

## Capital Health to House Maritime Strategic Patient-Oriented Research Support Unit (SPOR)

The Maritime SPOR Support Unit (MSSU) was recently established in the Centre for Clinical Research at Capital Health on University Avenue. The Unit is headed by Nominated Principal Investigator Adrian Levy, Head and District Chief of the Department of Community Health and Epidemiology. It is staffed by the recent addition of Glenn Davis as Program Director, Angela Hire and Terrilyn Chiasson as Coordinators, and Marsha Bennett providing administrative support.

The research and analysis arm of the unit will include Lynn Lethbridge as Research Manager and will rely on the services of the Research Methods Unit (RMU), support from Capital Health Research Services, the NS Cochrane Centre, and Health Data NS (formerly the Population Health Research Unit).

The MSSU is the Maritime province's contribution to the national Strategic Patient-Oriented Research Program (SPOR). SPOR is an extensive program being led by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. The MSSU is a collaboration of government policy-makers, health authority decision-makers, and healthcare researchers in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island, to consolidate and build upon existing research capacity and maximize the use of existing regional resources.

The concept is to carry out and implement evidence-based patient-oriented and health services research, employing routinely collected data to improve

rapid access to high quality and cost-effective health care. By basing the research on real world data, the MSSU SPOR will provide policy- and decision-makers with evidence of the effectiveness, safety and cost-effectiveness of alternative management and policy interventions. A key element is patient engagement in the selection of research priorities for study and interpretation of results.

The MSSU will provide strategic and technical expertise in observational and experimental research, consultancy services, training and access to linked databases that can be used to validate technology and therapeutic options. In addition to the increased application of data in healthcare research, the MSSU will support:

1. Methodology (Support and Development)
2. Consultation and Research Services
3. Real World Clinical Trials
4. Career Development in Methods and Health Services Research
5. Health System, Knowledge Translation and Implementation

The MSSU has been three years in development and anticipates ramping up an extensive research and knowledge transfer program in the coming months.

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902-473-6059  
glenn.davis@cdha.nshealth.ca

September 2013

# Funding opportunities...

## *QEII Foundation Transforming Research Into Care (TRIC) Grants*

The deadline for applications for the first round of TRIC grants is November 1, 2013. A member of each team applying must attend one of the TRIC workshops—sessions are available through October 28.

Contact: [sandra.crowell@cdha.nshealth.ca](mailto:sandra.crowell@cdha.nshealth.ca)

<http://www.cdha.nshealth.ca/discovery-innovation/qeii-fdn-tric-grants>

### **TRIC grants FAQs:**

*—Do I need to pre-register for a workshop?*

No, there is no need to pre-register for a TRIC workshop. You will be required to sign in with your name and contact information at the beginning of the workshop.

*—At least one team member must attend a TRIC workshop prior to submission of the grant but does it matter which workshop?*

No, TRIC applicants can attend any one or more of the workshops offered. The workshops will be beneficial to those preparing TRIC applications. It will undoubtedly be helpful to take advantage of as many workshops as possible.

*—Are “trainees” eligible to apply for a TRIC grant?*

Trainees are welcome to be on a team, but the co-principal investigators must be Capital Health staff or scientists.

*—Are TRIC proposals that lead to disinvestments in health care eligible to apply?*

Yes, they are both eligible and encouraged.

*—Would research aimed at impacting the broader provincial health system (e.g. Department of Health) be eligible for funding through the TRIC program?*

The TRIC program funds research with direct impact on health care within Capital Health. If the impact is primarily on Capital Health, it is fine that there are broader effects. Representatives from the Department of Health or other outside agencies may be included as collaborators.

*—If I apply for a level one (up to \$3,000) TRIC grant now, can I apply for a level 2 or 3 TRIC grant in a future competition? Yes.*

*—Can I use my Canadian Common CV instead of a five- page CV?*

No. Each investigator on the application must provide a five-page (maximum) CV.

*—What font size should be used for my TRIC application?*

As per CIHR guidelines, please use a font size 12 point, black type; maximum of six lines per inch. No condensed/narrow fonts, type or spacing. You can cut and paste text on to the template form. You must respect the margins that are in the template form.

*—Who will be reviewing the TRIC grants?*

The TRIC review committee will include researchers, administrators, industry representatives and health centre foundation representatives.

*—Will my TRIC grant be evaluated on the potential for commercialization?*

Research funded under the TRIC program is not required to have commercialization potential but it should be noted if there is such potential.

*—A company is donating a service that we will evaluate as part of our TRIC grant. Thus there will be no operational costs in the research. What shall we do in terms of our budget?*

The value of the donated service should be put in the budget as donated by the company. As well, it is absolutely necessary to get the appropriate administrative approval through the administrative co-principal investigator for the ongoing operational costs for the innovation to be adopted, should it be successful. In the case of Information technology (IT) changes, it will also be necessary to get the appropriate approvals.

## Who's new...



**Sandra Crowell** is the new Program Leader for Research Development at Capital Health and the IWK Health Centre. She will be working to expand research and innovation with a focus on translational research and responsibility for facilitating the Transforming Research Into Care (TRIC) grant program. Sandra has worked in various research-related roles at Dalhousie University; most recently, as the Managing Director of the Atlantic Health Promotion Research Centre. An Acadia University graduate, Sandra holds BA and Master of Public Administration (health policy) degrees. Sandra enjoys being an active volunteer Board member at the Halifax Skating Club. A highlight of the past year was assisting the CBC production team when they shot an episode of the TV show *The Rick Mercer Report* at the Club.

Contact: [sandra.crowell@cdha.nshealth.ca](mailto:sandra.crowell@cdha.nshealth.ca) 902-473-2273



As the new Research Services Contracts Coordinator, **Alicia Benton** can provide you with assistance as you negotiate a contract with your sponsor. Alicia has worked in research at Capital Health, Dalhousie University and Toronto Western Hospital. She holds a BSc from UNB and is in the final stages of completing her MA in Disaster and Emergency Management from Royal Roads University in Victoria. She still finds time to travel, kayak, camp, and volunteer with the Emergency Response Team to manage disasters with the Red Cross. Alicia also fundraises and completes long-distances races with the Team in Training for The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of Canada.

Contact: [alicia.benton@cdha.nshealth.ca](mailto:alicia.benton@cdha.nshealth.ca) 902-473-6853



**Jayne Norrie** hails from London, England. She attended University College London and earned her PhD from the University of Edinburgh. She completed her lab-based post doc research work in Melbourne, Australia and worked for Pfizer there. Married to a Halifax-born Canadian, moving to Canada was a natural choice. After a stint in Alberta, Halifax became her home in 2009. For the past few years, Jayne was the Health Initiatives Manager for the Lung Association of Nova Scotia. In her new position as Coordinator, Institutional Awards, Jayne facilitates management of institutional research awards (e.g., AIF), by assisting researchers from both Capital Health and the IWK Health Centre.

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# Congratulations!...

## *Strongest Families Receives National Recognition*

The recipients of the 2013 principal Ernest C. Manning Award of \$100,000 are Dr. Patricia Lingley-Pottie and Dr. Patrick McGrath. They received the award for creating The Strongest Families Institute. The Institute provides distance services to families dealing with behaviour, anxiety and bedwetting problems. Services are delivered by highly-trained coaches who teach families skills through a series of telephone sessions supported by handbooks, videos and websites. This convenient, family-centered approach increases access for families in need of help. The Strongest Families is a social innovation that has proven to be an evidence-based, cost-effective solution for the health system. ([www.strongestfamilies.com](http://www.strongestfamilies.com))

## *QEII Foundation Night of Discovery a Success*

The QEII Foundation's second annual Charm Diamond Centres Night of Discovery gala was held October 5. Thanks to the generous support of Charm Diamond Centres, dedicated sponsors and guests, \$207,500 (net) was raised. The QEII Foundation also matched the night's proceeds with an additional \$150,000, meaning a total of \$357,500 will be invested in vital research at the QEII Health Sciences Centre.

This funding will support the QEII Foundation's Translating Research into Care (TRIC) Grants. These research grants will be awarded to successful teams of researchers and administrators who will work together to fuel direct and positive changes for health care, including better patient outcomes, reduced wait times and improved access to care. It will also help to attract and maintain researchers, so the best care is available when we, or our loved ones, need it most. Thanks to all those who supported and continue to support vital research at the QEII.

