With the summer holidays upon us, this newsletter is coming out a bit late, but we hope that it will help you to catch up with events and activities around the Department. The merging of the Department of Family Social Sciences with Community Health Sciences became official on the 1st of July, and we are continuing to work to ensure that communications are in place for a smooth transition. This is also a “bumper” year for tenure and promotion, with seven faculty members applying for one or the other or both. Much thanks to Noralou Roos, Chair of the Tenure and Promotions Committee, and all of the committee members who have put in a lot of time and effort into appraising and advising (and of course the applicants, who had to navigate through a very lengthy and complex process).

Recruitment for faculty positions, as indicated in the last newsletter, is continuing: two general tenure-track positions, one contingent position for MFN CAHR, one tenure-track position at the Manitoba Centre for Health Policy, and one Canada Research Chair, Tier II tenure-track position in complex adaptive systems. I will be able to update progress on these efforts in the next newsletter. The flip side of recruitment is retirement, and as indicated on Page 2, Dr. Judith Bartlett retired from the University of Manitoba on the 30th of June. A well-attended retirement event in her honour.

cont'd next page
Department Head, cont'd

was held in CHS on the 29th June with several speakers highlighting Judy’s career and her contributions.

Finally, we have successfully navigated our way through the first year of the new pre-clerkship curriculum in undergraduate medical education, and all first-year medical students have passed the longitudinal course in population health that CHS has managed. This is a great achievement, and thanks again to Joss Reimer, Adrienne Morrow and Chelsea Jalloh for leading the way, as well to all of our full-time and part-time faculty members who have contributed to the teaching effort. Starting next month, the incoming Med II class will experience the second year of the new curriculum, and of course we will be starting all over again with Med I.

Awards

Congratulations!

Research Manitoba 2015 Health Research Competition Awards:

- Operating: New Investigator – Dr. Xibiao Ye
- PhD Dissertation Award: Aynslie Hinds and Dessalegn Melesse
- Coordinated Studentship (PhD Degree): Dhiwya Attawar, Claudyne Chevrier, Leigh McClarty, Sheila Novek, Nadia Reider

Congratulations to Ms. Leigh McClarty and Ms. Sheila Novek, recipients of the CIHR Frederik Banting and Charles Best Canada Graduate Scholarship Award, September 2015-August 2018, $105,000.


Congratulations: From the 24th Annual Canadian Conference on HIV/AIDS Research

(CAHR 2015): Shaw SY: Randy Alex Coates New Investigator Award in Epidemiology and Public Health Sciences. Shaw SY: Dr. Robert Remis Scholarship.

Announcements

Dr. Judith Bartlett retired from the University of Manitoba on 30 June 2015, after over 15 years with CHS and the U of M. Judy received her MD degree from the University of Manitoba in 1987 and her CCFP in 1989. She did clinical work in northern First Nations communities with the J.A. Hildes Northern Medical Unit from 1989-1991 and was Director of Health Programs for the Medical Services Branch of Health Canada (now First Nations and Inuit Health) from 1991 to 1999.

Judy obtained her MSc from Community Health Sciences in 2003 and her Fellowship in Family Practice (FCFP) in 2004. She was Associate Director, Programs, for the Centre for Aboriginal Health Research in CHS from 2001-2005 and then its Co-Director from 2007-2008. From 2005 to 2012, Judy was Director of the Health and Wellness Department of the Manitoba Métis Federation. She has been a GFT Associate Professor at the University of Manitoba since May 2004, and an adjunct scientist at the Manitoba Centre for Health Policy since 2009.

Judy has made enormous contributions to Community Health Sciences and to the University of Manitoba over the years in teaching, research, and service. In addition to having been a Co-director of CAHR during its formative years, she has taught courses in First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Health in our graduate program, supervised several graduate students, and taught in undergraduate medical education.

She has conducted important research and published numerous scientific articles; some in collaboration with colleagues at the Manitoba Métis Federation.

Judy was also a recipient of a National Aboriginal Achievement Award for Health in 2003 and the YMCA-YWCA Women of Distinction Award in 2013 for education, training, and mentorship.
Announcements, cont'd

The Manitoba Centre for Health Policy announces the retirement of Carole Ouelette. Carole served as Executive Assistant and Office Manager from 1995 - 2015 and provided support to three Directors at MCHP: Noralou Roos, Pat Martens, and most recently, Alan Katz. Carole wore many hats as office manager, including MCHP’s Human Resources Manager, Chair of the Retreat Committee, and Space Committee. She also served on other various groups and committees at the University of Manitoba. We will all miss Carole; she was a great leader and mentor to all MCHP staff. She plans to spend most of her retirement on the golf course and with her family; especially her grandchildren.

