

RESEARCH AND WORKPLACE INNOVATION PROGRAM (RWIP)

2020 Report on Projects

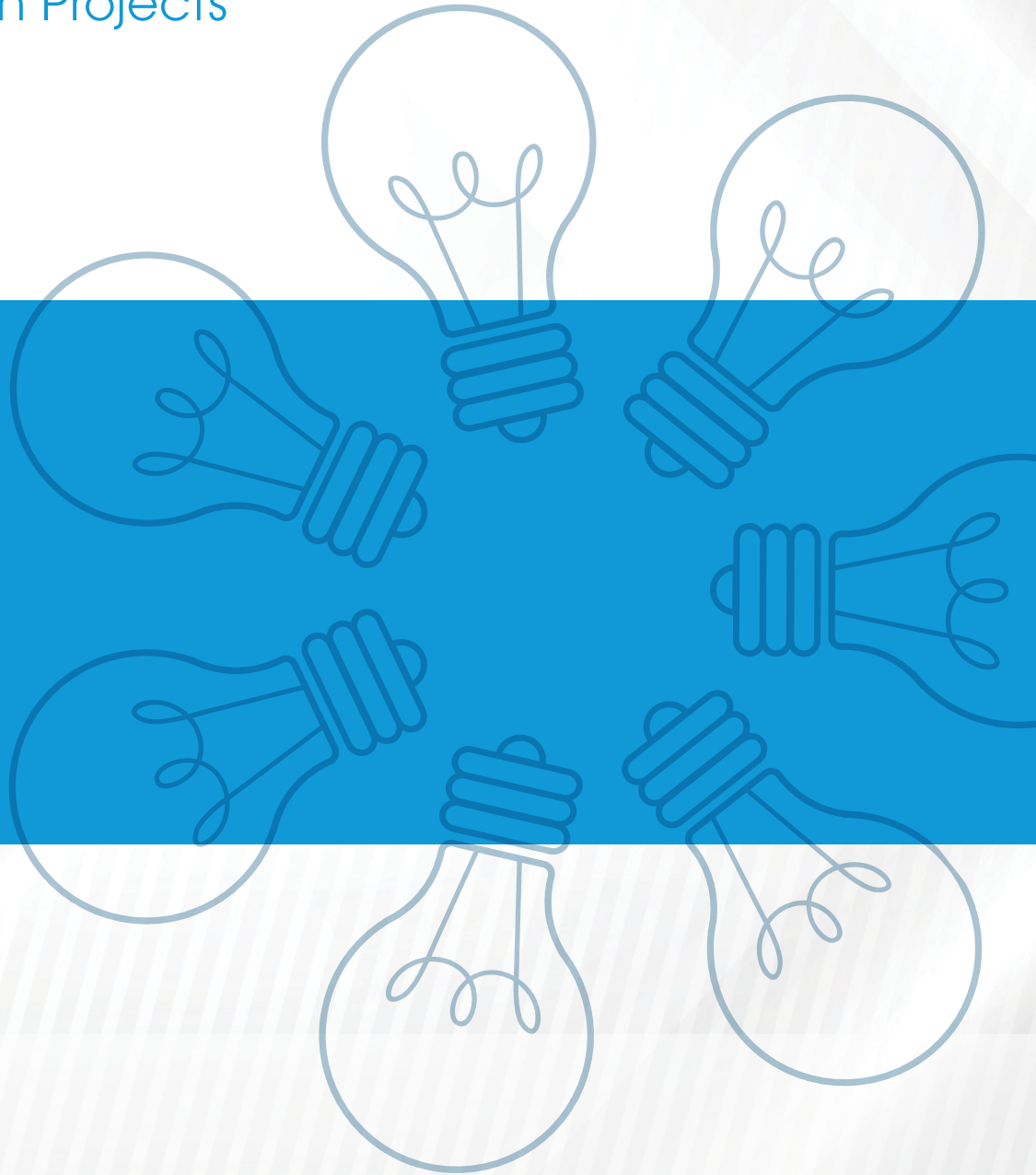


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OVERVIEW OF REPORT

This Report provides an update on the activities of the Research and Workplace Innovation Program (RWIP) in 2020. The Report is organized into three sections:

- New Grants Awarded
- Completed Projects
- RWIP Approved Projects 2009 to 2020 (Appendix A)

The RWIP offers grants on an annual and competitive basis to support high quality projects on the prevention of workplace injury and illness, improving workplace health and safety, and the safe and productive return-to-work of injured or ill workers. Funding is awarded under two core funding streams:

- Training and Education
- Workplace Innovation.

