**CAPITAL HEALTH** *Research in Progress*

Volume 8, Issue 1

# Capital Health Research Fund: Going Strong After Thirty-One Competitions

In 1998, a fund to support local health research was established at what is now Capital Health. The fund's goal was and continues to be to stimulate and encourage original research and improve the research infrastructure within the institution. This fund, the Capital Health Research Fund (CHRF), supports the mission of putting patients first and achieving excellence in care and services through constant improvement and commitment to quality and patient safety.

The CHRF functions smoothly due in part to the efforts of the twenty-five member Research Fund Committee. Composed of dedicated volunteers from the health community, the Committee not only reviews each application but also collaborates on choosing successful applicants for the twice yearly competitions.

Research Services staff manage the administration of the CHRF and assist applicants with their submissions. To meet the expectations of both applicants and reviewers, staff have recently initiated several changes, including the introduction of a new funding category for non-physician researchers, migration to an electronic submission and distribution system and the production of a new CHRF Guide which explains in detail the answers to questions about the application and submission process.

Over the years, each CHRF competition has included submissions bearing the familiar names of prolific and successful researchers, along with applications from brand new, first-time-ever researchers. As long as the CHRF has been making awards, reviewers have noticed that applicants have in common that curiosity, motivation and desire to contribute to the common good through their research.

While the CHRF continues to fulfill its original mandate, Research Services looks forward to exploring the possibility of offering funding to researchers within the newly created Nova Scotia Health Authority.

**CHRF by the numbers**

*17 years in existence*

*31 competitions*

*252 awards*

*$6,851,753 award total*

For more information, visit:
http://www.cdha.nshealth.ca/discovery-innovation/research-fund-competiton
Contact: michelle.roden@cdha.nshealth.ca

January 2015

Capital Health
DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY
IWK Health Centre

### *Discovery Awards Recognize Medical Researchers*

Congratulations to medical researchers Dr. Sherry Stewart and Dr. Robin Urquhart, who were honoured at the 12th Annual Discovery Awards for Science and Technology event held in November 2014. The award event was enthusiastically attended and supported as a unique evening that celebrates local innovators, researchers and their contributions to scientific excellence. As Dr. Adam Sarty, Chair of the Discovery Awards, said, "We honour the brightest minds."

Dr. Stewart is recognized internationally for her research into the psychological factors giving rise to alcohol abuse, gambling addictions and the interplay between mental health and addictions. Her work has advanced the understanding of addictions and better ways to assess, treat and prevent those addictions. She has been the recipient of over $20 million in grants to fund her research. She was honoured with the Professional Distinction Discovery Award.

Dr. Urquhart is the first-ever knowledge translation scientist in Dalhousie University's Department of Surgery. Her research focuses on examining gaps between scientific evidence and clinical practice for people with cancer. Her aim is to more effectively translate scientific evidence into policies and best practices within the healthcare system. She has produced 38 peer-reviewed papers, 60 conference presentations and has received 15 collaborative research grants. She received the Discovery Award for an Emerging Professional.

### *Research Methods Unit Staff Profile*

Pat Berrigan is the Health Economist for the Research Methods Unit (RMU). Pat holds a Bachelor of Science from Dalhousie University with a double major in Mathematics and Economics, a Master of Arts from Memorial University majoring in Economics, as well as additional graduate training in Economics from the University of Alberta. As the RMU's health economist, Pat works with researchers and decision makers from across the province to improve the efficiency and sustainability of Nova Scotia's healthcare system.

Prior to joining the RMU, Pat's professional experience included: research policy design and analysis; economic analysis in support of research investment and decision making; and project management in research settings. Pat's personal research interests include: the development of metrics to measure research quality; the impacts of research expenditure on health and economic indicators; and the impacts of income distribution on health and economic indicators. In his spare time, Pat enjoys sports and volunteering.

