



Bringing
WORLDS
Together



Dalhousie's campaign for transformational change

**FACULTY OF HEALTH
CASE FOR SUPPORT**

2024

Making a difference starts here

As one of the most programmatically diverse health faculties in Canada, Dalhousie's Faculty of Health is bringing worlds together to improve health outcomes. We offer more than 40 programs — from diploma to doctoral, including entry-to-practice, advanced-practice, and research-intensive programs. We provide exceptional education to future health professionals, while working to improve health systems, care delivery, and policy through outstanding health research. Our faculty is taking action to create a healthier world and address health-care challenges and opportunities in our region and beyond.

Our overarching priority is to improve equity in health through education, research, and clinical care. We are committed to increasing diversity in our health workforce and working with priority communities to break down barriers to accessing post-secondary education. We are striving to understand and mitigate the impacts of systemic and environmental racism that have resulted in long-standing and significant health disparities, particularly among our Indigenous and Black communities. And we are expanding the reach of our community clinics, bringing much-needed health services to historically underrepresented populations.

With support from this campaign, together we will build stronger and healthier communities — where equity, diversity, and inclusion are valued and play an integral role in achieving excellence in health education, research, and care.



Inspiring Future-Ready Leaders

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1. Increasing financial support — \$4M
2. Creating more opportunities for success — \$3.6M
3. Enhancing programs, services, and resources — \$4.5M
4. Engaging our diverse communities — \$1.9M

Engaging in High-Impact Research

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1. Improving health outcomes — \$8.3M
2. Leading social innovation — \$9.3M

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1. Serving the community — \$2M
2. Advancing equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility — \$450K

Enhancing our impact

Inspiring Future-Ready Leaders

Dalhousie's Faculty of Health is working to eliminate systemic barriers to post-secondary education and enhance recruitment and retention of students from priority communities. We define priority communities as Indigenous, with emphasis on Mi'kmaq peoples, African Canadian, with emphasis on African Nova Scotians, 2SLGBTQ+, and persons with (dis)Abilities. Our vision is to ultimately create a health workforce that is as diverse as the communities we serve.

1. Increasing financial support — \$4M

To create leaders of the future, we need to enable students from historically underrepresented groups and priority communities to have access to post-secondary education in health-related fields. Financial supports are needed for tuition, textbooks, housing, and technology. The Faculty of Health and its units will provide bursaries and scholarships to students from priority communities, including several robust undergraduate awards.

2. Creating more opportunities for success — \$3.6M

Experiential learning opportunities like clinic placements and internships allow students to practise the skills they are learning in school in real-world settings. These placements have the added benefit of providing much-needed service to the communities we serve — especially those that face limited access to health services. This campaign will help us offer more experiential learning opportunities, with a particular focus on increasing or enhancing student placements in rural communities and other priority areas.



3. Enhancing programs, services, and resources — \$4.5M

With a focus on improving health outcomes for priority communities, the Faculty of Health will expand the culturally responsive knowledge of our faculty and staff, while also restructuring our curriculum through that lens. Dalhousie is also enhancing simulation and interprofessional opportunities for students, as this type of learning plays a crucial role in providing diverse, inclusive, and safe learning experiences, leading to improved patient outcomes. Key funding initiatives include:

- Faculty of Health Excellence in Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Education Fund
- Faculty of Health Simulation Training Health Excellence Fund

4. Engaging our diverse communities — \$1.9M

Increasing equity representation of health and social care providers is key to better serving historically underrepresented communities. Targeted financial, academic and professional supports are critical to attract and retain students from priority communities. This campaign will help fund several programs that engage and benefit our diverse communities, including:

- Africentric Bachelor of Social Work
- Mi'kmaq Master of Social Work
- School of Occupational Therapy Indigenous Student Enrolment Program
- School of Physiotherapy African Nova Scotian Student Enrolment Program

Where financial support meets future leaders

A lifelong dream of obtaining a doctorate in pharmacy became achievable for **Tina Youssef** when she received the College of Pharmacists Dr. J.G. Duff Award. Given annually, this award recognizes a commitment to professionalism, integrity, and compassion.

