

## Recipients of 2011 NL-HARP Awards Announced

NLCAHR is pleased to announce the award recipients for the 2011 Newfoundland and Labrador Healthy Aging Research Program.

### Post-Doctoral Fellowship

Dr. Annie Jalbert, Psychology, "Episodic memory binding as a preclinical diagnostic tool for mild cognitive impairment and predicting conversion to Alzheimer's disease."

### Doctoral Research Grant

Ms. Roberta Didonato, Psychology, "How age-related hearing loss impacts memory for medical adherence in the aging population." Ms. Didonato is also the recipient of the CIHR-Institute of Aging NL Gold Prize for Research on Aging, valued at \$1500.

### Doctoral Dissertation Award

Mr. Grant Handrigan, Kiniesiology, "Balance control in elderly obese individuals."

### Master's Research Grant

Ms. Jing Wang, Medicine, "Examine the difficulties of accessing to health care among aging Asian immigrants."

### Project Grant

Dr. Shabnam Ashgari, Medicine, "Exploring the Feasibility and Process of Establishing an Online Spatio-Temporal Information System for Age-related Chronic Disease in Newfoundland."

[Details](#)

## Putting Health Research Into Context for Newfoundland & Labrador

Research evidence is an important input into the decision-making process within the health care system, but finding, interpreting, and adapting this evidence can be a challenge. NLCAHR's Contextualized Health Research Synthesis Program (CHRSP) provides NL decision makers with the best research evidence to help answer some of their most pressing questions about health care.

The CHRSP team works with local health system partners to identify high-priority issues and then analyzes the findings of high-level research on the issues in question. Janice Butler, Coordinator of CHRSP, explains: "The findings of multiple studies are synthesized and then 'contextualized', meaning that we examine the research and interpret the findings within the unique context of Newfoundland and Labrador. For each CHRSP project, we partner with external and local experts to carry out and contextualize the research synthesis and to participate in disseminating the results."

Since the program's inception in 2007, the CHRSP team has produced five reports: dialysis in rural and remote NL; childhood overweight and obesity; PET/CT; youth residential treatment; and single-use medical devices. These reports have been well received by provincial health decision makers, and the program is gaining momentum within NL's health-care system.

Says Ms. Butler, "We are seeing an increased appreciation of the value of research evidence in decision making and greater awareness among researchers of the research needs of the health system. In addition to producing useful reports, CHRSP has improved communication both between researchers and research users and within those groups, and has also generated a greater awareness of research priorities. Building trust and improving communication between researchers and those who will be the end-users of the research evidence has been a great benefit of the program."

The CHRSP team is working on three new projects this year. These are:

- The use of hyperbaric oxygen therapy for problem wounds
- Using telehealth technologies for specialist consultations in cardiology and dermatology
- Inter-professional team-based care for chronic disease management

"We continue to face challenges as we go forward. Sometimes the evidence just doesn't point us in a clear direction and solutions are not always evident. As well, it can be difficult to interpret research evidence conducted elsewhere and then apply the results within the context of Newfoundland and Labrador. Because of our unique situation, it's important that we understand the research evidence in a way that is most relevant to this province's health system."

[Details](#)



## Call for Applications: 2011 NLCAHR Awards Program

NLCAHR is calling for applications for the 2011 Awards Program.

This round of competitions offers the following research grants and fellowships:

- ◆ Master's Fellowships: two awards of \$18,000 per year for two years
- ◆ Doctoral Fellowship: one award of \$20,000 per year for three years
- ◆ Development Grants: up to 5 awards of \$10,000 each
- ◆ Project Grants: one or more awards totalling \$40,000

The deadline for applications is April 15 2011. Awards will be announced in late May.

Since 2001, NLCAHR has awarded almost \$2million in research grants and fellowships. Recipients have come from a variety of disciplines including Nursing, Human Kinetics and Recreation, Arts, Engineering, Medicine and Environmental Science.

### Details

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## Research News

### Dr. Maria Mathews Receives President's Award for Outstanding Research

NLCAHR congratulates Dr. Maria Mathews, recipient of the President's Award for Outstanding Research. The award, which was presented by Dr. Gary Kachanoski in December 2010, recognizes Dr. Mathews significant contributions to the research area of health care policy and health delivery.

Dr. Mathews is an associate professor of health policy/health care delivery in the Division of Community Health and Humanities, Faculty of Medicine, Memorial University. She is also a five-time recipient of NLCAHR grants to support her work on physician retention and access to care in Newfoundland and Labrador:

- ◆ Return-for-Service Programs
- ◆ Out-of-pocket costs for breast cancer patients
- ◆ Retention of Locally Trained Medical Graduates in Saskatchewan and Newfoundland and Labrador
- ◆ Rural/Urban Differences in Access to Cancer Treatment
- ◆ The impact of provincial licensing requirements on the retention of international medical graduates



Dr. Stephen Bornstein (NLCAHR) congratulates Dr. Maria Mathews

Dr. Mathews has also served the research community through her work as a peer reviewer with CIHR and NLCAHR, and has supported the work of other NLCAHR-affiliated researchers through mentoring and coaching in grant-writing. She is Chair of the Board of Directors of the NL Division of the Canadian Cancer Society and a board member of the national organization, as well as a board member of the Canadian Association for Health Services and Policy Research.

## Notebook

### Improving Hand Hygiene Compliance in Patient Care

Dr. Donna Moralejo of Memorial's School of Nursing is part of a Cochrane Review team looking at interventions to improve hand hygiene among health care practitioners.

The team has recently updated their 2007 systematic review to assess short and longer-term success of strategies to increase compliance, and to determine whether a sustained increase in hand hygiene compliance can reduce rates of health care-associated infection.

[Details](#)

### CHSRF Report on Cost Drivers in Healthcare

The Canadian Health Services Research Foundation has released a report that synthesizes the current body of knowledge of cost drivers in Canadian Healthcare. The report aims to inform policy dialogues on how best to ensure accessible, high-quality and sustainable healthcare for Canadians.

[Details](#)

### Conferences and Funding Opportunities

See the NLCAHR website for an up-to-date list of conference and funding opportunities:

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

### New Tri-Council Policy on Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans

The 2nd edition of the Tri-Council Policy Statement (TCPS 2) has been launched by the three federal research agencies (CIHR, NSERC, and SSHRC). This is the first major revision of the policy since it was first published in 1998.

TCPS 2 contains new chapters and updated material including a consolidated set of core principles, clearer definitions and simplified articles.

[Details](#)