Expanding Our Horizons: Building Capacity for Interdisciplinary Research in Aging
Janice Keefe, Mount Saint Vincent University; Gail Wideman, Memorial University

In the ‘changing landscape’ of aging studies, practice, and policy, an interdisciplinary collaborative approach is increasingly recognized as essential to the future of aging research (Piccinin & Hofer, 2008). The purpose of the workshop is to bring together academic discipline-based, policy, and applied perspectives to converge on the issue of collaborative research on aging. In this workshop, two researchers with experience with interdisciplinary aging-related research collaborations, and a facilitator with expertise in team-building, grant application and peer-review, will share their experiences related to fostering interdisciplinary collaborations in aging-related research. The specific objectives of this workshop are: 1) To identify areas of interest in aging-related research; 2) To identify researchers, practitioners and policy makers with expertise and interest in interdisciplinary aging-related initiatives and collaborations; 3) To examine the characteristics for successful interdisciplinary collaborations. To achieve its objectives, the workshop will include examples from two Atlantic Canadian research initiatives: a multidisciplinary, multi-sectoral provincial aging health network, and a nationally-funded research project examining nursing home models of care. Participants will discuss opportunities and challenges around multi-sectoral inter- and multidisciplinary work, explore opportunities for collaborations with their colleagues, and examine the conditions and characteristics required for successful networks and/or research collaborations. The workshop is expected to identify potential research areas of interest, capabilities and mechanisms for possible collaborations to emerge.

Works Cited: