

Research Education Program Evaluation Report and Plans

July 2009



**Centre for
Clinical Research**
CAPITAL HEALTH

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Introduction

The Research Education Program at Capital Health continually strives to improve and respond to the educational needs of the research community. Evaluations for educational initiatives are collected throughout the year and the results are used to improve future sessions and to respond to identified needs. The following represents a complete review and summary of these results for 2008 – 2009. In addition to these evaluations, a staff survey was conducted in June 2009 to invite additional feedback and suggestions. The evaluation and survey data are located in the appendices.

The program was restructured this year and there was a significant increase in the number of educational opportunities as a result of the IHRTP Collaboration. Additionally, several new workshops were added to the Research Education Program.

A prevalent theme noted in the evaluations and feedback from staff was inadequate training space. Securing space for training, even months in advance can be challenging resulting in inadequate space, temperature control and/or sound.

Research Education Program Overview – 2008-2009		
September		
Topic	Speaker	Series
Finding the Funding	Carla Ross, Gerry Johnson	IHRTP
Personnel Review	Kim Good, Melanie Dobson	IHRTP
October		
Investigator-initiated Research	Mary Kate Needler Sue Pleasance	REACH
Sink or Swim	Janet Gallant	Workshop
Ottawa- Sink or Swim	Janet Gallant	Workshop
Navigating the Common CV	CIHR, NSHRF	IHRTP
November		
Infection Control	Daphne Murray	Spotlight
Privacy and Confidentiality	Elaine Gibson Sue Jakeman Valerie Schafner	IHRTP
Securing Ethics Review	Ken Jenkins Diane Nicholson Pat Lindley	IHRTP
December		
Cape Breton- Sink or Swim	Janet Gallant	Workshop
January		
SOPs	Mary Kate Needler	Spotlight
Sink or Swim	Janet Gallant	Workshop
Data Analysis	Holly Etchegary	IHRTP
Research Design	Holly Etchegary, Joesephine Etowa	IHRTP
Research Budgets	Carla Ross, Karen McIntyre	IHRTP
February		
Regulatory Requirements for Research	Janet Gallant Mary Kate Needler	IHRTP
Assessing and Planning for Success with Industry Sponsored Trials	Janet Gallant Jessica Ibbetison	IHRTP
Monitor Panel	Mary Gordon MacKenzie Ian Galloway	REACH

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	Kathy Coakes	
Management of Research	Sunny Marche	IHRTP
March		
Investigator Initiated Research	Mary Kate Needler Sue Pleasance	IHRTP
Clinical Trials Applications	Sue Pleasance	IHRTP
Lab Update	Cindy Andrews	Spotlight
Emergency –Investigator's Training	Janet Gallant	Workshop
April		
Research Contracts	Jennifer Thurlow	REACH
May		
Ethical Conduct of Research	Lynette Reid	IHRTP
Investigator Responsibilities	Janet Gallant	Workshop
Navigating Research Ethics	Janet Gallant	Workshop
Media Skills	Don Connolly, Allison Gerard	IHRTP
June		
Health Canada	Alicja Kasina	REACH
Sink or Swim	Janet Gallant	Workshop

Additional Training 2008-2009		
Course Offering	Total Participants Trained	Comments
TDG	10	On-line training
CPR	80	Private vendor

REACH (Research Education Across Atlantic Canada's Hospitals)

The REACH series provides continuing education and professional development opportunities to research teams locally and at several sites across Atlantic Canada. Sessions were telehealthed to Moncton, Saint John, Fredericton, Kentville and Sydney. Attendance ranged from 15 to 55 people. Evaluations indicated that 90 – 100% of respondents strongly agreed or agreed that the information presented was useful, applicable and contributed to their professional development.

Spotlight Series

The Spotlight series provides opportunities for various Capital Health departments to speak to research teams about information that impacts research teams and/or practice at Capital Health. This establishes communication between research teams and various Capital Health departments.

Laboratory Services, Infection Control and Research Quality presented to research teams. Evaluations indicated that 90% of participants felt the content of the sessions was important and 76% strongly agreed that the information would impact on research practice. Average attendance was 25 – 50 people.

Integrated Health Research Training Partnership (IHRTP)

The IHRTP sessions were piloted this year. The number of sessions will be reduced for the coming year. The topics to be repeated were chosen by the IHRTP steering committee. This year's sessions will be held in the same location at the same time every month. All sessions will be advertised in September. Additionally, a second program

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launch will occur in September. The IHRTP Program Manager will oversee these changes and events.

Diving into Clinical Trials? Sink or Swim!

Sink or Swim was held in Halifax on three occasions and in Sydney, Cape Breton on one occasion.

An additional abbreviated version of this workshop was created and delivered in Ottawa as part of the Ottawa Health Research Institutes "Clinical Research Training Course." Feedback was very positive and, as a result, the Ottawa Health Research Institute has requested the workshop be offered twice for next year's course.

Sink or Swim continues to be one of the most popular educational components. A total of 77 people attended over the past year. Evaluations are consistently scored very high. T-test calculations indicated that there were statistically significant improvements in the post-test scores.

Investigator Training

This year two workshops for investigators were developed at the request of the Emergency and Oncology departments. An abbreviated version of the Sink or Swim Workshop was delivered to six ER investigators. The Medical Oncology group had 15 investigators attend a 1.5 hour session on investigator responsibilities. It has also been requested by the Radiation Oncologists for the Fall of 2009

Participants indicated that tailoring of the training and specifically targeting departments are essential for engaging investigators. Evaluations indicated that 85% strongly agreed that the content was important; 90% agreed that they had a better understanding of investigator responsibilities; 95% felt it was a good investment of their time; and 80% would recommend the workshop to other physician investigators.

