

AGENDA

Page

OPEN SESSION

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – DECEMBER 8, 2021(OPEN SESSION)
2. BUSINESS ARISING
3. CHAIR'S COMMENTS AND UPDATE
4. PROPOSAL FOR MCMASTER INSITUTE FOR RESEARCH ON AGING |
DIXON HALL CENTRE (MIRA|DH)
2 - 20 *Approval*
[Proposal for MIRA|DH](#)
5. REPORT FROM UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL
21 - 23 *Approval*
[Closure of Certificate and Diploma Programs](#)
6. OTHER BUSINESS

January 10, 2022

TO: University Planning Committee
FROM: Karen Mossman, Vice-President, Research
RE: **Proposal for MIRA | Dixon Hall**



The Committee on Research Centres and Institutes has reviewed the attached proposal for MIRA | Dixon Hall as per the policies and guidelines, and has been unanimously approved.

Please include this as an agenda item for the next University Planning Committee Meeting on January 19, 2022.

KM:jt

Attach.

cc: Provost
Dean of Graduate Studies
University Secretariat
Dean of Business
Dean of Engineering
Dean of Faculty of Health Sciences
Dean of Humanities
Dean of Science
Dean of Social Sciences

Overview

Proposal for the Establishment of the

an Institute ☐

a Centre ☒

McMaster Institute for Research on Aging | Dixon Hall Centre (MIRA | DH)

Submitted by

Parminder Raina & The McMaster Institute for Research on Aging

MIRA|DH Members

Dr. Parminder Raina is the proposed Scientific Director for MIRA|DH. As MIRA|DH is nestled within MIRA all current MIRA members are also members of MIRA|DH. As of November 1, 2021, MIRA has 161 researchers representing all six Faculties and 177 active trainee members. MIRA|DH [research](#) and [trainee](#) members are listed on the MIRA website

Space Needs

New space required?

Yes

No ☒

MIRA @ MIP suite 109A and
Location: Dixon Hall @ 58 Sumach St Toronto

Confirmed

☒

Proposed

Space cost allocation covered by lead Faculty?

Yes

☒

No

Plans for Organizational Review	Frequency of Internal:	Annually
	Frequency of External:	The first review for this Centre will align with the next five-year review of MIRA, which will be in 2026, and then every five years
Please provide names below and check box to verify that approval has been obtained from each:		Check box
Department Chair/ Area Director	Dr. Karen Mossman, VP Research, McMaster	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Faculty Dean or Director of Administration	Dr. Paul O'Byrne, VP and Dean FHS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other (specify)	Dr. Susan Denburg, Exec. Vice-Dean & Associate VP, Academic FHS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Dr. Susan Tighe, Provost & VP Academic, McMaster	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Dr. Suzanne Labarge, Donor and former chancellor McMaster	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

A. Background:

i. What events led to this proposal for a new Centre/Institute?

First established in 2014 as the McMaster Institute of Geroscience, **the McMaster Institute for Research on Aging (MIRA)** was created in 2016 and supported by a generous \$5 million donation from Suzanne Labarge, a McMaster graduate, past chancellor and esteemed university champion and friend. Suzanne shares MIRA's commitment to evidence-based research focused on health and well-being and has provided support in championing the creation of the **Labarge Centre for Mobility in Aging**, the **Labarge Optimal Aging Initiative**, the McMaster Optimal Aging Portal, the McMaster Institute for Research on Aging and the establishment of the **Raymond and Margaret Labarge Chair in Research and Knowledge Application for Optimal Aging**. MIRA grew out of recognition that the best way to tackle the complex issues facing an aging population was as an organized, interdisciplinary team that integrates the perspectives of older adults, caregivers, stakeholders, and knowledge users into research efforts.

In addition to her philanthropic activities at McMaster University, Suzanne Labarge has invested in Toronto's Dixon Hall with annual contributions to assist with technology upgrades in the Seniors' Department. Since 1929, Dixon Hall has been a resource for older adults living in Regent Park, Moss Park, St. James Town, and other downtown east Toronto neighbourhoods. Dixon Hall's goal is to assist older adults in living independent and healthy lives and offer a range of programs and services to help ensure that older adults and adults living with a disability or illness can continue to live at home and be engaged in the community for as long as possible. Dixon Hall provides crucial programming and services to isolated, marginalized and at-risk people in Toronto's Downtown East and is an established, well-recognized entity celebrated for a commitment to comprehensive client care. In part, the depth, continuity, and consistency of the services it provides are enabled through robust partnerships and long-established relationships: The seniors' department is funded by the Province of Ontario (Ontario Health Teams), the City of Toronto – Community Service Partnerships, the United Way, the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility, as well as by individual, foundation, and corporate donors. Dixon Hall's efforts are also empowered by its history. Dixon Hall's history and ability to address the needs of older adults who live within this community are key components to its effectiveness. Dixon Hall's Seniors' Services Department is well connected and has partnerships with Toronto Ride, and Home At Last, which include: Reconnect, WoodGreen, SPRINT Senior Care, West Neighbourhood House, Storefront Humber, the Neighbourhood Group, West Toronto Support Services, Les Centres d'Accueil Heritage, and is also involved with the following partners/organizations: Progress Place (Seniors Mental Health Day Program in St. James Town partner), Hospice Toronto (Seniors Mental Health Day Program in St. James Town partner), Fred Victor, Central Neighbourhood House, Sherbourne Health, The Neighbourhood Organization (TNO), Toronto Community Housing, St. James Town Community Corner, St. Michael's Hospital, Neighbourhood Information Post, Regent Park Community Health Centre, Yonge Street Mission, and Health Commons Solutions Lab-Sinai Health. Dixon Hall also has a strong presence and engagement at relevant not-for-profit network tables and in dialogues taking place at all levels of government. Yet, financial constraints have necessarily limited Dixon Hall's activities, growth areas, research, effective use of data, and capacity for engagement in broader policy and advocacy work.

Recognizing MIRA's expertise in aging and mobility research and the potential to extend this expertise beyond the borders of McMaster University and Hamilton, in April 2021, Suzanne Labarge invested \$5 million to enable a new partnership between MIRA and Dixon Hall, a service centre offering crucial programming and services to isolated, marginalized and at-risk people in Toronto's Downtown East. Bridging the gap between the academic and the practical, the **McMaster Institute for Research on Aging | Dixon Hall Centre** promises access to unique insights from diverse populations and research opportunities that neither organization could provide alone. MIRA and Dixon Hall are proposing to capitalize on each other's considerable strengths to forge a new partnership that will undoubtedly improve the lives of at-risk older adults: members of our community who have been profoundly affected by the complexities of coping with the extraordinary circumstances in which we all find ourselves only two decades into the 21st century. At-risk seniors can only benefit from access to supports and technology that can help them feel more connected and engaged with their community as they age in place at home. This collaboration will primarily focus on a group that is not often seen or heard – seniors who are low-income, homeless, or precariously housed, or facing multiple challenges to mobility, health, and other social barriers. Our aim is to improve their quality of life and enable them to live with dignity through purposeful initiatives planned over both the short- and long term.

ii. How do those events relate to academic/research priorities?

