



APPLIED HEALTH RESEARCH NEWS

Fall 2014 | Volume 10 Number 2

Congratulations to recipients of the 2014

NLCAHR AWARDS

Grants for applied health research



The Newfoundland and Labrador Centre for Applied Health Research has awarded \$103,000 in funding to eight applicants whose studies explore a range of issues with implications for our healthcare system, from the impact of bonus payments on physician retention to colorectal cancer survival, from bariatric surgery outcomes to physiotherapy for post-stroke recovery. The 2014 NLCAHR Awards Program attracted 22 competitive applications for its project grants, development grants, doctoral research, and master's level research grants. After careful review by our Peer Review Committee, awards have now been granted in three categories. Congratulations to the following successful applicants:

Project Grants

- **Maria Mathews**, *The Impact of Retention Bonus Payments of Physician Retention and Turnover in Newfoundland & Labrador* - \$25,000
- **Laurie Twells & Debbie Gregory**, *A population-based evaluation of the economic outcomes associated with bariatric surgery in Newfoundland and Labrador* - \$25,000
- **Shabnam Asghari & Guang Sun**, *Who we are, where we came from, and how we live: Factors contributing to a high-risk lipid profile in Newfoundland* - \$24,940.75

Doctoral Research Grant

- **Yun Zhu**, *Folate, Alcohol Consumption and Colorectal Cancer Survival: A Mendelian Randomization Study*- \$8,000

Master's Research Grants

- **Christopher Olsen**, *An examination of the Interim Federal Health Program in St. John's, Newfoundland*- \$5,000
- **Jacques Van Wijk**, *Change in risk factor status following diagnosis of incident cardiovascular disease and diabetes, in a Newfoundland cohort*- \$5,000
- **Jennifer Shears**, *Optimizing Recovery Post-Stroke: A Comparison of two methods to relearn symmetry when moving from sitting to standing*- \$5,000
- **Lian Shi**, *Exploring Causal Association Between Smoking, Alcohol Consumption, and Colorectal Cancer in Newfoundland: a Mendelian Randomization Study*- \$5,000

NLCAHR wishes to thank all applicants to this year's program and to express gratitude to our Peer Review Committee for its careful consideration of the many excellent applications we received.

Congratulations to recipients of the 2014

Enhancing Healthcare

in Newfoundland & Labrador
Research Grants

Five research grants that total close to \$259,000 have been awarded through the Enhancing Health Care in Newfoundland and Labrador research fund to advance the care of patients in Newfoundland and Labrador. The research fund was established following the recommendations put forth by the Commission of Inquiry on Hormone Receptor Testing. The Enhancing Health Care in Newfoundland and Labrador research fund is valued at \$1 million over four consecutive years and is sponsored by three sources: the Department of Health and

Community Services - \$400,000; Eastern Health - \$400,000; and, the Dr. H. Bliss Murphy Cancer Care Foundation - \$200,000. Since this research fund was established three years ago, \$647,500 has been awarded.

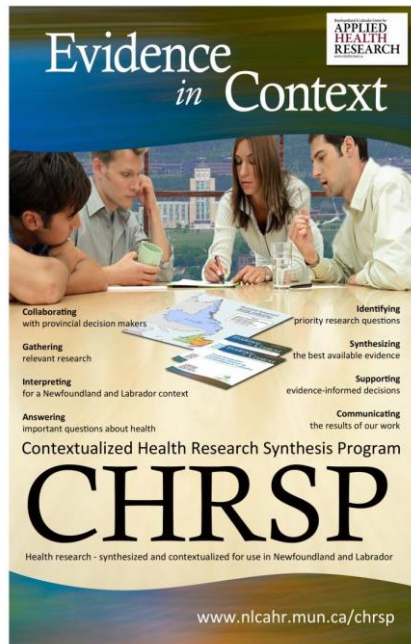
In the 2014 round, research grants have been awarded for the following projects:

- **Adam Stacey:** *The Effects of Mindfulness Training on Physician-Patient Communication* | \$24,535.00
- **Dr. Dana Grzybicki and Dr. Stephen Raab:** *Implementation of Pathologist Teamwork to Decrease Diagnostic Errors* | \$44,312.00
- **Dr. Roger Chafe:** *Improving the transition from pediatric to adult care for childhood cancer survivor* | \$74,990.00
- **Dr. Kara Laing and Dr. Scott Edwards:** *Enhancing Knowledge, Quality and Safety of Oral Chemotherapy Delivery and Management in Newfoundland & Labrador* | \$75,000.00
- **Dr. Natalie Bridger and Mohamed Shehata:** *The use of an electronic hand hygiene monitoring system to improve hand hygiene compliance: a pilot project* | \$40,000.00

The 2014 competition was once again administered by the Newfoundland and Labrador Centre for Applied Health Research. We received many applications that demonstrated the potential to improve patient care in this province. Eligible applicants included employees or students of Memorial University, employees of the province's regional health authorities, and employees of non-profit organizations based in this province. On behalf of NLCAHR and the fund sponsors, our thanks to all who applied and our best wishes to those research teams receiving funding in 2014. We look forward to seeing the impact of your results. For more details on this year's program, please read the government press release here:

<http://www.releases.gov.nl.ca/releases/2014/health/1016n04.aspx>





CHRSP releases three new studies

CHRSP studies slated for release by year's end will look at point-of-care testing in emergency rooms, managing aggression for residents with dementia in long-term care, and the effectiveness of healthy eating promotional campaigns.

