NEW FUNDING OPPORTUNITY FOR PATIENT-ORIENTED RESEARCH

The NL- SUPPORT (Newfoundland and Labrador SUpport for People and PatienT-OrienTed Research and Trials) program is now seeking applications for funding of up to $75,000 for projects that involve patient-oriented research. NLCAHR will administer the application process on behalf of the sponsors.

The NL-SUPPORT program will offer funding to researchers for any project with a patient-oriented focus, with special consideration being given to projects that align with the following priority themes:

- Early recovery after surgery – Eastern Health
- Test ordering patterns for Diagnostic Imaging – Eastern Health
- Appropriateness of choice of surgical procedure, was the least invasive method employed? - Eastern Health
- Bonavista Peninsula primary health care redesign evaluation – Eastern Health
- Information management system for diabetes – Labrador-Grenfell Health
- Information management system to enhance response in cases of suicidal risk – Labrador-Grenfell Health
- Tracking system for management of TB – Labrador-Grenfell Health

Applications must be submitted by December 15, 2015. Contact tkwhite@mun.ca with questions.

The Awards Guide, eligibility criteria, terms and conditions, and application forms can be found here: http://www.nlcahr.mun.ca/Funding/
NEW CHRSP STUDY RELEASED:

Supporting the Independence of Persons with Dementia

How can we better support independence for persons with dementia and provide appropriate supports for their caregivers?

A new CHRSP study outlines the best evidence.

In October, 2015, the Contextualized Health Research Synthesis Program published a study that identified and evaluated the best research-based evidence on interventions that can potentially help people with dementia to retain their independence and remain at home. The interventions studied also included supports for caregivers, whose role in promoting independence is considered to be vital. On October 21, 2015, the Centre hosted a webinar and face-to-face meeting at which CHRSP Research Officer Dr. David Speed, together with Dr. Neena Chappell, Canada Research Chair in Social Gerontology and Professor of Sociology at the University of Victoria, outlined the findings from the new report to health system officials, clinicians and community groups from across the province. The report reveals promising evidence for the effectiveness of psychoeducational caregiver supports. While face-to-face educational programs are most clearly effective, there is considerable evidence to support the use of educational and psychosocial interventions offered in combination, using a variety of delivery models. There is also suggestive (partial or qualified) evidence to demonstrate the effectiveness of: dementia case management; exercise interventions as a means of reducing functional limitations, mobility problems, and falls among people with dementia; and interventions targeting performance of Activities of Daily Living (ADL), particularly when they involve face-to-face contact with health professionals. The evidence base is insufficient at present for the effectiveness of respite care, meditation (for caregivers) and interventions for preventing urinary incontinence. Read the full report here:

http://www.nlcahr.mun.ca/CHRSP/IndependencePWD.php

Our researchers are also presently at work on three further studies that will provide decision support to our province’s health system. The following are the research questions for these forthcoming studies:

Type 2 Diabetes Prevention and Screening:

"What interventions are likely to be effective in reducing the incidence of Type 2 Diabetes and its medical complications in the adult population of Newfoundland and Labrador?"

Reducing Acute Care Length-of-Stay:

“What does the available research-based evidence tell us about practices that promote the timely and effective discharge of patients admitted to hospitals in NL?”

Reducing Wait Times for Outpatient Services:

This new study is in the preliminary (team-building) phase; the following research question will be considered and possibly refined by the CHRSP project team, once it has been assembled:

“What does the available research-based evidence tell us about practices that reduce wait times for outpatient services?”
HEALTH FORUM NL 2015
A Public Check-up on Health & Healthcare in NL

On October 27, 2015, the Newfoundland and Labrador Centre for Applied Health Research, together with the Harris Centre and the Department of Political Science, with Quick Start funding from the Office of Public Engagement at Memorial University, hosted Health Forum NL, a political debate and town hall at Memorial University’s Bruneau Centre. Health Forum NL provided an opportunity for the public to participate in a discussion about the state and future of health and healthcare in the province. At the forum, senior representatives from the three main political parties outlined their visions for health and community services in advance of the coming provincial election. Over 400 people from across Newfoundland and Labrador participated in the forum in person and by live webcast.

