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## Message from the Director, Dr. Mansfield Mela

One year in...

No experience deserves to be wasted. Lessons should be learned and the future informed by the experience. The unexpected and protracted period of the pandemic deserves deep reflection. There were unpleasant occurrences, hardships, and possible regrets. Isolation, stress and the sense of an uncertain future added to the grief. However, there were and are multiple lessons we can use in the future. To be alive and sharing this newsletter with you is in itself a feat of grace. In spite of the difficulties, the Forensic Centre staff demonstrated amazing resilience and have accomplished a lot, and continue to bring about tangible results in their work.

During the same precarious period, our Forensic Centre faculty members excelled in their callings. Dr. Vivian Ramsden was named Family Medicine Researcher of the Year (2020), Professor Cindy Peternelj-Taylor took on the role of Interim Dean, College of Nursing, and Dr. Carrie Bourassa started her second term as Scientific Director of the CIHR Institute of Indigenous Peoples' Health. Also in spite of the pandemic, we were able to reclassify our long term researcher, Dr. Jewell to Research Associate, welcome Dr. Bryce Stoliker, our Postdoctoral Fellow, who on boarded virtually and we engaged and supervised multiple USask learners, albeit remotely. I am grateful to the Executive Committee, the Advisory Board, our stakeholders and partners, and members who have continued to interact with the Centre in productive and fruitful ways. One only needs to observe that the Forensic Centre continued on the development of a strategic plan during the pandemic. Thanks to the active 'virtual' participants and to Andrea Wasylow, College of Arts & Science for her guidance through the process. I look forward to celebrating a comprehensive and cogent strategic plan in the near future. Space will not permit me to capture all of the scientific articles published by the team (staff, faculty, learners and partners), the applications and successful research grant awards, still, during this pandemic. Special mention should be made here in regards to the efforts of the staff led by Dr. Davut Akca to secure a TSAS research grant of \$100,000 to address radicalization, terrorism and security issues. We continue to engage new partners and to remain relevant in the work addressing the reduction of victimization. I encourage you to take a moment and reflect of the past year and identify the successes and lessons that will propel you into the future.

You will see from Dr. Lisa Jewell's research profile that collaboration is the heartbeat of her and the Forensic Centre's work, be that internally or externally.

Dr. Jewell has always fostered partnership with our stakeholders, supervised many budding forensic researchers, and maintains a strong scholarly presence in the Centre and at the University. The collaborative direction of research fits the goals USask is pursuing under the guidance of the new Vice President Research, Dr. Baljit Singh. On behalf of the Forensic Centre, I want to welcome Dr. Singh back to campus and look forward to new frontiers in forensic and justice studies. I am excited to also welcome many participants, globally, to our upcoming **18<sup>th</sup> Biennial Violence and Aggression Symposium**. This special virtual offering, being held June 14 – 15, 2021, will commemorate the life and work of our founding Director, Dr. Steve Wormith, and help us look at the current and future state of research in the field. Please take a moment to peruse the breadth of presentations and the excellent talents and well-rounded expertise of our speakers. I encourage you to register before June 1!

This year we were unexpectedly thrown into new ways of life as a result of the pandemic. I unreservedly commend you for not only surviving but thriving through the difficult days. There are rays of hope in the future and it is appropriate to reflect on the year that was. Only by such reflection can we see that we all need each other no matter what we are going through. I trust you will agree that from the experiences, hardships, unexpected changes, and loneliness - nothing will be wasted.

What did you overcome during this time? Who 'had your back'? How will life be different? As we cross the one-year mark of the global pandemic, may we know those who care about us, those we care about and how we all can make the world a better place! We continue to conduct our research in justice and criminal behavior with that very objective in mind.

Mansfield Mela, Director, CFBSJS

# Forensic Centre's Research Highlight

## *Research Inspirations*

### Dr. Lisa Jewell



Lisa Jewell, Research Associate for the Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science and Justice Studies

Dr. Lisa M. Jewell is the longest serving staff member of the Forensic Centre having been hired very soon after it was 'up and running' in 2013 after an impromptu interview with the founder, Dr. Steve Wormith.

