Applied Health Research News
A quarterly publication of the Newfoundland & Labrador Centre for Applied Health Research

Spring 2008  Volume 4, Issue 2

Results of NLCAHR’s 2008 Research Grant Competitions Announced

NLCAHR is pleased to announce the winners of the 2008 Project and Development Grant Competitions.

Project Grants are awarded to an individual or a group of researchers to work on small projects of high scientific quality that may not be eligible for funding from external sources but are of direct relevance to the mandate and priorities of the Centre. The winner of the Project Grants competition for this year is:

... Dr. Barbara Roebothan, Associate Professor in the Division of Community Health and Humanities: “What are the determinants of a successful and sustainable program delivery as it applies to child nutrition programs in Newfoundland and Labrador?” Co-investigators: Dr. Veeresh Gadag, Daphne LeDrew, Susan Green, Ann Ryan, and Dr. Larry Felt.

Development Grants fund the development of research proposals for submission to national and international funding competitions. They also support the enhancement and resubmission of research proposals to external agencies, including those that have received a high scientific merit score in external funding competitions but did not secure funding. This year’s development grants were awarded to:

... Dr. Peter Wang, Associate Professor in the Division of Community Health and Humanities: “Healthy Aging in Newfoundland and Labrador: An Epidemiological Study to Enhance Mobility and Participation in Society.” Co-Investigator: Dr. Angela Loucks-Atkinson.

... Dr. Wanda Parsons, Associate Professor of Family Medicine: “Effectiveness of an intensive intervention during pregnancy and for one year postpartum on breastfeeding initiation and duration rates in Newfoundland and Labrador.” Co-Investigators: Dr. Pauline Duke and Dr. Pamela Snow.

NLCAHR congratulates the successful applicants. Thanks to our peer review committee members for their review of the applications, and to all applicants for their interest in NLCAHR’s funding programs.

NLCAHR Releases Contextualized Health Research Synthesis Report on Dialysis Services in Rural and Remote NL

NLCAHR has completed the first project of the Contextualized Health Research Synthesis Program (CHRSP), and the report is now publicly available on the NLCAHR website.

The first CHRSP study looked at the issue of how we can meet the province’s needs for dialysis services in rural and remote populations, while considering efficacy/effectiveness, cost, acceptability, and feasibility of the available treatment options. This project was funded by the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH) through a grant to NLCAHR. A project team made up of researchers, decision makers and other experts collaborated on the preparation, contextualization and dissemination of the report, and an independent external reviewer provided feedback before the report’s finalization.

The goal of CHRSP is to provide health decision makers with the best available evidence that is attuned to the capacities and characteristics of the province. A report on the second CHRSP process, which focuses on non-clinical interventions to prevent and reduce the rates of childhood overweight and obesity, is expected to be released in June 2008.
Research Highlights

Memorial Researcher Awarded IHSPR “Rising Star” Award for Work on Immigrant Health

Dr. Sylvia Reitmanova, winner of an NLCAHR Master’s Fellowship and currently a PhD student in Community Health and Humanities at Memorial, was recently awarded a Rising Star award from the Institute for Health Services and Policy Research at CIHR. Her work on increasing policy maker’s awareness of local immigrants’ mental health needs and the barriers they face in accessing health services in Newfoundland and Labrador has informed provincial policy and was used in the development of a new provincial Immigration Strategy. Her report on the social determinants of immigrant health, co-authored with Dr. Diana Gustafson, is available on the Faculty of Medicine website.

Dr. Reitmanova also contributed to a Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) brochure on the mental health information needs of the immigrant community in Newfoundland and Labrador and her work informed a recent publication of the Public Health Agency of Canada (2007) entitled “An Environmental Scan of Mental Health and Mental Illness in Atlantic Canada.”

Her master’s research on the “Concepts and Determinants of St. John’s Immigrants’ Mental Health” was funded by NLCAHR in 2004; a report on this work, also co-authored with Dr. Gustafson, is available on the NLCAHR website. “I am particularly thankful to NLCAHR for funding and CMHA for endorsing my research in the community,” said Dr. Reitmanova.

Her current doctoral research focuses on media discourses on immigrant tuberculosis and their relevance to current public health management policies. Future research plans include additional work on immigrant health, in particular, assessment of health inequalities and barriers to primary care, and the development of socio-culturally appropriate health policies, education, and training.

Details: reitman@mun.ca; www.nlcahr.mun.ca/research/reports_search/Immigrant_mental_health_reitmanova.pdf

Petition for a National License to The Cochrane Library for Canada

The Canadian Health Libraries Association has launched a petition for a national license to The Cochrane Library for Canada. The Cochrane Library is an on-line resource that contains the best available evidence regarding the benefits and harms of health care treatments and health policy decisions. A national license to The Cochrane Library would mean that Canada would join several other countries in providing all citizens with access to the full contents of this important and reliable source of health care evidence.

Details: http://nlccl.epetitions.net

Notebook

CPSI Releases Adverse Event Disclosure Guidelines

The Canadian Patient Safety Institute recently released guidelines to assist and support healthcare providers, inter-professional teams, organizations, and regulators in developing and implementing adverse event disclosure policies, practices and training methods across Canada.

Among other things, the guidelines stress the importance of provision of timely information, further health care, and support services.

Details: www.patientsafetyinstitute.ca/Disclosure.html

Nursing Conference, June ’08

The Association of Registered Nurses, NL Nurses Union, and the NL Gerontological Nurses Association Innovations Conference will be hosting a conference on June 4-5 2008 in St. John’s. The conference theme is: “Older Adults: Maximizing Care Across Health Care Settings.”

In addition to the main conference, there will be a free Public Lecture on June 3/08 featuring a presentation by Dr. Gloria Gutman on “Aging in Place and Housing for Older Adults.”


Grants, Fellowships and Conference Opportunities

For up-to-date information on health research-related conferences and funding opportunities, see the NLCAHR website: www.nlcahr.mun.ca

Post your notices here...

Send your health research-related notices for inclusion in our quarterly newsletter.

Our next newsletter: August 2008. Submissions by July 15th to nlcahr@mun.ca