Announcing the 2011 NLCAHR Fellowships and Awards Recipients
The Newfoundland & Labrador Centre for Applied Health Research is pleased to announce the recipients of fellowships and grants under the 2011 Awards Program.

Project Grants ($40,000 each):
- Dr. Victor Maddalena, Community Health and Humanities (Principal Applicant) with Dr. Fiona O’Shea, Dr. Brendan Barrett and Dr. Peter Wang: Palliative Care Needs of People with End Stage Renal Disease in Newfoundland and Labrador
- Dr. Laurie Twells, Pharmacy (Principal Applicant) with Dr. Deborah Gregory, Dr. William Midodzi, Dr. Don MacDonald, Dr. Elizabeth Hatfield, Dr. Carla Dillon, Ms. Elaine Warren, Dr. Patrick Parfrey and Dr. Christopher Kovacs: The Newfoundland and Labrador Bariatric Surgery Cohort Study

Development Grants ($10,000 each):
- Dr. Wendy Young, Nursing (Principal Applicant) with Dr. Jane Gosine, Dr. Veeresh Gadag, Dr. Don McKay, Ms. April Manuel, Dr. Jared Clarke, Dr. Judith McFetridge-Durdle and Dr. George Klima: Entertainment education for adults with type 2 diabetes and uncontrolled high blood pressure
- Dr. Linda Rohr, Human Kinetics and Recreation (Principal Applicant) with Dr. Jeanette Byrne, Dr. Anne Wareham and Dr. Tracey Bridger: Physiological and Socio-psychological Effects of Exergaming

Master’s Fellowships ($18,000 per year/2 years):
- Justin Oake, Clinical Epidemiology: Dyslipidemia and lipid profile in Newfoundland: comparison between laboratory data and electronic medical records
- Yun Zhu, Community Health and Humanities: Investigating the effects of red/pickled meat intake and dietary nitrites/nitrate/nitrosodimethylamine on colorectal cancer risk in the Newfoundland and Labrador adult population

Doctoral Fellowship ($20,000 per year/3 years):
- Jennifer Woodrow, Community Health and Humanities: The Aging Population and its Health Impact in Newfoundland and Labrador: Long-term Projections and Statistical Simulations for Selected Chronic Health Conditions and Disability

We thank the peer review committee members for their careful consideration of the proposals. Thanks also to all applicants for their interest.

Details: www.nlcahr.mun.ca/research/
Research News

Public Involvement in Choosing Health Policy Priorities

Should a new and expensive but experimental drug be funded by the province? How do we decide what program, treatment or medication to trade off to pay for this new drug? What is the best way to spend our limited healthcare dollars?

Amid rising expectations about what the healthcare system can and should provide, decision makers are addressing these difficult questions on a daily basis. How can we ensure that we make ethically sound decisions that are economically sustainable and reflect public values? Should the public be more involved in making these types of decisions?

Dr. Roger Chafe, Director of Pediatric Research and Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Medicine at Memorial, has co-authored an article on this topic that was recently published in the Canadian Medical Association Journal. In his article, Dr. Chafe points out that there are few successful examples of public engagement in setting health priorities in Canada, and in many cases, the act of public consultation has been a token exercise. Dr. Chafe argues that “Providing more opportunities for public involvement and clearly reporting how input is used would reduce public cynicism. More importantly, we would add a legitimate new voice — that of the public — to aid in making difficult choices.”

Dr. Chafe, with colleagues at NLCAHR, Eastern Health, and the Department of Health and Community Services, has received a grant from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research to look at research on the use of deliberative processes and citizen engagement in making decisions around high-cost pharmaceutical therapies. The team will hold a workshop in October to discuss the issue with key research experts and health system decision makers. In conjunction with the workshop, NLCAHR will also host a CIHR Café Scientifique in an effort to get the public involved in this important discussion.

<<<Please see the sidebar for details.

CIHR Café Scientifique:
Coffee’s on us!

NLCAHR will host the CIHR Café Scientifique: “Who Decides and How? Involving the Public in Health Policy Decisions” on October 18th, 6pm to 9pm at Rocket Bakery, 272 Water St., St. John’s.

The Café will feature an informal, open discussion between the public and experts in the field of public engagement in healthcare. We will discuss the role of citizens in deciding how we can best allocate our healthcare dollars. We will also explore questions about how to make ethical decisions that both reflect public values and address economic sustainability.

Please join us for a relaxed evening of stimulating conversation, great coffee, and live music from the North Atlantic Jazz Duo.

Notebook

Congratulations...

To Dr. Penny Moody-Corbett on her appointment as Director of the Ethics Office at the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. The appointment became effective this summer.

Dr. Moody-Corbett is the former Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies in the Faculty of Medicine at Memorial and a board member and long-standing contributor to the work of NLCAHR.

Staffing Changes at NLCAHR

NLCAHR bids farewell to Theresa Mackenzie, Manager of Communications and Partnerships, who recently resigned after ten years of service to the Centre. Theresa’s contributions to NLCAHR were considerable, whether for Knowledge Translation, funding, helping researchers in our proposal-writing workshops, or serving on peer review committees. We wish Theresa well in her new position with Stella Burry Community Services. The Centre would also like to welcome Rochelle Baker, our new Communications Coordinator, to NLCAHR.

Conferences and Funding Opportunities

See the NLCAHR website for an up-to-date list of conference and funding opportunities: www.nlcahr.mun.ca

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Please send submissions to nlcahr@mun.ca.