



APPLIED HEALTH RESEARCH NEWS

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Will your research improve patient care?



the 2015 **Enhancing Healthcare Awards**

a fund following from the Cameron Inquiry

- Grants of up to **\$75,000** are available
- Open to researchers and graduate students
- Send a Letter of Intent by **April 6, 2015**
- Contact tkwhite@mun.ca

The Dr. H. Bliss Murphy Cancer Care Foundation, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, and Eastern Health recently announced the fourth competition for research funding following from the Cameron Inquiry. The fund, [Enhancing Health Care in NL](#), administered by NLCAHR, was established to support increased research and evaluation activities aimed at improving healthcare for patients in this province, including those with cancer. Grants of up to \$75,000 will be available for projects of up to three years' duration that address patient care, including (but not limited to) cancer care. Applications may involve research on clinical questions or on the organization, administration, or provision of healthcare. They may also involve the evidence-based design, implementation, and evaluation of innovative projects for improving the organization and quality of care.

Who can apply? Principal applicants must be employees or students of Memorial University or employees of any of the province's Regional Health Authorities or of any other non-profit organization based in this province. Research teams may include co-applicants or collaborators who do not meet these criteria. Collaboration across institutional, disciplinary and provincial boundaries is encouraged. Where appropriate, teams are encouraged to include decision makers from within the provincial health care system and administration who are in a position to facilitate the uptake of the project's expected findings. Special consideration for smaller grants (up to \$25,000 each for up to two years) will be given to projects submitted by Principal Applicants who qualify as emerging researchers based on never having received a research grant of more than \$25,000.

Application process: Applications are to be submitted in two stages—a Letter of Intent Stage and a Full Application Stage. Letters of Intent are due by 5:00pm on **April 6, 2015**. Forms are available online: <http://www.nlcahr.mun.ca/Funding/EHCL/>. Applications must be emailed to tkwhite@mun.ca. Applicants whose Letters of Intent are accepted by the Advisory Committee will be invited to submit full applications. The deadline for full applications will be **July 27, 2015**.

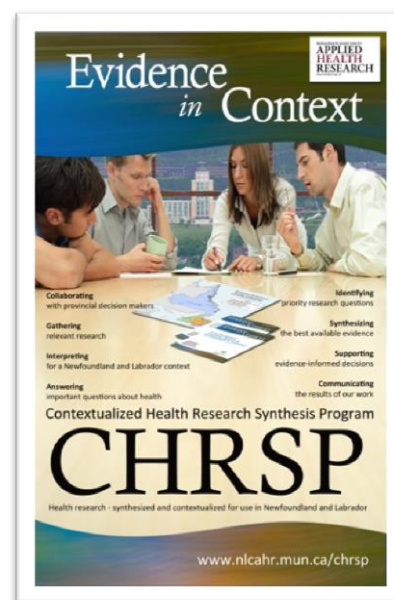
CHRSP: Works in Progress

Our researchers are now at work on three studies that will provide decision support to our province's health system: strategies for diabetes prevention and screening, helping persons with dementia stay out of Long-Term Care, and how to reduce length of stay in hospital by improving discharge planning from acute care.

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?"

Our health system partners have asked CHRSP to synthesize the best available research evidence on the prevention of Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus, a disease with widespread prevalence and long-term population health implications for our province. In 2011, the Department of Health and Community Services released a report entitled *"Improving Health Together: A Policy Framework for Chronic Disease Prevention and Management in Newfoundland and Labrador."* It contained six key policy statements, one of which involves the need for policies that will both prevent chronic diseases and raise awareness of them through health promotion and disease prevention strategies. Earlier detection and reduced progression of chronic disease were key health outcomes included in the framework. To address this complex issue, CHRSP has assembled a project team under the leadership of subject expert Dr. Laura Rosella from Public Health Ontario, Assistant Professor at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto and Adjunct Scientist at the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES). Our health System Leader is Rosemarie Goodyear, CEO of Central Health. The team recently completed synthesizing research evidence for a variety of interventions that have proven effective in improving health outcomes for adults by preventing or managing Type II Diabetes. The team is now poised to conduct contextualization interviews that will place the findings of the synthesis into context to determine their applicability to Newfoundland and Labrador's unique characteristics.



Helping Persons with Dementia to Stay Out of Long-Term Care:

"What interventions are most effective in preventing or delaying the admission of people with dementia into long-term care?"

