It is with considerable sadness that we mourn the death of our dear friend and colleague, Dr. Patricia J. Martens, who passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by her family, on Saturday, the 10th of January 2015.

Most of us have our personal thoughts and memories of Pat and her work, the ten years that she spent leading the Manitoba Centre for Health Policy, and her many contributions to the Department and University. Few will forget how she could get a room full of 200 health-system professionals to put their arms up in the shape of a bell curve to visualise how a small "shift and squish" can have a large impact on the health of Manitobans. Many of us also have thoughts and memories of Pat as a loving and caring friend, always going out of her way for a thoughtful gesture, and always happy and willing to help.

It is almost two years since Pat was diagnosed with mesothelioma, and she lived with her illness for much longer than was expected. During her illness she continued to work and participate in research activities and in Centre and Departmental affairs beyond any of our expectations.

cont'd next page
Throughout her long and distinguished career, Pat made substantial contributions to health services and health policy research taking MCHP with her to the next level of achievement. She served on several national committees, including the Governing Board of the Canadian Foundation for Healthcare Improvement and the CIHI Expert Advisory Group on Health System Performance. She garnered numerous awards and distinctions, including induction into the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences, the Emmet Hall Memorial Lectureship, fellowship in the Royal Society of Canada, and induction into the Order of Canada. Such recognition was no surprise to those who knew her, who much admired their colleague, teacher, mentor and friend. Pat’s absence will be felt deeply by many, and none more than her colleagues in Community Health Sciences.

The MCHP Team

Sawatzky R. Differential item functioning in the SF-36 physical functioning and mental health subscales: A population-based analysis from Canada.

Congratulations to Dr. Sharon Macdonald, recipient of the Campbell Outreach Award. The Campbell Award is the University’s premier award in recognition of outstanding outreach activities by a member of the University. The award was presented at the Annual Outreach Reception, 17 November 2014.

Congratulations to Moni Fricke, PhD candidate in CHS, who was awarded the 2014 National Alliance Award of Distinction in Montreal in November by the Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators for her work in the regulation of physiotherapy.

Announcements

The Department welcome new Part-Time (nil-salaried) faculty members, at the beginning of the new year: Dr. Meghan Azad, Dr. Tammi Feltham, Dr. Claudio Rigatto

Dr. Deborah McPhail is pleased to announce the addition of Dr. Andrea Bombak to her research team, who has been hired as a Postdoctoral Fellow on the CIHR-funded project "Reproducing Stigma." Having recently completed her PhD in CHS Andrea is no stranger to those in the department. Andrea’s research interests include critical perspectives on obesity and public health and lay health perceptions. She is excited to be able to continue exploring these issues as a postdoctoral fellow.

Dr. Mahmoud Torabi is pleased to announce that Dr. Mohammad Nournmohammadi has joined his research team as a Postdoctoral Fellow. Mohammad has recently graduated from Department of Statistics at our University. He is working on spatial sampling with applications to health sciences.

Congratulations to Dr. Tracie Afifi, recipient of the Children’s Rights Supporter Award from the Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children (CCRC). Story on page 3.


Brenda Comaskey (CHS PhD candidate) and Michael Smith welcomed a baby girl, Alannah, on September 22, 2014. Congratulations!

Tom Dyck and Natalie Riediger welcomed a new baby brother for Matthew. Jacob Adam Dyck arrived on 14 January 2015 at 3:20 pm. 8 lbs 2 oz 21.5 inches.
U of M Professor Receives National Award

Dr. Tracie Afifi Recognised for her Research on Childhood Physical Abuses

by Marshall Wiebe

November 12, 2014 — Community Health Sciences Associate Professor, Tracie Afifi [B.Sc./99, M.Sc./03, PhD/09] was recently awarded the Children’s Rights Supporter Award from the Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children (CCRC).

"It’s an incredible honour to have my work recognised by the Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children," Dr. Afifi said. “I was very moved to find that the selection committee was comprised of young people who reviewed the work of so many deserving nominees. Thank you for this award."

