



The Indigenous Health Research Development Program (IHRDP) is a member of a network of Aboriginal health research centres in Canada. One of 9 NEAHR centres, (Network Environments for Aboriginal Health Research) the Ontario-based IHRDP

supports and promotes Aboriginal health research excellence in student research projects and in Community-based Research Projects.

In 2010, the 9-member NEAHR network applied for 2 years of renewed funding and was successful in their application. As part of the network, the IHRDP, along with many of the other NEAHR centres in Canada, contributes to a database of Aboriginal research that is housed on the Aboriginal Health Research Networks Secretariat (AHRNetS) website. The AHRNetS database is populated by NEAHR network member centres and is a valuable resource for both researchers and communities seeking information on Aboriginal health research, researchers and their areas of expertise, NEAHR funding, NEAHR students and student research.

International Indigenous Dementia Research Network meeting

By Kristen Jacklin

VANCOUVER - In July 2012, researchers from across the globe gathered in Vancouver for the Alzheimer's Association International Conference (AAIC). In conjunction with this Drs. Kristen Jacklin (NOSM), Elana Brief (UBC) and Wendy Hulko (Thompson Rivers U) organized and hosted the International Indigenous Dementia Research Network (IIDRN) meeting on July 16.

Funded by the IHRDP and the Canadian Dementia Knowledge Translation Network, the meeting attracted interested researchers from Canada, the United States and Australia as well as delegates from the Alzheimer's Society Canada, the Alzheimer Society of Ontario, Alzheimer Society of British Columbia, and CIHR's Institute of Aging.

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Left to right are Dr Carson Henderson University of Oklahoma, Dr Neil Henderson (Choctaw) University of Oklahoma and Dr Kristen Jacklin of NOSM & IHRDP co-investigator

IHRDP-Laurentian-NOSM Host Aboriginal Health Research Networking Workshop

On Wednesday, June 16, a group of 25 graduate students, faculty, researchers and administration from Laurentian University, the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) and IHRDP gathered for a one day networking meeting at Laurentian University.

Wayne Warry (IHRDP) said the meeting provided opportunities to students, researchers and Faculty at Laurentian University and NOSM the opportunity to freely discuss a variety of issues related to Aboriginal health research with the hopes a sustainable network of interested individuals would emerge from the meetings.

Sheila Cote-Meek, Associate Vice-President, Academic and Indigenous Programs at Laurentian University, noted that the mandate of her office was to support the development of new initiatives in Aboriginal academic/research initiatives and to seek out academic collaborations.

Workshop participants included faculty and students from the PhD Program in Rural and Northern Health at Laurentian, faculty from the School of Native Human Services, School of Social Work, and Department of Native Studies, and affiliated faculty of the Centre for Rural and Northern Health Research (CRaNHR). Also attending the workshop was the Dean of Community Engagement and the Aboriginal Support Worker from the Aboriginal Affairs Unit at NOSM, and NOSM faculty investigators specializing in Aboriginal Research.

The workshop report can be viewed online in its entirety at: www.ihrdp.ca/health-research/reports/

IHRDP logo designed by Arnold Jacobs, Two Turtle Studio, Ohsweken. "In practically every First Nations culture across Turtle Island, the Bear was revered for its strength. Because of where the bear roamed in its daily life, across meadows and woods, it became the "guardian" symbol of the plants. Various plants were, and are, used today for medicinal purposes. The bear then, is an icon of his natural plant "pharmacy". The plant then is embraced by human hands, which is selected for its particular medicinal ingredients."

Graduate Student Awards

IHRDP provides financial support to graduate students pursuing master's and doctoral degrees and to post-doctoral fellows in health-related fields which focus on the health of Aboriginal people. Financial support is provided in the form of scholarships and research allowances.

The following students received scholarships and/or research allowances in the Summer 2012 review

Amber Skye, University of Toronto

Amber Skye is a Kanienkehaka (Mohawk) from Six Nations where she currently resides with her husband and four children. Amber has an MPH and is a Public Health Doctoral student with a specialization in Health and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Toronto, Dalla Lana School of Public Health. Amber's research focuses on establishing the linkages between culture-



based practices to improve health services and health outcomes among Aboriginal peoples, and developing health service and policy that integrate the use of Indigenous knowledge and Aboriginal health

practices. Specifically, Amber's work focuses on Aboriginal women's sexual and reproductive health as it is vitally linked to the health and well-being of Aboriginal children and families. Amber's PhD thesis work examines sexual health communication in Haudenosaunee communities with a specific focus on the role of culture in sexual health communication.

Bernice Downey, McMaster University

Bernice Downey is in the fourth year of the Anthropology and Health doctoral program at McMaster University. Her current academic interests are a culmination of many years working in the areas of Indigenous health promotion, policy and research at the community, regional, national and international level. She is a committed advocate in the work related to promoting, supporting and fostering the resiliencies of Indigenous populations. This includes building awareness regarding the serious disparity in health that is the current reality for First Nations, Inuit and Métis people in Canada and advocating for systemic change towards ameliorating the historical, structural and socio-cultural factors that perpetuate health and social inequality. Bernice's research interest is in the area of health knowledge translation for Indigenous populations. She has been pondering the concepts of cultural knowledge brokering and Indigenous health literacy and how they might inform the work needed to enhance knowledge uptake for both Indigenous populations and mainstream policy/decision makers.



Daneen Dénoimé, Trent University

Daneen Dénoimé is a PhD candidate in the Indigenous Studies program at Trent University. Her academic background is in human nutrition with a BSc from the University of Guelph and a MSc in Human Nutrition from McGill University, where she studied at the Centre for Indigenous Peoples' Nutrition and Environment. Her PhD dissertation research examines the strengths and challenges of the realities of environmental health management and service provision in Ontario First Nations. Daneen lives in Sault Ste. Marie, ON with her husband and two young children.

Caroline Recollet, Laurentian University

Caroline Recollet is an Anishinaabe Nookimus who lives and resides on the Wahnapiitae First Nation in northern Ontario. She is a doctoral student in Rural & Northern Health at Laurentian University. She is interested in research that explores positive narratives and stories of Indigenous grandmothers that promote mental, physical, spiritual and emotional health and wellbeing. The purpose of her research study is to explore, describe and illuminate the experiences of Algonquin, Anishinabek, and Metis Grandmothers who practice Indigenous Sacred Arts for healing, health and wellbeing. An Indigenous methodology will form the conceptual Indigenous research framework. The grandmothers will be part of the collection process and will share observations and their own personal perspectives of what they observe from each of the participants.





Cindy Peltier, Laurentian University

Cindy Peltier is a doctoral candidate entering her third year in the School of Rural and Northern Health at Laurentian University. She is a member of the Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve and holds an MLIS (Western), an MA (Laurentian), a BEd (Nipissing) and an Honours BA (Laurentian). Using community-based research she will explore the experiences of Manitoulin Anishinaabe people when diagnosed with cancer. Her research will examine the potential benefits to the inclusion of Indigenous healing in cancer treatment and whether its inclusion brings a person closer to achieving Minobimaadiziwin, an Anishinaabe understanding of physical, mental, spiritual and emotional well-being.

Lorrilee McGregor, Laurentian University

Lorrilee McGregor is an Anishinaabe (Ojibway) from Whitefish River First Nation and is a PhD candidate in the School of Rural and Northern Health at Laurentian University. She has been involved in a wide range of Aboriginal health research including diabetes, mental health, tobacco cessation, and FASD. Her thesis research will involve Aboriginal children and the measurement of Body Mass Index, physical activity, nutrition, sleep time and sedentary activity. Parents will be invited to participate in a standardized interview as well as a focus group intended to examine cultural beliefs and practices around physical activity and nutrition.



Where are they now?

