

**Welcome from the Healthy Populations Institute**

On behalf of the Healthy Populations Institute (HPI) we would like to welcome you to the first Healthy Populations Journal (HPJ). We are thrilled to be supporting this worthy student-led initiative.

HPI is a multi-faculty research institute at Dalhousie University that is jointly funded by the Faculties of Health, Medicine, and Dentistry. HPI is comprised of scholars, students and community partners that aim to improve population health in Atlantic Canada and beyond by understanding and influencing the complex conditions that affect the health of communities. Our new strategic plan launched in May 2020 and focused our efforts on advancing knowledge generated from our research into effective changes in population health related policy and practice. One important way to fulfill our mandate is supporting HPJ. We are delighted to be supporting student leaders and publishing student-led, peer-reviewed work that aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and/or HPI's five current Flagship Projects.

What's even more special about this inaugural HPJ Special Edition is that it is in collaboration with the Crossroads Interdisciplinary Health Research Conference. As in previous years, Crossroads is a demonstration of the leadership and passion of Dalhousie's students, along with students from across Canada, and provides an excellent opportunity for knowledge sharing, networking and capacity building. HPI is proud to be the new host organization of the Crossroads Conference and excited to use HPJ as an opportunity to disseminate high quality student work that would usually be presented at an annual in-person Crossroads event.

We hope that HPJ presents you with an opportunity to expand your population health knowledge, challenge your thinking, and support the excellent research being conducted by student scholars.

Congratulations to the HPJ Executive Team that has worked so hard on this first release.

Sincerely,



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