

## Healthy Aging Research Program Award Recipients Announced

In October 2009, NLCAHR announced the recipients of awards under the Newfoundland and Labrador Healthy Aging Research Program (NL-HARP). NL-HARP supports research that focuses on a wide variety of topics related to healthy aging.



Dr. Victor Maddalena receives his award from Suzanne Brake (DHCS) and Stephen Bornstein (NLCAHR).

The first recipients of funding under this three-year program are:

**Master's Research Grants:** Fang Liu (Community Health and Humanities) and Ellen Haskell (Sociology)

**Doctoral Dissertation Award:** Geoff Power (Human Kinetics and Recreation)

**Post-Doctoral Fellowship:** Dr. Jared Clarke (Neuroscience)

**Project Grant:** Dr. Marshal Godwin (Primary Healthcare Research Unit)

**Seed Grants:** Dr. Wendy Young (Nursing) and Dr. Victor Maddalena, (Community Health and Humanities)

Thanks to all applicants for their interest in the program. The next round of the NL-HARP Program will be launched in June 2010.

[www.nlcahr.mun.ca/funding](http://www.nlcahr.mun.ca/funding)

## NLCAHR Celebrates 10 Years of Supporting Applied Health Research for Newfoundland & Labrador

This year marks the 10th Anniversary of the Newfoundland and Labrador Centre for Applied Health Research. NLCAHR was founded in 1999 with a mission to support the development and use of research that contributes to the effectiveness of the province's health and community services system and to the physical, social, and psychological health and wellbeing of the province's population.

The anniversary year was kicked off at a reception on October 19th in St. John's. Dr. Ray Gosine, VP Research at Memorial brought greetings on behalf of the university, and Ms. Suzanne Brake, Director of the Aging and Seniors Division, spoke on behalf of Jerome Kennedy, Minister of the Department of Health and Community Services.

In a speech from earlier in the day, Dr. Chris Loomis, President of Memorial (*pro tempore*) congratulated the Centre and noted that NLCAHR's work is about making research relevant to the population of this province. The Contextualized Health Research Synthesis Program is an important example of how NLCAHR seeks to answer questions that are most relevant to our health care system.

In addition to its work in building research capacity and knowledge translation, NLCAHR has distributed over \$2.1million in fellowships and grants to almost 100 students and researchers since its founding in 1999.

Dr. Stephen Bornstein, Founding Director of NLCAHR, noted that many of these researchers have used NLCAHR's grants and fellowship to leverage up to ten times the distributed amount in research dollars from national granting councils, thereby contributing both to our understanding of health issues and to the provincial economy.

Thanks were offered to the many people who have contributed to the work of the Centre over its first ten years: staff members, students, decision-makers, board and committee members, and funders. NLCAHR staff look forward to continuing our service to the research and healthcare communities over the coming years. [www.nlcahr.mun.ca](http://www.nlcahr.mun.ca)



NLCAHR Staff, left to right: Pablo Navarro, Janice Butler, Theresa Mackenzie, Stephen Bornstein, Dave Reynolds, Patti Thistle, Tyrone White, Jerry Coffey, Rob Kean.

**Report on the Research  
Forum: Sex, Gender & Health**

On October 19, NLCAHR convened a Research Forum entitled Sex, Gender and Health: New Directions in Research. This was one in a regular series of forums designed to bring together researchers from this province, experts from elsewhere and local decision makers and stakeholders for discussions on a topic of broad concern in the area of applied health research. Previous forums have covered such topics as obesity, aging, primary health care and applied genetics.

This year's forum was led by NLCAHR's Gender and Health Research Affinity Group and its convener, Dr. Nicole Power (Sociology). It involved thirty presenters and was attended by over 125 people.

The keynote speakers were Zena Sharman of the Institute of Gender and Health (CIHR), Dr. Donna Mergler of the Université du Québec à Montréal, Dr. Katherine Lippel and Dr. Ivy Bourgeault both of the University of Ottawa.

Presentations from the conference are now available on the NLCAHR website:

[www.nlcahr.mun.ca/news/documents/conferences](http://www.nlcahr.mun.ca/news/documents/conferences)

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## Research Highlights

### Atlantic Canadian Research Team Aims to Increase Capacity for Oral Health

On Oct 21st and 22nd 2009, NLCAHR and members of the Dalhousie University Faculty of Dentistry hosted a policy forum at Memorial University aimed at Increasing Capacity for Oral Health. Participants included local oral health professionals, health decision makers from the provincial Department of Health and Community Services, health researchers, representatives of seniors groups and seniors care providers, and experts in telehealth technologies.

Increasing Capacity for Oral Health (ICOH) is a research project intended to inform oral health policy for vulnerable populations. The project is a collaboration of clinician-researchers at Dalhousie University and a diverse group of stakeholders in Newfoundland and Labrador who share an interest in developing the necessary links between the assessment of oral health needs and the delivery of services.

The ICOH project, led by Principal Investigators Dr. Joanne Clovis (Dalhousie), Dr. Debora Matthews (Dalhousie), and Dr. Stephen Bornstein (MUN), has received funding from the Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). One of only four CIHR Disparities in Oral Health Seed grants funded in Canada, the project aims to develop methods for measuring and monitoring oral health status and then to guide policy directed towards improving the oral health of vulnerable populations in eastern Canada, beginning with the seniors population.

The ICOH Forum was an opportunity to bring stakeholders together to begin working towards increasing the capacity for oral health in Newfoundland and Labrador. The forum featured presentations from Terry French (MHA, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health and Community Services), Dr. Tom Boran (Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry, Dalhousie University), Wanda Legge (Director of Policy Development, Department of Health and Community Services), and Dr. Harry Ames (Office of the Chief Dental Officer of Canada). ICOH research team members reported on ongoing research in oral health in Nova Scotia. Forum participants spent each afternoon in small group discussions focusing on the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats which may benefit or hinder oral health for seniors in Newfoundland and Labrador.

According to the project team, addressing complex health care challenges requires evidence-informed policy development and collaboration between decision makers and researchers. Without this information as a foundation, research, education, policy changes and program efforts that strive to improve the oral health of vulnerable populations may be limited or even misdirected, and cannot properly be evaluated. The outcomes of the ICOH Forum, and the project itself, will enable program providers to design baseline assessments and conduct evaluations of proposed oral health intervention strategies. One immediate outcome resulting from the ICOH Forum is the planned creation of a Research Affinity Group at NLCAHR that will focus on oral health in Newfoundland and Labrador.

[www.nlcahr.mun.ca/research/affinity.php](http://www.nlcahr.mun.ca/research/affinity.php)

## Notebook

### NLCAHR Awards Program Pre-Launch Announcement

The next cycle of the NLCAHR Awards Program will be launched on January 18 2010.

Awards to be offered in this cycle: Master's Fellowships, Doctoral Fellowships, Project Grants and Development Grants.

The deadline for applications will be April 5 2010 .

Details: [www.nlcahr.mun.ca/funding](http://www.nlcahr.mun.ca/funding)

### 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](http://www.nlcahr.mun.ca)

### Post your notices here...

Send your health research-related notices for inclusion in our quarterly newsletter. Our next newsletter: February 2010. Submissions by January 30th to [nlcahr@mun.ca](mailto:nlcahr@mun.ca)

