

## Supporting Research in the Nova Scotia Health Authority

On April 1, 2015, all health boards in Nova Scotia (except the IWK Health Centre) were amalgamated into the Nova Scotia Health Authority (NSHA). This means that all adult healthcare research in the central, eastern, northern and western zones falls under the NSHA umbrella.

Research Services has been anticipating this amalgamation and considering how to expand support to researchers across Nova Scotia. Fortunately, we have some recent experience in this area with the Nova Scotia Multisite Review Board. The initiative to harmonize regional research Ethics Boards among the Nova Scotia regional health authorities has taken several years of collaboration and organization to complete.

The Central Zone Research Ethics Board has recently expanded its membership and mandate to include NSHA. This enables one research ethics review for studies that researchers would like to conduct within NSHA. It eliminates the burdensome task of conducting multiple ethics reviews across the province for multisite research. The NSHA Research Ethics Board will be a paperless entity with a researchers portal that will provide the platform for electronic submissions and reviews.

Another area where we have been working within the broader research community is our training program. Many program participants over the past decade have been

from other parts of Nova Scotia as well as PEI, New Brunswick and Newfoundland. For a number of years, training has taken place face-to-face as well as through videoconferencing.

NSHA, the IWK Health Centre and the Research Methods Unit offer a number of educational opportunities which are open to members of the research community at NSHA and the IWK.

Other ways Research Services can support researchers throughout the province include:

- expanding the Nova Scotia Health Authority Research Fund (formerly the Capital Health Research Fund) to include applicants doing research within the Nova Scotia Health Authority
- highlighting regional researcher profiles in the online Researcher Directory
- facilitating access to Research Methods Unit services
- sharing of guidance documents for such areas such as research records management and media awareness for researchers
- providing access to the research quality program

We look forward to playing a support role in facilitating the healthcare research community throughout the province. As always, our long-term goals align with those of the research community: to improve the health, care and quality of life for Nova Scotians.

May 2015

# What's happening...

## NSHA: Raising Our Profile with the Canadian Clinical Trials Asset Map (CCTAM)

Online presence is more than ever a critical factor for research communities who want to be noticed. In a highly competitive research world, Canadian researchers need to be visible; in fact, they need to stand out from the crowd. Just as many of us browse for information and shop on websites, trial sponsors increasingly access and depend upon online resources. A brand new project—the Canadian Clinical Trials Asset Map—will go some way to raise Canada's research profile through an online repository of information, showcasing research communities coast to coast.

CCTAM, (Canadian Clinical Trials Asset Map), was designed to capitalize on Canada's clinical research strengths. CCTAM was developed by a committee that included Canada's Research-Based Pharmaceutical Companies (Rx&D), CIHR, and HealthCareCAN. Support for this initiative is provided by the Canadian Clinical Trials Coordinating Centre (CCTCC).

An online searchable database, CCTAM aims to provide information about clinical trial sites as well as being a comprehensive resource of all aspects of clinical research, including research networks, institutional review boards, research organizations and institutions, and individual clinical research experts.

CCTAM states that its purpose is to:

- showcase the tremendous assets in Canada to conduct clinical trials
- better enable sponsors of clinical trials to identify clinical research sites and investigators

- become a comprehensive database for all Canadian clinical research assets; the essential tool for anyone planning on conducting clinical research in Canada
- position Canada as an attractive destination for the conduct of clinical trials in the global marketplace

CCTAM wants to help Canada market itself as the ideal destination for clinical research. Research databases are already available for conducting study feasibility, but CCTAM will be the only pan-Canadian, fully inclusive initiative. Its success will depend upon the degree of participation by the research community throughout Canada.