Chantelle Richmond, Anishinabe - Ojibways of the Pic River First Nation Assistant Professor - Western University

Chantelle Richmond is an Anishinabe scholar of the Ojibways of the Pic River First Nation, and a CIHR New Investigator in Aboriginal health. She is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography at Western University in London, Ontario, and holds cross appointments in First Nations Studies and Family Medicine. Both from a personal and academic perspective, she is deeply concerned with the current health and social inequalities endured by Indigenous Canadians, and the contributions of environmental change to these realities.

Her research draws from various methods to examine the social and environmental determinants of Indigenous health, and to better understand the dimensions linking health and place among Indigenous peoples in Canada and around the world. Of particular interest to Chantelle is increased understanding of how these environments shape access to, and the quality of social determinants of Indigenous health.

Chantelle has two on-going community-based projects with First Nation communities in Ontario. The first is a CIHR-funded project designed to preserve local Indigenous Knowledge among Anishinabe youth and elders on Northern Lake Superior. It bridges researchers from Western and Lakehead universities with community collaborators from three First Nation communities on Lake Superior (Red Rock Indian Band, Ojibways of the Pic River First Nation, and the Batchewana First Nation of Ojibways). The objective is to create multiple sites of knowledge transfer between elders, youth, community collaborators and university partners – the aim being to preserve local knowledge and use it in tangible ways to protect local environments and improve health.



***‘Where are they now?’
profiles former recipients
of IHRDP funding***

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Interested in a health career?

Consider Aboriginal health research!

International Indigenous Dementia Research Network meeting

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The group was welcomed to the territory and guided in their discussions by Elder Larry Grant.

The exciting networking meeting involved a structured mingle where people posted written information requests (“asks”) concerning Indigenous dementia research on the walls followed by participants reading and responding with “offers” or answers. The subsequent discussion highlighted the research needs in this area and the synergies between the researcher’s questions and the knowledge users’ needs for information.

The success of the event is evidenced in the newly expanded IIDRN membership, multiple researcher-knowledge user grant proposal developments initiated during these discussions and on-going dialogues between many of the attendees. A formal report is anticipated in the next month and will be available on the IIDRN website: <http://www.ihrdp.ca/iidrn/>

Where are they now? Chantelle Richmond

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The second project is funded by the Heart & Stoke Foundation of Ontario to describe dietary patterns and better understand the social determinants of food choice among First Nation people in London and at a nearby reserve. This project is a collaborative effort of university partners (Western, Toronto) and dietitians and other staff at the Southwest Ontario Aboriginal Health Access Centre (SOAHAC). SOAHAC has identified issues such as low income, access to transportation and lone parent family status to be linked in significant ways to food security among some of their clients.

Chantelle Richmond completed her undergraduate and Master’s degree at McMaster University, and her Ph.D. at McGill University. She undertook a one-year postdoctoral in Community Health Sciences at the University of Toronto, and on 1 July 2008, she took up her current position at Western. Her research has been published in a range of geographic and public health journals, including Social Science and Medicine, Health and Place, and the American Journal of Public Health.

-With information from <http://userpages.umbc.edu/~earickso/Profiles/Richmond.html> and <http://geography.uwo.ca/faculty/richmond/>

Community-based Research

The IHRDP’s next deadline is October 31, 2012.

Development Grants (\$10,000) support proposal development that will be submitted to a national funding organization or foundation. **Community-based Research Grants** (\$25,000) depend on scope of the research project; funding decisions will be made on the basis of merit, potential impact of project and availability of funds. **Knowledge Translation Grants** (\$25,000) target the process by which information is transferred to policymakers, community members or health care practitioners and then applied.

IHRDP funded researcher in the news:

Cindy Peltier (bio p.3) was recently in the media, commenting about her research in a CBC national news online article titled “*Traditional healing urged in aboriginal cancer care*” published on September 4 (www.cbc.ca/news/canada/sudbury/story/2012/09/04/sudbury-aboriginal-cancer-care.html). She also spoke with Megan Thomas of CBC Sudbury and discussed the importance of incorporating traditional healing for Aboriginal cancer patients, link to audio of interview: www.cbc.ca/sudbury/features/confrontingcancer/research.html

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