

Nova Scotia District Health Authorities Multisite Research Ethics Board Gets the Green Light

In November 2011, the Nova Scotia Council of District Health Authorities CEOs granted approval in principle for the formation of the provincial multisite review board. During the past two years the standard operating procedures, the terms of reference, appeals mechanism and the Memorandum of Understanding among the stakeholders were prepared. This work has been generously supported by the Maritime SPOR Support Unit (MSSU).

We are proud to announce that on January 28, 2014, the Council of District Health Authorities CEOs signed the Memorandum of Understanding for the NS District Health Authorities Multisite Research Ethics Board (Multisite REB). The Multisite REB now has the appropriate authority and resources to review research protocols that will be conducted in two or more DHAs. Board membership will include representatives from each district who will meet via video conference on a monthly basis. Single-site research projects will continue to be reviewed by the appropriate institutional REB.

The Multisite REB will be a paperless enterprise. Through the generosity of Process Pathways, Calgary, Alberta, we will be using their ROMEO platform as the database, and on-line submissions to complete the research ethics review process.

The Department of Health and Wellness webpage will contain the link to access the on-line submission and continuing review forms. This work will be completed by mid-March. After that, there will be some trial reviews within the system to resolve any logistical issues that arise.

Our goal is to have the Multisite REB fully operational in May, 2014.

Goals of the Multisite REB:

- Meet the requirements of the Tri-Council Policy Statement Guidelines, ICH-GCP Guidelines, and Health Canada Division 5 Food and Drug Regulations which protect the safety and well being of research participants
- Reduce review timelines and simultaneously maintain a high quality research ethics review
- Increase the capacity throughout the province to conduct health research of all kinds
- Attract and retain health professionals interested in research throughout the province
- Create a competitive research environment that attracts research to Nova Scotia

January/February 2014

What's happening...

First QEII Foundation TRIC Award Winners Announced

The first Translating Research Into Care (TRIC) grants competition concluded with seven Capital Health research teams receiving funding support from the QEII Foundation. Research teams will examine how web-based portals can support health care delivery and how care can be improved for patients with chronic illnesses and the frail elderly. See the opposite page for details about the funded Capital Health TRIC projects .

TRIC grants are awarded to teams that are co-led by Capital Health researchers and administrators. Funding support provided through the TRIC program will allow teams to investigate ideas that will improve patient care and make positive changes in the health care system. Priority is given to projects that will improve patient outcomes, improve the safety of health care, identify and reduce unnecessary healthcare costs, wait times and the need for health care.

Dr. Patrick McGrath, Integrated Vice President, Research and Innovation at CDHA and IWK, led the development of the TRIC grants program. In the first competition, 19 applications were received from Capital Health researcher-administrator teams. In December, a peer review committee reviewed the applications in detail. The committee was composed of researchers, administrators and representatives from the health centre foundations, Dalhousie University and Innovacorp.



Dr. Patrick McGrath
with TRIC review
committee members
Michael Dennis,
Innovacorp, and
Deborah Garson,
QEII Foundation

The next TRIC application deadline is May 1, 2014. A series of workshops is being offered to support the development of TRIC grants. Workshop topics include grantsmanship, implementation science, commercialization and healthcare improvement, health economics and bridging the gap between research and administration for health care improvement. The workshop schedule TRIC guidelines and application forms are at: <http://www.cdha.nshealth.ca/discovery-innovation/qeii-fdn-tric-grants>

Contact: Sandra Crowell, Program Leader, Research Development
sandra.crowell@cdha.nshealth.ca Tel: (902) 473-2273

Congratulations...

November 2013 QEII Foundation TRIC Grant Award Recipients

Note: Applications for the next round of awards are due at 4 p.m., May 1, 2014. Details at: <http://www.cdha.nshealth.ca/discovery-innovation/qeii-fdn-tric-grants>

Primary Investigator (PI)	Administrative Co-PI	Department	Award	Research Description
Fred Burge	Lynn Edwards	Family Medicine	\$ 3,000	The Impact of a web-based "frailty portal" in Family Practice for patients, caregivers and providers: identification, screening and appropriate care planning
John Clark	Karen Mumford	Pain Management Unit	\$ 3,000	The highly tolerant opioid patient—will a new paradigm of care improve outcomes?
Graeme Rocker	Paula Bond	Respirology	\$99,934	Expanding the INSPIRED COPD Outreach Program to the Emergency Department: assessing feasibility, efficiencies, and outcomes
Tara Sampalli	Lynn Edwards	Primary Health Care	\$ 3,000	Improving chronic care delivery and functional health outcomes for individuals with multimorbidities in primary health care, Capital Health
Christine Short	Mary Ellen Gurnham	Rehab Medicine	\$ 3,000	Evaluating interprofessional collaborative practice within the rehabilitation and supportive care portfolio at Capital Health
Karthik Tennankore	Cynthia Stockman	Nephrology	\$45,456	The effectiveness of an online portal for the delivery of care to home dialysis patients
Michael Vallis	Lisa MacDonald	Psychology/Behaviour Change Institute	\$ 3,000	Beyond Talking the Talk: integration of health behaviour change interventions into primary care settings

Congratulations...

