



Disabilities Health Research Network

Making BC Disability Research a Priority



February 4, 2010

DHRN Student Conference

Communicating for Effective Collaboration
ICORD-Vancouver



The 2010 DHRN Student Conference, Communicating for Effective Collaboration, will focus on building communication skills for collaboration. The conference will deliver diverse perspectives, rich experiences and practical tips from researchers, students, and the disability community. We are pleased to also present a pre and post conference speaker to further our goals of supporting students in disability health research.

The Disabilities Health Research Network (DHRN) is an integrated, multidisciplinary, and BC-based network that aims to foster high quality research and valuable community connections to better the lives of Canadians living with disability. It strives to promote research that solves real problems for persons with disability, improves relevant clinical practices for the benefit and health of persons with disability, and leads to improved policies around disability health related issues.

Mission

To increase **knowledge** about biological, social, and **community** related factors in order to minimize further impairment, **improve** levels of **ability**, and enhance community **participation** of persons with disability.

Conference at a Glance:

February 3, 2010 (Pre-Conference Session)

7:00-8:00 pm **Working Together on Employment: People with Disabilities, Labour Markets, Public Policies, and Canadian Federalism**
Dr. Michael J. Prince, Lansdowne Professor of Social Policy, Faculty of Human and Social Development, UVic

February 4, 2010

8:00-8:30 am Registration

8:30-9:30 am **From Evidence to Action: Creating and Sustaining Key Partnerships**
Dr. Heather McKay, Director, Centre for Hip Health & Mobility and Professor, Department of Orthopaedics & Family Practice, UBC

9:30-10:30 am Student Presentations

10:30-11:00 am Bio Break

11:00-12:00 pm **Panel: Making Research Accessible**

12:00-1:30 pm Interactive Lunch

1:30-3:00 pm Concurrent Workshops Session 1

Theme A: **Collaboration with the Disability Community**
Language Use - Words with Dignity
The Three C's of Communication: Connect, Converse, Convey

Theme B: **Collaboration within the Research Community**
Collaboration
Research Collaboration from a Trainee's Point of View
Interactive Network Mapping Exercise

3:00-3:30 pm Bio Break

3:30-5:00 pm

Concurrent Workshops Session 2

Theme A:

Collaboration with the Disability Community
Building Consumer-Researcher Collaborations:
Lessons learned from two organizations,
The Arthritis Research Centre of Canada & The Rick Hansen Institute

Theme B:

Collaboration within the Research Community
Student Experiences in Collaboration: What Can We Gain?

5:00-6:30 pm

Reception and DHRN Poster Session

6:30-7:00 pm

DHRN Poster Awards Ceremony

February 5, 2010 (Post-Conference Session)

8:45-9:45 am

Maximizing Mobility After SCI: Untangling the Influence of Functional Limitations, Fitness, and Skill

Dr. Rachel Cowan, Post-Doctoral Associate in the Applied Physiology Laboratory at the Miami Project to Cure Paralysis, University of Miami



Conference Details

Panel: Making Research Accessible

Moderator: Courtney Kang, MPH Candidate, School of Population and Public Health, UBC

- Panelists:**
1. Laura Hockman, Executive Director, Independent Living Vernon and Masters Student, Interdisciplinary Graduate Studies, UBC Okanagan
–Research and Recruitment with Disability Organizations
 2. Krista Best, PhD Candidate, Department of Rehabilitation Science, UBC
–Enabling Participants Through Accessible Research Environments
 3. Brad Jacobsen, Peer Program Associate, BC Paraplegic Association
–The Pros & Cons of Participating in Research Studies
 4. Quincey Kirschner, Director of Education and Services, Arthritis Society, BC and Yukon Division
–Knowledge Translation Back to Community

Theme A Workshops: Collaboration with the Disability Community

For students who are sometimes uncertain about appropriate use of disability-related language.

Language Use – Words with Dignity

1:30-3:00 pm

- Patty Clarke, Access Services Coordinator, Burnaby Parks, Recreation & Culture and Director of Training, Canadian Barrier Free Design

The Three C's of Communication: Connect, Converse, Convey

- Megan MacGillivray, MSc Student, School of Human Kinetics, UBC
- Krista Best, PhD Candidate, Department of Rehabilitation Science, UBC

Building Consumer-Researcher Collaborations: Lessons Learned... (two sessions)

3:30-5:00 pm

These workshops will showcase the value of research and knowledge translation activities through consumer/researcher collaborations. Topics discussed will cover how, when and why you include consumers as well as the challenges and benefits of doing so.