Afifi’s work to create awareness of the harm caused to children who are victims of violence in their homes has been recognised in Canada and internationally and has also been influential in creating changes in policy and practice for families, organisations, and governments.

The CCRC selected two of Afifi’s papers for particular praise: the first linking harsh physical punishment with a range of mental disorders and the second demonstrating a connection between physical punishment and increased likelihood of cardiovascular disease, arthritis, and obesity.

“It’s always gratifying to see one of our colleagues receive recognition for her work,” added Dr. Stephen Moses, Department Head, Community Health Sciences. “It’s even more meaningful when this work is done in the service of children who are victims of violence. I congratulate Tracie on this well-deserved award.”

45TH ANNUAL

Winnipeg School Division

SCIENCE FAIR

15 April 2015

Grade 4 to 12 students will display over 200 science exhibits in the Brodie and Buhler Atriums. Watch for this event and stop by to welcome the students to our campus.
The last several months have been a busy time.

CanU

While this program has been operating at our Fort Garry Campus for the past four years, CanU expanded to include health sciences exposures for forty-five Grade 7 youth from local schools.

Each Thursday for thirteen weeks, participants arrive at Bannatyne Campus after school and take part in various activities developed and facilitated by FHS student volunteers. Providing logistics, recruiting of FHS student volunteers and scheduling of programs is led by two second year Med students, Shilpa Alex and Lauren Martens. Thank you both for all your hard work and dedication to the CanU Students!

The participants are excited to arrive each week and have enjoyed the various stations at Colleges of Medicine, Pharmacy, Dentistry/Dental Hygiene, and School of Med Rehab. Over 30 FHS students volunteer with the CanU program and provide interesting, fun, and educational activities each week – thank you to all who take time out of your very busy schedules to interact with our community youth – it is much appreciated!!!

The sessions will wrap up on the 12th of February with a celebration that will include participants and their families and all FHS student volunteers.

Thank you to Roger Berrington, Executive Director of CanU and his staff and volunteers.
for making this first FHS session a success!

**Busy Holiday Season!**

CHS supported many community events during the month of December. On the 4th CHS participated in the annual Lighting up the Selkirk Avenue celebration. Students were recruited from Faculty of Kinesiology and Recreation Management, Rec and Read Program to provide outdoor activities to hundreds of youth in attendance. This is a great event for the community! Thank you to Sonya Schulzki of Rec and Read for getting all the volunteers out!

Karen Cook and Dr. Sharon Macdonald attended annual holiday events at Hugh John Macdonald, Wellington, and Dufferin Schools and Rossbrook House.

This year, the PRAXIS student group from Fort Garry helped to raise money for Wellington School's pyjama drive. PRAXIS is a group of students who volunteer throughout the year with a social justice/community theme. They were able to raise $304. A presentation with Wellington School administrators took place on December 19 – with all 450 students in the school wearing their new pyjamas! Thank you Linda Lam from PRAXIS for being a great leader in the community! Other funders included CHS, North West Company, and the Moffat Foundation.

**Upcoming**

National Reading Week will take place from the 23rd to 27th February 2015. CHS has partnered with Wellington and Pinkham Schools, both within a couple of blocks from our campus, to provide readers during the week. Both schools have a K-6 student population. There is a choice of grade level and the time commitment is one half-hour session. If you are interested in reading, please email Karen.cook@umanitoba.ca to schedule a time. It is great fun and the students enjoy meeting UM staff and students.

---

**Public Service**


- **Driedger SM.** (2014, November 6-14). Why I decided to get the flu vaccine for myself and my children. Op-ed written for EvidenceNetwork.ca (http://umanitoba.ca/outreach/evidencenetwork/archives/21631), and published by the Vancouver Province, Ottawa Life, Parents Canada, the Huffington Post, and 7 other media outlets.

