

# Université du Québec: a network of leading health

## training and research institutions

Université du Québec's ten member institutions value interdisciplinarity, developing original niches of excellence in the field of health care that are important to the growth of their communities and regions across Quebec. They place special emphasis on research and teaching in order to train professionals who contribute actively to Québec's healthcare system. Using preventive rather than curative approaches before diseases or problems strike, they also offer clinical activities to local communities.

Healthcare is an important part of the network's institutions, representing 16% of their research budget and over 28%\* of their scientific production. In the area of health-care training, they offer undergraduate and graduate programs, accounting for over 6500 health sciences students. Enrollment in Université du Québec's healthcare programs is on the rise.

\* Source: BDBC-OST (WoS/Thomson Reuters); special compilation (reclassement classification) UQ-DRI; octobre 2012



UQTR nursing lab - photo: UQTR

### ABOUT UNIVERSITÉ DU QUÉBEC

The mission of Université du Québec's ten institutions is to promote access to higher education while contributing scientific advancement and regional development across Quebec. Today, some 96,000 students enroll every fall in the over 750 programmes offered by the institutions in the Université du Québec network. The network's 6,900 professors and lecturers and 4,100 permanent employees administer day-to-day teaching and research activities in over 60 municipalities throughout the province.

Université du Québec à Montréal (**UQAM**) / Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières (**UQTR**) / Université du Québec à Chicoutimi (**UQAC**) / Université du Québec à Rimouski (**UQAR**) / Université du Québec en Outaouais (**UQO**) / Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue (**UQAT**) / Institut national de la recherche scientifique (**INRS**) / École nationale d'administration publique (**ENAP**) / École de technologie supérieure (**ÉTS**) / Télé-université (**TÉLUQ**)



**Université du Québec**

[www.uquebec.ca](http://www.uquebec.ca)



Guylain Doyle

## training

Université du Québec's member institutions are very active in healthcare training. Together, they offer nearly **80** undergraduate and graduate **programs** in clinical training and research alike.

- Undergraduate: over **20 bachelor's** programs, including some that are linked to Cégep programs, as well as **2 undergraduate doctoral degree programs** in podiatric medicine and chiropractic
- Graduate: over **18 master's** and **2 PhD programs**

They also provide **continuing education** to healthcare professionals in the various regions of Québec with a number of short specialized programs:

- Undergraduate: **19 certificates** and **10 microprograms**;
- Graduate: **7 advanced graduate diplomas** (DESS).

Member institutions offer a broad range of training in many areas of health care related directly or indirectly to health care:

- Nursing sciences: specialized nursing care (perioperative, cardiovascular, clinical, emergency, perinatal, intensive care, operating room, etc.) and community or remote area nursing care;
- Clinical care: chiropractic, midwifery, podiatric medicine, anesthesia and critical care, clinical approaches in world health, experimental medicine, etc.;
- Mental health: psychology, psychoeducation, legal psychology, psychosocial health, sexology, intellectual disabilities, pervasive development disorders, drug dependence and other addictions, etc.;
- Community health: social work, social and community intervention, psychosocial intervention, outreach and street work, occupational health and safety, social and school adaptation, social gerontology, community health, First Nations health, etc.;
- Physical activity: kinanthropology, kinesiology, recreation and quality of life, physical and health education, etc.;
- Rehabilitation: remedial education, adapted physical activity, occupational therapy, speech therapy, motor and sensory rehabilitation, etc.;
- Natural sciences: environmental chemistry, biochemistry, cellular and molecular biology, clinical criminology, virology and immunology, applied microbiology, etc.;
- Applied sciences: biotechnology and healthcare technology engineering;
- Social sciences and humanities: art therapy, bioethics, health and communications, etc.;
- Administration: health and social services management, health system performance, etc.

### Exclusive training programs

Some member institutions are tasked with providing exclusive training programs to ensure Québec's next generation of healthcare professionals.

One such institution is UQAM, which offers Québec's only interdisciplinary doctorate in health and society from a social perspective. UQAM is also the only institution to offer bachelor's, master's and PhD programs in sexology.

UQTR, for its part, is the only university offering undergraduate doctorates in chiropractic and podiatric medicine as well as a bachelor's degree in midwifery.

### Online training available to healthcare professionals across Québec

A number of our network institutions offer online training that is available to healthcare professionals all across Québec.

TÉLUQ, for example, has developed a number of custom training offerings for healthcare professionals, including courses on prenatal screening for trisomy 21 and mental health activities governed by Bill 21. During the avian influenza pandemic in 2006–2007, TÉLUQ developed online sessions to quickly train 270,000 healthcare network employees across Québec.

UQAT also offers ten unique distance learning programs, including global health, occupational health and safety, clinical nursing care, respiratory therapy, and motor and sensory rehabilitation.

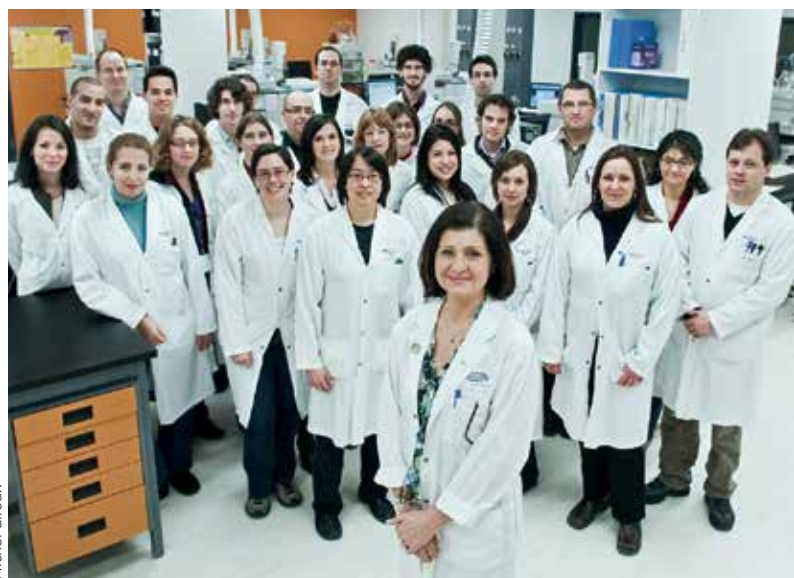
Lastly, UQAR offers a distance learning option for its undergraduate short program in perinatal nursing care as well as training on post-heart attack depression for members of Ordre des infirmières et infirmiers du Québec.

Numerous researchers at Université du Québec's member institutions are conducting research projects in the area of health care, including:

- **48 research chairs**, of which 28 are Canada Research Chairs (CRC);
- Some **30 research units**, including 20 research centers, groups, and teams, and close to 10 institutions, networks, consortiums, or systems devoted to healthcare research;
- **26 research laboratories**.

All the network institutions have developed niches of excellence in the healthcare sector. Several of them occupy a unique position in the field and are contributing their original expertise to knowledge development and the training of up-and-coming researchers in health care. Following are some of the initiatives underway at member institutions:

- UQAM's **Centre de recherche et d'intervention sur le suicide et l'euthanasie** (CRISE - Centre for research and intervention on suicide and euthanasia) and **PHARMAQAM**, the **Centre de recherche sur la conception, les mécanismes d'action et la vectorisation des médicaments** (Centre for research on drug design, action mechanisms, and vectorization).
- UQAC's **BALSAC file** is a vast databank of historical, demographic, and genealogical data covering nearly four centuries of history and containing information compiled on over 5 million individuals. Researchers and students in fields ranging from sociology to demographics, geography, and human genetics are able to access the data in the file for their work.
- **Institut universitaire en déficience intellectuelle (DI) et en troubles envahissants du développement (TED)** (university institute for intellectual disabilities and pervasive development disorders), a UQTR affiliate, is dedicated to helping develop knowledge and practices, transfer and disseminate expertise, and evaluate the services available to people with intellectual disabilities or pervasive development disorders.
- INRS's **Laboratoire du contrôle de dopage** (Doping control laboratory), the only lab in Canada accredited by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), develops methods to detect and identify increasingly sophisticated doping agents.
- UQAR's **Alliance de recherche universités-communautés** (ARUC - Community-University Research Alliance) and **Laboratoire de recherche sur la santé en région** (LASER - regional health research lab) work to improve the health of people living in remote areas, especially those in coastal and island communities.
- ÉTS carries out research projects in **collaboration** with private companies, the clinical sector, government agencies, and not-for-profit organizations **to develop materials and equipment** designed to improve the health and safety of workers.
- Research on **art and health** at UQAM and pain research and work on **art therapy** at UQAT are two examples of a multidisciplinary approach to health care.



Michel Giroux

The Organizing Committee of the 2010 Winter Olympics and Paralympics called on one of the best drug screening teams in the world, that of Professor Christiane Ayotte of INRS-Institut Armand-Frappier in Laval.

- The study of **cyberpsychology** at UQO uses virtual reality and telepsychotherapy to understand, evaluate, and treat mental disorders. UQO's six-sided immersive vault is one of only a dozen or so worldwide, and the only one dedicated to mental health.
- Research is conducted at UQTR in the field of **child development** and at UQO by **Chaire de recherche du Canada sur la violence faite aux enfants** (CRVE - Canada Research Chair in Violence Against Children).
- Public and healthcare policy research at TÉLUQ, UQAM, and ENAP under the strategic cluster **Politiques publiques et santé** (public and healthcare policy strategic group) of the **Réseau de recherche en santé des populations du Québec** (RRSPQ - Quebec Population Health Research Network) or the **Groupe d'étude sur les politiques publiques et la santé** (GÉPPS - public and healthcare policy study group).



## Training doctors in outlying regions

Some member institutions are involved in training medical students interested in working outside the major urban centers. For example, UQTR works with Université de Montréal's faculty of medicine to provide part of its med school courses in Trois-Rivières. And in the Saguenay region, UQAC partners with the Université de Sherbrooke faculty of medicine and health sciences.



