

The Need to Know...

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Director: Patricia Martens

Manitoba Centre for Health Policy (MCHP)



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The Need to Know...

NTK Meeting #14: A Focus on Knowledge Translation



Knowledge translation was the main theme of this meeting. Several guest speakers presented information relating to accessing, synthesizing and/or exchanging information and evidence-based knowledge in order to optimize the delivery of health care services.

Drs. Dexter Harvey and Jane Griffith presented information on the **Knowledge Exchange Network**, a pilot project designed to facilitate the adoption of evidence-based practice—chronic disease prevention and palliative care would be supported via a provincial knowledge exchange approach. It is believed that the interaction and collaboration of those with shared interests, such as prevention and provision of care sectors, would result in innovative responses.

Dr. Mark Taylor described his research on the determination of acceptable wait times for cancer surgery. The objective was to identify areas with sufficient evidence and general consensus regarding wait times, and to **synthesize** this **research evidence** into a benchmark for acceptable wait times, via a systematic review of the literature. Interestingly, very little information could be found about cancer surgery wait times, and those that existed were based on expert opinion with little evidence to support them. Moreover, in reviewing the references from the articles that were found, it was discovered that many articles were missed in the initial *Medline* search. Thus, it is imperative to search multiple databases when looking for information.

Dr. Maureen Dobbins provided information about a new web service—**health-evidence.ca**—an on-line registry that

compiles and assesses the quality of health-related literature from multiple databases. It is a user-friendly site that simplifies the search process by summarizing results and implications for practice, and links users to full-text articles wherever possible.

Other meeting highlights included presentations from Evelyn Forget and Judy Guernsey. Dr. Forget presented information about her current research on the effects of *Mincome*—an negative income tax experiment in Winnipeg and Dauphin in 1974, designed to test the effects of a guaranteed income. [see <http://www.irpp.org/po/archive/jan01/hum.pdf> for more information]. In particular, Dr. Forget is interested in whether participants suffered less poverty under this experiment, what the effects of less poverty were and how long these effects lasted after the intervention ended.



Evelyn Forget

Dr. Guernsey, visiting from Dalhousie University, presented information about some of her current research—*Building Research Capacity to Understand Physical and Social Environmental Influences on the Health of Atlantic Rural Canadians*. To this end, Dr. Guernsey has been working with Dr. Pat Martens in an effort to get a project similar to *The Need to Know* up and running in Nova Scotia.



Judy Guernsey

The remainder of the meeting time was spent reviewing the progress of and continued planning for the **What Works Deliverable**—an additional research project by *The Need to Know* Team, which focuses on the population-level effectiveness of various program/policy interventions. See p. 2 [*What Works Deliverable Update*] for more details on the progress of this project.

– From Evidence to Action - Update

Phase 1 of the *From Evidence to Action* project is now complete. A total of 17 focus groups and 53 interviews were conducted in the 11 regional health authorities in the province. A total of 204 executive, managers, staff and board members participated.

Results from this phase have identified a number of commonalities among RHAs with respect to the barriers to evidence-informed decision making. These barriers can be categorized as: external barriers (not modifiable by the RHA's alone); and internal barriers (can be modified by individual RHAs). This categorization will form a practical framework for looking at the barriers to evidence-informed decision

making (EIDM) and can help focus organizational knowledge translation efforts. An additional part of this phase has been an inventory of decision-making tools that are currently used by RHAs.

Individual summaries are being provided back to the RHAs and a report on the findings of the first phase is now in development. The next phase will focus on development of decision-making tools and processes.



*see *The Need To Know* newsletter Vol. 11, Fall 2005, p.2 for FEA project overview. It is available via *The Need To Know* website: <http://www.rha.cpe.umaniota.ca/newsletters.shtml>

**The Manitoba Centre
for Health Policy (MCHP)**

4th Floor, Brodie Centre
University of Manitoba
408-727 McDermot Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3E 3P5

Newsletter contact:

Elaine Burland
phone: (204) 789-3875
email: elaine_burland@cpe.umanitoba.ca



MCHP website:

www.umanitoba.ca/centres/mchp
(link to *The Need to Know* website from here)

F.Y.I.