We propose to establish both a virtual and, eventually, a physical centre at Dixon Hall in Toronto that will further cement McMaster's position as a national leader in research on optimal aging and mobility and enriching the experience for almost 2,000 seniors who access Dixon Hall programming and supports on a yearly basis. This centre will build direct links to McMaster expertise and increase capacity for knowledge dissemination to increase broad awareness of the importance of mobility for the well-being of older adults. It will enable researchers to quickly identify issues and questions of importance to all stakeholders. Opportunities will be augmented to pursue target areas for training, research, and knowledge translation around the topic of mobility and aging. The partnership will also provide a rich learning environment in the science of aging and will enable our experts from MIRA and Dixon Hall to create novel educational initiatives and knowledge translation and dissemination opportunities that will benefit Dixon Hall, MIRA trainees, and members of the general public. With a physical presence in Toronto and access to superb online resources such as the Optimal Aging Portal (OAP) at McMaster, opportunities to enhance public outreach initiatives will grow. This new centre will foster collaborations with researchers that will include community members and stakeholders such as those in the housing and transportation industries as well as government and policymakers. Collaborations between MIRA and Dixon Hall will also allow isolated, marginalized, and at-risk older adults the opportunity to actively participate in all aspects of research, from the formulation of research questions through to knowledge translation and dissemination. MIRA and Dixon Hall have numerous areas of shared capacity and priorities. These areas of alignment inform the following research themes:

Facilitating technology use and access

Technology has the capacity to promote mobility, connection, and healthy aging, but inequities and lack of access can serve to further widen the gap between older adults who are doing well and those who are not. Research platforms and other assets, including the developing Technology Hub at Dixon Hall, McMaster's Institute for Music and the Mind (MIMM), and the numerous MIRA researchers engaged in understanding how older adults interact with, and use technology, will facilitate the pursuit of research questions and initiatives related to technology, aging, and equity. The **McMaster Optimal Aging Portal**, a digital platform that enables older adults and care providers to access plain language evidence summaries of relevant topics, can be further facilitated, evaluated, and explored through Dixon Hall's Technology Hub. Current intergenerational initiatives (e.g., Symbiosis, Timeless, and Dixon Hall's youth programming) provide further opportunity to explore intergenerational interventions in navigating digital tools and platforms.

Housing and aging in place

The Greater Toronto Housing Authority (GTHA) experiences a simultaneous housing shortage and challenges related to health, mobility and social isolation as many older adults struggle to age in place. Innovative approaches are needed to meet the housing needs of an aging population. Dixon Hall's deep capacity for supporting older adults facing housing insecurity is well complemented by McMaster's engagement in housing research and aging in place initiatives, including the CRUNCH (Collaboratory for Research on Urban Neighbourhoods, Community Health and Housing) Lab, engaged in work in both Hamilton and Toronto; the McMaster Smart Home, a test facility for technologies enabling older adults to age in place; and, Health TAPESTRY (Health Teams Advancing Patient Experience: Strengthening Quality), which has currently scaled up from its pilot sites in Hamilton to include additional intervention sites in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Windsor, Harrow, Sault Ste. Marie, and Dufferin County.

Transportation mobility

Transportation is a key element to older adults' health, mobility and meaningful participation in community and society. Population aging will demand research and initiatives focused on understanding and reducing barriers to transportation, including those relating to declining physical mobility, driving cessation, and the costs and limitations of public transit. Dixon Hall's existing partnerships and initiatives (Toronto Ride, SPRINT Senior Care) provide key opportunities to apply MIRA's research capacity, exemplified through platforms such as the McMaster Institute for Transportation Logistics (MITL), and projects including the McMaster Monitoring My Mobility (MacM3) project, the Candrive study, and several Labarge Centre for Mobility in Aging-funded projects on driving, transit, and active transport led by researchers in the social sciences, geography, civil engineering, and rehabilitation science.

Transitions in care and end of life

As older adults experience changes in health and mobility, increasing demands will be placed on transitions in care, including those from hospital to home and to other forms of supported living in the community. Understanding the best practices and policies around these transitions, as well as those associated with end-of-life, can be advanced through Dixon Hall's ongoing work with the Local Health Integration Networks and developing Ontario Health Teams, Hospice Toronto, Sherbourne Health and others, as well as McMaster's research relationships and initiatives with the THRIVE Group, St. Joseph's Villa and its hospice, Margaret's Place, and the dementia care support platform iGeriCare.

Participation and mobility

Participation in the community and reducing social isolation are key elements of mobility that both MIRA and Dixon Hall identify as priorities. As Dixon Hall connects 1,500 – 2,000 older adults annually to service providers and community programming, its seniors' department is poised to link community members to innovative, evidence-based approaches facilitating participation and connectedness. Several of MIRA's current programs of research, including the community codesigned EMBOLDEN trial, the ABLE arts-based mobility therapy platform, and GERAS Dance program, seek to promote social and community mobility among their key aims.

To achieve the overall objectives for the **McMaster Institute for Research on Aging | Dixon Hall Centre**, we propose several mechanisms to conduct research, support community engagement and promote knowledge translation, including but not limited to:

- Facilitating ongoing access to the McMaster Optimal Aging Portal through Dixon Hall's Technology Hub, and evaluating its usability and impact in this population;
- Community initiatives and events to engage Dixon Hall clients, community members, partners, and the wider aging community in Toronto;
- Research and data analysis to better understand current Dixon Hall clients, caregivers, and program use;
- Building capacity in Dixon Hall's work with low-income, precariously housed seniors;
- Identifying service gaps or research topics as determined by the evaluation of Dixon Hall's or partner organizations' program outcomes and trends;
- An inner-city longitudinal cohort study, leveraging MIRA experience and assets, including the Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging (CLSA);
- Expansion of Labarge Centre for Mobility in Aging-funded multi-year major research programs, Community-based Program to Enhance Physical and Community Mobility in Older Adults (EMBOLDEN) and the McMaster Monitoring my Mobility (MacM3) research platform;
- Expansion of MIRA member-led projects including Arts-based Therapies Enabling Longevity for Geriatric Outpatients (ABLE), Health Teams Advancing Patient Experience: Strengthening Quality (TAPESTRY), Geriatric Education and Research in Aging Sciences Centre (GERAS) Dance, and the online dementia education program iGeriCare;
- Systematic reviews of older adult programming within and beyond Canada, leading to potential evidence-based demonstration projects;
- Intergenerational technology accessibility initiative, linking MIRA trainees and older and younger Dixon Hall users.

iii. *How will creating this Centre/Institute improve and enhance research that will address these priorities?*

The **McMaster Institute for Research on Aging | Dixon Hall Centre** will build direct links to McMaster expertise in academic research and knowledge translation and increase capacity for broad awareness of the importance of mobility for the well-being of older adults. Opportunities will be augmented to pursue target areas for training, research, and knowledge translation around mobility and aging while also focusing on groups that are not often seen or heard – urban, older Canadians who may be low-income, homeless, or precariously housed, to mobility, health, and other social barriers or are facing more complex challenges or concurrent disorders. Our aim is to improve the quality of life for these older adults and enable them to live with dignity through purposeful initiatives planned over both the short- and long term.

Combining the lived experience of the experts at Dixon Hall, with research expertise of academics at MIRA, will allow researchers to quickly identify issues and questions of importance to all stakeholders. With a physical presence in Toronto

and access to superb online resources such as the Optimal Aging Portal (OAP) at McMaster, the centre will have greater opportunities to enhance public outreach initiatives. This new centre will foster collaborations with researchers that will include community members and stakeholders such as those in the housing and transportation industries as well as government and policymakers.

