

Nova Scotia research ethics boards harmonization initiative will share resources to create a research ethics-responsive province

The Nova Scotia research ethics harmonization group has been meeting since 2009 in order to move research forward throughout the province. Members explored ways to meet this challenge through:

- reciprocity—Capital Health Research Ethics Board review of high-risk, early phase trials
- sharing of educational/quality assurance resources
- regional membership on the Capital Health Research Ethics Board, an economically viable strategy through the use of videoconferencing
- standardization of forms and processes
- use of common SOPs

In order to be effective, harmonization among the individual boards must achieve the following objectives:

- meet regulatory ethics board membership requirements as set out by the Tri-Council Policy Statement Guidelines and Health Canada Food and Drug Regulations
- process submissions for different levels of risk trials
- adequate staff to support local boards
- grow the capacity for processing submissions in a timely manner
- avoid duplication of effort in financially challenging times
- support local physicians actively involved in research
- meet the education and quality assurance needs of all research ethics boards

Dr. Rick Hall, Chair of the Capital Health Research Ethics Board, presented the recommendations of the research ethics harmonization group to a meeting of the Nova Scotia health authority CEOs. The presentation was well received and the CEOs have since formally indicated their full support for the Nova Scotia research ethics boards harmonization initiative.

Now with the health authority CEOs' approval firmly in place, the research ethics harmonization group plans to move forward. They will begin to share resources, realize efficiencies and ensure that regulatory requirements regarding research ethics are met. They intend to create in Nova Scotia an environment that will:

- foster ethics-responsive research
- give timely reviews of and responses to submissions to research ethics boards across the province
- enable physicians to engage in research in locations throughout Nova Scotia
- allow Nova Scotians who wish to participate in research the opportunity to do so near their homes

Coincidentally, this initiative, which seeks to harmonize processes and share services, comes at a time when many health services across Nova Scotia are working together to achieve similar goals.

Membership of the research ethics harmonization group:

Annapolis Valley Health Authority

Capital Health

Cape Breton Health Authority

Colchester East Hants Health Authority

Cumberland Health Authority

Guysborough Antigonish Strait Health Authority

IWK Health Centre

Pictou Health Authority

South Shore Health Authority

SouthWest Health Authority

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Discovery and Innovation for Health



Point-of-Care Research...

A Point-of-Care Researcher Profile



If you ask Patricia Bilski why she is collecting information on nurses' and personal care workers' perceptions, experiences and beliefs about what constitutes a successful fall-prevention program in long-term care, she will probably say it is because she has an inquisitive mind and always wants to know why things happen the way they do. Another reason is that she is a member of the point-of-care research program at Capital Health. In fact, Patricia is the first person in the program to receive funding from the Capital Health Research Fund's new category for novice health professional researchers.

This isn't the first time Patricia has been involved in research—her thesis studied older post-stroke women in the community and she has also assisted with a research study in London, Ontario. Her point-of-care research examines what front line care staff believe makes a successful falls prevention program in long-term care. Patricia's research steps outside the typical way that falls data is analyzed. She looks at more than the numbers alone to arrive at a more complete and accurate assessment of the falls prevention program. She examines the individuals behind the numbers. With this more detailed

picture of what is happening, interventions can be tailored to the people who need them. This allows staff to choose interventions for each patient, meeting each individual's needs.

Patricia's work with the veterans' fall management program has included a revamping of the existing falls risk assessment tool. The addition of a new section allows staff to identify which interventions have been used for each individual, resulting in a snapshot of the falls prevention program in action for each patient. She hopes to share this improved falls assessment tool with long-term care facilities in the community.

Patricia says she continues to be surprised at how important resource people are to the success of a research project. As a member of the point-of-care research program, two people have been instrumental in pointing her in the right direction, offering advice and supporting her efforts. She recognizes the importance of the roles of her mentor, Angela, Gillis, professor and former Chair of School of Nursing at St. Francis Xavier University, and Janet Gallant, Capital Health research education program manager. She is also appreciative of the support of her supervisor to allow her to carve out time at work for research-related activities.