Carole Ouelette

Convocation 2015 (l to r) Sneha Abraham, Dr. Sharon Bruce, Andrea Blanchard, Natalie Riediger, Saira Parveen
The 16th International Congress on Circumpolar Health was held in Oulu, Finland from 9 - 12 June 2015. The International Union for Circumpolar Health, which organises the meeting, was founded in 1981 through the efforts of Dr. Jack Hildes and others interested in circumpolar health in Alaska, Canada, Greenland, the Nordic countries, and Russia. In honour of Dr. Hildes’ contribution, the Canadian Society for Circumpolar Health (CSCH) asked the famous sculptor Dora de Pedery-Hunt to create a medal to be given to members of the circumpolar societies from each IUCH member region at the congress which meets every three years. The CSCH has bestowed this medal previously on Dr. Otto Schaefer (1987), Evelyn Campbell (1990), Dr. Brian Postl (1993), Dr. James Baxter (1996), Dr. Kue Young (2000), Dr. Harriet Kuhnlein (2003), Dr. Gary Pekeles (2006), Dr. Bruce Martin (2009), and Dr. David Martin (2012). At the June 2015 meeting the CSCH Hildes medal was awarded to Dr. Michael Jong. Dr. Jong has served as a primary care physician, teacher, researcher and administrator in Happy-Valley Goose Bay Labrador for 35 years. His research interests include telemedicine and mental health. He embodies the spirit that Dr. Hildes and all the medal winners have brought to their work with northern peoples: compassion, dedication, humility, and curiosity.

At the Annual Meeting of the Circumpolar Health Research Network (CHRN) held during the Congress, Dr. Pamela Orr was elected Vice-President of the new executive council. The CHRN has two main objectives: to promote circumpolar research and the networking of circumpolar researchers, and to promote the communication of circumpolar research findings through the publication of the International Journal of Circumpolar Health (IUCH). The CHRN is made up of individual members who may join (see website http://circhnet.org) at no cost, and institutions which may join at various levels of fee and benefit. Current institutional members include: University of Manitoba, University of Laval, University of Tromso (Norway), the Danish Greenlandic Society for Circumpolar Health, University of Alaska (Anchorage), and University of Oulu (Finland). The University of Manitoba has been a strong supporter of the CHRN and the IUCH journal in particular, since their inception. Without this kind of support we would not have a journal that recognises the importance of circumpolar health and the context within which health research is conducted in this region. Canadian researchers, including many from CHS of the University of Manitoba, contribute the largest number of articles to the IJCH.
Community Engagement

http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/medicine/units/community_health_sciences/communityengagement/index.html

Update Staff vs Students March Fundraiser

In the last newsletter, total funds raised for the 3rd Annual Staff vs Students Basketball fundraiser were not yet compiled. We are happy to report we exceeded total dollars raised last year – this year our grand total was $3,260.00. Thank you to all who supported this event. All monies raised will support the SWISH and Basketball for Inner-City Kids programs.

SWISH

The Summer Weekend Inner-City Supervised Hoops program is back for its 4th year! To date, over 300 youth from the Bannatyne community have enjoyed the outdoor basketball venue which is held in Parking Lot E. This year’s program runs from July 4 – August 15th. If you are interested in volunteering on any of the Saturdays, please contact Xavier Smith, SWISH Coordinator at x.mrsmith1@gmail.com.

BBICK

In June, Faculty of Health Sciences volunteers distributed 520 basketballs to fourteen different K-6 inner-city schools. The Basketballs for Inner-City Kids Program (BBICK) provides basketballs to graduating grade 6 students from Bannatyne neighbourhood schools. For the past few years, the program has provided over 4000 basketballs to students who are leaving their K-6 schools – this is to acknowledge their graduation, to show UM support for their schools, to acknowledge their achievements and to support continued physical activity throughout the summer months.
Bio-Medical Youth Program

From July 6-10, CHS staff and volunteers will travel to two First Nations communities in northern Manitoba to deliver the BYP summer camp.