- the 5th annual CIHR Summer Institute will be held at the U of M Fort Garry campus June 19-21, 2006.
- NTK Team meeting #16 will be held Oct 23, 2006 & the **Rural and Northern Health Care Day will be held October 24, 2006 at the Caboto Centre—MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!**

MCHP/U of M Hosts This Year's CIHR Summer Institute

The Canadian Institutes of Health Research's (CIHR) 5th annual Summer Institute is being hosted by the University of Manitoba / MCHP this June 19-21. Students currently enrolled in a graduate program or holding a postdoctoral fellowship at a Canadian university are eligible to apply for the 32 available spaces.

The Summer Institute is one of many strategic activities planned by 2 of the 13 institutes that make up CIHR—the Institute of Population and Public Health (IPPH) and the Institute of Health Services and Policy Research (IHSPR).

The general objectives of the yearly Summer Institute are to (i) build capacity in Population and Public Health and Health Services Policy, (ii) help create and maintain interdisciplinary research teams and their community/practitioner partners, and (iii) support a national network of researchers and research users. This year's theme is "Using population-based health and health services data for research: challenges and

opportunities in an intersectoral environment". The goal is to enhance the use of data in support of health services and population and public health research.

Some of the specific objectives of this year's Institute are to: (i) provide a learning and training environment related to population-based data sources within Canada, (ii) provide students with the opportunity to interact with and learn from established researchers and decision-makers, and (iii) develop new interdisciplinary partnerships and research projects, and learn how such projects are planned, applied for and implemented, thus creating a network of future young investigators.

Five members of *The Need To Know* team will be participating in this year's Institute as "Community Mentors", to help provide a 'real life' perspective on health system management and population health: Maggie Campbell (Parkland), Catherine Hynes (Nor-Man), Suzanne Dick (North Eastman), Jody Allan (Assiniboine) and Tannis Erickson (Interlake).



Jen Magoon, Pat Martens & Elaine Burland at last year's CIHR Summer Institute in Rocky Harbour Nfld.

***The Need to Know* Team Members:**

RHA MEMBERS:

- Jody Allan
- Faye White
Assiniboine
- Bev Cumming
- Nancy McPherson
Brandon
- Marion Ellis
- Vivian Salmon
Burntwood
- Shelley Buchan
Central
- Randy Gesell
Churchill
- Tannis Erickson
- Doreen Fey
Interlake
- Sue Crockett
- Catherine Hynes
Nor-Man
- Bonnie Frith
- Suzanne Dick
North Eastman
- Maggie Campbell
Parkland
- Patti Fries
South Eastman
- Janet Bjornson
WRHA Liaison

MANITOBA HEALTH MEMBERS:

- Deborah Malazdrewicz
Health Information Management
- Lorraine Dacombe
Dewar
Community Health Assessment
- Eilish Cleary
Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health
- Shahin Shoostari
Regional Support Services
- Heather Sparling
Community Health Assessment
- Rachel McPherson
Health Information Management
- Bob Li
Epidemiologist
- Melissa Monasterski
Community Health Assessment



RESEARCHERS & MCHP PROJECT MEMBERS:

- Pat Martens
Director
- Randy Fransoo
Researcher
- Sarah Bowen
Evaluation Researcher
- Elaine Burland
Research Coordinator
- Charles Burchill
Systems Analyst
- Heather Prior
Main Programmer
- Linda Kostiuik
Finance Coordinator
- Stephanie Smith
Planning Coordinator
- Janine Harasymchuk
Website & Software
- Jeremy Dacombe
Research Assistant
- Jen Magoon
Research Assistant
- Linda Romphf
Research Coordinator

NTK Conference Presentations

The Need to Know Project was well represented this May at the Canadian Public Health Association's (CPHA) 97th Annual Conference: What Determines the Public's Health, held in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Project Director Dr. Patricia Martens presented findings from the recently released *Sex Differences* Deliverable on the geographical, sex and income disparity in hip fracture injuries in Manitoba. Heather Prior, Computer Programmer for the project, and Project Coordinator Elaine Burland also presented findings from the *Sex* Deliverable. Heather presented a poster on urban/rural differences in access to cardiac care in Manitoba. Elaine presented findings on childhood and adult immunization rates in Manitoba.



What Works Deliverable Update

Excellent progress is being made on *What Works* - the latest *Need to Know* Deliverable. Indicators that have been examined so far include (i) teen pregnancy, (ii) breastfeeding initiation, and (iii) mammography screening. Team members and their colleagues are also being interviewed in order to obtain qualitative data that will complement findings from analysis of the administrative data.