Her advice to other point-of-care researchers is that they must be motivated, able to work independently and prepared to work on their own time at home. Juggling research with a heavy workload and home life is challenging but Patricia says she enjoys the experience because she is continually learning something new and interesting to stimulate and satisfy her curious nature. She is looking forward to conducting more research projects in the future and making a difference in the care of geriatric patients.

Hometown: Chester, Nova Scotia

Education: BSN, St. Francis Xavier University
Master of Nursing, Dalhousie University

Clinical experience: acute care, community care,
neonatal ICU, neuro ICU,
geriatric medicine, psychiatry,
telehealth program development

Interests: spending time with husband,
travel, hiking

Congratulations...

September 2011 Research Fund Award Recipients

Applications for the next round of awards are due at 4 p.m. on March 15, 2012. Check this website for details: <http://www.cdha.nshealth.ca/discovery-innovation/research-fund-competiton>

Name	Department	Award	Research Description
Dr. John Fisk	Rehabilitation and Supportive Care Services	\$14,933	A study of retinal nerve fibre layer thinning, vision and cognition in persons with multiple sclerosis
Dr. Nicholas Giacomantonio	Department of Medicine/ Division of Cardiology	\$14,953	The effects of a 12-week cardiovascular rehabilitation exercise program on inflammatory markers and traditional coronary artery disease risk factors in patients with rheumatoid arthritis
Dr. Dietrich Henzler	Department of Anesthesia/ Division of Critical Care	\$14,404	The influence of transpulmonary pressure on ventilator associated lung injury during partial ventilator support with bi-level positive airway pressure (BIPAP)
Dr. Peter MacDougall	Department of Anesthesia	\$14,542	The relationship between outpatient Opioid utilization and surgery of the chest: A retrospective review of the Combined Opioid Anesthesia Perioperative (COAP) dataset
Arleigh McCurdy	Department of Medicine/ Division of Hematology	\$5,000	Development of a novel Dabigatran-based perioperative bridging anticoagulation protocol for patients on chronic warfarin therapy
Dr. Dipan Mistry	Department of Otolaryngology/ Division of Surgery	\$4,961	Hearing sensitivity in patients with migraine
Dr. Jonathan Bailey	Department of Surgery/ Division of General Surgery	\$4,722	The association between frailty and short-term mortality, morbidity and cost-of-care in elderly patients undergoing non-elective abdominal surgery
Chris Skedgel	Atlantic Clinical Cancer Research Unit	\$9,081	An elicitation of societal preferences for the allocation of healthcare resources in cancer
Xaiowei Song	Department of Medicine/ Division of Geriatric Medicine	\$15,000	Investigation of brain functional activation and Synchronization changes in early Alzheimer's Disease – a pilot magnetoencephalography (MEG) study

Opportunities...

Grant Opportunities

Deadline	Program Name	Agency	Website
not provided	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gastrointestinal physiology and pathophysiology; Digestive cancers; Obesity and/or nutrition related to gastrointestinal physiology and pathophysiology. 	Canadian Digestive Health Foundation (CDHF), in partnership with CIHR, through the Small Health Organization Partnership Program (SHOPP)	http://www.cdhf.ca/news-and-research/opportunities.shtml
February 1, 2012: (LOI Registration) March 1, 2012: (Application)	CIHR 2011-12 Operating Grant Competition	CIHR	http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/795.html
February 1, 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pilot Project Grants New Investigator Award Program Basic Research Fellowship Parkinson Society Canada (PSC) and Fonds de recherche du Québec - Santé (FRQS) Partnership Awards 	Parkinson's Society of Canada	http://www.parkinson.ca/site/c.kgLNIWODKpF/b.5158907/k.95C2/Applications.htm
February 14, 2012 (Registration) March 29, 2012 (Application)	2012-13 Research Programs' Funding Opportunities: Establishment and Development/Innovative Grants	Nova Scotia Health Research Foundation	http://www.nshrf.ca/
February 15, 2012 (Abstract Registration)	Innovation Grants	Canadian Cancer Society	http://www.cancer.ca/research/Grants%20and%20Awards/Current%20funding%20opportunities/Innovation%20grants.aspx?sc_lang=en
February 29, 2012	Interventional Clinical Trial for CCSVI in MS Patients	CIHR in partnership with the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada	http://www.researchnet-recherchenet.ca/rnr16/vwOp-prntnyDtIs.do?prog=1442&view=currentOpps&org=CIHR&type=AND&resultCount=25&sort=program&all=1&masterList=true
March 15, 2012	Capital Health Research Fund	Capital Health	http://www.cdha.nshealth.ca/discovery-innovation/research-fund-competiton
March 30, 2012	Pilot Grant Program	Prostate Cancer Canada	www.prostatecancer.ca