Stéphanie Bélanger

Students in the undergraduate doctoral degree program in podiatric medicine at UQTR work with the homeless at the Accueil Bonneau shelter.

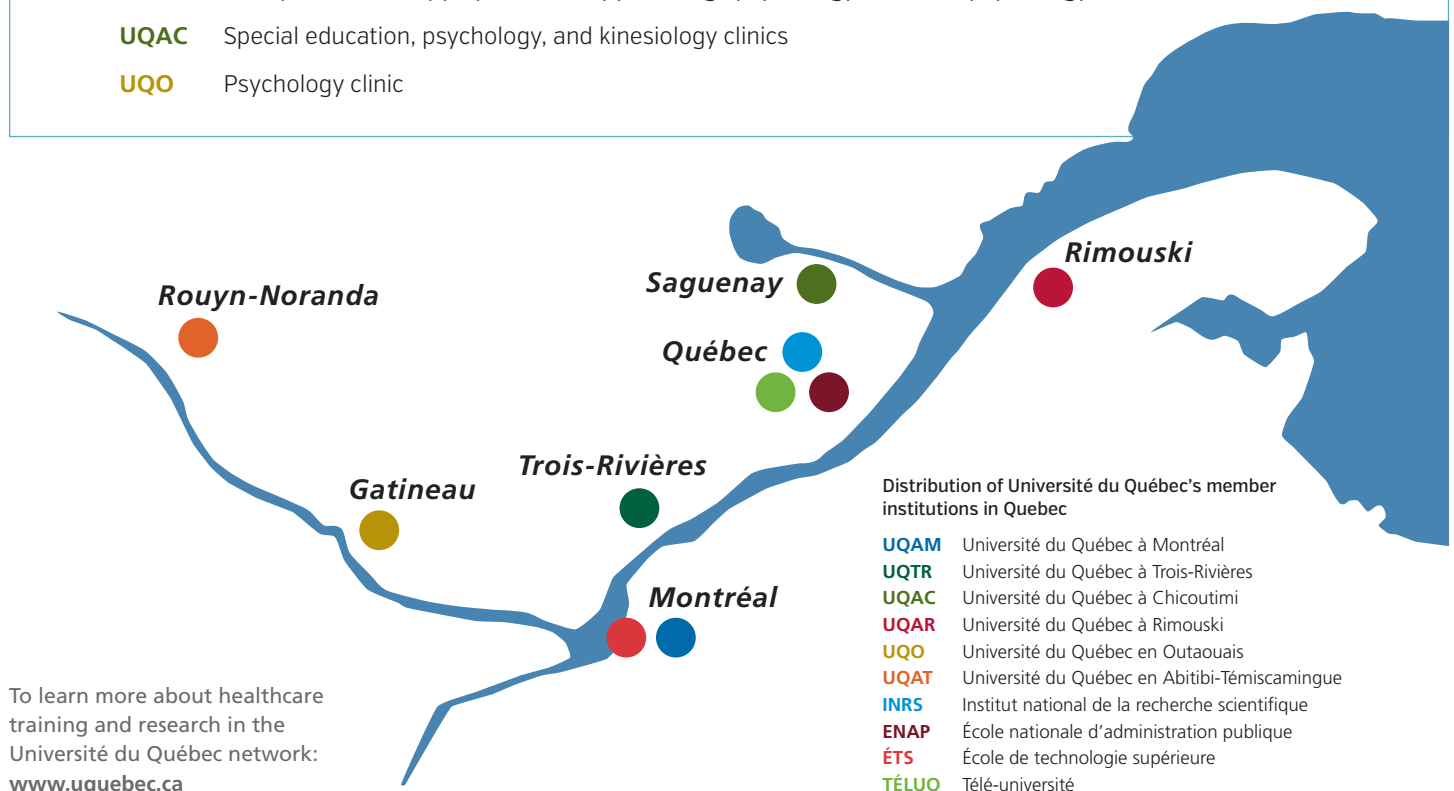
Our member institutions are increasingly active in health care, and a number of them offer clinical services to the university community and the public at large.

These clinics allow the local community to enjoy quality services that are both readily accessible and affordable, while providing students hands-on training opportunities under the supervision of professors and professionals in the field.

There are **12 healthcare clinics** located at five of the member institutions. They are another way for these institutions to get involved in and **serve their communities**.

## 12 Healthcare clinics within the Université du Québec network

- UQAM** Sexology and psychology clinics
- UQTR** Physiotherapy, podiatry, kinesiology, masso-kinesitherapy, chiropractic, multidisciplinary health [occupational therapy, speech therapy, nursing], psychology and neuropsychology clinics
- UQAC** Special education, psychology, and kinesiology clinics
- UQO** Psychology clinic



To learn more about healthcare training and research in the Université du Québec network: [www.uquebec.ca](http://www.uquebec.ca)