



Our 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.

DHRN Welcome

**An Exciting Addition to the DHRN
Leadership Team**

We are delighted to advise that Dr. Chris McBride has joined the DHRN leadership team. Dr. McBride was nominated and elected to a co-leadership role with Dr. Bonita Sawatzky on June 24th, 2008. Dr. Lawrence Berg also retains his role as co-leader.

Chris had this response to being named a DHRN co-leader: "I am very excited to be joining the accomplished leadership team of the DHRN and look forward to taking on the challenge of

Chris McBride's experience in the field of disabilities health research in BC is extensive. He is the managing director of International Collaboration on Repair Discoveries (ICORD) and its associate director of communications and training. He holds a doctorate in neuroscience from the University of British Columbia, and has been a DHRN Advisory Committee member since 2005. Chris has also served on the Board Executive of the national Spinal Cord Injury Solutions Alliance and has recently participated as a member of the team responsible for the creation of the new, national SCI Solutions Network. This new network merges the SCI Solutions Alliance and national SCI Translational Research Network into a single, integrated network comprising people with spinal cord injuries, researchers, health professionals and service providers committed to addressing priority needs and generating solutions for people with SCI. Presently, Chris chairs the strategic communications workgroup for this network and will soon assume a formal leadership role within it.



continuing to build upon the DHRN's success in increasing BC's capacity in disability health research." He added that through his experiences at ICORD and national disability-related networks, he can work to expand the DHRN's interdisciplinary and collaborative reach, while further developing and implementing innovative and strategic approaches to improve the quality and strength of connections between researchers and the community. Chris will be a much-valued member of the DHRN team, who share in the goal "to realize improved outcomes and quality of life for all British Columbians with a disability."

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Student Connections

Disability – Ethics, Evidence and Social Justice

This conference, my colleagues, and my supervisors/mentors at UBC-O and the DHRN have all inspired me to continue exploring these themes.



Colleen Evans

What types of evidence guide our social care practices and research with/for disabled people? How do we assign a diagnosis(es) or responsibility for disability? How do we render and ration our services and substantiate our activities individually and collectively? What implications do our research and social care practices have for our social justice aspirations? The Fourth International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry augmented the sense of community and collaborative research spirit developing here at UBC-O – and importantly offered an informed, interested and disarming forum to dialogue about these issues.

“Ethics, Evidence and Social Justice”, the theme of the Fourth International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign from May 14 – 17, 2008 are the predominant issues that – collectively and individually – captured my attention as a social care practitioner. These issues continue to engage my attention as a graduate student; especially as they relate to fragmented systems of social care and the roles we, as professionals, occupy within these systems as we develop and deliver services for/to/with disabled people. This conference,

my colleagues, and my supervisors/mentors at UBC-O and the DHRN have all inspired me to continue exploring these themes.

Co-authoring and co-presenting two papers at this conference, participating in pre-conference workshops related to emancipatory social science with/for disabled people, and conversing with the very scholars who are informing my work was, without doubt, the highlight of my first year as an Interdisciplinary MA student at UBC-Okanagan. This conference provided the opportunity to collaborate with similarly engaged researchers – within my program and institution; to network with scholars from around the world, and importantly to dialogue and debate questions of ethics, evidence and social justice as they relate to research and practice with/for disabled people.

I would like to acknowledge and thank the DHRN team for their ongoing support. I am grateful to my supervisor Dr. Rachelle Hole and our co-authors/presenters Laura Hockman, Peter Speers and Anne Stack for sharing the academic journey with me. ➤*

-submitted Colleen Evans-

Colleen Evans was born and raised in Kelowna, completing her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology at Okanagan University College in 1999. Since that time she has worked in a variety of local not-for-profit, community development, and research settings. Colleen is especially passionate about advocacy, knowledge transfer and social justice in the context of people with disabilities and human service settings. Colleen is currently a Masters student at UBC in Kelowna. ➤*

For information on Student Travel Bursaries visit our website @
www.dhrn.ca

Community Connections

Community Research Exchanges (CRE) 2008 Round Funding Update

David Segal

Power To Be Adventure
Therapy Society

*Examining identity loss, ambiguous loss
and family functioning following ac-
quired brain injury*

This Community Research Exchange (CRE) will explore the experiences of loss for survivors of acquired brain injury (ABI) and their families. A collaborative research project between the community-based organization Power to Be Adventure Therapy Society, and academic researchers at the School of Child and Youth Care at the University of Victoria this pilot study will investigate how involvement in a nature-based multifamily group program may have influenced family functioning following ABI.