## *Educational Opportunities*

Date	Series/Topic	Facilitator	Time	Location
Oct. 15	REACH Session: Informed Consent: Paved with Good intentions but Beware of Potholes!	Janet Gallant, Program Manager, Reserach Education	12 noon - 1 p.m.	Royal Bank Theatre
Oct. 17-18	Diving Into Clinical Trials? Sink or Swim!	Janet Gallant, Program Manager, Reserach Education	9:00 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days	Room 114, Centre for Clincial Research (CCR)
Nov. 1 and Nov. 15	An Introduction to Clinical Epidemiology Workshop Application deadline: 4. p.m. Oct. 7 For more information contact: janet.gallant@cdha.nshealth.ca	Several speakers	9:00 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days	Room 114, CCR
Nov. 20	REACH Session: Developing a Practical Protocol	Lisa Julien, Research Manager, Critical Care Research, Capital Health	12 noon to 1 p.m.	Room 5110, Dickson Building

# Funding opportunities...

<i>Funding Opportunities</i>			
Deadline	Program Name	Agency	Website
Oct. 11, 2013	Alzheimers Disease Research Program	BrightFocus Foundation	<a href="http://www.brightfocus.org/research/apply/openawards.html">http://www.brightfocus.org/research/apply/openawards.html</a>
Oct. 15, 2013	Health Challenges in Chronic Inflammation Initiative	CIHR Institute of Musculoskeletal Health & Arthritis & Institute of Infection and Immunity & several partners	<a href="https://www.researchnet-recherchenet.ca/rnr16/vwOpprntnyDtls.do?prog=1662&amp;view=currentOpps&amp;org=CIHR&amp;type=EXACT&amp;resultCount=25&amp;sort=program&amp;all=1&amp;masterList=true">https://www.researchnet-recherchenet.ca/rnr16/vwOpprntnyDtls.do?prog=1662&amp;view=currentOpps&amp;org=CIHR&amp;type=EXACT&amp;resultCount=25&amp;sort=program&amp;all=1&amp;masterList=true</a>
Oct. 15, 2013	Canadian Research Initiative in Substance Misuse	The CIHR Institute of Neurosciences, Mental Health & Addiction with the National Anti-Drug Strategy	<a href="https://www.researchnet-recherchenet.ca/rnr16/vwOpprntnyDtls.do?prog=1942&amp;view=currentOpps&amp;type=EXACT&amp;resultCount=25&amp;sort=program&amp;all=1&amp;masterList=true">https://www.researchnet-recherchenet.ca/rnr16/vwOpprntnyDtls.do?prog=1942&amp;view=currentOpps&amp;type=EXACT&amp;resultCount=25&amp;sort=program&amp;all=1&amp;masterList=true</a>
Oct. 16, 2013	National Psoriasis Foundation Research Grant Program: Discovery Grants & Translational Research Grants	National Psoriasis Foundation	<a href="http://www.psoriasis.org/grants">http://www.psoriasis.org/grants</a>
Pre Proposal: Oct. 30, 2013	(1) new therapeutic targets for Parkinson's disease (2) critical preclinical & clinical development of promising therapies	Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research	<a href="https://www.michaeljfox.org/research/apply-for-grant.html">https://www.michaeljfox.org/research/apply-for-grant.html</a>
Oct. 30, 2013	National Glaucoma Research Program	BrightFocus Foundation	<a href="http://www.brightfocus.org/research/apply/openawards.html">http://www.brightfocus.org/research/apply/openawards.html</a>
Nov. 1, 2013	QEII Foundation Transforming Research Into Care (TRIC) grants	QEII Foundation	<a href="http://www.cdha.nshealth.ca/discovery-innovation/qeii-fdn-tric-grants">http://www.cdha.nshealth.ca/discovery-innovation/qeii-fdn-tric-grants</a>
Nov. 11, 2013	Clinical Research Fellowship -- Parkinson Disease	Parkinson Society of Canada	<a href="http://www.parkinson.ca/site/c.kgLNiWODKpF/b.5158907/k.95C2/Applications.htm">http://www.parkinson.ca/site/c.kgLNiWODKpF/b.5158907/k.95C2/Applications.htm</a>
Dec. 2, 2013	Operating Grant : Knowledge to Action (2013-2014)	CIHR Science, Knowledge Translation & Ethics Branch	<a href="https://www.researchnet-recherchenet.ca/rnr16/vwOpprntnyDtls.do?prog=1874&amp;view=currentOpps&amp;type=EXACT&amp;resultCount=25&amp;sort=program&amp;all=1&amp;masterList=true">https://www.researchnet-recherchenet.ca/rnr16/vwOpprntnyDtls.do?prog=1874&amp;view=currentOpps&amp;type=EXACT&amp;resultCount=25&amp;sort=program&amp;all=1&amp;masterList=true</a>
Dec. 6, 2013	Operating Grant : Population Health Intervention Research <b>Phase II</b> (Fall 2013 Competition)	CIHR Institute of Population & Public Health, CIHR Institute of Aging, CIHR HIV/AIDS Research Initiative, CIHR Institute of Aboriginal Peoples' Health, Canadian Cancer Society & New Brunswick Health Research Foundation	<a href="https://www.researchnet-recherchenet.ca/rnr16/vwOpprntnyDtls.do?prog=1927&amp;view=currentOpps&amp;type=EXACT&amp;resultCount=25&amp;sort=program&amp;all=1&amp;masterList=true">https://www.researchnet-recherchenet.ca/rnr16/vwOpprntnyDtls.do?prog=1927&amp;view=currentOpps&amp;type=EXACT&amp;resultCount=25&amp;sort=program&amp;all=1&amp;masterList=true</a>
N/A	Bayer Hemophilia Awards Program	Bayer Healthcare	<a href="http://www.bayer-hemophilia-awards.com/awards/">http://www.bayer-hemophilia-awards.com/awards/</a>