Born and raised in Athabasca, Alberta Lisa completed a B.Sc. Honours in Psychology at the University of Alberta in 2003. After working as a research assistant for two years, she made the move to Saskatoon in 2005 to start her USask Master's of Applied Social Psychology that led to completion of her PhD in 2011. Then at a crossroads in her life, she followed the road back home to Alberta for a position with Health Canada conducting program evaluation. After two years, another crossroad presented itself when Dr. Wormith asked Lisa if she would be interested in a Research Officer position with the relatively new Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science and Justice Studies. Anyone who knows Lisa knows her *meticulous* attention to detail in every regard so it was a surprise that she missed the application deadline by two days! It also came as shock to Dr. Wormith, who had taught Lisa in a forensic psychology course during her Ph.D., so he took the time to personally follow up. Better late than never; her resume was submitted and, knowing her superior skills as a researcher, an interview was scheduled for the very next day with Professors Wormith and Olver after Lisa made the 6 hour drive to Saskatoon. The rest is history.

Having met her future husband in the latter part of her Ph.D., returning to USask in January 2013 was an easy decision and a choice Dr. Jewell does not regret. She very much enjoys the Prairies and the work she does with the Forensic Centre; never tiring of the ebb and flow of projects. Early on, many projects included those with/for the Operations Strategy Branch of the RCMP, F Division; a collaboration that led to some of Lisa's most memorable research moments. One highlight occurred during a detachment planning initiative that included site visits, which allowed her the opportunity to fly on an RCMP plane. The whirlwind daytrip included picking up a very pleasant prisoner for transportation to another facility. She was treated like a VIP from Prince Albert to Wollaston Lake, Fond du Lac, Stony Rapids then back to Prince Albert. The in-air experience was followed up later by an uneventful but interesting on-ground ride-a-long where the worst incident was a highway driver seen catching up on some light reading as they perused a novel going 110 km/hour.

Other community partnerships introduced Dr. Jewell to agencies and programs within the Government of Saskatchewan. One evaluation very near and dear to her heart was that of the 5-year [Northeast Youth Violence Reduction Partnership](#); an initiative of the Ministry of Justice, with funding from Public Safety Canada's National Crime Prevention Strategy, to offer programming and services to high-risk youth in Deschambault Lake, Pelican Narrows, and Sandy Bay Saskatchewan. Through active and continuous involvement in the program, Dr. Jewell developed meaningful connections with the program leads and staff (i.e., Manager of Program Operations – MOPO and Health and Wellness Workers – HAWWs). Early on in the program, Lisa travelled to the communities and enjoyed the comfort and local hospitality of staying at Slim's Cabins, a popular fishing camp. Regular group (telephone) meetings kept the USask team in the loop on what was happening in these communities. It was humbling for Lisa to hear how hard the staff worked to assist troubled youth in those locations – often forgoing their own wellbeing to try to ensure the safety of others. Near the end of the program, Dr. Jewell was able to return to one of three sites where she met some of the participants and was able to hear firsthand from them via Photo Elicitation – a method of having people tell their stories and experiences using photographs. Aside from the simple joy of sharing a meal and hearing them speak, the most important thing Dr. Jewell took from that day was the amazing connection the MOPO and HAWWs had with the youth. Regrettably, Lisa was unable to visit the other two sites because of the pandemic.

(Cont. next page)

We welcome all  
feedback!

Please provide [HERE](#) at  
any time.