# Congratulations...

## *September 2014 Capital Health Research Fund (CHRF) Award Recipients*

Applications for the next round of CHRF awards are due at 4 p.m., March 16, 2015. A newly revised *Capital Health Research Fund Guide* is now available on our website. Note that you are required to use current versions of the application form. For details, check: cdha.nshealth.ca/discovery-innovation/research-fund-competiton

| Name | Department | Award | Research Description |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Mohamed Abdolell** | Diagnostic Imaging | $15,000 | Toward personalized breast cancer risk assessment: breast density, pathology and clinical risk factors |
| **Khalifa Birkhamis** | Pathology and Laboratory Medicine | $5,000 | Understanding oxidative and nitroxidative stress responses in legionella pneumophila biofilms: a key to better biocides |
| **Michael Butterfield** | Psychiatry | $2,150 | Investigating the association between post-operative pain and symptoms of post traumatic stress disorder |
| **Amanda Cherpak** | Radiation Oncology | $15,000 | MOSFET in vivo dosimetry for high dose rate brachytherapy: from the lab to the operating room |
| **Daryl Dillman** | Surgery/ Orthopedics | $4,988 | The arthroscopic treatment of recurrent anterior shoulder instability: a randomized controlled trial |
| **Martin Gardner** | Medicine/Cardiology | $15,000 | Genetic and cellular investigation of a novel familial case of arrhythmogenic right ventricular cardiomyopathy |
| **Andrea Hebb** | Medicine/Neurosurgery | $9,867 | Non-functioning pituitary adenomas biomarkers |
| **Jason Leblanc** | Pathology and Laboratory Medicine | $15,000 | Discrimination of vaccine-rreventable serotypes of streptococcus pneumoniae: tackling the limitations of PCR based surveillance |
| **Marie-Christine Perron** | Surgery/Orthopedics | $4,962 | A prospective randomized trial comparing standard ligament reconstruction tendon interposition (LRTI) vs ligament reconstruction tendon interposition (LRTI) with an interference screw for thumb carp metacarpal arthritis |
| **Helena Piccinini-Vallis** | Family Medicine | $14,685 | Curbing excess gestational weight gain in primary care: using technology based on behavior change theory |
| **Jason Quinn** | Pathology and Laboratory Medicine | $1,800 | An institutional assessment of diagnostic phlebotomy volume |
| **Miroslaw Rajda** | Medicine/Cardiology | $14,993 | EXercise to prevent AnthrCycline-based Cardio-Toxicity (EXACT) Study |
| **Dayna Sherry** | Rehabilitation and Supportive Care | $15,000 | Understanding the perfectionism-stress link: a biopsychosocial perspective on perfectionism and stress in health care workers |

*Educational Opportunities*

| Date | Series/Topic | Facilitator | Time | Location |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Feb./ Mar.** | Qualitative Health Research Methods<br>A six-session seminar series<br>To register, contact: olga.kits@dal.ca<br>Note: Registration for entire series is required. | Olga Kits<br>Qualitative Methodologist, Research Methods Unit | 12:05-1 p.m. | Room 114, RMU Multimedia Room, Centre for Clinical Research |
| ***Feb. 18** | ICH-GCP Training for Investigators and Research Team Members | Janet Gallant, BScN, CCRP, Program Manager Research Education | 8-9 a.m. | Room 4003, Pain Management Clinic, Dickson Building |
| ***Feb. 18** | Division 5 Regulations and ICH-GCP | Janet Gallant, BScN, CCRP, Program Manager Research Education | 9-10 a.m. | Room 4003, Pain Management Clinic, Dickson Building |
| ***Feb. 19** | What's in a Name: What is a "Pilot" Study? | Jennifer Payne, PhD, Associate Professor, Dept. of Diagnostic Radiology, Dalhousie University; Member, Capital Health Research Fund Review Committee | 8-9 a.m. | Room 114, RMU Multimedia Room, Centre for Clinical Research |
| **Feb. 25 and** | Understanding the Media<br>To register, contact: elaine.strohm@cdha.nshealth.ca | John Gillis, Senior Strategy Advisor, and David Blomme, Senior Communications Advisor, Marketing and Communications, Capital Health; Lauren Arens and Ben Maycock, Coordinators, Public Relations, IWK Health Centre; Kaylee Hake, Associate Director, Communications, QEII Foundation | 4-5:30 p.m. | IWK Research Services Boardroom, Goldbloom Pavillion |
| **Mar. 4** | Practicing What You Preach<br>To register, contact: elaine.strohm@cdha.nshealth.ca<br>Note: Registrants should plan to attend both sessions. | | 4-5:30 p.m | IWK Research Services Boardroom, Goldbloom Pavillion |
| **Mar. 3 and *Mar. 12** | Source Documentation<br>Note: no registration required for March 3 session, part of Quality Week. | Janet Gallant, BScN, CCRP, Program Manager Research Education | 12-1 p.m. | Royal Bank Theatre, Halifax Infirmary |
| ***April 9** | Analysis and Use of Secondary Data for Research | Dr. Christie Woolcott, Assistant Professor, Perinatal Epidemiology Research Unit, Departments of Obstetrics & Gynecology and Pediatrics, Dalhousie University; Scientific Staff, IWK Health Centre | 8-9 a.m. | Room 114, RMU Multimedia Room, Centre for Clinical Research |
| ***April 16/17** | Diving into Clinical Trials? Sink or Swim! | Janet Gallant, BScN, CCRP, Program Manager Research Education | 9 a.m-4 p.m., both days | Room 114, RMU Multimedia Room, Centre for Clinical Research |

