

## Partnering with Saint Mary's University Business students



### *Research Development and Planning*

The goal of Research Development and Planning is to grow the research enterprise to increase (both in quality and quantity) the research at Capital Health (CDHA). One strategic area is fostering and expanding medical technology development with emphasis on commercializable medical devices. Through discussions and stakeholder forums, numerous challenges were identified in the medical device development pathway: from initial concept to project design to commercialization. One area that stood out was early stage product development and the determination of whether or not the proposed technology had a feasible business case to support its clinical utility.

Research Development and Planning launched a pilot project with business students from Saint Mary's University (SMU). From January to April 2012 the SMU Business Development Centre and SMU Sobey School of Business were engaged to consult on two projects.

Eric Crowell, Director of the SMU Business Development Centre, assisted CDHA in identifying MBA student groups to work with clinician researchers. With the aid of a consultant mentor, they identified areas of weakness in the development process and provided insight and advice. Their contributions ranged from an overall market assessment to recommendations on product roll-out strategies and other business-related details not as readily known or accessible to the researcher.

The benefits of this initiative are far reaching. It:

- provided evidence of the value of engaging business students in medical

technology development, at a cost far less than the engagement of an external consultant

- benefited both the students and the clinician researcher—the students gained valuable business-level experience in the complex area of medical technology development and the researcher received valuable business advice to move their technology forward
- provided CDHA the opportunity to build a relationship with Saint Mary's University and it is expected that more projects will be developed collaboratively in the years to come

This project was made possible through CDHA's Medical Technologies Development Initiative (MTDI) and was sponsored by Innovacorp. MTDI was designed to support clinician-researchers in developing medical technologies along the development continuum, from early concept through commercialization. MTDI support has also included:

- micro-funding to researchers to help achieve a specific goal or outcome that may be difficult to fund through other means
- supplementing existing research programs by supporting the purchase of equipment and resources
- working to develop the strategic plan for CDHA's future medical technology development direction

### *Development and Planning Contacts:*

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April/May 2012

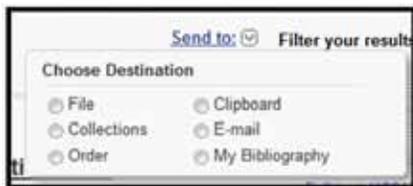


## Focus on Evidence: FAQs

by Robin Parker, Clinical Research Librarian  
Research Methods Unit  
Nova Scotia Cochrane Resource Centre  
Capital Health Library Services

*Q. I have a citation that looks relevant to my research, but I can't find the full text of the article through the Capital Health Library website. How can I get this paper so I can read it and see if it should be included in the literature review for my study?*

So you have conducted a literature search in one or more databases or have requested one from the librarians at the Health Sciences Library or the Research Methods Unit, and now you have a list of relevant citations. What now? If the full articles of interest are not immediately and obviously available for free or through a link on the database page, there are a number of options for requesting a copy of the full article. If you are conducting the search in PubMed or your list of citations includes a PubMed identifier (PMID), then you can request the full text directly through PubMed by using the Loansome Doc service. This service can be accessed by selecting the record(s) of interest and clicking on "Order" in the "Send to" option as shown here:



You will be prompted to log in or sign up for a Loansome Doc account, which will require selecting your contact library (Capital Health/Dickson Building, Halifax Infirmary, or Nova Scotia Hospital), agreeing to the terms of service, and providing account information. Due to copyright restrictions, the Library can only provide a single, paper copy for your individual study or

research use. However, they can send you the article by fax or interdepartmental mail if you cannot pick it up at your nearest library location.

Another option for Capital Health affiliated individuals is to copy and paste the citation information into the Capital Health Library Services interlibrary loan form which can be found on the library website (<https://cdhaforms.nshealth.ca/onlineLibraryLoanForm.aspx>).

Alternatively, if you are affiliated with Dalhousie University, you can register with Dalhousie Libraries and use their Document Delivery service through the online form. Contact your nearest health sciences library for assistance if you have any further questions about accessing full-text articles.

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# What's happening...

## *Asking questions and presenting options to empower patients*

David Landry says he is motivated to do research because it provides the validation for doing something differently and enables the translation of theory into practice. He admits that research is a lot of work but it has also given him opportunities to meet new people, learn new things and open new doors. As a Nurse Practitioner in Nephrology, he is constantly looking for alternatives that will improve patient care and quality of life. His point-of-care research project aims to do just that.

Landry is using a tool (developed by the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute) for gathering and disseminating information to patients with end-



David Landry is a researcher in the Point-of-Care Research project at Capital Health.

stage renal disease. This process strengthens communication between the patient/family and health care professional and empowers the patient to make informed decisions about their care. He spends time talking with patients and their families to:

- gather information about the patient's illness and needs
- outline different treatment options
- share information about the risks and benefits of each option
- ensure they have the information they need to choose the treatment that is best for them

Landry is already embarking on more research with the Palliative and Therapeutic Harmonization (PATH) clinic. He is working to develop a renal care component to the assessment and consultation process that allows seniors to participate in health care decisions affecting them.