“This financial support has helped me take advantage of educational opportunities and enriching experiences without worrying about the cost,” says Youssef. “It has opened doors to opportunities that were important for my personal and professional growth.”

And Youssef understands the important role she has to play as a future leader in the health-care realm; she learned this lesson young when a beloved family member faced a devastating illness.

“My grandfather died due to lung cancer in 1987 in Lebanon,” she explains. “At that time, there weren’t many anticancer drugs and, if there were, research was still going on to check the efficacy and safety of those drugs. It was, sadly, too late for him.”

As she grew up, Youssef’s interest in knowing more about medications and how they were made to target certain tissues grew, and this played a role in her decision to pursue a career in pharmacy. “Pharmacists are the most accessible health care providers,” she says. “They play a crucial role in providing safe and effective medical treatments.”

Growing up in Lebanon, Youssef dreamed of attending Dalhousie University after hearing the many stories of her older cousins who had cherished their time studying here. Today, thanks to support from the from College of Pharmacists Dr. J.G. Duff Award, Youssef’s studies are focused on new research and advancements being made on lung cancer, including prevention, early detection, treatment modalities, and understanding the underlying mechanisms of the disease — all in honour of her grandfather.

“As a student, I feel so grateful for the donors, as their giving has had a remarkable impact on my life,” she says. “This award alleviated some of the financial burden that comes with pursuing my Doctor of Pharmacy degree. Expenses like tuition fees, textbooks, and other academic resources are covered and I am grateful. This has allowed me to have more time to focus on my studies and extracurricular activities.”

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THIS AWARD ALLEVIATED SOME OF THE FINANCIAL BURDEN THAT COMES WITH PURSUING MY DOCTOR OF PHARMACY DEGREE.