Of the many, many, *many* reports Dr. Jewell has been involved in over the years she counts some of the seemingly more difficult to be the most rewarding. The first of two projects (so far) with the Intensive Rehabilitative Custody and Supervision (IRCS) program in 2016 had a short turnaround and an ambitious set of deliverables to produce. With the support of Dr. Wormith, the Centre's Postdoctoral Fellow, and a group of student research assistants, Dr. Jewell and the team was able to submit a high caliber jurisdictional scan of the programs and services available to support the [Community Reintegration of IRCS youth in Northern Saskatchewan](#) to the Community Safety Knowledge Alliance. One stakeholder later said the scan "...has been more useful to me that I even could have imagined." and that they used it regularly when considering northern communities and potential services for their youth.

Sadly, Dr. Wormith passed in winter 2019 but his lasting impact is evident through Dr. Jewell's own research career. She was named Acting Director of the Forensic Centre in spring 2019 and while it was a shock to lose Dr. Wormith, she knew he would want the 'show to go on' and did a stellar job of keeping things running smoothly until Dr. Mela took the helm in winter 2020. The learning curve of switching from a research-focused role to that of administration was extreme but she is thankful for the opportunity. During her time as Director, she treated staff and others the same way Dr. Wormith had; that every individual has value and to always remain open-minded in any situation. She is pleased to co-chair the [18<sup>th</sup> Biennial Symposium on Violence & Aggression](#) in his honour titled, *Looking Back, Moving Forward*. The offering will be virtual June 14 – 15, 2021 with a focus on risk assessment and trauma-informed care.

The Forensic Centre has provided Lisa the opportunity to connect with many experts through the years who have made countless personal and professional impacts. The work that other amazing women in the field are doing inspires Dr. Jewell to keep doing her absolute best and to strive for perfection no matter what the task. Dr. Keira Stockdale, a Registered Doctoral Psychologist with the Criminal Investigations Division of the Saskatoon Police Service, and Delphine Gossner, Director of Program Evaluation and Integrity Offender Services with the Ministry of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety, are a "power couple" that come to mind. "They are both genuinely nice people who truly care about the work they are doing and people they serve." Leslie Anne Keown, Senior Research Manager at the Correctional Service of Canada's Research Branch, is another person Lisa holds in high regard. "She is passionate about the work she does and is so willing to get involved in the Centre and the work we do." All, experts in their fields, continue to bring a breath of fresh air to the work they do despite long careers in jobs that may lead to burnout for others.

Dr. Jewell's inspiration to continue the work she and the Centre does also stems from partner community organizations like [STR8 UP – 10,000 Little Steps to Recovery](#). The programming that Stan Tu'Inukuafe, Co-Founder, Intake Worker and Presentation Coordinator, and his team take on with little to no budget is amazing. The pro bono work that the CFBSJS has been able to provide to the group has arguably benefitted our team more than theirs.

Working with such a wide variety of staff, students, and faculty through the years has been another perk of the job for Lisa. Witnessing and learning from people's strengths, weaknesses, and growth whether it be via serving on a thesis committee, supervising an undergraduate Honour's thesis, or partnering with faculty on a project, has provided endless experience on both sides of the fence.

The reason Dr. Jewell first entered this field was the diversity and ability to do work that helps enhance people's lives, even if it may be 'behind the scenes'. She never tires of preparing report after report because as she's involved, she lives and breathes each project for its duration and then by the end, after pushing send on the final draft, she's happily ready to move on to the next knowing each one is never the same.

The pandemic has been hard on everyone but Dr. Jewell is thankful to continue the work she does, very well mind you, from the comfort of her home. Though a virtual meeting or two may be interrupted by a pillow to the head and/or a request for chocolate from her loveable (and very cute!) four-year-old, Natalie, Lisa continues to provide the Centre with topnotch service born from years of experience on campus and her devotion to USask, the Centre, and above all else - the individuals/groups they serve.

We think she has **more** than made up for submitting her resume two days late and know many will join us in celebrating Lisa as a leading researcher and highly valued member of the Centre.

## SSHRC Award to advance CFBSJS Faculty Research Grant

### Dr. Zhi Li

(Department of Linguistics and Religious Studies) received a SSHRC to advance the research started with his Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science and Justice Studies faculty grant. The study will track online hate directed at the Asian community.