---

**Reports Chapters Books**


http://books.google.ca/books?hl=en&lr=&id=AEBVAgAAQBAJ&oi=fnd&pg=PA213&ots=PaTmyyC5S9&sig=TXq5xyqbpmuxkPKYPvlvq0Ca4gE&redir_esc=y#v=onepage&q&f=false
Biomedical Youth Program

In January 2015 the Department welcomed Dr. James Gilchrist as director of the Biomedical Youth Program (BYP) who is taking the reins from Dr. Francis Amara.

In 2006, starting with the "Science Buddies Club", Dr. Francis Amara, associate professor in biochemistry and medical genetics founded the Program bringing his passion for learning science to underserved youth in inner-city.

From this beginning the program grew in 2007 to the Biomedical Youth Summer Camp, the opening of the first of three labs in 2010 at Niji Mahkwa Elementary School (known as the Inner City Science Centre), the establishment in 2012 of "Learning & Leading" for school teachers, the opening of a 4th lab, boardroom, mentorship room, and a co-ordinators room on the 3rd floor of the School of Medical Rehabilitation, and hosting the annual spring Winnipeg School Division 1 Science Fair. He has certainly made a difference in many young peoples lives and will continue to support the goals of the Program.

Dr. Gilchrist is a full professor in the College of Dentistry, Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Manitoba. For over three decades he has pursued research interests in heart and muscle adaptations to exercise and disease. Following undergraduate Sport Science training in Liverpool, UK, Dr. Gilchrist obtained M.Sc. (Alberta) and PhD (UBC) degrees before coming to St-Boniface Hospital Research as a research fellow and a Research Scholar of the Heart & Stroke Foundation of Canada.

His vision is to enhance community accessibility to the University of Manitoba, ongoing development of the Biomedical Youth Program through the development of a working committee of colleagues, and creating further opportunities for youth to explore science. He will be working with Dr. Sharon Macdonald and Karen Cook on Community Engagement in the Faculty of Health Sciences. Welcome Dr. Gilchrist

---

**Department Colloquia**

**Nov 21:** CNODES – Using Administrative Data and Distributed Protocols to Test the Post-Marketing Safety of Pharmaceuticals. Dr. Dan Chateau, Community Health Sciences; Laura Targownik, Associate Professor, Medicine; Dr. Silvia Alessi-Severini, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Pharmacy.

**Nov 28:** Methods for Missing Data in Discrete Hierarchical Models. Dr. Rashid Ahmed, Assistant Professor, Community Health Sciences.

**Dec 3:** Ebola Epidemiologist: Experiences from the front lines. Erin Schillberg, Epidemiologist, Population Health Surveillance, Winnipeg Regional Health Authority

**Dec 5:** What Doctors can do to address their patient’s poverty. Dr. Sharon Macdonald, Associate Professor, Community Health Sciences and Dr. Noralou Roos, Professor, Community Health Sciences.

---

**Oct 31:** Neonatal, 1-59 months, under-5 and adult mortality in 597 Indian districts: estimates from national demographic and mortality surveys. Usha Ram, PhD, Professor, Department of Public Health and Mortality Studies, International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai, India.

**Nov 7:** Ebola Virus Disease and other Challenges and Opportunities for The NCCID. Dr. Joel Kettner, Scientific Director, MCCID and Margaret Haworth Brockman, Program Manager, NCCID.

**Nov 14:** Developmental Origins of Pediatric Obesity and Type 2 Diabetes. Dr. Dana Dabelea, Professor and Associate Dean for Faculty, Colorado School of Public Health, University of Colorado Denver.
Graduate Program

PhD AND MSc GRADUATES

Doctor of Philosophy Graduate:

Lorraine Avery. “Registered Nurses’ Perceived Importance of Knowledge Sources in Relation to Structural Empowerment”. Committee: Dr. M. Moffatt, Community Health Sciences (advisor); Dr. L. Carrothers, Community Health Sciences; Dr. M. Lobchuk, Nursing; Dr. C. Park, Nursing; External Examiner: Dr. A. Kitson, Nursing, University of Adelaide