On the 6th and 7th of July the two-day health careers and science camp will be held at Opaskwayak Cree Nation in the Oscar Lathlin Collegiate High School. Volunteers will then travel to Mosakahiken Cree Nation (Frontier Mosakahiken School) to provide the same programming from the 8th to 10th of July. Both sites will also include cultural and arts components provided by community members and volunteers. The northern camp is free to Grades 6 – 9 students and CHS staff and volunteers have worked with local communities, band offices and schools to ensure the camp’s success.

A former Occupational Therapy graduate, Mr. Ben Salins, now employed with the Northern Regional Health Authority, has been a key player in bringing all partners together and liaising with FHS.

The BYP summer camp will be held in Winnipeg from July 20-24 for grades 6 – 12 students. Approximately 100 youth are registered and ready to participate in this fun, hands-on week-long camp. Activities will include tour of the Clinical Simulation Lab, microscopy, Pharmacy, Medical, Dentistry and School of Med Rehab sessions. Students participating in the Health Careers Access Program (HCAP) will be returning to the BYP camp again. Students in the HCAP program have a strong interest in health careers and visit Winnipeg for a week-long exposure to various health fields. Karen Cook and Drs. Sharon Macdonald and James Gilchrist collaborated with Wayne Heide, from Manitoba’s Office of Rural and Northern Health, and Noreen Wichart from UM’s Access and Aboriginal Focus Programs to include the northern participants into the BYP programming.

Upcoming

Community Orientation Tours – August for incoming FHS students.
Reports
Chapters
Books


Health product risk communication: Is the message getting through? Ottawa: Council of Canadian Academies. (S. Michelle Driedger was a member of the expert panel and a co-author of the report.)


Graduate Program

PhD AND MSc GRADUATES

Master of Science Graduates:

Ebtihal Ali. “Is Caffeine a risk for Osteopenia of Prematurity?” Committee: D. Jiang, Community Health Sciences (advisor); M. Moffatt, Community Health Sciences; C. Rockman-Greenberg, Pediatrics and Child Health; M. Narvey, Pediatrics and Child Health

Thomas Ferguson. “The Cost-Effectiveness of Primary Screening for Chronic Kidney Disease in Manitoba’s Rural and Remote First Nations”. Committee: E. Forget, Community Health Sciences (advisor); N. Tangri, Community Health Sciences (advisor); R. Ahmed, Community Health Sciences; P. Komenda, Internal Medicine, Section of Nephrology

Master of Public Health Graduates:

Jamie Matwyshyn, BA, MPH Candidate “A Paul Partridge. “A select review of the Trans Mountain’s expansion project and the potential health risks from air emissions”. Field placement supervisor: Dr. Carl Alleyne, Environmental Assessment Coordinator, Health Canada; Committee: Dr. J. Kettner (advisor); Dr. L. Elliott, Community Health Sciences; Dr. B. Roussin, Community Health Sciences

Upcoming Department Council Meetings

10 September 2015 - 10:00 am
13 November 2015 - 10:00 am
11 January 2016 - 10:00 am
15 March 2016 - 10:00 am
11 May 2016 - 10:00 am
8 September 2016 - 10:00 am
18 November 2016 - 10:00 am

*followed by Back to School Pot Luck
Public Service

Using the Manitoba Research Data Centre for Your Research

The Manitoba Research Data Centre (RDC) is a secure, Statistics Canada facility located at 390 Brodie Centre, which houses confidential national-level survey data on a variety of topics. The data can be browsed at the Statistics Canada website, and covers topics on health, Aboriginal peoples, labour, children and youth, and many more. Some of the most recent surveys available are:

- 2012 Canadian Community Health Survey – Mental Health
- 2013 Canadian Forces Mental Health Survey
- 1991 Census cohort linked to Mortality
- Canadian Survey on Disabilities
- 2012 Canadian Income Survey
- 2012 Canadian Internet Use Survey
- 1971 and 1976 Census data
- General Social Survey – Giving, Volunteering, and Participating
- 2013 Canadian Tobacco, Alcohol, and Drugs Survey

Both faculty members and graduate students can submit proposals to access the Manitoba RDC, and the Department of Community Health Sciences offers a graduate-level methodology course, conducted by Dr. Shahin Shooshtari, that provides experience in (a) writing a proposal for the RDC, (b) learning how to analyse national-level survey data, and (c) preparing an article for submission to a journal.

The Manitoba RDC also offers a scholarship of $5000 for graduate students who use Statistics Canada data at the Manitoba RDC for their graduate thesis or dissertation. Watch for the announcement and application details in February 2016.

