

Newsletter



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN
Centre for Forensic
Behavioural Science
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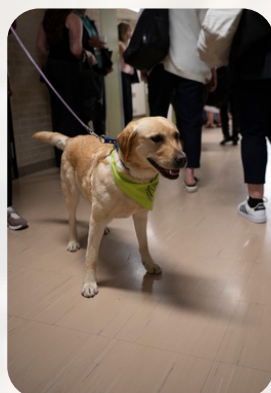
CFBSJS Hosted 21st Biennial Symposium on Violence & Aggression



(Photos by David Stobbe - (l-r) Dr. Baljit Singh and Knowledge Keeper Lyndon Linklater speaking at V&A opening)

The Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science and Justice Studies (CFBSJS) hosted the 21st Biennial Symposium on Violence and Aggression from May 25-26, 2026, at the University of Saskatchewan. The overarching theme of this year's offering was "Advancing Responses to Violence." A total of 205 participants attended the symposium, including 112 local attendees, 65 provincial attendees, and 27 national attendees. During the two-day symposium, four plenary and twelve concurrent sessions were held, involving more than 16 local and national presenters. Knowledge Keeper Lyndon Linklater, citizen of the Thunderchild First Nation (Plains Cree) welcomed the participants with prayers, while Dr Baljit Singh offered greetings on behalf of USask. Kathy Neil (A/Regional Deputy Commissioner at the Correctional Service of Canada), Dr. Joshua Freistadt (Assistant Deputy Minister of the Supervision and Rehabilitation Services Division within the Government of Saskatchewan's Ministry of Community Safety) and Inspector Ashley St. Germaine (Inspector St. Germaine is the Senior Investigative Officer for the Major Crimes Branch - "F" Division, RCMP) also provided greetings representing our partners.

Complementing the academic and professional content, the Symposium provided participants with a range of cultural and wellness experiences that enriched the overall Symposium experience. On the first day, attendees had the opportunity to interact with therapy dogs from the PAWSitive Support Prison Therapy Dog Program, promoting wellness and connection. The day concluded with a wine-and-cheese reception accompanied by a performance from the Dean McNeill Jazz Trio. The second day featured a vibrant cultural presentation by the Long Walkers Drum Group, who delighted participants with a traditional Indigenous drum and dance performance, celebrating culture, community, and reconciliation.



(Photos by David Stobbe - (l-r) Long Walker's Drum Group, Therapy Dogs at PAWSitive and Dean McNeill Jazz Trio)

Symposium Sponsors



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(Photos by David Stobbe - Senator Kim Pate)

Keynote Speaker V&A Symposium May 25, 2026 SENATOR KIM PATE Senate of Canada

Senator Kim Pate delivered the morning keynote address on the opening day of the Symposium.

Kim Pate was appointed to the Senate of Canada on November 10, 2016. First and foremost, the mother of Michael and Madison, she is also a nationally renowned advocate who has spent the last 45+ years working in and around the legal and penal systems of Canada, with and on behalf of some of the most marginalized, victimized, criminalized and institutionalized — particularly imprisoned youth, men, and women.

Her session “Manufacturing Risk” elaborated on the role of policing and prison authorities in identifying, assessing, and manufacturing risky and aggressive behaviour and individuals. She also discussed strategies and successful interventions that challenged the risk averse, individual versus systemic nature and inclination of conventional criminal, legal, and correctional interventions.

Senator Pate graduated from Dalhousie Law School in 1984 with honours in the Clinical Law Programme. She was the Executive Director of the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies (CAEFS) from January 1992 until her appointment to the Senate in November 2016. She has developed and taught Prison Law, Human Rights and Social Justice, and Defending Battered Women on Trial courses at the Faculties of Law at the University of Ottawa, Dalhousie University, and the University of Saskatchewan. She also occupied the Sallows Chair in Human Rights at the University of Saskatchewan College of Law in 2014 and 2015.

Senator Pate strongly believes that the contributions of women who have experienced marginalization, discrimination and oppression should be recognized and respected and she seeks to credit and empower women.

She maintains contact with women in prison through her numerous visits to Canada’s federal prisons and strongly encourages other advocates, scholars, service providers, judges, and parliamentarians to ground their efforts in a similar way.

Her session at the Symposium engaged attendees and helped set the tone for two days of meaningful learning and discussion. We sincerely thank Senator Pate for presenting at the event and sharing her insights and expertise.

Please use the QR codes below to explore more of her work.



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senpate.sencanada.ca

Senate Bio
sencanada.ca/senators

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Public Forum 2026 and CFBSJS Strategic Plan Launch

The Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science and Justice Studies hosted the Public Forum 2026 and CFBSJS 2026-2029 strategic plan launch on April 17, 2026, at the Neatby-Timlin Theatre, University of Saskatchewan from 1-4pm. This year's theme was "Inadequate Housing in Saskatoon". Kathy Neil (Correctional Service Canada), Dr. Kim Audette (Research and Implementation Branch, Ministry of Community Safety), and Councillor Scott Ford (City of Saskatoon) provided greetings. Dr. Steven Rayan offered greetings from USask & launched the CFBSJS Strategic Plan 2026-29.