Our CHRSP Research Team is also identifying and evaluating the best available research-based evidence on interventions that could potentially help people with dementia to stay out of long-term care. Although this research topic was initially suggested by authorities at Central Health, consultations with the province's other Regional Health Authorities and with the DHCS revealed that this was a high-priority issue across the province. CHRSP personnel have assembled a project team that includes officials from throughout the province's healthcare system and from various relevant stakeholder groups. Dr. Neena Chappell, Canada Research Chair in Social Gerontology and Professor of Sociology at the University of Victoria, has agreed to serve as subject expert for the project, and Central Health CEO Rosemarie Goodyear is our Health System Leader.

Discharge Planning from Acute Care:

"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?"

Under the leadership of Subject Expert Dr. Christine Soong, Assistant Professor, Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation, University of Toronto and Hospitalist Director, Mount Sinai Hospital and Health System Leader Susan Gillam, CEO of Western Health, our CHRSP researchers recently held their first project team meeting to confirm the research question under study. The project team, composed of research and health system experts, is currently working to confirm the exact scope and focus of this study.

The eHealth Innovations Workshop 2015

Innovations to Improve Patient Care in Canada



On January 27, 2015, the Newfoundland and Labrador Centre for Applied Health Research, together with the Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR), organized a team-building workshop at Memorial University that explored possibilities for NL-based teams combining IT/medtech entrepreneurs and healthcare researchers to apply for funding under a new CIHR program called [the eHealth Innovation Partnership Program \(eHIPP\)](#).

The eHealth Innovation Partnership Program (eHIPP) seeks to identify person-oriented eHealth solutions in two priority areas: early identification of and interventions for youth with mental health conditions and supporting seniors with complex care needs.

The program is also designed to help emerging Canadian health technology companies to co-develop innovative eHealth solutions that deliver real-world health care value as well as to evaluate the clinical benefit and cost-effectiveness of existing eHealth products. The eHIPP opportunity supports large-scale pragmatic trials in innovation communities, which are local/regional health care or community 'test beds' that have the capacity and interest to integrate eHealth innovations into service delivery.

In the morning session of the workshop, Dr Roger Butler, Family Physician and researcher on seniors' health at Memorial University's Faculty of Medicine led off the discussion with a presentation outlining key health journey challenges facing seniors with complex needs in Newfoundland and Labrador. The afternoon was devoted to youth mental health and began with a presentation by researcher and professor Dr. Peter Cornish of Memorial University's Counselling Centre on a stepped care model that will use technology to deliver online services to youth with mental health challenges. Dr. Robyn Tamblyn, Scientific Director of CIHR provided participants with an overview of the eHIPP funding opportunity. Dr. Stephen Bornstein, Director of NLCAHR, facilitated the workshop. Over eighty participants attended, including representatives of technology companies, the province's health system, government, community organizations and researchers from Memorial University. They worked together to identify key challenges in the healthcare journeys of the two targeted groups of patients and to come up with potential e-health innovations that might address these challenges.

As a follow-up to the workshop, NLCAHR offered to assist teams towards submission of their applications for funding to CIHR.

LET'S GET ENGAGED! UPCOMING EVENTS PROMOTE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT IN HEALTHCARE



This spring, NLCAHR, in association with Engage Memorial, is supporting three events to promote engagement between researchers at Memorial University, our health system partners, and the community.

APRIL 28 | ENGAGING THE PUBLIC: A TOWN HALL TO TALK ABOUT HEALTH RESEARCH

Who sets the course of health research? What is your role? Join us to discuss the future of applied health and patient oriented research. Organizer: NL SUPPORT, Faculty of Medicine.

7:00pm-9:00pm | St. Theresa's Parish Hall, 120 Mundy Pond Road, St. John's

Contact: Dale Humphries, NL SUPPORT, Faculty of Medicine dale.humphries@med.mun.ca

MAY 4 | A JOINT VISION: ENGAGING OUR HEALTH SYSTEM WITH THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE

This forum will explore how to build engagement capacity between the Faculty of Medicine and the province's health system stakeholders to improve health and wellness in Newfoundland and Labrador. Organizer: PDCS & NLCAHR