Established in 2009, the RWIP makes available \$600 thousand dollars in funding each year. Eighty-five (85) projects were funded over the past twelve (12) years. Appendix A shows Approved RWIP Projects from 2009 to 2020.



NEW GRANTS AWARDED IN 2020

Due to changes in timing of the RWIP Call for Applications, no Grants were awarded in 2020.

An external review of the RWIP was completed in early 2020. A review is conducted every five years to assess the program's deliverables and its alignment with the Workers Compensation Board of Manitoba's (WCB's) strategic goals and vision. As a result of recommendations arising from the review, the program was refreshed to ensure that RWIP funded projects support the WCB's mandate and long term vision.

The following program changes were made:

- Elimination of the Scientific Research stream
- Annual grant funding was reduced from \$1 million to \$600 thousand dollars
- The RWIP Call for Applications moved to the fall.



PROJECTS COMPLETED IN 2020

The following projects were completed during 2020.

MANAGEMENT OF POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER: A MULTIPLE TREATMENT COMPARISON META-ANALYSIS OF RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIALS

Dr. Jason Busse,
McMaster University

\$158,243 awarded in 2016

Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is a common psychological disorder associated with disability, unemployment and poor quality of life. Treatments range from multiple pharmacological treatments to psychotherapies; however, the relative effectiveness of competing interventions was unknown. The goal of this project was to compare the relative benefits and harms of interventions for PTSD. Existing reviews have focused on the effects of isolated treatments on symptom reduction, which complicated efforts to determine the effect on functional recovery. No review had evaluated all interventional studies for PTSD, which precludes inferences regarding the relative effectiveness of treatments. The project conducted a network meta-analysis of all randomized controlled trials evaluating therapies for PTSD to determine which therapies showed evidence of reducing PTSD symptoms, improving quality of life, facilitating return to work and ameliorating disability.

The project results showed that exposure therapy, cognitive behavioural therapy, and fluoxetine were effective at reducing PTSD symptoms and improving self-reported disability; however, these were surrogate measures for return to work, and a direct association cannot be assumed. Limited direct evidence suggests that increasing rates of employment among PTSD patients may require therapy that focuses on employment, can be limited in time, and may require greater intensity for high risk workers.



BUILDING SUPPORT FOR NEWCOMER WORKERS IN THE FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRY

Karen Hamilton,
MFL Occupational Health
Centre (MFLOHC),

\$93,704 awarded in 2016

The goal of this project was to extend and deepen the learning for both newcomer workers and the Manitoba workplace health and safety community about workers health issues in the food processing industry. The project provided 10 weeks of training to two Occupational Health Support Groups for a total of 25 food processing workers from the Eritrean and Chinese communities. The training was delivered by facilitators in the participants' own language. A few of the training objectives were:

- Reduce isolation among newcomer food processing workers
- Decrease workers' feelings of powerlessness about health & safety
- Build support among newcomer workers in the food processing industry to deal with health & safety issues
- Assist newcomer workers in the food processing industry identify common areas of concern and develop strategies to address these concerns.

The program provided newcomer workers the opportunity to share their safety experiences in an Occupational Health and Safety Group (OHSB). Participants expressed a great deal of satisfaction from what they learned from the training. The training model for the OHSB is the Life Story Board developed by Dr. Robert Chase from the MFL Occupational Health Centre. A total of 11 workers who participated in the Occupational Health Support Groups were interviewed using the Life Story Board to gather and document their stories of migration, work in Canada, and present day living and working situations.



APPENDIX A - RWIP APPROVED PROJECTS 2009-2020

FUNDING STREAM	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	ORIGINAL APPROVED FUNDING	COMPLETED	CANCELLED	NEW PROJECTS APPROVED IN 2020	IN PROGRESS	REVISED FUNDING*
Workplace Innovation	24	\$2,852,741	17	1	0	6	\$2,513,002
Scientific Research	36	\$5,362,785	20	1	0	15	\$5,158,139
Training and Education	12	\$1,402,597	9	0	0	3	\$1,392,799
Partnerships	5	\$545,605	5	0	0	0	\$525,889
Special Funding	3	\$568,190	2	0	0	1	\$568,190
Request for Proposals	5	\$324,875	4	1	0	0	\$359,710
Totals:	85	\$11,056,793	57	3	0	25	\$10,517,729

* Frequently a portion the original funding is not required for the successful completion of a project, resulting in a decreased funding amount.





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