— TINA YOUSSEF

Engaging in High-Impact Research

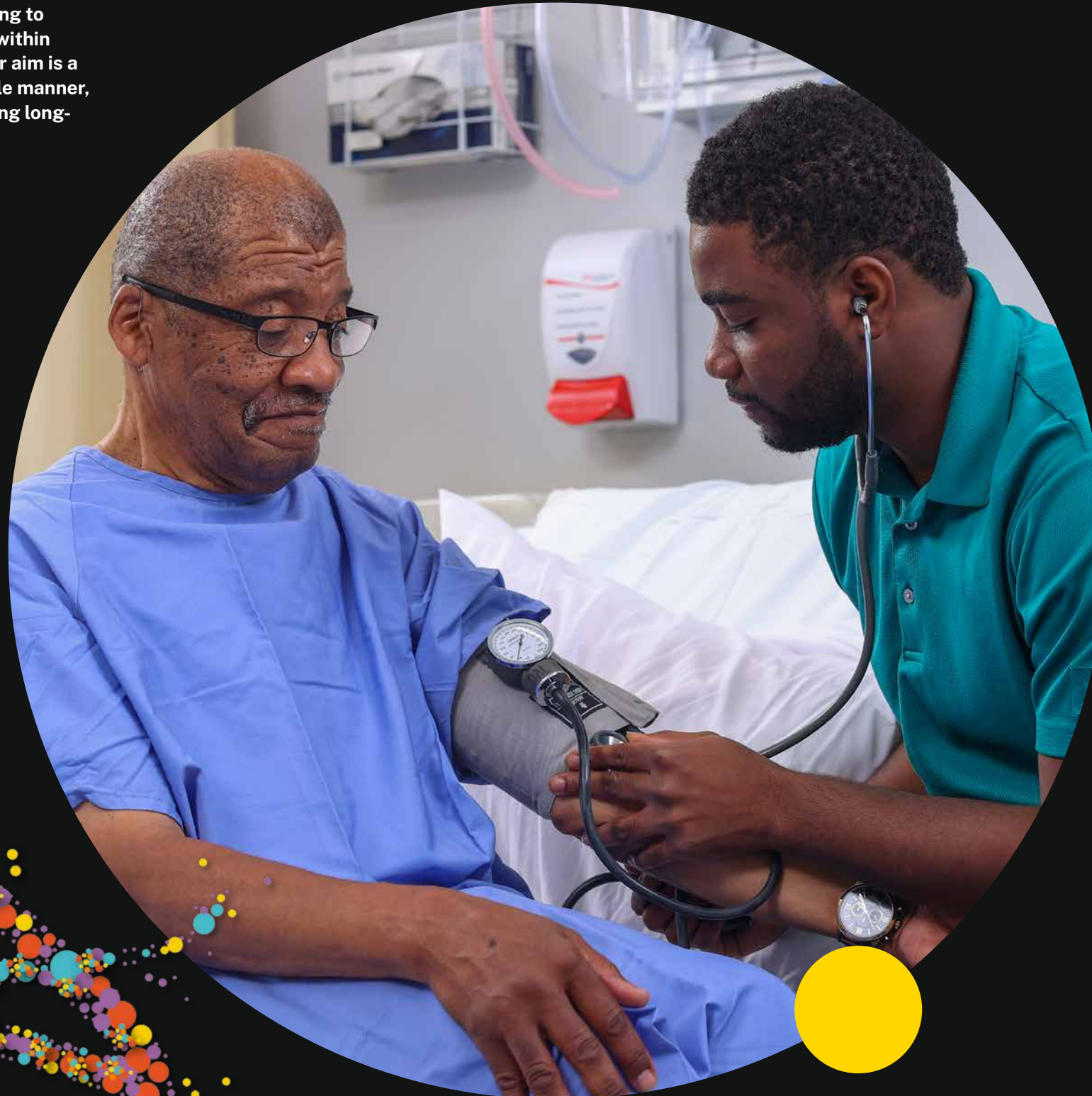
Through research, Dalhousie's Faculty of Health is seeking to understand, prevent and address the impacts of racism within health education and health-care delivery in Canada. Our aim is a health system that serves all communities in an equitable manner, ensuring access across the continuum of care, and erasing long-standing inequalities in health outcomes.

1. Improving health outcomes — \$8.3M

"Health" extends far beyond the "health system." To be truly healthy, people and communities rely on much more than just the physical and mental aspects of health care. Dalhousie's Faculty of Health conducts research to help understand and address these other areas that are critical for improving health outcomes for everyone. This campaign will support our vital research on the many different factors affecting health, such as health equity and resilience, health systems transformation, and the social determinants of health, including housing, justice, and food security. The campaign will also fund research into equity in health professions education and practice.

2. Leading social innovation — \$9.3M

We are working to create a health system that reflects the communities we serve and is better equipped to treat diverse populations. To achieve this, we need more representation among our research teams and research that addresses the many intersectional factors that affect health care. Our research focuses on equity and antiracism within the health system and on the impacts of social determinants of health. This campaign will support this important research through funding for BIPOC graduate students and postdoctoral fellows, and for leaders in Indigenous and African Canadian health research.



THE HEALTH SYSTEM SHOULD AND MUST SERVE ALL COMMUNITIES' NEEDS.

— DR. SHAUN BOE

Where trailblazing research meets equitable health care

Dr. Shaun Boe is the Associate Dean of Research for the Faculty of Health and a Professor in the Faculty's School of Physiotherapy and School of Health and Human Performance.

"The thread that connects individuals' health needs with the cutting-edge innovations of researchers is the health-care system. With our health-care system under intense pressure, that thread has never been more important.

"We need research that explores and understands all dimensions of the health-care system — from research in how we train and educate health professionals and scientists, the care they provide, and how individuals respond to that care. But health is so much more than the health system — it connects to social factors as well, like food and housing. Underlying these system and social inputs is the clear need for equity in health: the health system should and must serve all communities' needs, and our research purpose is centred on that need."

