

Call for Abstracts:

COLLABORATIVE APPROACHES

to Healthy Rural Communities

CONFERENCE | 2024



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Call for Abstracts

Collaborative Approaches to Healthy Rural Communities

Cape Breton University (CBU) in partnership with Nova Scotia Health is inviting abstracts focused on health research in rural communities, as we build a robust program for CBU's 2024 health research conference.

The theme for this year's event is Collaborative Approaches to Healthy Rural Communities. The conference will be held in beautiful Unama'ki-Cape Breton, Sydney NS, October 17, 18 and 19, 2024. Conference registration details coming soon! Visit the webpage for updates: [Health Research Conference 2024 - Cape Breton University \(cbu.ca\)](https://www.cbu.ca/health-research-conference-2024)

The conference will highlight a broad range of healthcare research and practices, focused on the health and well-being of people and communities in rural and semi-rural areas. This conference seeks to encourage interprofessional relationships and emphasise the interdisciplinary facets of healthcare in rural communities including contributions from:

- Physicians
- Nurses
- Dieticians
- Academics
- Social Workers
- Health Promotion Leaders
- Provincial Governments
- Mi'kmaw and Indigenous Health Practitioners
- Other Allied Health Professionals
- Students conducting health research

Work to advance infrastructure, expertise and collaboration around healthy communities continues to gain momentum across the Atlantic region. Rural communities can present unique challenges to healthy aging, food security, dementia prevention and management, Indigenous community health, youth mental health, and integration of technological advancements. This conference will advance local, provincial, and national efforts to promote comprehensive, inclusive and holistic healthcare programs considering these unique rural challenges.

This conference will create a welcoming space for dialogue and collaboration among attendees. If you are conducting research in related healthcare topics, we particularly invite you to submit your abstract considering the five broad conference themes.

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Conference Themes

The conference is planned around five key themes related to rural healthcare. Please select the theme(s) that best reflect your abstract submission.

Theme 1:

Initiatives for Advancing Health Care in Nova Scotia

Cape Breton University will soon enroll the first cohort of the Cape Breton Medical Campus, in partnership with Dalhousie University. This initiative has a specific mandate to support healthcare in rural communities in Nova Scotia. This conference theme will highlight other programs, research, and development initiatives that are contributing to improved health outcomes for people in rural communities.

Theme 2:

Etuptmumk -Two-Eyed Seeing in Health Research, Policy, Practice & Education

Etuptmumk/Two-Eyed Seeing is a guiding principle that embodies both Indigenous and Western world views, practices, and perspectives, acknowledging that no single perspective is superior, and that both world views have value. The framework was developed by Eskasoni Elders, Dr Albert Marshall and the late Dr. Murdena Marshall. This conference theme will highlight the application of two-eyed seeing in healthcare research, policy, practice, education, public health models, and related health and wellbeing initiatives.

Theme 3:

Collaboration and Innovation in a Rural Environment: Models, Barriers, Facilitators

Rural communities across Atlantic Canada have experienced challenges and opportunities when it comes to healthcare innovation. This conference theme aims to explore the models, barriers, and facilitators at the forefront of conversations and actions around healthy rural communities.

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Theme 4:

Dementia Prevention in Rural Communities

According to the Alzheimer Society of Canada, the number of people living with dementia in Nova Scotia is expected to increase by 87% from 2020-2050, affecting 30,000 people. Also, the number of Indigenous Peoples living with dementia in Nova Scotia is expected to increase by over 200%¹. With more research, support, and prevention resources available than ever before, this conference theme will inform both rural challenges and opportunities to addressing risk and protective factors for dementia. This includes any research that examines and advances medical practice, prevention resources, and the impact of peer-to-peer and community supports.

Theme 5:

Empowering Communities to be Active Participants in Health and Wellness

By focusing on building capacity, developing partnerships and raising awareness around health and wellness, healthcare researchers and providers are empowering rural communities. This includes diverse initiatives in participatory research, innovative access to new programs and building on existing models and resources in new ways to promote sustainability of community-based models. The focus of this conference theme will be to examine impact of community engagement to support health and wellness in rural communities.

Presentations

Proposed research presentations should focus on disseminating any of the following:

- **Research**, including quantitative, qualitative or mixed methods
- **Tech/Device** research and development
- **Community-based programs** implementation and assessment
- **Policy development** related to health in rural communities
- **Cultural aspects** of community health and wellbeing

¹ Alzheimer Society of Canada. (2024). Landmark Study Report #2: The Many Faces of Dementia in Canada. <https://alzheimer.ca/en/the-many-faces-of-dementia-in-canada-landmark-study-volume-2>

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Presentation Formats:

This conference will be in person, with a virtual attendance option, however, presenting authors are expected to be on-site in Cape Breton. Presentations will be in English.

When submitting an abstract, please indicate your preferred format:

Oral Presentation:

Oral presentations will allow a maximum of 20 minutes, including time for questions and may also be structured in a panel format.

Workshop Presentation:

Workshop presentations will allow a maximum 60-minutes. Concurrent workshops may occur.

Lightening Presentation:

Lightening round presentations for 10-minutes will provide an opportunity to share a concise summary of your work and may be structured in a panel format.

Student Presentation Formats:

Although, we encourage all our student attendees and presenters to join us on-site in Cape Breton, we realise this may not be possible for all participants. As such, in recognition of our theme and the rural focus of this conference, we will be offering both in person and virtual options for attendance and presentations for students.

When submitting student abstract, please indicate if you want to be considered for student lightening presentations.

Student Poster Presentations:

Poster presentations will provide an opportunity to share your work with conference attendees and judging panel. A prize will be provided to the best student poster presentation.

Student Lightening Presentations:

A select number of abstracts will be chosen to participate in the student lightening presentations. Lightening presentations provide the opportunity to share a 5-minute concise summary of your work with conference attendees and judging panel. A prize will be provided for the best student lightening presentation.

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Abstract Guidelines

- Abstract submission can be completed using [Submit Abstract](#)
- The title of abstract submission and the names of all coauthors and their affiliations are to be included in the abstract submission. *It is the responsibility of the submitting presenter to ensure that all co-authors have approved the title, summary and names of presenters and their affiliations.*
 - Presenting author's name is to be first and should be followed by each co-author's name.
 - Each name should be listed as follows: first name, middle name (if desired), and last name.
 - Titles (Dr.) may be included.
 - Affiliations are to be listed after each author.
- Abstract submissions are limited to a 400-word summary, including: **objectives, research methods / methodology, outcomes and conclusions**. Projects that are in progress where outcomes and/or final analysis are pending can be submitted for review. Projects that are in the proposal stage will NOT be reviewed or accepted.
- Abstract submissions should NOT include tables, figures, photos or references.
- Review of abstracts will be conducted using a peer-reviewed process. Owing to the anticipated volume of submissions, specific feedback on abstracts that are not accepted for conference or poster sessions will not be provided.

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Important Dates

The following important dates are for informational purposes and may change:

May 8, 2024: Call for Abstracts opens

June 10, 2024: Conference Registration opens (early-bird deadline until August 13, 2024)

July 7, 2024: Call for Abstracts closes

July 29, 2024: Communication with accepted and unaccepted presenters

August 1, 2024: Conference Agenda is finalized

September 15, 2024: Conference Registration closes

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