...From The Arthritis Research Centre of Canada Model

- Dr. Allen J. Lehman, Research Associate, Arthritis Research Centre of Canada and Post Doctoral Fellow, Faculty of Health Sciences, SFU
- Colleen M. Maloney, Member, Consumer Advisory Board, Arthritis Research Centre of Canada

...From The Rick Hansen Institute Perspective

- Dr. Chris McBride, Director, Translational Research Program, Rick Hansen Institute

Theme B Workshops: Collaboration within the Research Community

Two researchers will share their experiences in setting up and maintaining academic research collaborations, followed by a hands on opportunity to engage in a mapping exercise guaranteed to get you thinking about building your own collaborations!

Collaboration

1:30-3:00 pm

This talk will address the advantages and pitfalls of research collaborations, how to initiate and maintain productive collaborations, and some specifics on working with industry.

- Dr. David Wilson, Associate Professor, Department of Orthopaedics and Centre for Hip Health & Mobility, UBC and Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute

Research Collaboration from a Trainee's Point of View

- Dr. Shahram Amiri, Post-Doctoral Fellow, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, UBC

Interactive Network Mapping Exercise

- Inderjeet Singh Sahota, MSc Trainee, Department of Biomedical Physiology & Kinesiology, SFU
- Rianne Ravensbergen, PhD Student, Department of Biomedical Physiology & Kinesiology, SFU

Student Experiences in Collaboration: What Can We Gain?

3:30-5:00 pm

Join several students who have organized unique collaborations for an opportunity to discuss their experiences and gain helpful tips on how collaboration can help students.

- Paula Rushton, PhD Candidate, Rehabilitation Sciences, UBC
- Natasha Bose-Roberts, Undergraduate Honours Student, Department of Microbiology, UBC Okanagan
- Laura Dewar, PhD Student, Molecular Cardiac Physiology, Department of Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology, SFU
- Rianne Ravensbergen, PhD Student, Cardiovascular Physiology, Department of Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology, SFU
- Inderjeet Singh Sahota, MSc Student, Cardiovascular Physiology, Department of Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology, SFU

Keynote: Dr. Heather McKay

February 4 8:30-9:30 am

From Evidence to Action: Creating and Sustaining Key Partnerships

Dr. Heather McKay is the Director, Centre for Hip Health & Mobility and Professor, Departments of Orthopaedics & Family Practice, University of British Columbia

Dr. McKay's Interdisciplinary PhD from the University of Saskatchewan spanned the disciplines of human growth and development, kinesiology, bone biology and medical imaging. She was recruited to the University of British Columbia in 1996 and joined the Faculty of Medicine with a cross-appointment in the Departments of Family Practice and Orthopaedics in 2002. Her research led to Scholar awards from the Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies (2002-2003) and the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research (Senior Scholar, 2003-2008). In 2004 she was a core member of the research team that was awarded major CFI and BCKDF awards to develop Canada's first Centre for Hip Health and Mobility.

Her specific research program -- a lifespan approach to bone health -- investigates the role of physical activity and other lifestyle factors in optimizing bone health during both childhood and in later life. Her work has provided important data arguing for the effectiveness of physical activity as a public health initiative; this has led to changes to school education programs, health professional practice and government policy.

Dr McKay's original research and her capacity for translating research into action has led to international recognition. She is an Honorary Professor at both the University of Melbourne and the University of Queensland (Australia). A major advocate for the importance of graduate student teaching, she was recently awarded of the Knowledge Translation (Regional) Award by the Canadian Institute of Health Research. In June 2009, she was the recipient of BC Women's Distinction Award for Health & Active Living.

Dr McKay's transdisciplinary contribution to health research, trainee education, and knowledge translation has helped make UBC a leader in the role of lifestyle interventions to promote public health.