The partnership will also provide a rich learning environment in the science of aging and will enable our experts from MIRA to create novel educational and funding initiatives together with Dixon Hall. MIRA will work together with Dixon Hall to establish research opportunities with existing datasets and to identify research and knowledge gaps that could be addressed through this new partnership. The **McMaster Institute for Research on Aging | Dixon Hall Centre** will capitalize on this activity by leveraging the platforms, research strengths and existing research and educational initiatives in which MIRA and the Labarge Centre for Mobility in Aging have collectively participated, and data that has already been collected at Dixon Hall, while providing experienced leadership in community-engaged initiatives serving older adults in Toronto.

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented us with new opportunities and challenges and MIRA has pivoted to enhancing linkages with Dixon Hall via technology to establish a virtual centre. For Dixon Hall, COVID-19 has presented a new reality and highlighted heightened challenges for many of its clients, and for its role as a multi-service agency. Certainly, the pandemic has highlighted those at-risk older adults can benefit from access to supports and technology that can help them feel more connected and engaged with their community as they live at home, and has the capacity to promote mobility, connection, and healthy aging. However, inequities and lack of access to technology and supports can widen the gap between older adults who are doing well and older adults who are not thriving.

With MIRA as a partner, however, these challenges can be analyzed to create promising opportunities for collaborative community work. There is an urgency to consider the pandemic-specific issues facing many of Dixon Hall's clientele, and the exploration of these challenges will inform future areas of inquiry and help to inform decisions on current and future program design for the populations accessing services at Dixon Hall. This collaboration will focus on short-term collaborative projects leveraging existing projects and technology; long-term collaborative projects, using established infrastructures and frameworks to implement interdisciplinary community-based projects that support research in social and physical mobility utilizing technology and co-design techniques; and leveraging McMaster aging-related research platforms to support research in aging in these populations.

B. Objectives and Proposed Activities:

i. Objectives

Impact on key stakeholders

The **McMaster Institute for Research on Aging | Dixon Hall Centre** aims to improve the quality of life for Dixon Hall clientele and enable them to live with dignity through purposeful initiatives planned over both the short- and long term. These will include the implementation of a digital platform that enables older adults and care providers to access plain language evidence summaries of relevant topics, exploration of intergenerational initiatives to promote connection and reduce feelings of loneliness and isolation, and access to programs of research that facilitate participation and connectedness. This would include the community codesigned EMBOLDEN trial, the ABLE arts-based mobility therapy platform, and GERAS Dance program, all of which seek to promote social and community mobility. Dixon Hall clientele will also benefit from knowledge translation events and community initiatives aiming to engage Dixon Hall clients, community members, partners, and the wider aging community in Toronto. Given MIRA's dedication to inclusion of key stakeholders in research program creation and execution, community members can also be engaged in the design process, conceptualization, and execution of novel research programs and dissemination of knowledge products following successful conclusions of research programs.

The impact on Dixon Hall will include the opportunity for program evaluation to identify efficacy and impact of services currently provided, collaboration in novel educational and funding opportunities, and the ability to steer the research agenda to help identify and create programs and services to support underserved older adults.

Partners involved with Dixon Hall, including Meals on Wheels may also benefit from access to program evaluation tools and access to experts and evidence-based tools to inform decision making.

Government agencies including the Province of Ontario (Ontario Health Teams), the City of Toronto – Community Service Partnerships, the United Way, the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility, and individual, foundation, and corporate donors involved with Dixon Hall would also benefit from receiving detailed information about how programs at Dixon Hall impact on the community, as well as receiving insights into service gaps that may be uncovered as a result of research occurring within the **McMaster Institute for Research on Aging | Dixon Hall Centre**.

Potential for collaboration

The **McMaster Institute for Research on Aging | Dixon Hall Centre** aims to include key stakeholders in research program creation and execution through the opportunity to be engaged in the design process, conceptualization and execution of novel research programs and dissemination of knowledge products following successful conclusions of research programs.

Innovative approaches are also needed to support older adults facing housing insecurity and barriers to transportation and transitions in care such as hospital-to-home, and end-of-life care. Participation in the community and reducing social isolation are also key elements to mobility that both MIRA and Dixon Hall identify as shared research themes.

Dixon Hall leaders have significant capacity as knowledge brokers who can mobilize information generated by MIRA with older adults and their caregivers, relevant support networks and service-provider organizations, and engaged funders and other partners. For example, Dixon Hall is an anchor agency for the United Way and has deep and long-standing connections with existing board members and other agencies and organizations that could both contribute to and benefit from this work. There is an opportunity for a McMaster-Dixon Hall partnership to build a collaborative platform that can mobilize other community-based organizations at the regional and national level.

We would also propose collaborating on implementing evidenced-based community demonstration projects and strengthening MIRA's work with stakeholders that support aging research by engaging them in project specific advisory boards, MIRA's governance committees and review panels.

Exploring opportunities for co-authored or co-presented research, with findings to be shared both in academic dialogues and through Dixon Hall's communication channels and networks would also be a priority.

Currently, Dixon Hall has limited capacity for data collection. This new partnership would enable more collaborative work on data analysis and program evaluation to both enhance Dixon Hall's program offerings, assist in identifying service gaps and improve data collection and management. This would include population-specific work and the consideration of gaps in services provided for at-risk groups, including homeless or precariously housed older adults and low-income older adults. Working together would also enable MIRA researchers and Dixon Hall leaders to identify new research topics and enhance Dixon Hall's mandate by mapping onto the priorities of MIRA and the Labarge Centre for Mobility in Aging.

ii. Proposed Activities

Research Projects

One of the aging-related research platforms at McMaster is the Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging (CLSA). Data and biological samples from the CLSA provide McMaster researchers with one-of-a-kind opportunities to develop high-impact, targeted research agendas that answer critical questions by integrating the perspectives of a variety of disciplines.

a) Short-term collaborative projects (Year 1)

Dixon Hall and MIRA have existing connections and technology to collaborate on the following initiatives:

- Collecting data on COVID-19 experiences and impact on health and wellbeing of Dixon Hall clientele. Relying upon resources and support provided by MIRA, Dixon Hall has collaborated with Dr. Andrea to collect measures examining the impact of COVID-19 on the physical and mental health of individuals. Part of the data for this study was collected through the MIRA | Dixon Hall Centre and includes Dixon Hall clients and findings are currently being analyzed and evaluated. Thorough consideration of topics in this questionnaire that include health, mobility, technology, access to housing and community support, will enable Dixon Hall to enhance their understanding of clients' experiences and needs at this time. In turn, this will help Dixon Hall to prepare for potential future events.
- Engagement in providing access and share the most appropriate up-to-date and evidence-based resources using the **McMaster Optimal Aging Portal** for improving the well-being of older Ontarians and their families. This collaboration will develop and provide standardized training for staff and volunteers who work with service providers and programs on how to use the Portal and integration into existing programs at Dixon Hall enabling the provision to clients of more multi-faceted supports. This would also build Dixon Hall's capacity by helping to ensure utilization of best practices and offering the most current research-based resources and programs to its clients. In turn, MIRA's access to the Dixon Hall client base can help bolster the number and diversity of clients engaging potential service provision projects.
- A robust exploration and observational study of the impact of technology and connectedness on Dixon Hall clients. This work can begin with a consideration of what has been witnessed during the pandemic – clients experiencing heightened levels of isolation because of either a lack of access to technology or a lack of understanding about how to properly use technology. Together, we can then consider the next best steps. Dixon Hall will work to build and expand the Technology Hub that is being facilitated by a gift from Suzanne Labarge. Given current circumstances, Dixon Hall will consider revising the timeline or even the approach to facilitating either a fixed- or portable-use library of laptops, tablets, etc. for client use. This could be on-site, should health circumstances permit a return to day programs, or off-site should the public health restrictions due to the pandemic persist, or in cases of clients unable to attend in person. This new partnership will enable this resource to be developed with an evidence-based approach leading to enhanced service for the clients of Dixon Hall, and ultimately, facilitate the exploration and access to more areas in the future. Moreover, the building of a Technology Hub in concert with MIRA could support MIRA's advancement of technology as a policy tool to reduce inequity and create a meaningful link for MIRA to the McMaster Digital Transformation Research Centre (MDTRC). Through multidisciplinary studies and insight, the MDTRC seeks to investigate and understand the impact of the changes brought about by technological and digital innovation on individuals, groups, and organizations.