Andrea Bombak. “Obese individuals’ perceptions’ of health and obesity and the lived experience of weight loss, gain, or maintenance over time”. Committee: Dr. S. Bruce, Community Health Sciences (advisor); Dr. L. Elliott, Community Health Sciences; Dr. D. McPhail, Community Health Sciences; Dr. M. Norman, Kinesiology and Recreation Management; External Examiner: Dr. N. Beausoleil, Community Health and Humanities, Memorial University

Natalie Riediger. “Characterising cardiovascular risk in a Manitoba First Nation”. Committee: Dr. S. Bruce, Community Health Sciences (advisor); Dr. L. Elliott, Community Health Sciences; Dr. L. Lix, Community Health Sciences; Dr. G. Shen, Internal Medicine; External Examiner: Dr. S. Anand, Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, McMaster University

Master of Science graduates:

Saila Parveen. “Quality of Care in Primary Healthcare Clinics in Winnipeg: A Comparative Study”. Committee: Dr. A. Katz, Community Health Sciences (advisor); Dr. M. Torabi, Community Health Sciences; T. Fogg, Manitoba Health, Healthy Living and Seniors

Master of Public Health Graduates:

Jamie Matwyshyn, BA, MPH Candidate
Graduate Program, cont'd

"A community-led strategy to improve early childhood outcomes in Winnipeg’s North End" Field placement supervisor: Gladys Rowe, Research Manager MSW, PhD student Additional supervisor and mentor: Dr. Rob Santos, Associate Secretary to Healthy Child Committee of Cabinet, Government of Manitoba; and Assistant Professor, Department of Community Health Sciences, College of Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Manitoba. Committee Members: Dr. Joel Kettner Community Health Sciences; Dr. L. Elliott, Community Health Sciences; Dr. B. Roussin, Community Health Sciences

Individual Interdisciplinary Studies (PhD) Graduate

Rachael Pettigrew. “Parental Leave Use by Male Employees: Corporate Culture, Managerial Attitudes and Employees’ Perceptions.” Committee: Dr. K. Duncan, Family Social Sciences and Community Health Sciences (Advisor); Dr. S. Prentice, Sociology; Dr. R. Lee, Business Administration; Dr. R. Beaujot, Sociology, University of Western Ontario (External Examiner).


Reconciliation from a Spiritual, Physical, Emotional, and Intellectual Perspective

Friday 12 December 2014 Noon - 1:00 Dept. of Community Health Sciences Dept. Head's Lecture Keynote: Dr. Carrie Bourassa Frederic Gaspard Theatre MB Telehealth Link Available

Friday 30 January 2015 Noon - 1:00 The Dr. Clare C. Brant Memorial Lecture in Indigenous Mental Health Keynote: Dr. Michael Yellow Bird Frederic Gaspard Theatre MB Telehealth Link Available

Friday 20 March 2015 Noon - 1:00 Section of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Health Section Head's Lectures Keynote: Ms. Valerie Gideon Frederic Gaspard Theatre MB Telehealth Link Available
Promotion and Tenure

Full-time and part-time members of the Department of Community Health Sciences may apply for promotion on their own initiative or the Department Head can recommend he/she be considered for promotion. Notification of intent to apply for promotion should be made to the Department Head by January 30th. It is recommended that the candidate attend workshops hosted by the University of Manitoba and meet with the Department Head and the Chair of the Promotion and Tenure Committee.

Academic Career Advancement is a goal for many Faculty members in the Faculty of Medicine. Achieving this goal requires an understanding of the Faculty of Medicine’s processes for advancement, including promotion.