Here are some of the features CCTAM offers:

- a database server hosted in Canada and complying with Canadian privacy standards
- performed searches that can be saved and exported to an Excel spreadsheet
- an interactive map with popups linking to basic information on that particular research site

CCTAM profiles include individual investigators, institutions, networks, research ethics boards, tissue specimen banks, registries and research sites. Research Services is exploring options for establishing NSHA's presence on CCTAM. If you are interested in learning more about CCTAM, please check: <http://www.cctam.ca/>

Contact for CCTAM project at Research Services: [emily.walker@nshealth.ca](mailto:emily.walker@nshealth.ca)

### Educational Opportunities

Date	Series/Topic	Facilitator	Time	Location
June 10, 2015	Implementation Science Register at <a href="mailto:IDR@iwk.nshealth.ca">IDR@iwk.nshealth.ca</a>	Jill Hatchette, PhD	12:05-1 p.m	Research Services Boardroom, 5850/5980 University Avenue Halifax, NS B3K 6R8

# Congratulations...

## Research Employees Receive Long Service Awards



Congratulations to the more than thirty research employees who were recognized for their long service at a recent awards dinner. The event was hosted by Dr. Patrick McGrath, Vice-President, Research, Innovation and Knowledge Translation, who welcomed and paid tribute to the evening's guests. Lisa Underwood, Director, Research Services, thanked the honourees for their many years of service to the Central Zone research community.

Sheila Yarn, Patrick McGrath and Lisa Underwood (left to right) at the long service awards event

### Twenty-year employees

Melissa M. Butler  
Joan E. Falkenham  
Ann A Fearon.  
Nancy L. Fitzgerald  
Julie Susan Garnham  
Heather Haldane  
Sharon L. Hebb

Lynn C . Hubley  
Lisa C . Julien  
Elizabeth A. Larsen  
Hilary S. Macdonald  
Margo MacFarlane  
Joanne M. Petite  
Judy Ann Richard

Barbara M. Stanfield  
Judith M. Thompson  
Lisa R Underwood  
Deborah Lee Wright  
Myrna J. Yazer

### Twenty-five year employees

Lynne A. Fenerty  
Patricia Francis  
Jennifer Elaine Stewart

### Thirty-year employees

Sheila N .Yarn  
Tanya L .Yeo

## Research Education Program Manager Receives Award

**Janet Gallant**, Program Manager, Research Education, was honoured recently by the Department of Anesthesia, Pain Management and Perioperative Medicine. Ms Gallant was given the Award of Excellence for an individual external to the Department. Leah Wood, Research Facilitator for the Department, noted that: "In view of Ms Gallant's superior knowledge of clinical research and her devotion to research education, she is highly deserving of an Award of Excellence."

## CARA Recognizes Research Services Employee

The Canadian Association of Research Administrators Unsung Hero Award was presented to **Jennifer Thurlow**, Coordinator, Grant Facilitation and Support, Research Services, at the annual CARA conference. This award recognizes Ms Thurlow's outstanding contributions to CARA and the development of research management through her active participation in the Association.

# Congratulations...

## March 2015 Capital Health Research Fund Award Recipients

Note that the CHRF has been renamed the NSHA Research Fund. Applications for the next round of the NSHA Research Fund awards are due at 4 p.m., September 15, 2015. Please use current versions of the application form. For details, check: <http://www.cdha.nshealth.ca/discovery-innovation/research-fund-competiton>

Name	Department	Award	Research Description
Dr. Rob Adamson	Surgery/ENT	\$15,000	Optical coherence tomography imaging of the middle ear: preliminary clinical trials
Dr. Sean Barrett	Psychology and Neuroscience	\$15,000	Physiological and neural responses to smoking-salient stimuli in currently dependent smokers and non-dependent occasional smokers
Dr. Jeremy Brown	Surgery/ENT	\$14,974	A variable sampling receive beam-former for high resolution ultrasound endoscopy
Dr. Sidney Croul	Anatomic Pathology	\$13,181	Natural history of glioblastoma
Dr. Alexander Easton	Anatomic Pathology	\$15,000	Uncovering new biomarkers in Alzheimer's Disease
Kristen Higgins	Psychology and Neuroscience	\$4,936	Risk and resilience in children of parents with chronic pain
Dr. Matthias Schmidt	Radiology/ Neuroradiology	\$3,751	Exploring potential neuroimaging biomarkers of epileptogenesis in a prospective cohort of patients with first seizure and new-onset epilepsy
Dr. Michael Schmidt	Anesthesia	\$14,744	Is it feasible to evaluate cognitive changes after surgery with computerized neuropsychological assessment in patients aged 55 or older undergoing major surgery?
Dr. Mark Seamone	Ophthalmology	\$4,876	Expression of Il-1b in vitrectomy samples obtained from individuals with exogenous endophthalmitis
Dr. Namita Sinha	Anatomic Pathology	\$5,000	Colonic mixed adenoneuroendocrine carcinomas: analysis of genome-wide copy number aberrations