Approximately 160,000 British Columbians are currently living with the often devastating impacts of acquired brain injury; 14,000 people in the province will acquire new brain injuries by the end of the year (BIABC, 2007). Although inpatient rehabilitation has progressed considerably, survivors and their families often experience tremendous physical and emotional difficulty. Upon returning home, many struggle to maintain their intimate relationships, come to terms with their injuries, reconstruct lost identities, and ultimately, rebuild satisfying lives (Condeluci, 1992; Corrigen, 2001; Gan et al, 2006; Nochi, 1998). A pilot study evaluating involvement in a multifamily nature-based program will inform and guide a larger scale research project, as well as advise Power To Be facilitators how they best can improve practice when providing multifamily programs in the future.

Rick Parent, PhD

Justice Institute of British Columbia,
Police Academy

*A Collaborative Approach to Ensuring
the Health and Safety of Persons with
Disabilities when Interacting with Law
Enforcement Officers*

This project brings disability groups and the police community together with academic researchers to identify key issues around interactions between police and people with physical disabilities. The Justice Institute of BC, BCIT and the Neil Squire Society are working together to form a plan to address these issues and work to ensure further research is done to identify and address the health and welfare of persons with disability when they come in contact with police and the justice system.

Persons with physical disabilities are at a higher risk of being victims of crime, while at the same time at a disadvantage when faced with dealing with police officers. Because many police lack understanding of the physical presentation of a variety of disabilities and how to communicate with persons with disabilities - persons with disabilities are put at risk when coming into contact with police. In a worst-case scenario the victim of a crime can become a suspect, at first glance, because communication difficulties or movement disorders are easily confused with drug or alcohol usage. The goals of this project are to clearly identify the issues surrounding this interaction both from the disability and police perspectives. Results will be used to develop and implement strategies to ensure that persons with disabilities are treated fairly and appropriately within the justice system.

COOL ARTS IS LIVE !!!!
Yes – it's true – COOL
ARTS has a website up &
running!
www.coolarts.ca

*The DHRN would be
happy to post any research
assistantship positions
available in your laboratory
in the newsletter or
website. Let us know at
dhrn.info@ubc.ca*

Community Connections Con't

Paul Gabias, PhD

Canadian Federation of the Blind

Blind People in the Workplace: Examining the Barriers to Meaningful Employment of Blind Canadians

This Canadian Federation of the Blind-initiated research project, in collaboration with University of Victoria researchers Dr. Cecilia Benoit and Kate Vallance, seeks to benefit blind British Columbians in particular and blind Canadians more generally by compiling accurate statistics on the unemployment and underemployment rate of blind citizens. This CRE research initiative will also review the urgent need for intensive training and rehabilitation for blind people in Canada – training that will focus on teaching essential pre-employment and blindness skills, such as Braille, travel with the long white cane, adaptive technology and other life skills. This project is a multiple partnership with the MITACS Accelerate BC Internship Program.

Individuals and organizations of and for the blind estimate that the level of unemployment of blind Canadians is somewhere between 75 and 90 per cent. According to research conducted by CNIB in 2005, 75 per cent of blind and visually-impaired working-age Canadians are unemployed. However, no substantial, specific and independent study has been done on the subject. Without accurate data on the employment situation of blind Canadians, it is also difficult to lobby for changes in employment practices and regulations that will lead to positive outcomes for the blind population. This project will include the researching, development and implementation of a mixed-methods survey, an environmental scan of any existing national or provincial blindness-related statistics, accessed via Statistics Canada, BC Statistics and the CNIB, a content analysis of recent and earlier literature and a quantitative, closed-ended survey. ➤*

Upcoming Student Opportunities

IS TRAVEL IN YOUR FUTURE?