In consultation with the four Regional Health Authorities and the Department of Health and Community Services in Newfoundland and Labrador, the Contextualized Health Research Synthesis Program (CHRSP) is providing decision support on three issues that have been identified as priority concerns to our provincial healthcare system.

The first will be a full-length *Evidence in Context* report on the clinical effectiveness, feasibility, and acceptability of point-of-care testing for emergency departments in Newfoundland and Labrador, particularly those in smaller hospitals without 24/7 central laboratories. Under the scientific leadership of Dr. Nitika Pant Pai of McGill University's Division of Clinical Epidemiology, the CHRSP project team reviewed a range of potential point-of-care tests, ultimately narrowing the study to cardiac troponin point-of-care testing for suspected Acute Coronary Syndrome, given that implementing this particular test would have considerable health impact in the province. The dissemination event for this report will take place in November, 2014.

A second *Evidence in Context* report now nearing completion will look at interventions, strategies, and practices that have proven effective in preventing and managing agitation and aggression in long-term care (LTC) residents with dementia (other than the use of physical restraints or prescription of psychotropic medications). CHRSP personnel assembled a project team under the scientific leadership of Dr. Neena Chappell, Canada Research Chair in Social Gerontology and Professor of Sociology at the University of Victoria. Because moderate-to-severe dementia is more prevalent in LTC than in other care settings, the team restricted the focus of its synthesis to LTC, rather than including personal care homes or assisted living facilities. Results of the study are expected to be published in late 2014 with a dissemination event planned for January, 2015.

All CHRSP studies are
available online:

www.nlcahr.mun.ca/CHRSP



The final study slated for release this year will be a *Rapid Evidence Report* that examines health promotion strategies that have been shown to be effective for improving dietary habits for settings and populations like those of Newfoundland and Labrador. While health communication is a critical component of effective health promotion strategies, there is significant doubt that it can produce sustained changes in complex health behaviours outside of a larger program of change. Health promotion strategies that take into account individual-level and community-level variables (e.g., a community's stage of readiness for change) and that engage target populations through multiple channels are widely believed to be more effective than health communication alone. The goal of this *Rapid Evidence Report* (RER) is to provide a brief summary of the research-based evidence for health promotion strategies, comparing health communication and more complex tailored programs, and considering these strategies in the context of Newfoundland and Labrador. For more information about these studies or to register for the Fall 2014 Point-of-Care Testing dissemination event, please visit:

<http://www.nlcahr.mun.ca/CHRSP/CurrentCHRSP.php>



Research Exchange Groups

Fall 2014 has seen a resumption of activity for our growing and dynamic Research Exchange Groups. Here's an overview of recent presentations and a list of scheduled dates for upcoming meetings:

Bullying & Health

A Doodle Poll has been issued to select a suitable date for the November, 2014 meeting at which Dr. Gerald White will present.

Eating Disorders, Disordered Eating, and Body Image

At the next meeting on October 17, 2014 Michael Bartellas will share his new research project on access to healthcare services for youth and adolescents with eating disorders.

Gender, Sexuality & Health

On November 12, 2014 at 12 noon, Zack Marshall and Gerard Yetman will present: *Shifting sands and rising tides: Designing community-based sexual health research that is relevant to oil and gas workers and their social networks in Newfoundland and Labrador.*

Mental Health

At the next meeting on October 31 2014, Dr. Nicole Snow will present her research on Community Treatment Orders.

The Arts & Health

This new group started up this summer. Here is an overview of recent presentations. The next meeting, to be held in late October, is now in its planning stages.

- September 18, 2014 Christina Dove presented her research on Art Therapy for the Autism Spectrum Disorder Population
- August 8, 2014, Anne Pickard-Vaandering provided an interactive tour of the Rooms Provincial Art Gallery to the group, featuring Pam Hall's exhibit Housework(s).
- July 31, 2014, Dr. Leah Lewis screened her doctoral film "Good Grief" which explored a personal narrative about the grief associated with end-stage renal disease.
- June 25, 2014, Elayne Greeley presented on "Evaluating Community Impact: Capturing and Making Sense of Community Outcomes."

Primary Healthcare

This new group held its first meeting on September 12, 2014 and plans to meet again on November 6, 2014.

We want you! to join our new Research Exchange Groups

The following groups are newly formed or in the process of being organized.

Contact us to join:

- **Primary Healthcare**
- **The Arts & Health**
- **Cancer**
- **Thrombosis, Blood and Immune Disorders**

NLCAHR is currently seeking members for these new/ emerging Research Exchange Groups and we always welcome new participants in our established groups, listed here:

http://www.nlcahr.mun.ca/Research_Exchange/

If you are interested in joining, or learning more, please email Rochelle.Baker@med.mun.ca

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