

Over the last year, the Canadian Medical Anthropology Network has welcomed a number of new members, increased its dissemination of relevant news and opportunities, and continued to advocate for expanded national funding for anthropologists and sociologists of medicine, health, and health systems.

Following from the advocacy and activism of the CMA's prior leadership, in summer 2017 Gerald McKinley (Co-Chair) attended meetings with CIHR's Institute of Population and Public Health. During these meetings, Gerald discussed the continued underfunding of Pillar Four, and foregrounded the many challenges faced by early and mid career social scientists. Although some aspects of CIHR's evaluation model are being evaluated to support social science research there have been few firm commitments made to alter the CIHR's funding structure. He later attended a meeting with Western University representatives to discuss changes to SSHRC funding for health research, and re-raised the CMA's long-expressed concerns that SSHRC's matching criteria place many social scientists at a disadvantage relative to larger research teams. Importantly, Gerald noted that SSHRC's emphasis on matching funds make larger SSHRC grants unrealistic for many early and mid career researchers.

In exploring how the CMA might partner with other disciplines affected by CIHR funding restrictions, Gerald has identified a number of potential professional and advocacy partnerships, such as with scholars active in Health Law. The CMA is, therefore, keen to further its mandate and establish alliances with as broad a range as possible of medical and health focused social scientists, such as they may come from sociology and the social geography of health. This will allow the CMA and its allies to draw strength from and capitalize on, our shared concerns for research funding and employment – among other urgent issues – and to work together to achieve necessary change through enhanced advocacy and activism. The CMA welcomes our members' thoughts or suggestions concerning the potential for expanded professional alliances and agreements!

The CMA consistently strives to provide its members with the latest scholarly, conferencing, publication, research funding, and professional opportunities. Thanks to Karli Whitmore's generous support and dedication, between April 2017 and April 2018, Emma Varley (Co-Chair, Brandon University) sourced and shared over 1,000 notifications with its members via the Network's and also CASCA's email list-servs and Twitter accounts. Efforts have been made to ensure our members are informed not only about Canadian but also international events, as well as the membership and networking advantages associated with our partner and sister social science organizations and associations, such as the American Ethnological Society (ESA), the American Anthropological Association (AAA), and the European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA). Even though dedicated positions in medical anthropology remain few and far between here in Canada, members were regularly updated concerning emerging full and part-time medical anthropology positions in and beyond academia. Given the employment and funding precarities that continue to impact our discipline, we at the CMA believe it is imperative that our members are aware of the widest range of opportunities available to them nationally as well as internationally. CMA members are warmly encouraged to share any and all news, scholarly, and professional items with us for distribution via Twitter and our list-serv.

For the 2018-2019 academic year, Gerald will continue in his current role as Co-Chair, and he looks forward to continuing to advocate for the CMA and its members. Due to other commitments, both Emma and Mark will no longer serve as Co-Chairs after September 1, 2018. The CMA warmly invites mid to late career members interested in taking a leadership role with the Network to apply to CASCA to fill this position.