The Centre's 2026-2029 Strategic Plan will focus on four main strategic priorities, including: (1) reciprocal partnerships and collaborations; (2) talent development of learners; (3) working with Indigenous communities; and (4) knowledge translation and community outreach. Two keynote sessions were held during the public forum. Dr. Bryce Stoliker presented the findings of a large research and evaluation study the Centre completed recently, which examined the Saskatoon Fire Department's approach to addressing inadequate housing in Saskatoon. Deputy Chiefs Yvonne Raymer and Rob Hogan of the Saskatoon Fire Department also presented as featuring Guest Speakers in the same session.



(Photos by David Stobbe - (l-r) Dr. Bryce Stoliker, Deputy Chiefs Yvonne Raymer and Deputy Chiefs Rob Hogan.)

Dr. Bill O'Grady presented a talk entitled "Homelessness in Mid-Sized Canadian Cities." In his presentation, Dr. O'Grady displayed videos of interviews capturing perceptions about homelessness among various community members, including lived experience people, social workers, business owners, and law enforcement using the "brokered dialogue" interview method. During the coffee break, the participants had the opportunity to view the Poster Showcase of Centre projects.



(Photos by David Stobbe - (l-r) Dr. Bill O'Grady and the Participants viewing the posters at the CFBSJS Poster Showcase)

Director's Corner



(Photo by David Stobbe - Dr. Lisa Jewell, Interim Director, CFBSJS)

We have had a busy and exciting year so far in 2026. With valuable input from our Executive Committee, Advisory Board, Centre members, and staff, we finalized and launched our new Strategic Plan, which will guide the Centre's work over the next three years. As we move forward, we remain committed to the areas that define our Centre, including reciprocal partnerships, collaboration, and learner development. At the same time, we are challenging ourselves to expand our work with Indigenous communities and to increase the reach and impact of our research through enhanced knowledge translation and community outreach.

This year, we were also privileged to host two major events that brought together policymakers, practitioners, researchers, and students to discuss critical issues affecting our communities and the justice system. Our Annual Public Forum showcased innovative research on homelessness. A presentation by Dr. Bryce Stoliker and Deputy Chiefs Yvonne Raymer and Rob Hogan of the Saskatoon Fire Department (SFD) highlighted key findings from an evaluation of the SFD's Inadequate Housing Initiative. Additionally, Dr. William (Bill) O'Grady from the University of Guelph shared insights from his work on homelessness in mid-sized cities, including the use of brokered dialogue techniques to create space for diverse perspectives to be shared safely and respectfully. Together, these presentations sparked meaningful discussions about approaches to understanding and addressing homelessness in our communities.

The 21st Biennial Violence & Aggression Symposium, held May 25–26 on the University of Saskatchewan campus, focused on the theme *Advancing Responses to Violence*. Featuring respected researchers, advocates, and practitioners from across the criminal justice sector, the Symposium explored current research and evidence-based practices related to frontline responses to violence, the Indigenization of justice responses, and other emerging issues in violence. With more than 200 attendees, the event provided a wonderful opportunity for networking and collaboration among professionals working in corrections, policing, community justice, academia, and related fields.

The year has also brought several personnel changes to the Centre. We congratulate Dr. Christie Tetreault on her promotion to Research Officer and warmly welcome Dr. Zainab Olayinka as our new Postdoctoral Fellow. We also wish Dr. Mansfield Mela a rewarding sabbatical year and are pleased to welcome Dr. Segun Oydokun to the Executive Committee.

Looking ahead, we are excited to soon launch our calls for Faculty Research Development Grants and Student Research Awards. We also look forward to hosting another student networking event in partnership with the Ministry of Community Safety's Research and Implementation Branch in the fall. We are grateful for the ongoing support of our partners and Centre members as we continue to advance our research initiatives together!