Further information and registration is available by contacting:

Marnie Donovan
Assistant to Academic Affairs
Faculty of Medicine, U of M
S203 Medical Services Building
Winnipeg, MB R3E 3P5
Email: marnie.donovan@umanitoba.ca
Ph: 204-977-5647

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Workshop Title</th>
<th>Date/Time</th>
<th>Room</th>
<th>Registration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic Promotion and Career Advancement in the College</td>
<td>Thursday, 5 February 2015</td>
<td>405 Brodie (4th Floor John Buhler</td>
<td><a href="https://events.cpdumanitoba.ca/">https://events.cpdumanitoba.ca/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of Medicine</td>
<td>Noon - 1:00 pm</td>
<td>Research Centre)</td>
<td>startup/new_recovery/MEAP050215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>bring your lunch</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Presenter: Dr. Sara Israels, Assistant Dean (Academic) Chair, Promotions and Tenure Committee, Faculty of Medicine

Writing for your Professional Life

Facilitators: Wil Fleisher, Professor, Departments of Psychiatry and Medical Education, Chair of the Department of Psychiatry’s Promotion Committee
Joanne Hamilton, Assistant Professor and Director of Educational Development, Department of Medical Education

The Department of Medical Education is offering a writing skills workshop series for the purpose of assisting faculty in developing the narrative components of their academic dossiers and portfolios. In this interactive three part series participants will receive specific tools, guidance, and support as they define their teaching philosophy. Participants will be expected to commit to attending all three of the workshops, participate in the interactive components, complete some 'homework' assignments, and engage in a collaborative group learning process.

Wednesday, 1st and 15th April 2015, 1:00pm to 3:00 pm
Kerr Boardroom, Room 225, Neil John Maclean Health Sciences Library

Wednesday, 22nd April 2015, 1:00pm to 3:00 pm
Room 377, Neil John Maclean Health Sciences Library
Section of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Health

J.A. Hildes Northern Medical Unit

Visit us on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/pages/JA-Hildes-Northern-Medical-Unit-NMU/100114110078688

Announcements

In September we had a retirement send off for Joy Langrell, our Medical Transcriptionist of 7 plus years.

In October we welcomed Kimberley Hrycaiko, who previously worked at Grace Hospital in Palliative Care. Kim has fit in wonderfully and is enjoying her new nursing adventure. :-)

We also welcomed Jennifer Koodoo in November. Jennifer is our new financial assistant and Hai’s right hand gal. Jennifer was previously working at Fort Garry in Supplier Payment Services and we are very pleased to have her with us.

In October we welcomed Dr. Francis Newman, Psychiatrist, who will be travelling to Arviat and the communities in Island Lake.

Dr. Ken Kasper, Internal Medicine/ID/HIV specialist will soon be travelling to Churchill, three to four times a year. We are very happy to have him on board adding a new spectrum of services to the area.

A new Peds/Cardiology Program launched in Rankin Inlet in September was received very well. Dr. Daryl Schantz, Paediatric Cardiologist and Sam Aminian, Cardiology Tech will be travelling to Rankin twice a year. Drs. Anne Durcan and Mike Moffatt will be evaluating the program as to its benefits.

The Renal Health Program has two new dialysis nurses starting in the New Year on the 5th of January, Renee Allard and Delta Holte. Welcome Renee and Delta.

Upcoming Department Council Meetings

10 March 2015 - 10:00 am
13 May 2015 - 10:00 am
10 September 2015 - 10:00 am*
13 November 2015 - 10:00 am

*followed by Back to School Pot Luck

 Universidad de Manitoba
Facultad de Ciencias de la Salud, Facultad de Medicina,
Departamento de Salud Comunitaria
Conferences, Presentations, Workshops

**Tannyce Cook:** Presented to several foot care nurses working for the Diabetes Integration Project on Basic Foot Assessment. Presentation included the importance of a good visual assessment, finding pedal pulses, and performing monofilament testing.

The presentation was well received and Tannyce looks forward to teaming up with the DIP program in the future when she and Ava present at their Chronic Disease and Foot Care Workshop in February 2015.