September 2013 Capital Health Research Fund (CHRF) Award Recipients

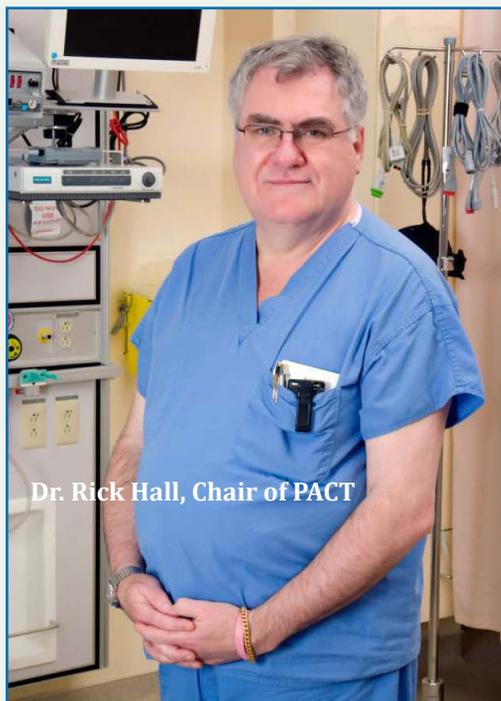
Sixteen successful CHRF applicants received awards totaling \$193,473. Applications for the next round of CHRF awards are due at 4 p.m., March 17, 2014. Details at: <http://www.cdha.nshealth.ca/discovery-innovation/research-fund-competiton>

Name	Department	Award	Research Description
Sarah Appleton	Department of Surgery / Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery	\$5,000	Review of current melanoma diagnosis, staging and treatment protocols in the province of Nova Scotia
Michael Butler	Department of Emergency Medicine	\$4,800	The use of machine-learning algorithms to aid in diagnosis of adult emergency department patients
Sanem Cimen	Department of Surgery	\$4,911	Effect of oral everolimus treatment on intra-abdominal adhesions
Ashley Cox	Department of Urology	\$15,000	The use of anticholinergic agents following treatment of localized prostate cancer
Jill Cumby	Department of Psychiatry	\$14,963	Needs of parents with severe mental illness and their offspring
Scott Grandy	Department of Medicine/ Cardiology	\$14,984	Age-related alterations in cardiac electrical activity: the role of inflammation
Todd Hatchette	Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine / Microbiology	\$15,000	Evaluating TLR agonists in a liposome carrier as novel influenza vaccines
Ali Imran	Department of Medicine/ Endocrinology	\$12,930	A pilot study to assess the role of dopamine agonist therapy in PCOS
Jonathan Lai	Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine/ Anatomical Pathology	\$5,000	Examining the role of apoptotic pathways in merkel cell carcinoma
Andrea Lantz	Department of Urology	\$11,940	External validation of a clinical nomogram to predict successful single treatment shockwave lithotripsy of renal and ureteral stone
Emily Marshall	Dalhousie Family Medicine/ Primary Care Research Unit	\$15,000	Medication appropriateness and polypharmacy in long-term care
Jessica Morash	Department of Psychiatry	\$14,926	Sleep in children and youth at familial risk for severe mental illness
Gwynedd Pickett	Department of Surgery/ Neurosurgery	\$15,000	CT Perfusion imaging to predict vasospasm in sub-arachnoid hemorrhage
Kim Parker	Department of Assistive Technology/ Rehabilitation & Supportive Care	\$14,645	Predicting prosthetic use in people with lower limb amputations: evaluation of the amputee mobility predictor (AMP) as a tool to guide prosthetic prescription.
Derek Rutherford	Department of Surgery/ Orthopaedics	\$14,779	Assessment of walking mechanics and muscle activation patterns in individuals with hip osteo-arthritis—a pilot study
Karthik Tennankore	Department of Medicine/ Nephrology	\$14,542	Towards a better understanding of frailty in dialysis

What's happening...

Canadian Perioperative Anesthesiology Clinical Trials (PACT)

Canada's top perioperative anesthesia clinical trials investigators were recently in Halifax to propose new studies, discuss current projects, and hear from Ms. Jannet Ann Leggett, a leading expert in Canadian privacy and access to information law. Dr. Rick Hall, Professor, Anesthesia, Pain Management & Perioperative Medicine, and Chair of the Canadian Perioperative Anesthesiology Clinical Trials Network (PACT), hosted the group at PACT's first of two annual national meetings of 2014. It was the first time the meeting was held in Halifax.



Dr. Rick Hall, Chair of PACT

PACT, funded by the Association of Canadian University Departments of Anesthesia since 2010, is a network of academic anesthesiologists and scientists with an interest in the design and implementation of multi-centre clinical trials in anesthesia and perioperative medicine. PACT participants and their studies benefit from the peer review and continuous support resulting from

consultation with members with experience in questionnaire development, grant preparation, statistical expertise, clinical trials methodology and conduct of large-scale clinical trials, and manuscript preparation. This collaborative support has resulted in several research pilot projects, published manuscripts and funded multicentre clinical trials.