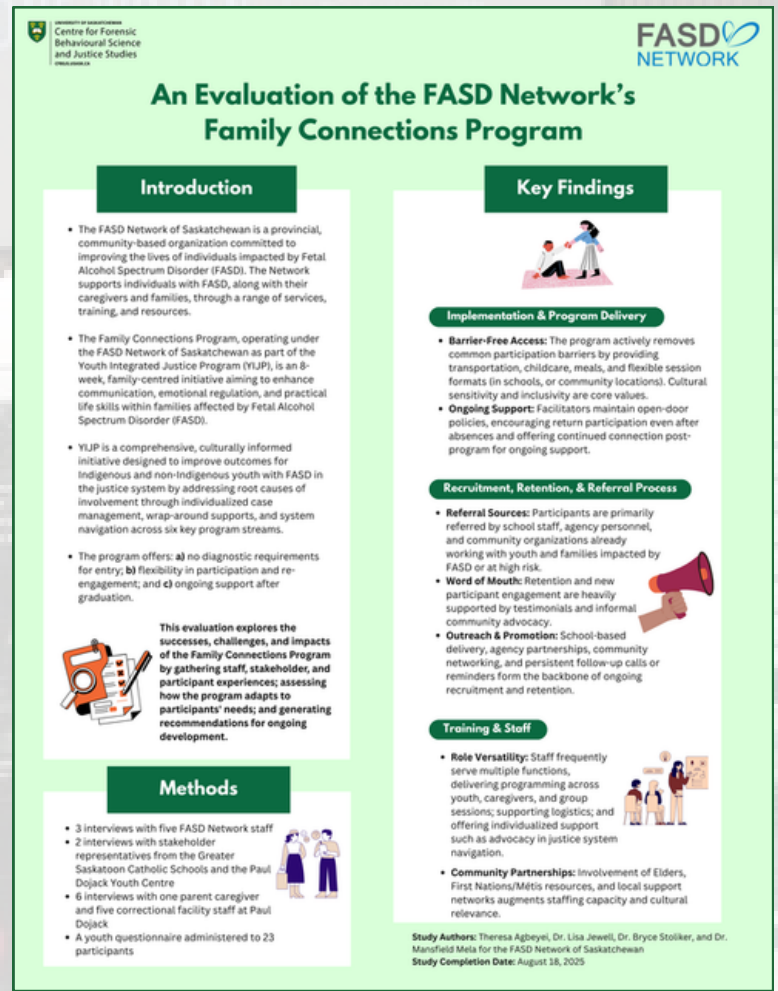
Dr. Lisa Jewell
Interim Director
Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science and Justice Studies

SIGN UP TO OUR MAILING LIST

Through our listserv, you will receive notifications about student funding opportunities, job opportunities, and events organized by the Centre.



Infographics



Please visit our Reports Page for other infographics:
<https://cfbsjs.usask.ca/research/reports.php>

Thanking Note to V&A Planning Committee



We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the planning committee for their dedicated work in organizing the V&A Symposium. Their coordination, interest, and commitment were crucial for the success of this event and a direct reflection of the time and effort each member invested. We are truly appreciative of everything they brought to the table.

(Photo by David Stobbe - (l-r) Delphine Gossner, Lilani Samarakoon, Dr. Natalie H. Polvi, Professor Emeritus Cindy Peternelj-Taylor, Dr. Lisa Jewell, Dr. Leslie Anne Keown, Dr. Bryce Stoliker, and Dr. Dena Derksen. Missing Dr. Mansfield Mela, Sgt. Nick Smyth, Dr. Kingsley Nwachukwu, and Lindsay Wilcox.

Welcoming New Members



Dr. Steve Ryan

Advisory Board Chair

Dr. Steven Rayan currently serves as the interim Vice-Dean of Research, Scholarly, and Artistic Work in the College of Arts and Science at USask, where he is also Professor of Mathematics. After a doctorate at the University of Oxford and postdoctoral work at the University of Toronto, Dr. Rayan joined the University of Saskatchewan in 2016 and earned the rank of Full Professor in 2022. In 2019, he became the founding director of the Centre for Quantum Topology and Its Applications (quanTA) and also serves as the lead for the Quantum Innovation Signature Area of Research, founded in 2022. His work in quantum science has been highlighted in Scientific American twice in the past three years, and one of his recent papers in the area was the runner-up for the 2023 Cozzarelli Prize of the US National Academy of Sciences, selected from over 3,200 papers published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences in 2022. Prior to his vice-dean role, he served as the Director of Interdisciplinary Programming in the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.



Dr. Segun Oyedokun

Executive Committee Member

Dr. Oyedokun is a Clinical Associate Professor at the College of Medicine, an Emergency Physician and Trauma Team Leader at the Saskatchewan Health Authority, as well as a STARS Transport Physician. His research interests are in quality improvement in the ED, especially in the areas of respiratory health, mental health and care of vulnerable population. He is a member of ED Patient Family Advisory Council. Outside of medicine, he enjoys his roles as a volunteer chaplain at the Saskatoon Correctional Centre, and as a parent volunteer at the 702 Lynx Royal Canadian Air Cadets Squadron.



Dr. Giovana V. de Amorim Levin

Centre Faculty Member

I have been practicing Psychiatry in Canada since 2008. I originally studied Medicine in Brazil and obtained my specialty in psychiatrist there. I worked with major mental illness in an inpatient and outpatient setting. I moved to Canada and became certified by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada after finishing a Residency Program in Psychiatry at the University of Manitoba in 2008. I have practiced Forensic Psychiatry since and received my certification as a Subspecialist in Forensic Psychiatry from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada in 2014. My psychiatry practice consists of 90% of forensic psychiatry and 10% of general psychiatry. My research interests include molecular genetics earlier in my career, an interest that I picked up again lately, and various subjects within forensic psychiatry. I am currently in two projects, one involving mitochondria in schizophrenia and brain organoids in schizophrenia). I also have an interest in the use of artificial intelligence in risk assessment and management in the forensic psychiatry population.