



Women's Health/ Gender & Health Research Exchange Group Meeting

November 27, 2012 | 12:30pm to 2:00pm
NLCAHR Boardroom
95 Bonaventure Avenue, Suite 300



“Fat Girls” and “Big Guys”: **Gender and Weight Loss Surgery**

In health research, weight loss surgery is almost always discussed in gender-neutral terms, yet statistics show that women undergo the procedure at nearly five times the rate of men. This presentation discusses the findings of two complementary studies from the Translational Research Program in Bariatric Care at Memorial University. The first is a feminist analysis of fifty-four interviews with twenty-one women and six men waiting for weight loss surgery. The second is a questionnaire survey of eighty-four weight loss surgery candidates, exploring body image and weight loss expectations. This research highlights the importance of gender as a social determinant of health, and explores the ways that gender shapes weight loss surgery candidates' perceptions on their histories of weight gain, experiences of living as a “fat girl” or a “big guy”, personal relationships, and expectations for life after weight loss surgery.

Julia Temple Newhook, PhD, is a research assistant with the Translational Research Program in Bariatric Care at Memorial University, and recently received a Canadian Institutes of Health Research–Regional Partnership Program postdoctoral fellowship for work with the Breastfeeding Research Working Group of Newfoundland & Labrador. Her PhD research was with the SafetyNet Centre for Occupational Health and Safety Research, and focused on primary and elementary teachers' workloads and health in rural and urban Newfoundland & Labrador.

Hilary Price is a graduate student working towards a M.Sc. in Clinical Epidemiology with the Faculty of Medicine at Memorial University. Her research has focused on determining the weight loss and body shape expectations of weight loss surgery candidates in our province. She finds the experience of weight loss surgery as a gendered phenomenon particularly fascinating, and is delighted to have had the opportunity to integrate the results of her quantitative research with the qualitative research being done by Dr. Temple Newhook.

To learn more about our Research Exchange Groups or to join this meeting by teleconference, please contact Rochelle Baker: Rochelle.Baker@med.mun.ca or call 709-777-8990.