Opportunities...

Educational Opportunities

Series	Topic	Time	Date	Location
Research Education Across Atlantic Canada (REACH)	Health Canada Inspection Strategy and Site Preparation (Monica Groves, Senior Compliance Officer, Atlantic Canada, Health Canada Inspectorate)	12 noon	February 14	Royal Bank Theatre
Research Education	Diving into Clinical Trials? Sink or Swim! (Janet Gallant, Program Manager, Research Education) See details at: http://www.cdha.nshealth.ca/education-learning/research-training-education/diving-clinical-trials-sink-or-swim	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	February 16/17	Room 114, Centre for Clinical Research, 5790 University Avenue, Halifax, NS Contact Janet Gallant to register: janet.gallant@cdha.nshealth.ca
Qualitative Research Seminar Series	Grounded Theory (Raewyn Bassett)	12 noon	February 24	Contact: Raewyn Bassett raewyn.bassett@cdha.nshealth.ca <i>This workshop is full.</i>
Qualitative Research Seminar Series	Conversation Analysis (Raewyn Bassett)	12 noon	March 16	Contact: Raewyn Bassett raewyn.bassett@cdha.nshealth.ca <i>This workshop is full.</i>
Research Education Across Atlantic Canada (REACH)	Efficient Time Management (Gordon Spurrell, Blue Dolphin Training and Coaching)	12 noon	April 17	Royal Bank Theatre

Did you know...

RMU Librarian Recognized

Robin Parker, clinical research librarian, Capital Health Library Services, Research Methods Unit and Nova Scotia Cochrane Resource Centre, has been awarded provisional membership in the Academy of Health Information Professionals (AHIP). AHIP is a peer-reviewed professional development and credentialing program. Congratulations to Robin on achieving this important recognition and on her demonstration of the highest standards of professional practice.

Research Methods Unit

Since our Open House launch six months ago in June 2011, the Research Methods Unit has continued to pursue our mandate to support excellence in research in practical and tangible ways. We have supported a number of successful regional and national funding applications. We have also supported preparation of several successful publications, with more in progress. These early successes demonstrate our usefulness to the health research community and we welcome new projects!

If you are looking for support with finding the current literature on your research topic, designing your research methods or analysis plan, data management, data analysis, or if you have any other research methods needs, we can help. We make it easy—our first consultation is always free and our priority is to facilitate your research. For more information about how we can help your research, how the consulting process works, and other details, please visit: www.cdha.nshealth.ca/rmu or contact the RMU coordinator, Camille Angus, at: camille.angus@dal.ca



Clinical Research Unit Offers Services to Researchers

Researchers now have access to a 5,400 square-foot, state-of-the-art Clinical Research Unit (CRU), located at the IWK Health Centre, for inpatient and outpatient research needs.

Visit the CCfV website at www.centerforvaccinology.ca for more information and a photo tour of the unit. All inquiries are welcomed.

If you would like to tour the CRU and find out more about its services, please contact: Cathy Brown at 902.470.7015 Catherine.Brown@iwk.nshealth.ca

Research in Progress

This newsletter is produced by Research Services. You can view it on the Capital Health website: <http://www.cdha.nshealth.ca/discovery-innovation/research-progress-newsletter>

Please direct inquiries, comments and/or items for insertion in the newsletter to: emily.walker@cdha.nshealth.ca

DISCOVERY and INNOVATION for HEALTH



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