

**PEOPLE, PLACE AND POLICY  
FOR COMMUNITY WELLNESS**

**Cape Town, South Africa**

**10 - 13 September 2024**

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**UBUNTU 2024**

Uniting TUFH 2024 and  
Rural Wonca 2024



## Ubuntu 2024 Workshop

### Title:

Strengthening Rural Healthcare Research: Paving the road to a Learning Healthcare Community

### Facilitators:

#### Dr. Wendy Graham (in-person)



Dr Wendy Graham is a rural family doctor for the past 24 years in the community of Port aux Basques, NL (population 4000). She is an Associate Professor at Memorial University and President of the CFPC-NL Chapter, and has served as President of the Newfoundland & Labrador Medical Association and Co-Chair of the Family Practice Renewal Committee. Dr. Graham is one of the passionate Co-Leads and Co-PIs of 6for6 - a Faculty Development Program that teaches research and writing skills to rural and remote doctors.

#### Dr. Cheri Bethune (online)



Cheri Bethune is a Canadian academic family physician with a 40-year career at Memorial University. Although semi-retired Cheri continues to do faculty development and research with Memorials '6 for 6' program. Cheri is also on faculty at NOSM where she is engaged in the rural generalist pathway, distributed faculty development, graduate studies and remediation programs, and is also actively engaged in the certification committee of the College of Family Physicians of Canada.

**[Dr. Shabnam Asghari \(in-person\)](#)**



Dr. Shabnam Asghari (M.D, M.P.H, Ph.D.) is a Professor with the Discipline of Family Medicine and the Center for Rural Health Studies Research Director. She leads a rural health research capacity-building program at the Faculty of Medicine, Memorial University of Newfoundland. This novel, socially accountable program fosters innovation through partnerships with rural physicians, patients, communities, and decision-makers.

**[Dr. Emma Webster \(online\)](#)**



Dr Webster (nee Craythorn) is a Senior Lecturer in Rural Research at the School of Rural Health in Dubbo. Before coming to academia in 2015, she worked in Health Promotion, Public Health and the Rural Research Capacity Building Program run by NSW Health. She has a BSc (Hons 1A) from the University of Western Australia (1992) and a Doctor of Public Health from Flinders University (2010).

#### [Dr. David Schmidt \(online\)](#)



David has a background in Physiotherapy having completed his Bachelor of Applied Science in Physiotherapy at The University of Sydney in 1996, and a Master of Physiotherapy at The University of South Australia in 2003. David then went on to complete a Graduate Certificate of Clinical Education from Charles Sturt University in 2012 and is a graduate of the Health Education and Training Institute (HETI) Rural Research Capacity Building Program.

#### [Dr. Kerith Duncanson \(online\)](#)



Dr Kerith Duncanson is an Accredited Practising Dietitian, Lecturer and Course Coordinator at the University of Newcastle and Rural Research Program Manager for the Health Education and Training Institute (NSW Health). Her experience in the RRCBP and subsequent completion of her PhD fuelled her interest in the research process, leading to her current role in researcher development for HETI.

### [Synopsis](#)

Physicians and other health workers in rural settings encounter unique challenges, including limited access to resources and academic specialists, hindering their ability to engage in rurally relevant research and quality improvement initiatives. Dedicated training programs such as 6for6 and Rural360 at Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada, and the Rural Research Capacity Building Program (RRCBP) in Australia aim to address this gap. We describe how each program has created an environment in which RHPs can strengthen research capacity in their communities. Delivered in a hybrid fashion to mirror the instructional techniques employed in our programs, we will facilitate discussion in person and online.

### [Learning Outcomes](#)

- Describe the essential elements of each program

- Explore barriers and enablers of rural healthcare research
- Identify their own opportunities to engage and grow research capacity
- Prepare a research engagement plan

## Workshop Outline

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activities</b>
5 minutes	Welcome comments Ubuntu 2024 Moderator
	Welcome remarks by team member
25 minutes	Describe how each program has created an environment in which RHPs can strengthen research capacity in their communities.
25 minutes	Participants to reflect on and compile their own capabilities, assets, opportunities, and goals for building a learning healthcare community.
	Wrap-Up by team member
5 minutes	Closing comments Ubuntu 2024 Moderator