b) Longer-term collaborative projects (Year 1 and onward)

MIRA has funded two major interdisciplinary community-based projects that will be conducted in the Hamilton region: **McMaster Monitoring My Mobility (MacM3)**, and the **Enhancing physical and community MoBility in OLDER adults with health inequalities using commuNity co-design (EMBOLDEN)** trial. These projects are funded, designed and ready for implementation. They are described below in their current form with participants expected to be enrolled within the Hamilton area, however, we propose to expand these projects to include communities served by Dixon Hall. Based on Dixon Hall's priority areas and through dialogue and collaboration, these projects will be tailored using a co-design approach and incorporated into the Regent Park area. For example, Dixon Hall and its partner organizations may be host sites for sub-projects or components of the projects and collaborate in participant enrollment or share insight on the mobility needs of their communities. In addition, community members may choose to become project participants or share lived experience in other ways such as in advisory groups. These types of activities could amplify the scope of these research projects and expand the findings to a range of diverse communities. In turn, project information can support program development in Toronto's communities. Overall, this will integrate research within the mandate and operations of Dixon Hall and further support the development of a local research milieu that attracts research and policy experts to engage with and become involved in the exciting research developments occurring at Dixon Hall. Briefly:

- Challenges with mobility such as difficulty with walking or getting into and out of a car are common in older adulthood and can negatively impact health and social functioning. The **MacM3** project will use advanced wearable technologies to understand how mobility changes over time and how this affects health outcomes in older adults. Informed by preliminary research activities to customize activity tracking devices (i.e., wearable technology), each participant in this project will be provided with a wearable device for defined periods over a 2-year span to monitor a variety of mobility measures as they move within their home and in their community. At

the same time, health information will be captured periodically through in-person or phone interviews. These data will be used to identify unique trajectories of mobility for differing levels of mobility challenges and health outcomes. Finally, with input from older adults and caregivers and findings from this research, a self-monitoring mobility tool will be designed to track and manage mobility and health that, ultimately, may prevent or delay mobility problems in later life. Throughout the span of this research, a number of smaller activities will be integral to its success and these include investigating and validating currently available wearable technology for older adults; stakeholder engagement planning, which will involve consultations with older adults, community organizations, clinicians, policy makers, caregivers, and industry; and, the establishment of community ‘pop-ups’ – temporary data collection sites – in shared spaces such as the YMCA, YWCA, or public library. Certainly, MacM3 offers many opportunities for collaboration with Dixon Hall, its partners, and community members throughout the span of the project.

- The **EMBOLDEN trial** is a co-designed intervention that aims to advance the social and physical mobility of older adults that live in communities of high health inequity in Hamilton. The ability to participate, at will, in social interactions and to be physically mobile is important to maintaining health-related quality of life in older adults (55 years and older). Many adults, however, face barriers in accessing community programs that have the potential to ameliorate the effects of increased social isolation and reduced physical mobility. A co-design approach facilitates cooperation and the exchange of ideas between researchers, stakeholders, and the intended program recipients. The idea of the co-design technique is to identify gaps in service, and to develop unique programs that leverage and align with current community programming to meet the needs of individuals. This approach would be equally suited for implementation with Dixon Hall and its community. Specifically, the program will engage existing best practices and supports in the local community to improve mobility and health through social support, nutrition, physical activity, and system navigation, and strengthen connections with existing support services. The co-designed program will then undergo vigorous empirical evaluation of its implementation and efficacy for meeting the needs of older adults living in the community. The long-term goal of the program is to design interventions and services that can be adapted for implementation in other communities throughout Canada.
- MIRA is also developing a third program of research to address intergenerational issues related to aging. This project **The Intergenerational and Life Course Cohort and Intervention Research Platform (iGEN)** will be a larger examination of intergenerational research across communities in Hamilton and in communities in Toronto served by Dixon Hall. The specific themes for which we will solicit research proposals will be jointly identified by MIRA, Dixon Hall, and relevant stakeholders. These calls will be like MIRA’s existing Catalyst Grant calls.

The implementation of these directed projects will be tailored to the Dixon Hall communities using a co-design approach. Integral to the creation of the **McMaster Institute for Research on Aging - Dixon Hall** partnership is McMaster’s culture of collaboration as expressed clearly by researchers from diverse fields of study such as social sciences, biology, psychology, engineering, business, and health sciences who continually work together to promote healthy and functional aging. This expertise combined with unparalleled existing platforms, ensures that both the research impact and the benefits for Dixon Hall clients can be optimized.

c) Leveraging McMaster Aging-related Research Platforms (Years 1-5)

There are several aging-related research platforms at McMaster including the Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging (CLSA). Data and biological samples from the CLSA provide McMaster researchers with one-of-a-kind opportunities to develop high-impact, targeted research agendas that answer critical questions by integrating the perspectives of a variety of disciplines.

In addition to the CLSA, MIRA has an extensive infrastructure needed to carry out and disseminate this research, including:

- Knowledge translation platforms such as the **McMaster Optimal Aging Portal** and the McMaster Health Forum that enable evidence-based research to be easily shared with researchers, decision-makers, and citizens;
- Platforms for developing, evaluating, and implementing new technologies such as the Smart Home within the Faculty of Engineering;
- Biobanks and high-throughput biomarker labs to support high-quality research;
- Centres such as the Geriatric Education and Research in Aging Sciences Centre (GERAS), the Physical Activity Centre for Excellence (PACE), and the Gilbreath Centre for Studies in Aging, providing complementary clinical, social, cultural and community links that amplify the research agendas of the Labarge Centre and the Institute;

- The MIRA Trainee Network, which supports and develops trainees engaging in interdisciplinary research on aging.

Educational outreach

The **McMaster Institute for Research on Aging - Dixon Hall** partnership would provide additional opportunities for knowledge dissemination and training opportunities for students in the MIRA Trainee Network and the related Association for Undergraduate Research in Aging (AURA; currently in development) in both being recipients of information as well as providing additional opportunities for these students to participate in and learn more about and participate in knowledge translation and dissemination.

Engagement in “Staying Healthy and Safe at Home”, a project MIRA has developed for consideration by Dixon Hall. This project aims to develop and provide standardized training and access to resources for staff and volunteers who work with service providers and programs on how to access and share the most appropriate up-to-date and evidence-based resources using the **McMaster Optimal Aging Portal** for improving the well-being of older Ontarians and their families. This project will be submitted for funding through the development of partnerships. This initiative would be easily integrated into Dixon Hall’s existing programs, enabling Dixon Hall to provide clients with more multi-faceted supports. This would also build Dixon Hall’s capacity by helping to ensure utilization of best practices and making certain that the most current research-based resources and programs are offered to its clients. In turn, MIRA’s access to the Dixon Hall client base can help bolster the number and diversity of clients engaging in this project.