Research Ethics: Submission and Reporting Workshop

Previous needs assessments indicated that a workshop on navigating the process of submitting to the Research Ethics Board (REB) was consistently identified as a priority. This year a one-day workshop focusing on the Capital Health's REB requirements for submissions and ongoing reporting was introduced .The pilot workshop was delivered in May 2009 to 19 participants.

Evaluations indicate some fine tuning of group activities are required but overall the workshop was perceived to be helpful and necessary to assist staff. This workshop will require revisions as the revised REB forms are introduced to practice. A pre- and post-confidence survey was administered and, on average, there was a 30% increase in participants' confidence in their ability to submit and report to the REB.

CPR and TDG

CPR recertification was contracted out to a private vendor. This year an abbreviated two-hour session was also offered for those who wanted to complete the testing only.

The on-line TDG training program from SAF-T-PAK was used to certify a total of 10 staff. The on-line training provides timely access to certification.

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Mentoring Program

The Mentoring Program is available to any research coordinator at Capital Health. Research coordinators who wish to be mentored are matched with mentors based on identified areas of interest and need. Participation is voluntary, resulting in a high level of enthusiasm and commitment for each mentoring pair.

Since its inception in 2007, 24 people have attended the *Lend a Hand* training session and there have been 14 mentorships.

The length of a typical mentorship is 4 months and participants are encouraged to meet regularly each week and to choose and prepare in advance for the topics they will discuss. Flexibility of meeting times, locations and communication methods has been key to ensuring that the mentorships are successful.

Education Survey

This year the number and scope of education sessions available to research teams increased exponentially as a result of the IHRTP sessions. In addition, there were a number of changes within the organization that required training or some on-line registration to ensure research teams were aware of these changes and the required steps to access programs and information.

A staff survey was sent out on two occasions with deadlines and several reminders but only 31 responded. Some of the sessions were not well attended (10 – 20 people). It was thought that this was related to the increased number of sessions.

Only 9% of respondents indicated that they would prefer less sessions being offered and 71% of respondents indicated that they would like to see the same amount of sessions being offered; 48% felt all sessions were useful and 90% felt that organizational changes had been clearly communicated to research teams.

With so few respondents it is difficult to identify priority topics; however, it was noted that a consistent suggestion for improvement was to have the sessions available on more than one occasion or at a different time or via video. Budgets, investigator-initiated research, scope of practice, patient/peer presentations and time management were suggestions for topics. Respondents also indicated that having three separate program components (REACH, Spotlight and IHRTP) was confusing for them.

Plans for Research Education Program

Based on the 2008-2009 evaluations, survey results and communications, there will be some changes to the Research Education Program.

All Capital Health research education sessions will be called “Continuing Education for Research Professionals.” Eight sessions will be offered and four of these will be REACH sessions. The IHRTP sessions have been reduced in number but will continue to be offered to all research team members.

Continuing Education Sessions and Speakers

1. Audit Findings : Mary Kate Needler
2. Informed Consent: Special Circumstances (telephone consent, abbreviated consent, illiteracy) : Ken Jenkins, Mary Kate Needler, Coordinator
3. Professional Practice(scope of practice, working with someone outside health care discipline): Mary Ellen Gurhum, Janet Gallant

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4. Research Agreements: Jennifer Thurlow
5. Participant Perspective Panel
6. Synopsis from Toronto Conference (Mary Kate Needler, Janet Gallant)
7. Time Management
8. TBA

Peer Presentations

This year the ANCHOR research group presented. This session was very well attended and a number of staff verbally indicated that they would like to see more peer presentations. Two additional sessions will be scheduled for peer presentations and an invitation will be sent to research teams.

On-Line Access to Training

Several meetings have been held with the Learning Management System (LMS) Project Manager. It was hoped that the LMS would send reminders to research teams when annual certifications were due. However, the LMS functionality supports training reminders for a determined date but does not support reminders for various recertification dates. Mandatory training such as WHIMIS, TDG can be accessed at any point and time by research teams; thus, reminders for these sessions will not work with this program. In terms of having reminders sent to participants for workshops, the participants must register for courses via LMS. Also LMS only allows access for CH teams so outside individuals would need to register in a different format and would not receive reminders.

Also, it has been requested that the WHIMIS training presentation developed for research staff be made available via the LMS. This is currently being explored.

The most promising attribute of LMS for research teams is the ability to post recording of presentations. An improving practice grant application has been submitted for funds to create DVD recordings of four sessions. This will be a pilot to determine if offering these sessions improves access to information and if the learning methodology facilitates learning. These sessions can be offered to internal staff via the Learning Management System (LMS) as the website does not support videos that are one hour in length. Telehealth and other off-site participants will be able to access information via DVDs.

Raising Awareness of the Research Education Program at Capital Health

A brochure highlighting the various components and strengths of the education program is currently being developed. This brochure can be distributed to investigators, sponsors and new research staff and used for networking at upcoming conferences in Ottawa and Toronto.

In addition, an abstract titled "Advantages of Selecting a Site with a Comprehensive Research Education Program" has been submitted to ACRP for the upcoming annual conference in April 2010.

Additional Program Evaluation

Helen Cameron of Performance Excellence at Capital Health has been consulted on identifying new methods of evaluation, feedback on current evaluation forms and for ideas for use of the data collected to date. A specific workshop or component will be identified for a higher level of evaluation including an assessment of impact on practice.