Responding to questions from moderator Anthony Germain, Host of the CBC St. John’s Morning Show, were three MHAs with expertise on health: the Honourable Steve Kent, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health & Community Services, Progressive Conservative Party; Lorraine Michael, New Democratic Party Health Critic, and Andrew Parsons, Liberal Party Health Critic.

The questions and discussion were organized around four key themes: the health of our population; the cost of healthcare; care for our seniors; and access to care. Each panelist provided opening remarks and then answered pre-determined questions from the moderator. The panelists were then invited to debate one other, after which the floor was opened for audience questions that aligned with the themes under discussion.

During the debate, panelists offered differing views on several issues, including the concept of public-private partnerships in healthcare.

Steve Kent raised the private partnership issue when he stated that the province’s current government has been exploring the feasibility of such arrangements to help deliver long-term care. In outlining potential partnerships, Mr. Kent noted, “We’re talking about purchasing a service that will still be 100 per cent publicly funded and the same public standards and safety procedures and staffing levels, all of that still applies.” Mr. Kent pointed out that his party would consider this type of partnership only if there were a proven case for both effectiveness and cost-savings. “We won’t proceed,” Kent said, “if it doesn’t result in savings for taxpayers.”

Both the Liberal and NDP panelists opposed this concept for health services. NDP Health Critic Lorraine Michael said, "Health care should not be for profit, just like education should not be for profit.” Andrew Parsons said a Liberal government would “examine the best way to get infrastructure built,” pointing out that “when it comes to the services inside, you have to

In case you missed the forum (or if you attended and would like to revisit the discussion) it is now available for viewing on the NLCAHR website: http://www.nlcahr.mun.ca/HEALTH2015.php. NLCAHR would like to thank the panelists and moderator, the forum’s organizing committee, and Memorial University’s DELTS team for their valuable contributions to the success of this special event.
Aging
November 18, 2015 - 12pm | Danielle Moore, Alzheimer’s Society of NL on ASNL programs for persons with dementia and their caregivers.
Dr. Kelli O’Brien, VP Western Health, Dr. Heather Brown, VP Central Health - Reducing Ant-Psychotic Use in Long-Term Care

December 9, 2015 – 12pm | Dr. Kelli O’Brien, Western Health and Dr. Heather Brown, Central Health - Diabetes Care Programming

January 20, 2016 – 12pm | Dr. Sue Ann Mandeville Anstey - Aging Nurses with Cardiovascular Disease


Bullying & Health
November 25, 2015 12:30pm | Connie Morrison activity-based presentation that engages participants in activities and simulations based on the premise that bullying originates in a place of misunderstanding difference.

December 16, 2015 12:30pm | Lisa Adams | Research on Workplace Bullying

January 27, 2016 12:30pm | Grant Fitzpatrick, Education Facilitator with Canadian Mental Health Association, NL Division (CMHA-NL) on Anti-Bullying Program for High Schools

Eating Disorders, Disordered Eating, Body Image
November 24, 2015 1:00pm | Michael Bartellas on Access to Mental Health Services for Youth with Eating Disorders.

Harm Reduction & Critical Drug Studies
November 26, 2015 12:30pm | Dan McGettigan will discuss his work with Turnings, a program designed to help former inmates readjust to life outside prison.

Primary Healthcare
The Fall 2015 meeting of this group will be held at a date to be determined. Please stay tuned!

Please Contact Rochelle.baker@med.mun.ca to join a Research Exchange Group, to RSVP for a meeting, or to express interest in any of the following new groups now being planned:

New Groups!
- Work & Health
- Military Families’ & Veterans’ Health
- Health Technologies
- Thrombosis, Blood and Immune Disorders
- Cancer