

**2015 Network for Canadian Oral Health Research (NCOHR)
Summer Institute in Applied Mixed Methods in Oral Health Research**

Instructors and Organizers

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Date

Monday, August 24 – Friday, August 28, 2015

Location

Division of Oral Health and Society, Faculty of Dentistry, McGill University
2001 McGill College, Montréal, QC, Canada, H3A 1G1

Maximum number of participants

25 attendees

Registration information

To enrol for the summer institute, please contact: Drs. Belinda Nicolau at belinda.f.nicolau@mcgill.ca and Genevieve Castonguay at genevieve.castonguay@mcgill.ca.

Summer Institute Description

There has been a steady increase in the use of mixed methods in health research including dentistry in the last decade. This growth in popularity can be seen as a response to the increasing complexity of research problems relating to human health and wellbeing. However, the plurality of mixed methods designs is often difficult to cope with for novice researchers. The aim of the summer institute is to advance the understanding of mixed methods as a research methodology among oral health researchers.

The table below provides an outline of the topics covered. Participants will be introduced to a research problem that can be tackled using a mixed methods study; our course will guide them in determining which are the most appropriate design and procedures. This example will serve as the basis for discussion of all components of research, including general concerns and questions sparked by the specific task at hand, such as appropriate research techniques. We will first provide an overview of the topic addressed and then participants will work in smaller groups with one of the facilitators on the different stages of the research project (e.g., description and justification of the research problem, objectives, methodology including choice of research design and instrument(s)).

Draft agenda

Day 1 9am-12pm	Welcome, goals for the summer institute, and introductions A common concern & refresher Attendees reflect upon the defining characteristics of mixed methods in comparison with the fundamentals of qualitative and quantitative approaches. Based on attendees' needs, we review the fundamentals of qualitative and quantitative research
Day 1 1pm-4pm	Development of a research problem Participants convene in small groups, as they will for each session, assisting each other while working on individual projects. In session 2, they develop a specific research objective and questions or hypotheses
Day 2 9am-12pm	Types of mixed methods approaches I We consider the types of combined research methods and how they might apply to participants' current projects. The strengths and weaknesses of each study design are discussed using the research questions developed
Day 2 1pm to 4pm	Types of mixed methods approaches II The second in this two-part series
Day 3 9am-12pm	Sampling & operationalizing inquiry: developing the research instrument Attendees construct mixed methods research instruments based on their aims and research questions
Day 3 1pm-4pm	Fieldwork: testing the instrument and reflecting on the experience Participants test, present and discuss questionnaires.
Day 4 9am-12pm	Comparative methods and computer assisted mixed methods data analysis Attendees learn comparative methods; specialized software is presented
Day 4 1pm-4pm	Divergence Participants examine data from a mixed methods research project and consider what to do with apparently conflicting data
Day 5 9am-3pm	Project Presentation of projects