During his research project, Landry has been pleased at how willing patients have been to assist him, even if they won't directly benefit themselves. He said it was beneficial to be mentored by Dr. Bryce Kiberd and he noted that he received amazing support from Barb Hirtle, LPN, and Sohani Welcher, NP, who assisted him with patient recruitment and processing.

*Born: Germany*

*Hometown: Truro*

*Education: RN-NP, MN, Dalhousie University*

*Clinical Experience: medical surgical, nephrology*

*Interests: gardening, hiking canoeing, fishing*

## *Studying the impact of isolation on MRSA-positive patients*

Kristine Webber, data management coordinator; Sherry Macpherson, interprofessional coordinator for social work; Angela Meagher, nurse practitioner; Dr. Susan Hutchinson, associate professor, Faculty of Health Professions, Dalhousie University; and Rev. Blair Lewis, staff chaplain, recently completed a study that explored the experiences of Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) positive inpatients at the Nova Scotia Rehabilitation Centre (NSRC). The strict isolation required for MRSA patients presents challenges for staff, for patients and patients families. The main thrust of the research was to gather insights from patients with MRSA and to better understand their experience with MRSA and the strict isolation it requires.

*(continued on page 4)*

# What's happening...

## *Studying the impact of isolation on MRSA-positive patients (continued from page 3)*

Participants drew directly from their own personal experiences to explain what it meant for them to be a patient with MRSA, marked as different by the yellow gown, mask and gloves. These frank perspectives were valuable in developing an innovative plan of action for mitigating the negative impacts of isolation. Eight steps were recommended. To date, the following have been successfully implemented and integrated into frontline practice at the NSRC:

- An interprofessional educational video on MRSA was developed for use by staff, patients and their families and is now played regularly on the patient education channel.
- The research team worked closely with infection control, recreation therapy, and spiritual and religious care to ensure that the existing rehabilitation programs become more inclusive of MRSA positive patients.
- Funding was secured for a mobile DVD unit for patients in MRSA isolation. In consultation with infection control, a procedure was developed to ensure proper cleaning of the unit between patients.
- An educational link to the hospital's online learning module now includes portions of the MRSA educational video.

In addition to making an NSRC stay better for MRSA patients, the research project resulted in interprofessional collaboration including, for example, an in-depth partnership with the infection control nurse. For more information, see the article about the MRSA research project in the January-February 2012 issue of *Rehabilitation Nursing* (pages 43-50).

## *Educational Opportunities*

Series	Topic	Time	Date	Location
Research Finance: Lunch and Learn  Bring your lunch with you.	Deciphering your budget: what is overheadable?	12 noon	June 12	Room B44, Bethune Building
Qualitative Research Seminar Series	Writing Up Your Findings The findings of qualitative research can be written in many formats, from performance plays to poetry to fiction to scientific reports. Both the interview data and the findings from the above analyses will be used to explore different types of writing.	12 noon	June 15	Contact: Raewyn Bassett raewyn.bassett@cdha.nshealth.ca <b>This workshop is full.</b>