Lifting Our Communities

Research has identified health inequity as a leading barrier to quality care and overall well-being. Providing services and training students in culturally responsive practices, while networking with communities to provide a pathway to these services, is a critical component in shifting the relationship between historically marginalized communities and service providers in health and social care.

1. Serving the community — \$2M

Dismantling the barriers to health care that have been created by systemic racism, oppression, and poverty is a key aspect of serving our community via our clinics.

For example, Dalhousie's School of Social Work Community Clinic is the only social justice-based clinic in schools of social work nationally. This clinic provides critical services to those in need and is a powerful driver for student recruitment and retention, offering undergraduate and graduate students in health professions an opportunity to learn frontline practice from a social justice and anti-oppressive perspective. This campaign will allow us to infuse funding to vital community programs like this, including:

- School of Social Work Community Clinic
- Adult Language and Speech Clinic Community Engagement
- Physiotherapy Clinic Community Engagement



**CARING FOR OUR
COMMUNITY IS A
CRITICAL ASPECT OF
THE WORK WE DO.**

—CYNDI HALL

Where innovative education meets community service

Cyndi Hall is the Field Education Coordinator and Co-Director of the Dalhousie Social Work Community Clinic. She has been a part of the clinic since its inception over nine years ago.

“Caring for our community is a critical aspect of the work we do, and training students in real-life settings is key. Dalhousie's Faculty of Health is committed to providing much-needed services and support, and our Social Work Clinic is playing a vital role. We provide essential, interprofessional services to clients experiencing multiple challenges. Many students in professional programs complete their practice education here, providing timely services to those who need it most, while learning with and about other professions.”

2. Advancing equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility (EDIA) — \$450K

Dalhousie's Faculty of Health has invested in two projects with a large-scale EDIA focus.

Both programs are targeted to serve the health needs of priority communities and other historically marginalized groups:

- HOPES: Halifax Outreach Prevention Education and Support Fund
- HEAR @DAL: The Dalhousie Hearing Aid Assistance Program Community Services Fund



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IT IS A WIN-WIN WHEN PATIENTS ARE HELPED AND AUDIOLOGY STUDENTS GET TO DEVELOP THEIR SKILLS.

— CLIENT, DALHOUSIE HEARING AID ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Where generosity meets better quality of life

“I would like to express my deepest gratitude to those involved in the Dal Hearing Aid Assistance Program (DHAAP), as well as those who support the program. I have been fortunate to have received hearing aids through the program that have improved my quality of life immensely.

“Not only do I hear better with hearing aids, but I also experience benefits one would not realize that hearing impairment could contribute to, such as headaches, neck pain, and tension. Programs such as these are a resource from which so many people can benefit. Continued support from the community is needed.

“Thank you DHAAP and those who help with funding. It is a win-win when patients are helped and audiology students get to develop their skills.” — Client, Dalhousie Hearing Aid Assistance Program

Join us in making a difference

Bringing worlds together starts at home, where we can directly advance outcomes in our own communities, with solid plans in place to drive impacts more broadly. Dalhousie is a place where we can all make a difference — in the lives of students, our local communities, and beyond.

At Dalhousie's Faculty of Health, we are making changes today, while planning for the future. Our aim is multifaceted, inclusive of health education, health research, and community service. As an educational health faculty, it is our responsibility to educate the next generation of health and social care providers. Through cutting-edge research we will gain an understanding of the health impacts of systemic inequities on our communities and develop evidence-informed strategies to enhance health for all. And we will serve more people who are in critical need of assistance. If we can create equitable access to health services, fewer people will end up in health and social crises.

The generous support we receive from our alumni and partners will make this work possible.

We hope you'll join us on this life-changing and, indeed, life-saving journey — the health, wellness, and prosperity of our region depends on it.

For more information, please contact us.

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