DHRN Graduate Student Travel Subsidy
for Conference Participation
Round 2 for 2008

Application deadline: September 30, 2008

travel subsidy for international conference travel: up to: \$1,500 (max.)

travel subsidy for national conference travel: up to: \$1,000 (max.)

The DHRN is providing a number of graduate student/honours senior undergraduate student travel subsidies in 2008 for travel to national and international conferences. Please note the following subsidy eligibility requirements: a) the thematic content of the conference attended must relate to disabilities health research; b) the student must be a registered conference attendee and poster or paper presenter; and c) students will be asked to fully complete this form, which includes a brief (150 words) description how their research/conference participation relates to the DHRN core value of making BC disability research a priority.

For any further information, please visit our website at www.dhrn.ca

Or contact Sylvie Zebroff, DHRN Director of Programs at 250.807.8793, or email to: dhrn.info@ubc.ca. Thank you for your time and interest.



newsletter / website
- Julie Melanson -

Researcher Profile

Dr, Patricia Mills, a Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation resident, finishing her 2nd year at the University of British Columbia, is currently conducting research in the field of spinal cord injury. She is conducting her research under the guidance of Dr. Andrei Krassioukov who is affiliated with UBC and ICORD. An interest in research lead her to start a Masters program in Health Care and Clinical Epidemiology during her Residency. Dr. Mills has been conducting a qualitative and quantitative systematic review on cardiovascular outcomes after spinal cord injury, looking for evidence-based effect of level of injury and severity of injury on cardiovascular parameters. Dr, Mills is also working on a clinical research project evaluating the extent of cardiovascular dysfunction due to an impaired autonomic system affected by the level and severity of spinal cord injury in wheelchair athletes. Dr. Mills and her team hope this will be a step towards updating the current classification system of wheelchair athletes which currently only considers

motor function; such an update could create a more level playing field for all athletes by taking into account cardiovascular control parameters such as heart rate and blood pressure.

At the end of the interview, Dr, Mills emphasized the diversity and opportunities for comprehensive patient care and research that can be found within the specialty of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, otherwise known as Physiatry, She encourages patients and medical students to find out more about this specialty when exploring medical care or career options. ✨



Photo Competition Promo



Enter our Photo Competition!
visit www.dhrn.ca/photocontest for details.

Publication Profile

Call for Papers

Have you published a paper in a journal recently? Or has your organization created an information brochure about some aspect of disability? We'd like to know about it.

In promoting interim communication and collaboration between researchers, clinician/practitioners and community organizations the Disabilities Health Research Network intends to make a database of its members' most recent publications (peer reviewed publications and publications or literature developed for education purpose), accepted grants, awards and conferences they attend. We will seek to utilize this information to highlight your work and issue awareness about your work in DHRN magazine, newsletter and website. Disabilities Health Research Network appreciates any suggestions or opinions you may have to further enhance communication amongst members.

We are looking forward to receiving your emails with references to your most recent publications. You can email our new DHRN Communications Coordinator, Pooneh Afkari, at pooneha@interchange.ubc.ca if you have any questions.

This Issues Paper Profiles...look for new listings every issue

Anton HA, Townson AF, Miller WC (2008)

Measuring Fatigue in Persons with Spinal Cord Injury
Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.