**Ava Halpin:** Attended The Manitoba Association of Foot Care Nurses, 21 & 22 September, Victoria Inn, Winnipeg. Speakers presenting were: Dr Divya Vadgama on Heel Pain, Dr Gilles Pinette on Arterial and Venous Anatomy and PAD, Foot Health Centre on Footwear modifications, Osteoporosis Canada on Falls and Fractures, College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses of Manitoba on Professional Responsibilities as an independent practitioner, as well as several other guest speakers on several topics. This was a very well received and educational experience for Ava.

**Ava Halpin:** Attended The National Aboriginal Nurses Conference, 4 & 5 October, Hilton Hotel, Winnipeg

**Ava Halpin:** Attended The International Aboriginal Health Conference, 6 to 10 October, Winnipeg Convention Centre, Winnipeg.

**Ava Halpin:** Presentation given to the Brandon Foot Care Nurses, 28 October, Brandon. Topic covered the Hansen Disease Program held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana on 25 to 27 September 2013. An hour and a half presentation was given by Ava to seven local foot care nurses and was well received by them so much so that Ava was invited to come back to the Brandon Foot Care Nurses for future presentations.

**Ava Halpin:** Attended The CAWC & CAET Conference, 30 October to 2 November, Westin Harbour Castle Hotel in Toronto, Ontario. Speakers presenting included several specialist from across Canada: Dr J Embil also presented on Adults living with Diabetic Foot Disease, Dr J Lau presented on Charcot Foot a Clinical Diagnosis. Other presenters spoke on: Advances of vascular assessment and surgical interventions of the Diabetic Foot, An important Biomarker of Glycemic Control and Impact on Wound Healing, Burden of Diabetic Foot Disease in Aboriginal communities, as well as other topics on Wound care and lower limb management.

**Gitane Ouellet & Kimberly Hrycaiko:**

The NMU Retinal Screening nurses were excited to host a session on Northern Nursing during the *U of M’s Discovery Days* on the 7th of November. The nurses spoke with grades 11 & 12 students from various communities in Manitoba. The kids were able to see a picture of their retina taken with the specialised camera as well as learn about what is involved in screening for eye disease in rural and remote populations in Manitoba. One of our foot care nurses was also there to talk about her job with diabetic foot health in remote communities.

The Nurses also enjoyed World Diabetes Day 2014 by presenting at the *Aboriginal Health and Wellness Centre of Winnipeg*. They set up an educational booth to talk about Diabetes and Diabetic Retinopathy.

**Med Rehab Team**

Aktsa Friedman and Zac Harris attended a course in Iqaluit where they had the opportunity to learn new treatment techniques with the Iqaluit Rehab Team.

**Other Conferences Attended by NMU Staff:**

INIHKD & Manitoba NEAHR Conference, 5 to 10 October, Winnipeg Convention Centre, Winnipeg

PRIDoC 2014 (7th Pacific Region Indigenous Doctor’s Congress), 2 to 6 November, Huallen, Taiwan

Indigenous Health Conference, 20-21 November, University of Toronto, Toronto
Marking 10 Years of Renal Health Care in Island Lakes

By Deanna Miller, Unit Nurse Supervisor, Island Lake Renal Health Unit

On the 6th of August 2004 a ribbon cutting ceremony was held in Garden Hill opening the new Garden Hill Nursing Station and Regional Renal Health Program. It wasn’t until January 2005 though that the Program brought the first five people home from Winnipeg.

Many of the Unit’s patients, especially in the early years, had spent a number of years in Winnipeg to their and their families detriment. Having the patients home and the families restored helped the patients to respond to treatment better and their overall physical and mental health improved.

Not only has the Program brought community members home for good, but it also enables transient patients to come home for weddings, to say farewell to loved ones passing on, and to celebrate holidays with those they hold dear.

As in the life of everything the Program has also had its challenges from recruiting dialysis nurses, power outages, water supply issues, infrastructure breakdowns, sewage back up, and (the ever popular) fire evacuations.

On the 17th of September 2014 a community celebration was held marking the ten year anniversary.