Pre-Conference Session

February 3 7:00-8:00 pm

Working Together on Employment: People with Disabilities, Labour Markets, Public Policies and Canadian Federalism

This lecture examines the subject of disability and employment in relation to our body politic; how public policies on supporting the active participation of people with disabilities in the labour force are shaped by the political institutions of federalism and intergovernmental relations.

Dr. Prince will offer a diagnostic on people with disabilities in the Canadian labour market, taking stock of the current situation, noting challenges to participation and comparing their circumstances to those of adults in the working-age population without disabilities. He then will turn to a brief consideration of research gaps in our understanding of the labour market outcome for people with disabilities. Next, he will review developments in active employment programs for persons with disabilities in Canada over the past 40 years, followed by a consideration of what labour market policy and programming for people with disabilities might and ought to look like in the coming years. Inevitably, the status and practice of citizenship for people with disabilities are closely linked to Canadian political life and our governmental structures and practices. Thus, students in rehabilitation sciences along with students of disability studies must come to terms with the federal condition of our body politic.



Michael J. Prince is the Lansdowne Professor of Social Policy in the Faculty of Human and Social Development at the University of Victoria, a position he has held since 1987. Prior to this, he was a faculty member at Carleton University, in Ottawa, in the School of Public Administration.

Professor Prince has been a member of the board of directors of the BC Association for Community Living, since 2004. He also chairs the National Action Committee on Income Security, Employment and Supports, for the Canadian Association for Community Living. Prince is currently Co-Principal Researcher with the Council of Canadians with Disabilities on a five year community-university alliance project entitled "Disabling Poverty, Enabling Citizenship." Among his publications, Prince is the co-author with James J. Rice of *Changing Politics of Canadian Social Policy* (University of Toronto Press, 2000) and, quite recently, the author of *Absent Citizens: Disability Politics and Policy in Canada* (University of Toronto Press, 2009).

Post-Conference Session

February 5 8:45-9:45 am

Maximizing Mobility After SCI: Untangling the Influence of Functional Limitations, Fitness, and Skill

Independent transfers and self-propulsion are critical components of daily life for many individuals with a spinal cord injury (SCI). These activities are affected by 1) an individual's functional limitation, i.e. 'injury level'; 2) their 'fitness', i.e. strength, power, and endurance; and 3) their 'skill' level. How these items interact to affect mobility is not fully understood. In addition, it is unknown which fitness parameter is most important to maximizing personal mobility. We must first define the relationships between injury level, fitness, and skill and identify how each fitness parameter is related to personal mobility before we can develop effective interventions to maximize mobility after SCI. This lecture will review up-to-date findings of a collaborative project between the Miami Project to Cure Paralysis (USA) and the Dutch multi-center research program "Restoration of Mobility in SCI Rehabilitation" (Netherlands). The immediate project objectives are to define how the interaction of injury level, fitness, and skill affect personal mobility after SCI and to identify which fitness parameter most strongly affects specific mobility skills in persons with SCI. The long term project objective is to identify, develop, and implement effective interventions to optimize mobility after SCI.

Dr. Rachel Cowan is a Post-Doctoral Associate in the Applied Physiology Laboratory at the Miami Project to Cure Paralysis, University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine.

Dr. Cowan graduated summa cum laude with University and Departmental honors in Physical Education from UNC-Wilmington (2000); earned an M.S. in Health and Exercise Science from Wake Forest University (2003), and holds a PhD in Rehabilitation Science and Technology from the University of Pittsburgh (2007). She was awarded a NIH Individual Pre-doctoral Fellowship to study wheelchair propulsion biomechanics and received a Paralyzed Veterans of America Education Foundation Grant to develop a wheelchair propulsion biomechanics database to define 'typical' propulsion biomechanics for a variety of wheelchair users. Dr. Cowan was also designated the 2010 Paralyzed Veterans of America Fritz Krauth Memorial Post-doctoral Fellow. Her research interest integrates biomechanical, functional, and fitness assessments, with the ultimate goal of enhancing quality of life.



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A special thanks to all members of the DHRN Student Advisory Committee and committee Chair, Dr. Bonita Sawatzky, for their time, dedication, and creativity in planning the DHRN Annual Student Conference. Designed by students, for students, this conference would not be a success without their efforts.

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Co-Leaders: Dr. Lawrence Berg, Dr. Chris McBride, Dr. Bonita Sawatzky

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