Summary: This study was designed to evaluate internal consistency, reliability, and construct validity of the FSS

Hammond P, Forster-Gibson C, Chudley A, Farrell

Atypical Facial Asymmetry in Autism Spectrum Disorders
Mol Psychiatry

Summary: This study was designed to reveal genetic causes and developmental mechanisms of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) by examining the identifiable endophenotypes and reliable biomarkers within ASD. The results of this study showed that boys with ASD have atypical right dominant asymmetry of the supraorbital and per orbital regions. In these patients right dominate brain asymmetry is observed which indirectly affect facial development. Genetic factors are acting in parallel on the development of face and brain in ASD

Keays K, Harris SR, Lucyshyn JM, MacIntyre DL (2008)

Effects of Pilates exercises on shoulder range of motion, pain, mood, and upper extremity function in women living with breast cancer: a pilot study.
Physical Therapy

Summary: This study was designed to examine the effect of pilot exercises on shoulder range of motion, pain, mood, and upper extremity function in women who have undergone axillary dissection and radiation therapy for breast cancer grad 1 to 4. According to the results of this study Pilates exercise may be an effective and safe exercise that improves shoulder abduction and external rotation ROM. Also Pilate exercises seem to improve pain, mood and upper extremity function; however, further study is needed regarding the effect of pilot exercise on patients outcomes.



Conference Reviews

CDSA Conference Presenters Explore Disability

The fifth annual Canadian Disabilities Studies Association (CDSA) Conference was held June 4th and 5th in Vancouver, in conjunction with the 2008 Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences. The conference theme, Thinking Beyond Borders: Global Ideas, Global Values, framed the presentations of academic researchers, educators, and practitioners in disability studies from across Canada, and from the United States and the United Kingdom.

While some presentations tracked the scope, growth and character of disability studies in English-speaking countries including Canada, others drew on Statistics Canada data to profile the transitions of youth with disabilities, or to review job retention among adults with disabilities. Planning for the inclusion of people with disabilities in Alberta's parks and protected areas, were explored within an adventure therapy context. An overview and reflection on the Disabilities Health Research Network was presented. The language debate in disability studies and issues of disability rights law in a world of globalization were discussed, as were intersections of disability, race and gender in developing countries. Poststructuralist musings on the poetics of disability, and the theorizing of non-visible disabilities within the context of power relations, rounded out the presentations. The plenary with Michael Prince titled "The Internationalization of Disability: Implications for Community Groups, Nation States, and Inclusive Governance" was well applauded. A book launch of *Dissonant Disabilities: Women with*

Chronic Illnesses Explore Their Lives, edited by Diane Driedger and Michelle Owen, closed the conference. The 2008 conference abstracts will be posted in the near future on the CDSA website: www.cdsa.acei.ca



Of especial note is the announcement of the University of Windsor's new Honours BA Degree in Disability Studies. For more information, contact Irene Carter: disabilitystudies@uwindsor.ca or visit the website: www.uwindsor.ca/disabilitystudies

Also, if you are offering a new course in disability studies, please contact Pamela Cushing at pamela.cushing@uwo.ca because this is valuable information for her current research.

The 2009 CDSA conference will again be held in conjunction with the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, May 23 to 31, at Carleton University in Ottawa. Please watch for the Call for Papers to be issued in the Fall.



-submitted, Valerie J. Millar-

What would you like to see for a Conference theme this year?

visit... www.dhrn.ca/topics to submit your ideas

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Michael Smith Foundation for
Health Research

Staff Profiles

Who are We? – The DHRN Team

The DHRN leadership is comprised of co-leader Dr. Lawrence D. Berg and shared co-leaders Dr. Bonita Sawatzky and Dr. Chris McBride. Dr. Berg is Co-Director of The Centre for Social, Spatial & Economic Justice, at UBC in Kelowna. Dr. Sawatzky is Associate Professor, Department of Orthopaedics, UBC located at BC Children's Hospital. Dr. McBride is Managing Director of International Collaboration on Repair Discoveries (ICORD), a spinal cord injury research centre based in Vancouver and part of UBC and the

Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute. Developed under the support of the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research (MSFHR) the DHRN team consists of a ten member Advisory Committee, the Co-Leadership group: Director of Programs, Sylvie Zebroff, DHRN Manager, Sheila Lewis and a Communications Coordinator, Pooneh Afkari. We look forward to continuing to share the goal of making disability health research a priority in BC! ✨



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Bonita Sawatzky, PhD



Chris McBride, PhD



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**Thank You to Everyone Who
Participated in the MSFHR and
DHRN Membership Surveys -
We Appreciate and Value Your
Feedback**