# Congratulations...

## November 2014 QEII Foundation TRIC Grants Award Recipients

The next competition deadline is November 2, 2015, For more information see:

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

**Dr. Paige Moorhouse**, PATH Co-Founder, Physician, Dept. of Medicine, QEII

**Paula Bond**, Vice-President, Integrated Health Services Program Care 1, QEII

**Project Title:** Development of a research project to examine the relationship between TAVI and frailty using PACER

**End Goal:** To improve quality of life for frail patients with aortic stenosis, a narrowing of the aortic valve, by choosing the best treatment for their lifestyle and health (Level 1 Grant, \$3,000)

**Dr. Philip Tibbo**, Director, Nova Scotia Early Psychosis Program (NSEPP), QEII

**Dr. David Pilon**, Program Leader, Specialty Mental Health Services, QEII

**Project Title:** Sustaining clinical gains for young adults with psychosis, transitioning from specialized to community mental health care

**End Goal:** To improve the likelihood that a young adult with mental illness will maintain their positive outcomes once they are transitioned from a specialized hospital treatment program to ongoing community-based mental health services (Level 1 Grant, \$3,000)

**Dr. R. Lee Kirby**, Clinician Scientist, Nova Scotia Rehabilitation Centre, QEII

**James Adderson**, Program Manager, Rehabilitation and Supportive Care, QEII

**Project Title:** Optimizing the service delivery process of manual wheelchairs: a needs assessment

**End Goal:** To optimize the efficiency of hospital-based wheelchair delivery processes to facilitate wheelchair use for patients with decreased mobility (Level 1 Grant, \$3,000)

**Dr. Michael Dunbar**, Orthopedic Surgeon, QEII

**Randi Monroe**, Director, Rehabilitation and Supportive Care, QEII

**Project Title:** Validating the use of an industrial engineering model of patient flow through physiotherapy at Capital Health

**End Goal:** Develop an efficient system that assesses patients with knee osteoarthritis and provides the optimal treatment plan based on available resources and the number of similar patients (Level 3 Grant, \$68,780)

**Dr. Michael Vallis**, Psychologist and Lead, Behaviour Change Institute, QEII

**Dr. Tara Sampalli**, Assistant Director of Research, Primary Health Care and Manager BCI, ICCS and Diabetes Management Centres, QEII

**Project Title:** Beyond talking the talk: integration of health behaviour change interventions into primary care settings

**End Goal:** To use Primary Health Care "champions" to support/train their colleagues to disseminate behaviour change strategies across the patient program areas, in order to evaluate whether the behaviour change strategies will improve patient self-management of their chronic disease(s) (Level 3 Grant, \$76,725)

# What's happening...

## Funding Announcement to Help Combat Traumatic Brain Injuries

Research conducted at the Biomedical Imaging Centre (BIOTIC) fosters diagnostic advances that have granted medical professionals remarkable insights into what's happening inside patients' bodies. The BIOTIC team and Dr. David Clarke, Head of Neurosurgery at the QEII Health Sciences Centre, are now launching two projects intended to effect meaningful change in the treatment of brain disorders and disease as well as train the next generation of neurosurgeons and nurses. The Honourable Peter MacKay recently announced Government of Canada support for the initiative.

BIOTIC is a global leader in diagnostic imaging and the only facility of its magnitude in Atlantic Canada. The centre provides researchers with the equipment and expertise needed to take their ideas from theory to commercial success. Government support, along with a gift from the QEII Foundation and a contribution from Conquer Mobile, will better equip BIOTIC to undertake R&D with companies and researchers with the goal of commercialization and improved patient outcomes.

Specialized video recording equipment and lighting in its QEII neurosurgical operating suite will facilitate the launch of a neurosurgical simulation platform. The platform will give Dr. David Clarke, in collaboration with Conquer Mobile, a Canadian company based in British Columbia, the ability to create neurosurgical teaching simulation apps that will train the next generation of neurosurgeons and nurses. The new equipment will also allow for the development of further training initiatives utilizing the latest virtual reality technologies.

A new electroencephalogram (EEG), with significant funding from the QEII Foundation, will also be acquired and it will support medical research being conducted within the life sciences sector. The EEG will allow the BIOTIC team to work with, and draw on, the expertise of companies working towards solutions and treatments for those diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other traumatic brain injuries (TBIs).