There will also be opportunities for the partnership to engage in knowledge dissemination and knowledge translation events virtually and in person (when permitted) to engage the communities that Dixon Hall is currently serving, and to diversify the types of knowledge translation events that MIRA has developed a reputation for in the greater Hamilton area., as well as opportunities to provide these events to a wider national audience on a virtual platform.

C. Rationale for Establishment of the Research Centre or Institute:

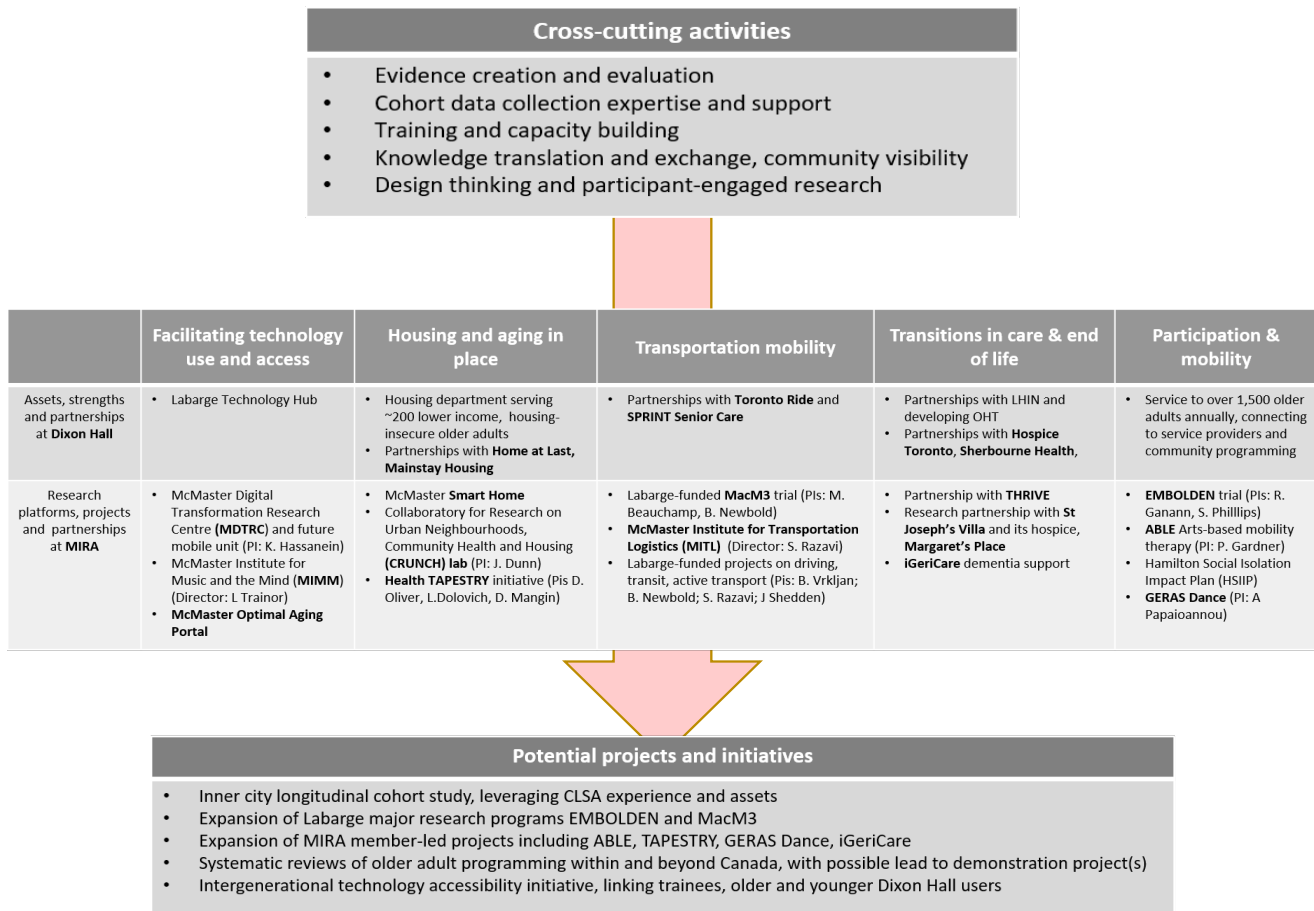
i. Why is there a need for this Centre/Institute?

Bridging the gap between the academic and the practical, the **McMaster Institute for Research on Aging | Dixon Hall Centre** promises access to unique insights and research opportunities that neither organization could provide alone. The McMaster Institute for Research on Aging and Dixon Hall are proposing to capitalize on each other’s considerable strengths to forge a new partnership that will undoubtedly improve the lives of at-risk older adults: members of our community who have been profoundly affected by the complexities of coping with the extraordinary circumstances in which we all find ourselves only two decades into the 21st century. At-risk older adults can only benefit from access to supports and technology that can help them feel more connected and engaged with their community as they live at home. This collaboration will focus on a group that is not often seen and heard – older adults who are low-income, homeless, or precariously housed, or facing multiple or complex challenges to mobility, health, and other social barriers. Our aim is to improve their quality of life and enable them to live with dignity through purposeful initiatives planned over both the short- and long term.

Integral to the creation of the **McMaster Institute for Research on Aging - Dixon Hall** partnership is McMaster’s culture of collaboration as expressed clearly by researchers from diverse fields of study such as social sciences, biology, psychology, engineering and health sciences who continually work together to promote healthy and functional aging. This expertise, combined with unparalleled existing platforms, ensures that both the research impact and the benefits for Dixon Hall clients can be optimized.

MIRA|DH will support cross-cutting activities that align with the values and strengths identified in this proposal.

Figure 1: Core Activities of MIRA|DH: Cross-cutting activities will support defined research themes aligned with both organizations' priorities and strengths. Several potential projects and initiatives are poised for implementation, adaptation or scale-up.



i. [Alignment with McMaster's Strategic Research Plan](https://research.mcmaster.ca/research/strategic-plan-for-research-2018-2023/)

MIRA – DH will build on and support McMaster University's Strategic Plan for Research by contributing to the discovery, communication, and preservation of knowledge about mobility and aging. This collaboration will encompass the core values of student education and extending boundaries of knowledge through research via the MIRA Trainee Network and the Association for Undergraduate Research in Aging (AURA). The research conducted at the centre will advance society via best practices, and research and knowledge translation events will involve MIRA experts across all faculties, experts from Dixon Hall, as well as stakeholders, and international partners of MIRA including experts in aging from the University of Leeds, and the University of Lancaster. Working together with Dixon Hall, MIRA researchers will be able to disseminate information across a wider provincial, national, and international audience to strengthen communities and improve the lives of Canadians and others around the world.

Work to improve mobility in aging will help older adults live well for longer. The centre commits to partnering with local community agencies and centres to disseminate the learnings from our research to benefit the end user as well as involving the end user in the research from inception to knowledge translation and dissemination.

With respect to sustainability for global prosperity, the centre will extend work that Dixon Hall is already doing to provide access to technology for older adults, as well as work MIRA is already undertaking to improve environmental design in homes such as through the SmartHome research agenda, as well as on streetscapes to improve mobility in urban environments making them more walkable and accessible for older adults.

With respect to the strategic goal of addressing the growing burden of chronic disease **MIRA|DH** will provide opportunities to explore how public services provided to vulnerable and disadvantaged populations can be provided or improved.

