



Staffing Updates

Judie Davies started in August and will be focusing on the development of age-friendly course materials for students. She will also be teaching a course that includes age-friendly concepts in the Faculty of Social Work at the U of M.

Lucelia Luna de Melo presented her MSc Thesis Defense entitled “Associations Between Walking Behaviour and Personal and Environmental Factors in Older Adults Living in a Downtown Neighbourhood” in August 2008. Lucelia will be working with one of CURA’s Co-Investigators, Elizabeth Ready (Kinesiology & Recreation Management), and also Verena Menec.

AgeFriendly Manitoba Initiative

The Minister responsible for Seniors in collaboration with the Association of Manitoba Municipalities, has sent out the second call for communities to become part of AgeFriendly Manitoba. The announcement of which communities will become part of round 2 will be made shortly (see <http://www.gov.mb.ca/agefriendly> for details).

Age-Friendly Community Consultations

The goal of this project is to assist communities with town-hall meetings designed to identify how age-friendly the community currently is and prioritize issues. The meetings will help communities form action plans and provide a baseline of ‘age-friendliness’. Meetings in various communities are being planned starting this fall.

Research Projects

WISER Phase III

The WISER website has been updated to include information on Phase Three found at <http://www.umanitoba.ca/centres/aging/273.htm>

Principal Investigator

Verena Menec Community Health Sciences, University of Manitoba

Community Lead

Patti Chiappetta Manitoba Seniors & Healthy Aging Secretariat

Co-Investigators

Judy Chipperfield Psychology
John Everitt Geography, Brandon University
Bonnie Hallman Environment & Geography
Richard Milgrom City Planning
Frances Racher School of Health Studies, Brandon University
Elizabeth Ready Kinesiology & Recreation Management
Alexander Segall Sociology
Laura Taylor Social Work

Students

Sheila Novek
Becky Raddatz

Collaborators

Frances Kuo Natural Resources & Environmental Sciences, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Amanda Macrae Age & Opportunity Inc.
Barbara Payne Community Health Sciences, University of Manitoba
Louise Plouffe Division of Aging & Seniors, Government of Canada
Kimberly Weihs Manitoba Society of Seniors
Marjorie Wood Creative Retirement Manitoba

Postdoctoral Fellow

Toni Morris-Oswald

Community Liaison

Louise Hutton

Community Survey

A summary of findings from the survey involving 130 municipalities in Manitoba has been prepared and mailed to participating communities. The results are also available on the CURA website at <http://umanitoba.ca/centres/aging/375.htm>.

PhotoVoice

Transcription of all PhotoVoice groups was completed this summer and analysis of the focus groups will continue this fall. Based on the discussion groups, a summary of findings was prepared and sent to participants in each community (Carman, Dauphin and Winnipeg). These summaries will be added to the CURA website shortly.

Upcoming Events

Active Aging Week

ALCOA, one of CURA's partners, is hosting an Active Aging Week October 6 - 12, 2008. The goal is to introduce older Manitobans and their families to the concept of active aging and provide opportunities to attend various activities and workshops. The Centre on Aging will contribute to this event by conducting a workshop on age-friendly communities on October 6 from 10:30 – 3:00 at the Carol Shields Auditorium at the Millennium Library.

Gimli's Age-Friendly Awareness Day

On October 9, Gimli is hosting a one-day workshop on age-friendliness. The day will consist of information on becoming an age-friendly business, as well as sessions on housing/accommodation and mobility issues in the community.

Conferences

The International Federation on Ageing (IFA)'s 9th Global conference on aging was held September 4 - 7, 2008 in Montreal. The conference focused on three major themes: health, participation, and security; and included sessions related to age-friendly communities.

A few CURA team members and partners had the opportunity to attend and present at the conference, including Mariam Omar from the Manitoba Seniors and Healthy Aging Secretariat. CURA student Becky Raddatz presented research being conducted with Richard Milgrom on age-friendliness and planning in Winnipeg.

Representatives from the Manitoba communities of Portage la Prairie (participant in the WHO Global Age-Friendly Cities Project) and Gimli (participant in the Canadian Age-Friendly Rural/Remote Communities Project) also had the opportunity to attend and share their experiences in becoming age-friendly.

The next IFA conference will be held in 2010 in Melbourne, Australia.

Partners

Active Living Coalition for Older Adults (ALCOA)
Age & Opportunity Centres, Inc.
Assiniboine Regional Health Authority
Brandon Regional Health Authority
Creative Retirement Manitoba
Division of Aging & Seniors, Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC)
Federal Superannuates National Association (FSNA)
Manitoba Association of Multi-Purpose Seniors Centres (MAMSC)
Manitoba Council on Aging
Manitoba Seniors & Healthy Aging Secretariat
Manitoba Society of Seniors Inc.
NOR-MAN Regional Health Authority
Rural Development Institute
South Eastman Health
Winnipeg Regional Health Authority (WRHA)
Winnipeg in motion
World Health Organization (WHO)

Websites

Centre on Aging www.umanitoba.ca/centres/aging/
Manitoba Seniors & Healthy Aging Secretariat
www.gov.mb.ca/agefriendly/index.html
WISER www.umanitoba.ca/centres/aging/375.htm

Contact Information

Dawn Veselyuk
Project Coordinator
Phone: 474-6583
Fax: 474-7576
Dawn_Veselyuk@umanitoba.ca