



**CIMVHR**  
Canadian Institute for Military  
and Veteran Health Research

**ICRSMV**  
L'Institut canadien de recherche sur  
la santé des militaires et des vétérans

## Researcher Brief: Dr. Duncan Shields – 1st Graduate of CIMVHR's Wounded Warrior Doctoral Scholarship in Military and Veteran Health

In May of 2013, CIMVHR and Wounded Warriors Canada (WWC) made a ten year commitment to a Canadian scholarship that will ensure a lasting legacy for military and Veteran health research in Canada by training a future generation of researchers. Both parties agreed that more Canadian research was needed over the life course of those who serve or have served our nation, and their families. This resulted in a scholarship that will be awarded each year to a PhD student who demonstrates excellence in its proposed research and exhibits significant potential for a high impact research career in a relevant area.

Duncan Shields from the University of British Columbia, was the first recipient of this prestigious scholarship. Dr. Shields was presented with the scholarship at our 4th annual Forum in 2013. His research focuses on improving the mental health and well-being of military and Veteran populations by increasing access to and engagement in services through "culturally" appropriate practice. Dr. Shields developed his passion for this area of research, before beginning his academic career, when he served with the Governor Generals Foot Guards. He describes the impact his short time as a reservist had as, "a life long appreciation for the service and sacrifice of those in our military".

When updating CIMVHR and WWC on the impact of the scholarship Duncan wrote:

*"What is more important to me is that Wounded Warriors Canada and CIMVHR see and understand what this scholarship produces on the ground. As a direct result of this funding, instead of attending one conference per year over the past two years, the scholarship has facilitated me presenting peer-reviewed research at nine conferences and publishing four articles - That is productive for a doctoral student but it's only possible due to the scholarship. It more than quadrupled the output and therefore the reach of one military mental health researcher." He further explained, "The work also garnered a Counsellor Educator Doctoral Dissemination award from the Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association that gained both WWC and the research some national attention. So it's been good for me but I think a big part of the Kudos go to you for establishing the scholarship. I think we made a case that it delivered what it was intended to."*

As the recipient of CIMVHR's Wounded Warrior Doctoral Scholarship in Military and Veteran Health, Dr. Shields was accepted to present his research at Forum 2014. One of his presentations from Forum 2014, titled Military Masculinity, Movies and the DSM: A Narrative Exploration of a Veterans Institutionally (En)Gendered Trauma, will be published in the Journal of the Psychology of Men and Masculinity in August of this year.

Dr. Shields successfully defended his dissertation this past February and is currently conducting research which he hopes will assist us in understanding the tipping point between suicidal thoughts and a suicide attempts for Veterans.

Dr. Shields, we wish you all the best in your future endeavors and welcome you to the network of CIMVHR Researchers.

## Message from the Directors

With the summer months ahead, the Canadian Institute for Military and Veteran Health Research (CIMVHR) will be busy planning Forum 2015, CIMVHR's 6th annual military and Veteran health research Forum. We are absolutely thrilled to announce that we have received over 200 research abstract submissions for Forum 2015, the most ever received to date! We would like to extend our deepest appreciation and gratitude to everyone who submitted an abstract. All abstracts have been sent out for peer review and invitations will be sent to potential presenters by the end of July.

As most of you are aware, we recently launched our online open-access journal – **The Journal of Military, Veteran and Family Health (JMVFH)**. If you haven't had the opportunity to read through this impressive research please visit <http://jmvfh.utpjournals.press>.

In this issue of the newsletter, we will be highlighting Dr. Duncan Shields, CIMVHR's first recipient of the Wounded Warriors Doctoral Scholarship for Military and Veteran Health Research. He has finished his PhD and has done some amazing research.

We will also provide you with the details on how the success of CIMVHR was recognized by Brigadier-General Bernier, former Surgeon General and Commander of the Canadian Forces Health Service Group.

Finally, we would like to draw your attention to our *Did you Know* section for how to submit research for JMVFH, discounted VIA Rail tickets for Forum 2015, the deadline for applications for this year's Wounded Warriors Scholarship and information on CIMVHR's next webinar – *Issues in the Health of Military Personnel, Veterans and their Families*.

**Alice B. Aiken**, CD, PhD, *Director* and  
**Stéphanie A.H. Bélanger**, PhD, *Associate Director*