In line with the strategic goal to address aging across the life span, **MIRA|DH** will be uniquely positioned to provide opportunities for researchers to interact with service providers to explore and develop opportunities to foster the health and mobility of older adults, focusing on areas including: impact of exercise on aging; interrelationship between psychological function and social function; causes and consequences of multimorbidity, frailty and polypharmacy; the role of caregiving, equity, economics and transportation in optimal aging; the understanding of the biological mechanisms of diseases of aging; evaluating approaches to knowledge translation to improve optimal aging; the use of technology to promote optimal aging and aging in place; understanding and defining mobility in aging; maintaining and restoring mobility in aging; and environmental facilitators and barriers that influence mobility in aging.

The strategic goal of examining data, artificial intelligence and the digital society will be explored through the analysis of data already available at Dixon Hall with respect to digital literacy and access to technology and access to the internet as it pertains to the clientele that utilize services provided by Dixon Hall and its partners. Specifically, during the COVID-19 pandemic, Dixon Hall staff had to pivot to use a variety of different methods to reach out to their clients during lockdowns and when physical contact was severely restricted.

Regarding the strategic goal of equitable, prosperous, and sustainable societies, studies such as the EMBOLDEN study conducted by MIRA and which will expand to **MIRA|DH** will explore how to promote physical and community mobility of older adults who experience difficulties participating in community programs and who reside in communities of high health inequity. This model allows researchers to work together with older adults in the community and service providers to promote mobility in community-dwelling older adults.

ii. Expected regional, provincial, national, global impact

Through the research proposed for the MIRA|DH Centre and through MIRA's work that has been ongoing in the past five years to successfully develop strategic partnerships on a local, national, and international level, the expected impacts of this work will be at the local/regional levels as well as nationally and internationally

Over the past five years MIRA has developed a wide network of collaborators and partners who support MIRA's research, educational endeavors and community-based initiatives. MIRA's partnership development has focused on strengthening our goals and leveraging resources while collaborating with new and existing partners who complement the Institute's research strengths. MIRA has formalized over 30 strategic partnerships, while many more informal collaborations have been developed with a wide variety of stakeholders within McMaster University, locally, nationally, and internationally. These collaborations are with other academic institutions, government agencies, not-for-profit and private industry partners.

To date MIRA's partnerships have resulted in significant leveraged funds, expanded research programs or platforms, new educational programs, and interdisciplinary learnings. [MIRA's five-year report](#) highlights these partnerships and collaborations that showcase the diversity of partners engaged with MIRA and how they support the Institute's many goals—from developing institutional strength in aging and mobility through scientific exchange programs to enabling stakeholder and citizen networks and promoting aging in place with evidence-based resources.

As MIRA|DH is nestled within MIRA, this to build and utilize the many regional partnerships Dixon hall has in place as listed in section A. By leveraging these partnerships and supporting Dixon Hall to generate evidence-based outcomes that will inform their programs and services, the regional impact is expected to be significant.

Through the proposed research objectives and projects, the outcomes will become of national and international significance as well. The potential to translate future findings of the proposed research to other cities and under-served older adults' communities nationally and internationally.

D. Criteria for expanding the membership:

Currently membership to this Centre is included in the membership to MIRA. Currently MIRA has over 150 Faculty members and close to 100 trainee members and continues to grow to support the growing body of researchers engaging in aging research and identified priority by the University. MIRA is currently working on how to design different levels of membership so that the model is supportive to the needs of our researchers and stakeholders

E. Detailed business plan:

Financial needs

Based on the proposal developed for MIRA|DH and careful budget development based on the proposed program of research and activities at MIRA|DH a request was made for \$5M over five years 2021-2026. This amount was approved and donated by Susan Labarge for this work in 2021. The budget is detailed in Appendix A. The budget allows for Dixon Hall to establish core staff and processes for the Centre's collaborative research. Directed MIRA|DH research initiatives builds on existing MIRA projects as described and funds are allocated for new initiatives and projects. There is an allowance in the budget to reimburse MIRA staff for their work with the MIRA|DH Centre.

Anticipated and secured sources of support

With the funds provided by the donor, MIRA will not require any additional funds from McMaster University. MIRA expects to secure additional sources of support through its partnership development activities as well as ability of the MIRA network to attract and leverage funding through funding opportunities. MIRA has been able to leverage significant funding in the past year to support research initiatives and the research in aging milieu at McMaster.

Space needs

Due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, we propose to establish first a virtual and later a physical centre at Dixon Hall in Toronto that will further cement McMaster's position as a national leader in research on optimal aging and mobility; enriching the experience for almost 2,000 seniors who access Dixon Hall programming and supports on a yearly basis.

Phase one of this collaboration will entail the creation of a virtual centre and leveraging existing strengths at both MIRA and Dixon Hall immediately to launch several projects that will generate important information to improve the lives of at-risk seniors and support Toronto's communities.

Phase two will include dedicated space at Dixon Hall's Senior Services' centre on Carlton Street or the soon-to-be renovated community hub on Sumach Street and expansion of further research activities. Dixon Hall's Sanctuary provides a multi-purpose space ideal for hosting community and academic events. These spaces will be sufficient to house some administrative staff and will offer meeting and collaboration areas. The Youth Centre at Wyatt Avenue is an ideal space for intergenerational work.

Please note that there is no request for space from the university. MIRA|DH Centre will be supported through the staff that are located at the MIRA space at the McMaster Innovation Park in suite 109A. No funds will be required for space allocated at Dixon Hall. Staff at Dixon Hall will operate within the existing infrastructure at Dixon Hall. Activities supported will be hosted through existing spaces both at McMaster and at Dixon Hall

Human Resource needs

Existing MIRA staff will support the activities for the proposed work within MIRA|DH similarly as they support MIRA's overall work. Predominantly, MIRA's Research Coordinator, Project Manager and Program Coordinator will support the

collaborative work such as liaising with the researchers support the MIRA|DH research initiatives, managing and supporting data gathering and surveys and funding opportunities and all administrative processes including communications and promotions. Dixon Hall has hired two additional staff to meet their research needs. They have hired a Research & Community Lead and a Research and Communications Officer to be the main staff available to facilitate the collaborative research proposed for the Centre and to liaise with the Dixon Hall clientele.

MIRA's support and the Dixon Hall staff are covered within the budget in Appendix A.

Faculty, researchers, and students will engage with MIRA|DH through collaborative projects and initiatives. MIRA and Dixon Hall staff will liaise with Faculty, researchers and students and support administrative work required. MIRA and Dixon Hall's organization have a broad skillset through its staffing complement that can support all proposed activities.

It is anticipated that MIRA|DH will hire students for research projects and initiatives the centre will engage in. Graduate students may also be involved in MIRA|DH funded projects that will hire students for research and other related activities.