The celebration opened at 11:30 am with a prayer from Community Elder, Council Member, and MC for the day, Larry Wood.

Coffee, tea, and hot chocolate was set up in the waiting room area of the Dialysis Unit. Outside, an all day BBQ saw 1,500 come and go until 6:00 pm.

All the supplies needed for hamburgers and hot dogs, as well as platters of cheese, crackers, pickles, meats, and freshly baked bannock were prepared by the women of the Health Directorate in Garden Hill. Iced Tea and water were also served and two large cakes presented by Neewin were served to all those who attended.

The Dialysis Unit closed between Noon and 2:00 pm to allow the patients and staff to participate. Dialysis staff, Neewin Security, and Nursing Station Staff all helped to serve the guests.

Patients and their families from all three communities were invited to share their experiences as patients, their joys of being able to be at home surrounded by family and loved ones, and challenges of being a dialysis patient in an isolated community. Thank you to those that shared.

Unfortunately many who were involved in the planning process were not able to attend because of water issues in the community up until the day of the celebration.

And though we were not able to welcome those from Winnipeg, a loss that I cannot fully express, we did have great support from the communities who are very grateful for the Unit.

There was so much hard work that went into making the day possible, to which I am very grateful and am sorry that I could not thank many of you in person. If I missed mentioning anyone please forgive me.

Thanks to the generous financial support from Manitoba Health, the University of Manitoba, Health Canada, Neewin, the local communities of Wassagamack, St.Theresa Point, and Garden Hill, and donations from the NorthWest Company and Mikisew.
Staff and Patients pose with the cakes provided by Neewin.

There was a lot of food to share with the community.

Busy all day.
Last June, when I was packing to spend a summer up in Norway House, I really had no idea what to expect of living and working in this community completely unknown to me. This was to be the longest I’d been away from family and friends on my own, the farthest North I’d been in Manitoba, and my first time working in a clinic/hospital for more than just a couple days of shadowing. I went with an open mind (and a lot of instant noodles) and ended up having an extremely positive, wonderful time working with the doctors in the hospital, other members of the healthcare team, and enjoying some of the cultural and recreational activities available in Norway House.

The medical experience in Norway House was excellent. All of the doctors we worked with were extremely friendly and willing to teach. I gained a lot of practical experience from working in the hospital and clinic; ranging from things like learning to read a chart and measure someone’s blood sugar, to practicing suturing wounds, removing a fishhook from someone’s hand, and watching an emergency breached delivery. I gained a lot of confidence in my ability to talk to and examine patients, write notes, read x-rays, apply casts to fractured bones, give needles, and much more. It was a great environment for learning, with such a variety of interesting medical issues and supportive medical team. The nurses and other staff were very friendly as well, and the patients I found were generally quite appreciative of the hospital/clinic staff and were pleasant to work with. It was exciting when after a couple weeks I would see a patient again whom I had seen previously. Or I would see a patient when shopping at the grocery store who recognised me would say hello. We were able to experience some of the difficulties the doctors and patients face in Norway House medicine as well, particularly with respect to the lack of continuity, as doctors can come and go and patients being seen by different physicians each visit. We also had some exposure to the issues of addictions, compliance, limited resources, as well as the struggles and debates over having deliveries in the community.

During our stay in Norway House, Christie Rampersad (another student) and I also took some time to work with other members of the healthcare team, including hospital nurses, public health nurses, the clinical assistants and nurse practitioners, a midwife, and a lab technician. I really appreciated the opportunity to work with these different individuals, as they each were able to offer different perspectives and teach different skills. With public health we were able to go on home visits to give catch-up vaccinations to children and see for ourselves the variety of living conditions of our patients’ homes. With the lab technician we were able to practice a lot of phlebotomy, which until then we’d only had one opportunity to try when we practiced on classmates in school. With the midwife we learned a lot more about prenatal/antenatal care, as well as more about the issues surrounding births in/out of the community and the experiences mothers go through in Norway House. Another interesting
medical experience outside the hospital was a visit to the personal care home with one of the doctors. These experiences allowed me to see Norway House medicine beyond the clinic and helped me to understand what it might be like to have grown up and live in Norway House a bit better.