9:00am-12:00pm | Main Auditorium, Faculty of Medicine, Health Sciences Centre

Contact: Rochelle Baker, NLCAHR rochelle.baker@med.mun.ca

JUNE 8 | LET'S TALK HEALTH: A DELIBERATIVE DIALOGUE ON HEALTH POLICY PRIORITIES

Members of the public, health practitioners, researchers, politicians, and other stakeholders are invited to take part in an evidence-informed deliberative dialogue on a key question: whether nurse practitioners are the most effective/cost-effective model for improving access to primary healthcare in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Organizer: The Faculty of Medicine's Health Dialogue Planning Committee & NLCAHR

5:00pm-9:00pm | Faculty of Medicine (Location TBA)

Contact: Rochelle Baker, NLCAHR rochelle.baker@med.mun.ca

Interest in our Research Exchange Groups continues to build with established groups hosting presentations on a variety of applied health research subjects and new groups being formed on topics such as harm reduction/critical drug studies and the health impacts of fracking. Here's an overview of past and upcoming activities this semester. Visit our website at http://www.nlcahr.mun.ca/Research_Exchange/ for more details.

Aging

February 18: Rob Kean, Research Officer, Contextualized Health Research Synthesis Program, NLCAHR presented results from an *Evidence in Context* report on reducing agitation and aggression in LTC residents with dementia

March 18: Kelli O'Brien, VP, Western Health on Western Health's Restorative Care Program; Dr. Mohamed Ahmed and Dr. Reza Shahidi on Remote Fall Detection for Seniors

April 15: Dr. Elizabeth Russell on Age-Friendly Community Capacity Building; Dr. Stephen Czarnuch on assistive technologies for seniors

May 20: Dr. Roger Butler on telegerontology to support community-dwelling seniors in rural Newfoundland and Labrador

The Arts & Health

March 11: Dr. Kathleen Sitter on participatory video and sexual rights for persons with disabilities

April 8: Dr. Natalie Beausoleil on preliminary findings from her research project on promoting artistic activities and exploring the possibility of integrating an arts program in our medical school.

May 6: Lori Clarke: emerging work with the principles of improvisation, "Improvisation and the Hearing Voices Network"

June 9: Dr. Susan Cox of UBC, a specialist in the ethics of arts-based research methods, will discuss her research on the ethics of arts-based and visual methods in research.

Bullying & Health

February 25: Dr. Gerald White and Sevan Amirkhanyan on Bullying and the Law in Canada

March 25: Dr. Anne Burke on her SSHRC Research Project on Identity/using digital media and video to address bullying

April 29: Dr. Connie Morrison, PhD, Visiting Assistant Professor, Faculty of Education

May 27: Dr. Erin Cameron, HKR Memorial University: Overweight, Obesity and Bullying

June 24: Dr. Gerald White on successful anti-bullying approaches

Chronic Disease

April 9: Dr. Erin McGowan on her cancer research program that looks at the impact of physical activity on health outcomes for people with cancer.

Eating Disorders, Disordered Eating, Body Image

February 27: Janet Bartlett on help-seeking behaviours in health professional students

March 13: Dr. Erin Cameron on HKR & obesity studies

April 17: Dr. Natalie Beausoleil on body image research

May 15: Dr. Pam Ward and Dr. Deborah McPhail on weight, pregnancy and fertility

Harm Reduction & Critical Drug Studies

April 13: Inaugural meeting to set the agenda for this new group and to explore follow-up from the first meeting of the St. John's Drug Users' Group which was held on March 11, 2015

The Health Impacts of Fracking

February 27: Inaugural meeting to establish objectives

March 18: Graham Oliver, "A Grassroots Introduction to Fracking in Western NL"

April 1: Research project meeting: setting goals

May 6: Organizing research papers and panel presentations

Gender, Sexuality & Health

March 5: Dr. Julia Temple-Newhook on the health, well-being and support needs of transgender children and their families during social transition

Mental Health

March 19: Mark Gruchy on CC4MH the Community Coalition for Mental Health

April 7: Lisa Zigler on Navigators & Networks to address system barriers faced by people with complex needs

May 8: Michelle Butler and Kerry LeFresne of NLCHI on data to support Mental Health research

May 28: Dr. Peter Cornish on a Stepped Care Model for Mental Health

Primary Healthcare

The April 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:

Three New Groups!!

- **Military & Veterans' Health**
- **Health Technologies**
- **Thrombosis, Blood & Immune Disorders**