MIRA's staff complement available to support the MIRA|DH Centre:

Senior leadership

Parminder Raina, proposed Scientific Director
Ine Wauben, Managing Director

MIRA team

Gésine Alders, Research Coordinator
Allison Dubé, Project Manager
Casey Irvin, Communications Coordinator
Alison Outtrim, Program Coordinator
Audrey Patocs, Research Manager

Dixon Hall staff complement to support the MIRA|DH Centre:

Senior leadership

Mercedes Watson, CEO
Christine Chow, Director Senior Services
Laura Stenberg, Director Philanthropy & Communications

Dixon Hall team

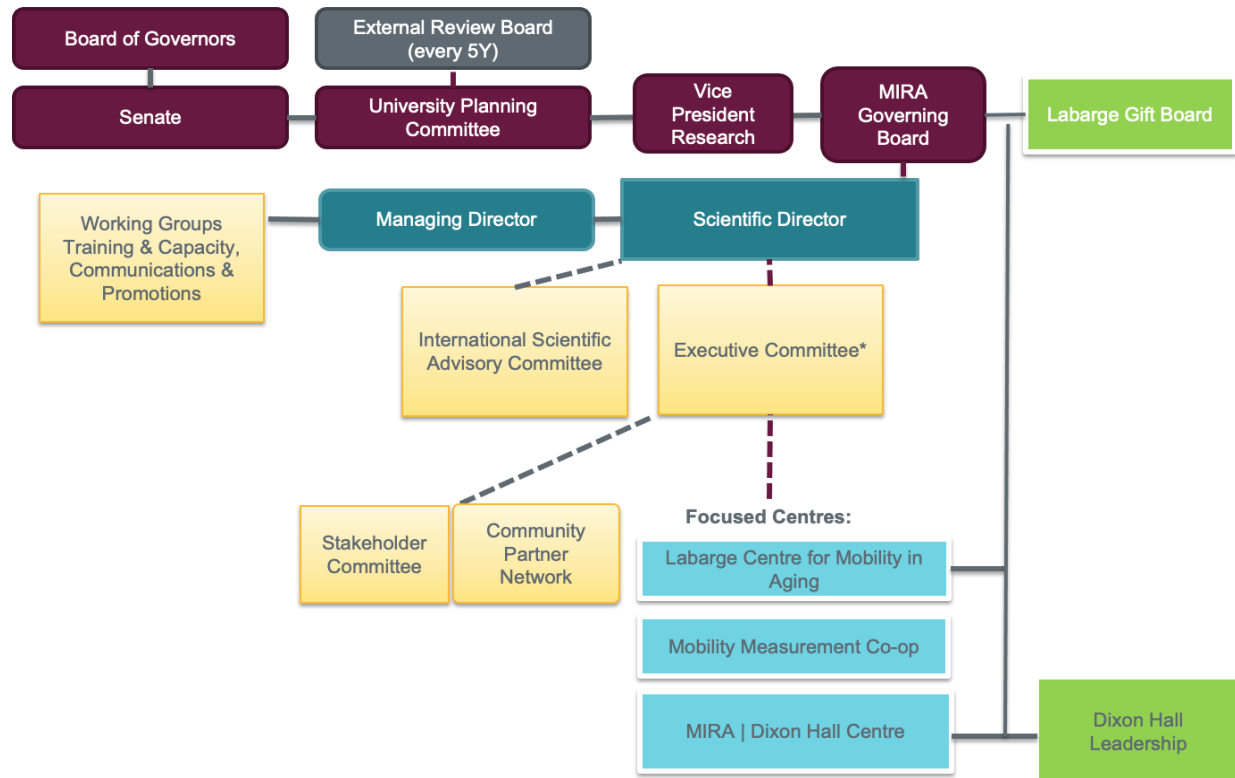
Nadia Jamil, Research and Community Lead
Olga Levitski, Research and Communications Officer
Haiat Iman, Data Analysis Coordinator
Laura Thiboutot, Communications Assistant

Organizational & Governance Structure

MIRA's governance and management structure has been carefully crafted to ensure scientific excellence. It provides robust management and oversight from both the Labarge Gift Board as well as University senior leadership. The governance model allows for modification and accountability over time, which will be necessary for the management of scientific and executive strategies and growth.

To properly administer the proposed work and responsible use of funds, the governance model for the Centre is incorporated within MIRA's governance model. Thus, focused centres created within MIRA use a single, centralized, and shared operational, governance and administrative model to facilitate advancement of the strategic objectives of all centres. The centralised governance and administration model maintains MIRA's unique operating structure while creating multiple focused centres that will advance diverse but integrated strategic priorities such as outlined in this proposal.

The Scientific Director and co-lead for Dixon Hall have a seat on the Executive Committee. MIRA|DH will report their progress to the Labarge Gift Board at the annual Labarge Gift Board meeting.



* The Scientific (Co-)Directors of MIRA and the Focused Centres have a seat on the Executive Committee

i. Director

At the request of the donor, it is proposed that the MIRA|DH will be led by Parminder Raina (MIRA) as the Scientific Director and co-led by Mercedes Watson (Executive Director, Dixon Hall).

ii. Advisory Committees

MIRA focussed Centres including MIRA|DH will be supported and advised by the Executive Committee and the International Scientific Advisory Committee. The Executive Committee provides insight and advice to the Scientific and Managing Director regarding operation and strategic priorities of the Institute and corresponding Centres including MIRA|DH. The ISAC is responsible for advising the Scientific and Managing Director on the relevance and quality of the research outcomes of MIRA and corresponding Centres, including MIRA|DH, as well as assisting in decision-making regarding areas of research focus and peer review of strategic initiatives annually. The ISAC will also advise on potential international collaboration and partnership opportunities with a particular focus on research, but also potentially impacting MIRA|DH knowledge translation, training/education, and external relations activities.

The membership of both committees is listed:

Members of MIRA Executive Committee

Dr. Paula Gardner, Humanities
Dr. Michel Grignon, Social Sciences
Dr. Milena Head, Business
Dr. Bhagwati Gupta, Science
Dr. Peter Mascher, International Affairs
Dr. Alexandra Papaioannou, Health Science (Clinical)
Dr. Ravi Selvaganapathy, Engineering
Dr. Michael Surette, Health Sciences (Basic Science)
Dr. Brenda Vrkljan, Health Sciences (Design Thinking)
Mercedes Watson, Chief Executive Officer Dixon Hall

Members of MIRA International Scientific Advisory Committee (ISAC)

Dr. David Hogan (Chair), University of Calgary
Academic Leader, Brenda Strafford Centre on Aging, O'Brien Institute for Public Health, Cumming School of Medicine
Dr. Amelia DeFalco, University of Leeds
University Academic Fellow in Medical Humanities / Cultural representations of aging, disability, dementia, and care
Dr. Tom Kirkwood, Newcastle University
Professor Emeritus (formerly Associate Dean for Ageing), Institute for Ageing
Dr. James Nazroo, University of Manchester
Professor of Sociology, Honorary / Director, Cathie Marsh Centre for Census and Survey Research
Dr. S.V. Subramanian, Harvard University
Professor of Population Health and Geography, Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences
Prof. Nicola Palmarini, Newcastle University
Director, National Innovation Centre for Ageing

Governing Board and Role in Annual Review

The MIRA | Dixon Hall Centre will report annually to the MIRA Governing board as part of the annual MIRA review. The Board is chaired by the Vice-President, Research and oversees the overall activities of MIRA and its performance in supporting McMaster Strategic Research Plan

Members of MIRA Governing Board

Dr. Karen Mossman (Chair), Vice-President, Research
Dr. Susan Tighe, Academic Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Dr. Susan Denburg, Associate VP Academic, Health Sciences
Dr. Paul O'Byrne, Dean, Health Sciences
Dr. Maureen MacDonald, Dean, Science
Dr. Heather Sheardown, Acting Dean, Engineering
Dr. Jeremiah Hurley, Dean, Social Sciences

The Centre will also report annually to the Labarge Gift board. The Labarge Gift Board is comprised of McMaster University senior leaders and joined by the Donor and/or a candidate nominated by the Donor. The Labarge Gift Board will receive annual updates from the McMaster Institute for Research on Aging (MIRA) on the status of the funds, research successes, outreach activities and financial outcomes that occur each year as part of the Labarge supported initiatives including the MIRA|DH Centre.