Finally, my experience would not have been complete without a few experiences un-related to medicine. It took us some time to grow accustomed to the stray dogs and abundance of spiders (both outside and in the house), but I found Norway House to be a very beautiful place to live. We managed to go canoeing and swimming on the gorgeous lake a couple of times. Christie and I were able to make a day trip to Thompson as well, using the “TAP” bus (medical transport bus), which was neat. Near the end of our visit a group of us also went to a Pow Wow in the community, which was a lot of fun to watch and admire the beautiful regalia and dances. Experiences like these, and even just evenings spent watching movies with other students, or having dinner with the doctors made the ten weeks outside of work go by just as quickly as the ten weeks in the hospital.

Overall, I had a wonderful experience. Knowing now what it means to live and work up there, I would certainly not have chosen to do anything else with my summer this year. I really appreciate the opportunity I had to have this exposure, and I am particularly grateful for all the wonderful people who were willing to work with and teach us. Though I am not sure if or when I will ever return, working in a northern community someday is certainly an idea I am open to considering more seriously, after the very positive experience I had over the 10 weeks in June 2014.
New Research Grants


**Lix, LM.** Canadian Institutes of Health Research Travel Award for Fields Institute Thematic Program on Statistical Inference, Learning, and Models for Big Data: Workshop on Big Data, Casual Inference, and Health Policy Amount: $2500


New Publications


Kreindler SA. What if implementation is not the problem? Exploring the missing links between knowledge and action. *Int J Health Plann Mgmt* 2014 (epub ahead of print); doi: 10.1002/hpm.2277.


McClarty L, Lorway RR, Ramanaik S, Wylie J, Becker ML. Factors influencing frontline health service providers’ likelihood to recommend a future, preventive HIV vaccine to key populations in Karnataka, south India. *Vaccine* 2014, 12.009 [epub ahead of print].


New Publications, cont'd

JF, Moses S, Lowndes CM, Boily M-C, Alary M, Vickerman P. Relationship between exposure to the Avahan intervention and levels of reported condom use among men who have sex with men in southern India. *BMC Public Health* 2014; 14:1425.


Presentations, Invited Lectures, Consultations

**XX International AIDS Conference, Melbourne, Australia, 20-25 July 2014**


**Brownell M.** The whole really is greater than the sum of its parts! What we can learn about children’s health through data linkage. Canadian Association of Paediatric Health Centres Webinar, 12 November 2014.


**Chateau D, Targownik L, Alessi-Severini S.** CNODES - A leading-edge approach to researching the post-marketing safety of pharmaceuticals. Community Health Sciences Colloquium, 21 November 2014.


Presentations, cont'd


Heaman M. A program of research in maternal health, prenatal care, and pregnancy outcomes. For the session: Featured established MICH investigators’ presentations. 10th Annual Child Health Research Day. Winnipeg, MB. 2 October 2014.


Roos LL. What are we doing here: Large databases and the human touch. (Presented at the Keynote Panel: Big Data for Health Policy Research, Toronto, ON, 3-6 November 2014).

Roos LL. What are we doing here: Large databases and the human touch. (Presented at the Manitoba Centre for Health Policy Research Forum, Winnipeg, MB, 22 October 2014).


Shooshtari S, Duncan KA, Roger K, Fast J. The Independent Effect of Care-Related Out-of-Pocket Expenses on Care-Related Economic, Social, and Health Consequences: Results from


Community Matters is published by the Department of Community Health Sciences at the University of Manitoba. Submissions can be made to Kathy Bell at P120-750 Bannatyne Avenue, Winnipeg MB, R3E 0W3 Kathy.Bell@umanitoba.ca

Opinions expressed on these pages may or may not be the opinions of the Editors.