# Research resources...

## *Privacy Legislation Update*

Research in Nova Scotia must comply with both the Personal Information International Disclosure Act (PIIDPA) and the Personal Health Information Act (PHIA). PIIDPA came into effect in 2006. It protects privacy by restricting the disclosure of personal information outside Canada, as other countries may not have equivalent data protection laws. Personal information (including participants' personal health information and researchers' CVs) may only be stored or accessed outside Canada with the consent of the individual. The new form — Authorization for Transfer of Personal Information — provides more information. Access it at <http://www.cdha.nshealth.ca/discovery-innovation/privacy-legislation-research>

## *Research Publications Database*

If you have new publications or have not yet provided your publications to the research publications database, please send your publication lists to [emily.walker@cdha.nshealth.ca](mailto:emily.walker@cdha.nshealth.ca). Include research publications, presentations, abstracts and posters. You can view the database at: <http://www.cdha.nshealth.ca/discovery-innovation/links-resources>

## *Research Methods Unit (RMU)*

Do you need help refining the methods for your research project, developing an analysis plan, building a database, managing your data, analyzing your data or advice on qualitative research methods or data collection? Would you like a quote for methods support for an upcoming funding application? The RMU can help. Our priority is to support your research.

**RMU**  
Research Methods Unit  
**RMU**

It's easy—visit our web site to download an RMU Consultation Request form. Complete and send the form to us. We'll be in touch shortly thereafter to book an initial consult during which we will work with you to identify the best solution(s) for your needs. For more information about how the RMU can help your research, how the RMU consulting process works or to request a quote for an upcoming research grant application, please visit: [www.cdha.nshealth.ca/rmu](http://www.cdha.nshealth.ca/rmu) or contact the RMU: [rmu@dal.ca](mailto:rmu@dal.ca)

## *Clinical Research Unit*

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 web site at [www.centerforvaccinology.ca](http://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 (902) 470-7015 [catherine.brown@iwk.nshealth.ca](mailto:catherine.brown@iwk.nshealth.ca)



## *Research in Progress*

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

Please direct inquiries, comments about or items for the newsletter to: Emily Walker (902) 473-5156 [emily.walker@cdha.nshealth.ca](mailto:emily.walker@cdha.nshealth.ca)