travelled to the U.K. to compete in the Map the System challenge at Oxford University. Here they discussed mental health and wellness outcomes in second generation immigrant youth, and its wider context. The team placed third at this international challenge.

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A strengthening social innovation project was announced, focusing on building skills and improving outcomes in communities around the world.

An engaging Indigenous communities project was announced, focusing on building skills and improving outcomes in communities around the world.

An impacting children’s health project was announced, focusing on building skills and improving outcomes in communities around the world.

An understanding social inequities project was announced, focusing on building skills and improving outcomes in communities around the world.

An solving city problems project was announced, focusing on building skills and improving outcomes in communities around the world.

An discussing mental health project was announced, focusing on building skills and improving outcomes in communities around the world.

An improving air quality project was announced, focusing on building skills and improving outcomes in communities around the world.

A solving city problems project was announced, focusing on building skills and improving outcomes in communities around the world.