

Joint Conference: Canadian Society for the History of Medicine (CSHM) and Canadian Association for the History of Nursing (CAHN)

Call for Papers

Health in Action: The History of Activism, Advocacy, and the Politics of Care

St. John's College, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg

June 12-14, 2027

Submission Deadline: November 15th, 2026

The Canadian Society for the History of Medicine (CSHM) and the Canadian Association for the History of Nursing (CAHN) invite paper proposals for their joint conference to be held June 12-14th, 2027 at the University of Manitoba, St. John's College. The University of Manitoba campuses are located on original lands of Anishinaabeg, Ininiwak, Anisininewuk, Dakota Oyate, Dene and Inuit, and on the National Homeland of the Red River Métis.

This year's conference theme is ***Health in Action: The History of Activism, Advocacy, and the Politics of Care***. Potential participants are encouraged to interpret this theme broadly.

The history of health and medicine is also a history of collective action. Patients, practitioners, families, communities, reformers, activists, institutions, and governments have mobilized around questions of health, illness, disability, care, and bodily autonomy. Health activism has challenged medical authority, demanded access to care, created new forms of expertise and community support, and reshaped public policy. At the same time, health activism has encompassed competing—and sometimes deeply contested—visions of medicine, rights, responsibility, and the public good.

We particularly encourage submissions from:

- Graduate students, postdocs, and early career scholars
- Established scholars developing novel methodological approaches and perspectives

In keeping with the longstanding practices of the society, we also welcome papers on all topics from different geographical areas and periods of the history of healthcare and medicine.

Submissions should be made through our conference Fourwaves site

<https://event.fourwaves.com/cshm2027> before midnight (PST) on November 15th, 2026.

The CSHM and CAHN invite **individual papers**, as well as submissions for **panels**. We also welcome **roundtables** and are open to **other formats**:

- **Individual papers:**

Abstracts for individual papers may be submitted in French or English and should be no more than 250 words.

- **Full panels:**

The proposals must include a 250-word rationale for the panel, a list of panel participants, and a description for individual papers (not exceeding 200 words for each paper). Sessions include three to four papers, followed by a Q&A period.

This format may be modified at participants' request, **but requests must be indicated at the time of abstract submission.**

- **Roundtables and other formats:**

The proposal must include a 250-word rationale for the overall session and a list of roundtable participants. The selection committee will evaluate proposals for alternative formats on a case-by-case basis.

This year, we will carry on with the mentoring sessions initiative that was piloted at last year's conference.

The CSHM and CAHN will be holding a morning of joint sessions with the Canadian Historical Association (CHA). Please indicate whether you hope your submission will be part of this shared morning.

The Committee will notify applicants of its decision by January 31st, 2027. Those who accept an invitation to present at the meeting agree to provide French and English versions of the accepted abstract for inclusion in the bilingual Program Book.

All presenters at the conference must be — or become — members of the CSHM or the CAHN. Becoming a member is simple: just visit the following page on the Society's website: <https://cshm-schm.ca/en/about/membership/>

AMS Healthcare has confirmed that its funding for graduate student conference travel will also support independent scholars who wish to present at CSHM's annual conference. Presenters can apply for reimbursement after the event, and the Society will cover expenses as funding allows. Eligible reimbursement covers travel and accommodations to a maximum of \$750 total per person, subject to funding availability.

Questions can be addressed to the Program Committee Chair:

Leslie Digdon, Saint Mary's University (leslie.digdon@smu.ca)