Members of the Labarge Gift Board

David Farrar, President and Vice-Chancellor, McMaster University

Paul O’Byrne, Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences

Susan Denburg, Associate Vice-President, Academic, Faculty of Health Sciences

Laura Harrington, Assistant Vice-President/Chief Administrative Officer, Faculty of Health Sciences

Mary Williams, Vice-President, University Advancement

Lorna Somers, Vice-President, University Foundation

Karen Mossman, Vice-President, Research

Susan Tighe, Provost and Vice-President, Academic

Suzanne Labarge and/or representative

F. Plan for Five Year External Review

MIRA and its embedded Centres underwent its five-year external review in 2021. The intention is for the MIRA|DH Centre five-year review to coincide with MIRA’s next five-year review in 2026.

Appendix A: **MIRA|DH budget**

APPENDIX A

Budget Template for Research Institutes, Centre or Core Platforms

Please include additional detail in Proposal if necessary

	Insert year	Insert year	Insert year	Insert year	Insert year	Total
OPENING BALANCE/CARRY FORWARD		-\$ 15,000	-\$ 30,000	-\$ 90,000	-\$ 65,000	

REVENUE - indicate whether secured or anticipated	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25		\$ Secured	\$ Anticipated
<i>Please ensure that any anticipated revenue from grant funding will only support costs eligible for that grant and note funding available for indirect or general operations.</i>								
Donation from Suzanne Labarge	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 5,000,000	
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 5,000,000	
EXPENSES	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25			
Dixon Hall Core Budget*								
Staff - Seniors, Research & Communications	\$ 120,000	\$ 120,000	\$ 120,000	\$ 120,000	\$ 120,000	\$ 600,000		
Community Partners, Stakeholders & Community Engagement	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 80,000		
Infrastructure, Admin and Technology	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 120,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 820,000		
	\$ 340,000	\$ 340,000	\$ 335,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 235,000	\$ 1,500,000		
MIRA Operations Budget						\$ -		
Staff - Research Support & Admin	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 200,000		
Miscellaneous incl office supplies, etc.	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 175,000		
Total Administrative Expenses	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 375,000		
Research Expenses:								
Directed MIRA-Dixon Hall Research Initiatives						\$ -		
Evidence based resource development - Staying Healthy and safe at home	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 500,000		
MacM3	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 600,000		
Embolden	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 600,000		
Interdisciplinary initiatives/leveraging existing programs or funded projects	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 125,000		
New MIRA-Dixon Hall Research Initiatives						\$ -		
Surveys, data gathering and analyses Dixon Hall ongoing initiatives	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 375,000		
Catalyst grants (intergenerational Projects)	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 700,000		
Demonstration/Evaluation Projects	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 225,000		
Total Research Expenses	\$ 600,000	\$ 600,000	\$ 650,000	\$ 650,000	\$ 625,000	\$ 3,125,000		
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 1,015,000	\$ 1,015,000	\$ 1,060,000	\$ 975,000	\$ 935,000	\$ 5,000,000		
IN-YEAR (Surplus/ Deficit)	-\$ 15,000	-\$ 30,000	-\$ 90,000	-\$ 65,000	\$ -			

REPORT TO THE UNIVERSITY PLANNING COMMITTEE
from the
UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL

a. Closure of Certificate and Diploma Programs

i. The Closure of the Certificate in Metallurgy of Iron and Steel.

At its December 7th, 2021 meeting, the Undergraduate Council reviewed and approved the proposal to close the Continuing Education's Certificate in Metallurgy of Iron and Steel. Details of the proposed closure program are contained within the circulated material.

It is now recommended,

that the University Planning Committee approve the closure of the Certificate in Metallurgy of Iron and Steel, as set out in the attached.

University Planning Committee: FOR APPROVAL
January 19, 2022



Centre for
Continuing
Education

One James North
3rd Floor
Hamilton, Ontario
L8S 4L8 Canada

Phone 905.525.9140
Ext. 24321
Fax 905.546.1690
www.mcmastercce.ca

Date: September 16, 2021

To: Dr. Sean Corner, Chair, Certificates and Diplomas Committee

From: Dr. Lorraine Carter, Director, McMaster Continuing Education

Cc: Dr. Kim Dej, Associate Vice Provost (Faculty)
Dan Piedra, Assistant Director, McMaster Continuing Education
Anne Dwyer, Program Manager, McMaster Continuing Education

Re: Closure of the Certificate in Metallurgy of Iron and Steel

I am writing to share information about the closure of the Certificate in Metallurgy of Iron and Steel offered through McMaster Continuing Education (MCE).

History

The Certificate in the Metallurgy of Iron and Steel originated in 1954 as a partnership between the Department of Extension (McMaster Continuing Education) and the Ontario chapter of the American Society of Metals. The program consisted of a lecture series that ran once a year. The official certificate began in 1955 and was designed as a 3-year program offering five courses once yearly. From 1959 – 1968, the program evolved to consist of 3 courses offered once a year. In 1997, the Faculty of Engineering and Continuing Education partnered to revise the program to a 6 course, in-person certificate. Finally, in 2012/13 the program was reduced to 5 courses and delivered fully online with the intent to broaden the audience to international pockets of the steel industry.

Current Situation

Enrolment in the metallurgy program has been slowly declining since before the 2012 decision to move to an online format. Reasons for this are multiple and include:

- Students complete a limited number of courses rather than complete the full program.
- The program struggles to find an audience, as the program is too technical for individuals working in the steel industry in administrative roles (i.e. data analysts, finance, sales). The steel industry recruits engineers from Material Science programs for positions in quality control, supervisors, metallurgists, etc. This will continue to reduce the number of engineering graduates attending the program as content will overlap with undergraduate studies.
- Active students are predominately from Ontario. The recruitment of international students from India, China, and Europe has not increased.
- There are limited opportunities for contract training in metallurgy. Past inquiries do not proceed as representatives from the steel industry have difficulty determining the specific training needs of employees. Furthermore, increased training programs offered by industry associations and online resources provide more direct education and training for employees in the steel industry.

Communication and Program Wind Down Plan

Every effort will be made to ensure that students, who are currently enrolled, have the opportunity to complete the certificate. The following steps will be taken to communicate the closure of the program and manage the wind-down phase:

- A program closure wind-down plan, including course offerings schedule will be prepared.
- Instructors will be informed about the closure and the wind-down plan.
- An email will be sent to all students who have enrolled in a metallurgy course in the last 8 years to inform them of the closure, as well as MCE's commitment to ensure that students enrolled in the program will have the opportunity to complete the certificate.
- The last intake to the Metallurgy program, as well as the last offering of the foundation course (Met 450 Physical Metallurgy) will be Spring 2022. No new intakes to the program will be permitted beyond Spring 2022.
- Those interested in completing individual courses, without qualifying for the certificate will be permitted to do so.
- Scheduling will be aligned with the requirements of current students to complete the program.
- Students wishing to complete the program requirements will have 18 months to do so (May 2022-December 2023), with a final offering of courses scheduled during the Fall 2023 semester.
- A closure message will be posted on the MCE website.

MCE is committed to helping all current students complete the present program should they wish to do so.

Sincerely,



Dr. Lorraine Carter, Centre for Continuing Education
McMaster University