

K3 – Promoting Excellence in Health Research: Setting and Mobilizing a Research Agenda that Aims to Influence Policy and Improve Population Health



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Nancy Edwards is a Distinguished Professor, University of Ottawa, and Full Professor in the School of Nursing. She was appointed Scientific Director, Institute of Population and Public Health, Canadian Institutes of Health Research in July, 2008. Dr Edwards obtained her undergraduate nursing degree from the University of Windsor and completed graduate studies in epidemiology at McMaster University and McGill University. She is a fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences and has been awarded two honorary doctorate degrees.

Dr Edwards' clinical and research interests are in the fields of public and population health. She has conducted health services, policy and clinical research both nationally and internationally. Her research has informed the design and evaluation of complex multi-level and multi-strategy community health programs. Her work in global health has spanned four continents where she has led both development-oriented and research-focused projects.

Dr Edwards has contributed to over 170 peer-reviewed and 125 technical publications and presented nearly 400 conference papers. She has served on numerous advisory committees. Most recently these include the international expert advisory committee for Public Health Research in Horizon 2020 (EU Commission); advisory councils for the Public Health Agency of Canada National Collaborating Centres and the Canadian Population Health Initiative; and a joint technical task group of the National Research Council that is reviewing building code recommendations for ramps, stairs, handrails and guards.

This presentation will describe considerations in setting a research agenda and harnessing research findings for the public good, from the perspective of a research funding council. Approaches for assessing research capacity, describing the shifting state of science and related caveats, and identifying emerging priorities will be highlighted. Strategies to engage researchers in mobilizing knowledge for evidence-informed policy and population health improvements will be described. Illustrative examples from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research will be used throughout the presentation.