*To register, contact: janet.gallant@cdha.nshealth.ca

*Funding Opportunities*

| Deadline | Program Name | Agency | Website |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Feb. 15, 2015** | Research toward prevention of end-stage renal disease and improvement of the health of Canadians with kidney disease | Kidney Research Scientist Core Education and National Training (KRESCENT) | http://www.krescent.ca/page.aspx?pid=847 |
| **Feb.15, 2015** | Grant Program funds research and data analysis projects on alcohol use | ABMRF/The Foundation for Alcohol Research | http://www.abmrf.org/faq_grant |
| **Feb 15, 2015** | Innovator Awards Program for Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) research | Kenneth Rainin Foundation | http://krfoundation.org/health/innovator-awards/ |
| Registration Deadline: **Feb.17, 2015** | Movember Discovery Grants | Prostate Cancer Canada | http://www.prostatecancer.ca/Research/Information-for-Scientists/2013-Movember-Discovery-Grants#.VL63livF9HV |
| **March 5, 2015** | Cohorts for Alzheimer's Prevention Action (CAPA) Consortium RFP | Alzheimer Drug Discovery Foundation | http://www.alzdiscovery.org/research-and-grants/request-for-proposal |
| **March 16, 2015, 4 p.m.** | **Capital Health Research Fund** | **Capital Health** | **cdha.nshealth.ca/discovery-innovation/research-fund-competiton** |
| Informational Conference Calls: **March 25, 2015** Pre-Proposal Deadline: **May 27, 2015** | Target Advancement Program; Therapeutic Pipeline Program; Improved Biomarkers and Clinical Outcomes Program for Parkinson's Disease | Michael J. Fox Foundation | https://www.michaeljfox.org/research/apply-for-grant.html |
| **May 1, 2015, 4 p.m.** | **Translating Research into Care Grants (TRIC)** | **QEII Foundation** | **http://www.cdha.nshealth.ca/discovery-innovation/qeii-fdn-tric-grants** |
| **May 15, 2015** LOI | Bronya J. Keats Award for International Collaboration in Research on Friedreich's Ataxia | Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance (FARA) | http://www.curefa.org/types-of-grants.html#kbtra |
| **May 15, 2015** | Phillip Bennett and Kyle Bryant Translational Research Award on Friedreich's Ataxia | Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance (FARA) | http://www.curefa.org/types-of-grants.html#kbtra |

# 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@cdha.nshealth.ca

## *Research Methods Unit (RMU)*

RMU
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 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

CANADA'S TOP 40 RESEARCH HOSPITALS 2014 RESEARCH Infosource

***Research in Progress*** is produced by Research Services. You can view this newsletter and the newsletter archive at:
http://www.cdha.nshealth.ca/discovery-innovation/research-progress-newsletter

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