Following Ms. Leggett's presentation, Balancing Privacy and Ethics to Facilitate Research and Quality Improvement in an Era of Big Data and Higher Stakes, the January meeting included a proposal to establish a Translational Biology Group as part of its mandate. It also included updates on studies of the use of volatile anesthesia for sedation following cardiac surgery; cardiac surgery outcomes with point-of-care based algorithms; transfusion and acute kidney injury; and ultrasound guided catheterization. The resulting discussions led to 1) a proposal for the formation of a subgroup within PACT, Translational Biology Group, which would focus on integrating basic science into clinical projects, and 2) a pledge to take a leadership role in ensuring investigators better understand their rights and responsibilities related to privacy and access to information.

PACT's next meeting is June 12, 2014, Saint John's, Newfoundland.

To learn more about PACT, including how to submit a protocol for potential sponsorship by PACT, visit <http://canadianpact.ca>

Opportunities...

Funding Opportunities

Deadline	Program Name	Agency	Website
See website	Research Enterprise Development Initiatives (REDI)	Nova Scotia Health Research Foundation	http://www.nshrf.ca/programs-services/programs-and-services/funding-opportunities
March 3, 2014	Program Support Award for Canadian Transfusion Medicine and Science Research	Canadian Blood Services Centre for Innovation	http://www.blood.ca/CentreApps/Internet/UW_V502_MainEngine.nsf/resources/RandD/\$file/Canadian-Blood-Services_Program-Support-Award_Application-Guidelines.pdf
March 4, 2014	Cancer Research Training Program Awards	Beatrice Hunter Cancer Research Institute	http://www.bhcri.ca/traineeship-application-package
March 15, 2014	Lady Tata Memorial Trust International awards research on leukemia	Lady Tata Memorial Trust	http://www.ladytatatrust.org/StaticPage/Awards/o
March 17, 2014	Alport Syndrome Research Funding Program	Kidney Foundation of Canada	https://www.kidney.ca/en---research/nat-research_funding-opp_other_asf-macquarie-pederson_2014_en
March 19, 2014 (LOI)	Biomarkers Across Neurodegenerative Diseases	The W. Garfield Weston Foundation	http://www.westonfoundation.org/Pages/band.aspx
March 31, 2014	Liver Research Grant Programs	Canadian Liver Foundation	http://www.liver.ca/liver-education-liver-research/research/grant-programs/
March 31, 2014	Population-Level Nutrition Interventions Initiative	Heart and Stroke Foundation	http://hsf.ca/research/en/population-level-nutrition-interventions
April 4, 2014 (LOI)	2014 Early Phase Clinical Trials Program	The W. Garfield Weston Foundation	http://www.westonfoundation.org/Pages/neuroclinical.aspx
June 5, 2014	Repurposing drugs for Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias	Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation	http://www.alzdiscovery.org/research-and-grants/request-for-proposal

Learning...

New Research Resources Guide

Have you seen the new Research Resources Guide? It is packed with information that is organized into sections mirroring the steps in a research study:

- preparation and design
- financing
- Research Ethics process
- set up and maintaining the study
- closure of the study

Whether you are new to research or doing new research, the Guide's provides access to the support and programs

provided by Research Services. Available at: <http://www.cdha.nshealth.ca/discovery-innovation/services-researchers-0>



Educational Opportunities

Date	Series/Topic	Facilitator	Time	Location
March 6	REACH Session: Equipping Yourself for Research	Dyson Crowe Engineer Biomedical Engineering Mary Kate Needler Program Manager Research Quality	12 noon - 1 p.m.	Royal Bank Theatre, Halifax Infirmary
April 15-16	Diving Into Clinical Trials? Sink or Swim!	Janet Gallant Program Manager Research Education To register, contact: janet.gallant@cdha.nshealth.ca	9:00 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days	Room 114, Centre for Clinical Research (CCR)
May 13	The Never Ending Journey (how to survive a visit from the FDA)	Blaine Gallant, RN Research Coordinator Hematology	12-noon-1 p.m.	Royal Bank Theatre, Halifax Infirmary

Research resources...

Researcher Directory

Over the next six months, Emily Walker, Research Services communications coordinator, will be gathering information for a Researcher Directory that will be housed on the Capital Health Research website. The Directory will provide a list of Capital Health researchers, each one profiled with a standard set of facts. Each profile will contain basic information with links to more detailed data elsewhere.

Emily will be contacting researchers and their assistants for information and will be sending them draft profiles for their review and approval. It is anticipated that the first wave of profiles will go live August 2014 with a projected completion date of the directory in the spring of 2015.

To keep the information current, each profile will be reviewed and updated annually or revised at the request of the researcher. emily.walker@cdha.nshealth.ca (902) 473-5156

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.

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 or contact the RMU: 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 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



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