The Government of Canada is providing BIOTIC with a \$212,500 contribution, through ACOA's Business Development Program (BDP).



Dr. David Clarke, Dr. Steven Beyea and Hon. Peter MacKay (l to r) at the funding announcement on May 8, 2015

# Opportunities...

## Funding Opportunities

Deadline	Program Name	Agency	Website
June 25, 2015	2015 Distinguished Innovator Awards	Lupus Research Insititute	<a href="http://lupusresearchinstitute.org/2015-distinguished-innovator-awards">http://lupusresearchinstitute.org/2015-distinguished-innovator-awards</a>
June 25, 2015	American Heart Association Cardiovascular Genome Phenome Study (CVGPS)	American Heart Association	<a href="http://my.americanheart.org/professional/Research/CardiovascularGenome-PhenomeStudyCVGPS/AHA-Cardiovascular-Genome-Phenome-Study-CVGPS_UCM_461668_SubHomePage.jsp">http://my.americanheart.org/professional/Research/CardiovascularGenome-PhenomeStudyCVGPS/AHA-Cardiovascular-Genome-Phenome-Study-CVGPS_UCM_461668_SubHomePage.jsp</a>
August 31, 2015	Funding for research into benign essential blepharospasm and Meige, including new treatments, pathophysiology and genetics, photophobia and dry eye	Benign Essential Blepharospasm Research Foundation (BEBRF)	<a href="http://www.blepharospasm.org/index.html">http://www.blepharospasm.org/index.html</a>
August 31, 2015	Grants for research in improving the quality of life of socially, mentally, or physically disadvantaged older adults and their families. Studies concerning community dwelling seniors with compromised autonomy will be favoured.	The Drummond Foundation	<a href="http://www.drummondfoundation.ca/pdf/RFA_Eng.pdf">http://www.drummondfoundation.ca/pdf/RFA_Eng.pdf</a>
Sept. 1, 2015 Executive Summary	Project Research Grants, Translational Studies Grants and Early Stage Clinical Trials Grants	Wings for Life	<a href="http://www.wingsforlife.com/en/latest/grant-application-479/">http://www.wingsforlife.com/en/latest/grant-application-479/</a>
4 p.m., Sept. 15 2015	<b>Nova Scotia Health Authority Research Fund</b>	<b>Nova Scotia Health Authority</b>	<a href="http://www.cdha.nshealth.ca/discovery-innovation/research-fund-competiton">http://www.cdha.nshealth.ca/discovery-innovation/research-fund-competiton</a>
Sept.15, 2015	Clinical research proposals for sleep disordered breathing research projects	ResMed Foundation	<a href="http://www.resmedfoundation.org/funding/">http://www.resmedfoundation.org/funding/</a>
Ongoing	Collaborative, inter-institutional research in neurology, immunology (IBD) and cancer (UPP, melanoma, core cancer)	Adelson Medical Research Foundation	<a href="http://www.adelsonfoundation.org/fundinit.html">http://www.adelsonfoundation.org/fundinit.html</a>
Ongoing	Catalyst Grant	Rare Diseases Models and Mechanisms Network	<a href="http://rare-diseases-catalyst-network.ca/register-as-a-model-organism-investigator.html">http://rare-diseases-catalyst-network.ca/register-as-a-model-organism-investigator.html</a>

# Research Resources...

## Researcher Directory



The Researcher Directory is now available on the Capital Health website. It continues to grow as more and more researchers sign on. It only takes a few moments to join. If you would like to be included, please complete and submit a researcher directory form to Emily Walker at any time. She will set up your profile, obtain your personalized PubMed search string and return your profile to you for approval before publishing to the Web.

You can access the new Directory at: <http://www.cdha.nshealth.ca/discovery-innovation/researcher-directory>

At the bottom of the Directory web page, follow the links for the Directory form or ask Emily Walker to e-mail you the form. [emily.walker@nshealth.ca](mailto:emily.walker@nshealth.ca)

## Research Methods Unit (RMU)

Do you need help refining the quantitative or qualitative methods for your research project, health economics, developing an analysis plan, data collection, building a database, managing your data, or analyzing your data? 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](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)



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