

A woman with curly brown hair and glasses, wearing a blue shirt, looking to the right. The text "CREATING NEW KNOWLEDGE" is overlaid on the image.

CREATING
NEW
KNOWLEDGE

“With this renewal we can continue to foster the community we’ve brought together and grow initiatives to support educational research and innovation.”—Dr. Lingard

“If everyone was just good at their job, this team would function well together”—it’s a statement that has been repeated time and again. And it’s a myth.

Dr. Lorelei Lingard, Founding Director and Senior Scientist of the Centre for Education Research & Innovation (CERI), is working to dispel such myths. Her research is exposing them for what they are, and helping to design educational practices that will produce competent teams in clinical and academic organizations.

It’s just one area of research that the team at CERI is currently undertaking as they advance the science of health professions education and build the capacity of the School’s own faculty to do that research.

Dr. Lingard, along with Associate Director Dr. Mark Goldszmidt, is working alongside a team that now includes five scientists and seven researchers, as well as a large group of affiliated faculty members, research fellows, graduate students and staff. The summer months also bring with them an increase in numbers with medical and undergraduate students taking part in various research training programs.

CERI predominantly focuses on how learning happens in clinical environments, when trainees are being taught and assessed in the context of doing real clinical work. Its research asks: how can we maximize learning, strengthen teaching

and support assessment in clinical training environments?

CERI’s external funding and research output has grown exponentially since its founding. Now considered one of the leading health professions education research centres in the country, it wasn’t surprising that its official status as a research centre at Western University was renewed for another four-year term in 2015.

For Dr. Lingard, the renewal was an affirmation that the investment of time, energy and resources is making a difference, and that the Centre is achieving its goals. “It’s recognition that we’ve built a community that is identifiable, sustainable and valued,” she said. “With this renewal we can continue to foster the community we’ve brought together and grow initiatives to support educational research and innovation.”

This growth will centre on a number of projects, including research into how experts navigate non-routine clinical challenges, and work to support improved assessment of the senior medical resident role. And with the impending changes of postgraduate medical education moving to a community-based model, CERI is at the early stages of a scholarly partnership with the School’s Postgraduate Medical Education Program that will position the School to implement competency-based medical education in a systematic and scholarly manner.



Dr. Lingard has plans to review and possibly expand CERI’s international collaborations, including the existing Master of Health Professions Education Program that is offered in partnership with the School of Health Professions Education at Maastricht University in the Netherlands.

“In the past year alone, we’ve had visiting trainees from Scotland, Denmark and the United Kingdom, and a visiting professor from Amsterdam, and we continue to receive interest from international researchers to come to CERI,” said Dr. Lingard. “We want to grow our international outreach and establish new collaborative opportunities—we know this will provide us with new opportunities to advance our own research.”

“For me,” said Dr. Lingard, “the best indicator of CERI’s success is to have a clinician come through the door with an idea from their clinical education setting, and for our team to work with them to shape that idea into something that is evidenced-based and theoretically sound; to see them get excited and return to advance a new research project.”

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Dr. Lorelei Lingard, Founding Director and Senior Scientist of the Centre for Education Research & Innovation is joined by Centre scientists Drs. Saad Chahine, Sayra Cristancho, Mark Goldszmidt, Chris Watling and a tremendous team of researchers, affiliates, fellows, students and staff in her work.