[Full story](#)

## Topics from the Field

Prepared by Dr.  
Davut Akca,  
Research Officer

CFBSJS



RCMP Saskatchewan  
@RCMPSK

...

Replying to @RCMPSK

2/3 The Battleford and area Sexual Assault Centre came up with the idea to create a new, comfortable, welcoming and safe interview space within their office and partnered with local RCMP to make it reality.

10:30 AM · Jan 19, 2021 · Twitter Web App

RCMP Saskatchewan has launched this exciting new project in partnership with the Battleford and areas Sexual Assault Centre. A barrier-free and friendly environment for the victims could enhance the capacity of the police to gather extensive information in victim interviews in sexual assault cases.

Read more [HERE](#)

Photo: @RCMPSK



Justice Canada  
@JusticeCanadaEN · Mar 31

...

Today the #GC announced an important next step toward the creation of an independent Criminal Case Review Commission for potentially wrongfully convicted individuals.

The new independent Criminal Case Review Commission is an important step taken to eliminate wrongful convictions and corresponding issues in Canada. More data and research opportunities will be available once the Commission published their findings based on their consultations with the stakeholders

Photo: @JusticeCanadaEN



Mark Fallon  
@glynco

...

.@UN member states welcome Principles on Effective #Interviewing for Investigative and Information Gathering Authorities - to improve the practice of police and national security #interrogation.

Decades of research on effective and ethical interview practices led to a great success through this new UN resolution. What are the implications of this resolution for Canadian law enforcement agencies? A comprehensive analysis of the current practices and the future steps that should be taken in light of this resolution is needed.

Photo: @glynco



Justice Canada  
@JusticeCanadaEN

...

This week, the Government of Canada released its annual report on the state of Canada's criminal justice system.

This year, the focus is on women's perceptions of the criminal justice system, as well as their interactions with it as victims, survivors, accused and/or offenders.

The annual report of Justice Canada revealed that women are more likely to experience violent victimization, sexual assault, and chronic/severe intimate partner violence (IPV). Indigenous women are more likely to report experiences of violent victimization than Indigenous men, and even more likely than non-Indigenous women. Read the report [HERE](#)

Photo: @JusticeCanadaEN



## Events

Registration is now open for the 2021 offering of the [Biennial Violence & Aggression Symposium](#).

Full access to the 2-day virtual conference (Monday June 14 & Tuesday June 15) is \$105 + GST (*students, \$55 + GST - promo code STUDENTVA2021 required*).

[The program](#) covers exciting topics related to risk assessment and trauma-informed care; this offerings' themes.

Please visit the [V&A site](#) for details and [to register](#)



## Centre/Staff Research Dissemination

Snow, M. D.; **Akca, D.**; Eastwood, J.; Connors, C.; & Crough, Q. (2021). Mock-Victim Perceptions of Police Interviewer Characteristics. *Journal of Investigative Psychology and Offender Profiling*. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jip.1571>

Eastwood, J.; Dunk, M.; & **Akca, D.** (2020). Assessing the Diagnosticity of a Persuasion-Based and a Dialogue-Based Interrogation Approach. *Journal of Police and Criminal Psychology*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11896-020-09410-1>

**Stoliker, B. E.** (2020). The heterogeneity of suicide attempters: An analysis of single- and repeat-suicide attempters among people in custody. *Criminal Justice and Behavior*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0093854820983853>

Kerodal, A.G., Jewell, L.M., Kent-Wilkinson, A., Peacock, S., Wormith, S. (2020). [Modifying the Community Screening Instrument for Dementia \(CSI'D'\) for an Institutional Setting](#)

Kerodal, A.G., Akca, D., Jewell, L.M., Wormith, S. (2021). [A Process Evaluation of the Regional Psychiatric Centre's Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Pilot Project: Year 1 \(July 2018 – June 2019\)](#)

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