INSTITUTE DESCRIPTION

IVPSA was created in 2002 to address the challenges posed by an aging population. The institute brings together Université Laval professor researchers from a wide range of disciplines with government and community partners, professionals, and students. IVPSA’s aim is to help society adapt to population aging and promote the social participation of seniors.

IVPSA seeks to pool expertise in gerontology and geriatric medicine, with a view to fostering synergy in research and sharing new knowledge in the field of aging and senior’s social participation. IVPSA focuses on three main research areas:

- The characteristics and social repercussions of aging
- Determinants, incidences, and impact of seniors’ social participation
- Assessment of measures designed to improve seniors’ living conditions

MISSION

- Build partnerships and collaborations with seniors’ groups and regional, national, and international organizations
- Pool academic expertise on aging
- Coordinate research, training, and dissemination of knowledge
- Promote social participation as a vector of change for seniors and society as a whole
- Lead, coordinate, and consult on initiatives by community and university actors

IVPSA Director: René Verreault, Faculty of Medicine

IVPSA makes it possible for members to collaborate with researchers and practitioners and stay abreast of the latest techniques and approaches in a range of aging-related fields.

The institute also monitors trends in seniors’ social participation in society by including community partners from seniors’ advocacy groups in its membership.
IVPSA hosts two annual scientific meetings, an opportunity for research professors and practitioners to present papers on various aging-related issues and student members to present research findings and project updates. The institute is increasingly well-known as a leader in seniors’ social participation and collaborative projects with community partners, and is frequently consulted by government and other organizations. Recently, for example, the Quebec government’s secretariat on seniors awarded the institute a grant for a study on housing and community involvement of seniors in the Quebec City region. The study, which involves a number of community partners, is designed to be an exhaustive survey of the types of housing, and communities, seniors reside in. The findings will be discussed by officials and decision makers at a 2014 forum on seniors’ housing.

One significant research project, “La participation social des aînés : des savoirs à l’action,” recently received Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council funding. IPVSA will oversee this project to develop a coordination structure for the many groups that have been working, up to now in isolation, on various aspects of seniors’ social participation in society.

IVPSA was also selected, among several candidates, by the Quebec government’s seniors secretariat to run the activities of the province’s Ethics Committee on Population Aging and Demographic Change, previously directed by Conseil des aînés du Québec. The Institute will provide professional support for the preparation, coordination, and execution of the committee’s work.

Students of all levels—undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral—working in areas of interest to IVPSA can become institute members, free of charge. Members are kept informed of institute activities (via newsletters, email, and our website) as well as the work of our community partners and other organizations whose work dovetails with IVPSA objectives. Student members can make oral presentations at our annual science days, an excellent forum for sharing research findings and project updates, with a prize awarded for the best presentation. Undergraduate and graduate students are also eligible for supplementary scholarships and internships (space and funding permitting).

These are just a few of the assets IVPSA offers students. Institute management wants students at all levels to develop an awareness of the issues facing an aging population, along with an understanding that there is much more to this vast field than its clinical and geriatric dimensions. Because everybody ages in different ways, social and economic factors must be taken into account and the opportunities for research are numerous and diverse. IVPSA student members also enjoy great networking opportunities as well as close contact with professors and researchers who can support their work, provide academic guidance, and more.