# Opportunities...

## Grant Opportunities

Deadline	Program Name	Agency	Website
<b>April 20, 2012:</b> open for submissions. Closure date will be posted on NSHRF website.	Research Enterprise Development Initiatives (REDI): Research Skills, Catalyst and Team Development Awards	Nova Scotia Health Research Foundation (NSHRF)	<a href="http://www.nshrf.ca/sites/default/files/redidescription2012-13.pdf">http://www.nshrf.ca/sites/default/files/redidescription2012-13.pdf</a>
<b>May 31, 2012: letter of intent and December 3, 2012: full application</b>	Canadian Epigenetics, Environment and Health Research Consortium (CEEHRC) Signature Initiative	Canadian Epigenetics, Environment, and Health Research Consortium (CEEHRC)	<a href="http://www.researchnet-recherche.net.ca/rnr16/vwOpprntnyDtIs.do?prog=1505&amp;view=currentOpps&amp;org=CIHR&amp;type=AND&amp;resultCount=25&amp;sort=program&amp;all=1&amp;masterList=true">http://www.researchnet-recherche.net.ca/rnr16/vwOpprntnyDtIs.do?prog=1505&amp;view=currentOpps&amp;org=CIHR&amp;type=AND&amp;resultCount=25&amp;sort=program&amp;all=1&amp;masterList=true</a>
<b>June 11, 2012</b>	Grant program for research on cardiovascular, genetic, orthopedic and ophthalmologic issues of the Marfan syndrome and related disorders	National Marfan Foundation/Canadian Marfan Association	<a href="http://www.marfan.org/marfan/2293/Research-Grants">http://www.marfan.org/marfan/2293/Research-Grants</a>
<b>June 15, 2012: registration deadline August 1, 2012 : application deadline</b>	Catalyst Grant : Health Services and Systems for an Aging Population	Institute of Aging, Canadian Institutes of Health Research	<a href="http://www.researchnet-recherche.net.ca/rnr16/vwOpprntnyDtIs.do?prog=1499&amp;view=currentOpps&amp;org=CIHR&amp;type=AND&amp;resultCount=25&amp;sort=program&amp;all=1&amp;masterList=true">http://www.researchnet-recherche.net.ca/rnr16/vwOpprntnyDtIs.do?prog=1499&amp;view=currentOpps&amp;org=CIHR&amp;type=AND&amp;resultCount=25&amp;sort=program&amp;all=1&amp;masterList=true</a>
<b>June 15, 2012 : application deadline</b>	Planning Grants : Spring 2012 Competition	CIHR Knowledge Translation Branch	<a href="http://www.researchnet-recherche.net.ca/rnr16/vwOpprntnyDtIs.do?prog=1466&amp;view=currentOpps&amp;org=CIHR&amp;type=AND&amp;resultCount=25&amp;sort=program&amp;all=1&amp;masterList=true">http://www.researchnet-recherche.net.ca/rnr16/vwOpprntnyDtIs.do?prog=1466&amp;view=currentOpps&amp;org=CIHR&amp;type=AND&amp;resultCount=25&amp;sort=program&amp;all=1&amp;masterList=true</a>
<b>June 21, 2012</b>	Team Grant : China-Canada Initiative on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders (2012)	Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC)	<a href="http://www.researchnet-recherche.net.ca/rnr16/vwOpprntnyDtIs.do?prog=1534&amp;view=currentOpps&amp;org=CIHR&amp;type=AND&amp;resultCount=25&amp;sort=program&amp;all=1&amp;masterList=true">http://www.researchnet-recherche.net.ca/rnr16/vwOpprntnyDtIs.do?prog=1534&amp;view=currentOpps&amp;org=CIHR&amp;type=AND&amp;resultCount=25&amp;sort=program&amp;all=1&amp;masterList=true</a>
<b>June 30, 2012</b>	American Tinnitus Association Research Grant Program	American Tinnitus Association	<a href="http://www.ata.org/research/grant-program">http://www.ata.org/research/grant-program</a>
<b>July 9, 2012</b>	Clinical Investigator Award in Breast Cancer	Society of Surgical Oncology	<a href="http://www.surgonc.org/grants--trials/research-grants/clinical-investigator-awards/clinical-investigator-award-in-breast-cancer-research.aspx">http://www.surgonc.org/grants--trials/research-grants/clinical-investigator-awards/clinical-investigator-award-in-breast-cancer-research.aspx</a>
<b>August 30, 2012</b>	Grants-in-Aid	Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada	<a href="http://www.hsf.ca/research/en/grants-aid">http://www.hsf.ca/research/en/grants-aid</a>

# Did you know...

## Welcome to New Research Services Staff

Cory Schlievert has joined Research Services as the coordinator of contract facilitation and support. Cory has worked with Community Health and Epidemiology, Dalhousie University, and has research experience at the IWK Health Centre and Cancer Care Nova Scotia. Cory holds an MSc. in Community Health and Epidemiology from Dalhousie University. [coralynne.schlievert@cdha.nshealth.ca](mailto:coralynne.schlievert@cdha.nshealth.ca)  
902.473.6853



Stacey Pyke has moved to the position of coordinator, research administration, for the contract/grant facilitation and support office. In addition to working previously with Research Services, Stacey worked part time with the research project teams in MOTP and Radiology while completing her undergrad and teaching degrees at Mount Saint Vincent University. [stacey.pyke@cdha.nshealth.ca](mailto:stacey.pyke@cdha.nshealth.ca)  
902.473.6682

## Research Methods Unit

The Research Methods Unit continues to pursue its mandate to support excellence in research in practical and tangible ways. The RMU has supported a number of successful regional and national funding applications. It has also supported the preparation of several successful publications, with more in progress. These early successes demonstrate the usefulness of the RMU to the health research community. The RMU welcomes new projects!

If you are looking for support with finding the current literature on a research topic, designing research methods or an analysis plan, data management, data analysis, or if you have any other research methods needs, the RMU can help. It's easy—the first consultation is always free and the priority is to facilitate your research. For more information about how the RMU can help your research, how the consulting process works and other details, please visit: [www.cdha.nshealth.ca/rmu](http://www.cdha.nshealth.ca/rmu) or contact the RMU coordinator, Camille Angus, at: [camille.angus@dal.ca](mailto: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](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 at 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 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](mailto:emily.walker@cdha.nshealth.ca)

DISCOVERY and INNOVATION for HEALTH



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