If you are interested in using Statistics Canada data for your research, you can contact Ian Clara at the RDC at (204)-789-3293 or manitoba.rdc@umanitoba.ca.

We would be happy to help you discuss your data needs and to help you put together a proposal for access.
Position Available

Research Assistant in Biostatistics

Job Summary:

The successful applicants will work on health research projects using a large administrative data set. The duties will include searching the literature, developing computer code, examining and cleaning aggregate and individual level data, preparing demographic data summaries, performing statistical analyses, and assisting in the preparation of presentations and manuscripts. **There are at least two positions.** These positions are excellent opportunity for those who are interested in biostatistics and health research. The successful applicants can work up to 35 hours per week, and the ideal starting time would be ASAP.

Requirements:

- Excellent computing skills (e.g., Splus, R, SAS); knowledge of WinBUGS would be an asset.
- Excellent communication skills, both oral and written.
- Excellent statistical skills.
- Ability to work independently.
- Excellent organizational skills with careful attention to detail.
- Experience with Linux/Unix would be an asset.
- Masters degree in statistics, biostatistics or community health sciences (or near completion), or PhD student in statistics, biostatistics or community health sciences.

The applicants from other disciplines who are qualified are strongly encouraged to apply.

Email or fax your application package directly to me (information below). The application package should include a resume, cover letter, list of courses taken, and the names and contact information of two references.

Mahmoud Torabi, PhD
Associate Professor of Biostatistics, Department of Community Health Sciences
Adjunct Professor, Department of Statistics
University of Manitoba
Tel: 204-272-3136, Fax: 204-789-3905
E-mail: Mahmoud.Torabi@umanitoba.ca

New Research Grants

Afifi TO, Sareen J. Are certain types of At what frequency does gambling on specific types of gambling become associated with severe interference with home responsibilities, work, school, relationships, and social life among Manitobans? Manitoba Gambling Research Program. 2015-2017. $50,000.

Azad M. Principal Investigator. Prenatal exposure to non-nutritive sweeteners and the development of childhood obesity. Children's Hospital Research Institute of Manitoba. Operating Grant. $40,000, 06/2015–05/2016.


Harris CA (Principal Investigator), Jiang D (Co-Investigator), Tay J, Vincent N, & Wilson K. Randomized Controlled Trial of the Effectiveness of Online Treatment for Insomnia in Cancer Survivors and Evaluation of Treatment-Related Side-Effects. Canadian Cancer Society Research Institute (CCSRI), Quality of Life Grant, $194,670. 2015 - 2018.

$400,000.

Lix LM. Canadian Institutes of Health Research: Planning and Dissemination Grant. Co-Applicants: Mark Smith, Mahmoud Azmaee, Joellyn Ellison, Kim Reimer, Karey Iron. Amount: $10,000 Term: 01/07/2015 – 30/06/2016 Title: Disseminating tools to evaluate the quality of administrative health databases.

Schroth R (Principal Investigator); C Daymont, ME Moffatt, C Rodd (Co-investigators). Does early childhood nutritional status and well-being improve for children with severe Early Childhood Caries following rehabilitative dental surgery? Children's Hospital Research Institute of Manitoba. $40,000 (2015-2017)


New Publications


Birse K, Arnold KB, Novak RM, McCrorister S, Shaw SY, Westmacott GR, Ball T, Lauffenburger DA, Burgener A. Molecular signatures of immune activation and epithelial barrier remodeling are enhanced during the luteal phase of the menstrual cycle: implications for HIV susceptibility. **Journal of virology** 2015;JVI. 00756-15.


New Publications, cont'd


O’Grady K, Roos N. Canadians care about healthcare — so why don’t we see more health policy coverage in the news? Published in J-Source.ca and Longwoods.com, June 16, 2015


Presentations, cont'd


Supported by the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey, Dr. Depeng JIANG was invited by Ataturk University in Turkey to give a three-full day workshop on Biostatistics for medical students and supporting staff at Faculty of Medicine from May 18 to June 1, 2105. Dr. JIANG also met with several department head, Dr. Zekeriya AKTURK (Professor and Head of Department of Biostatistics), Dr. Hamit ACEMOGLU (Associate Professor and Chair of Department of Medical Education), Dr. Memet Isik (Associate Professor, Department of Family Medicine), and Dr. Mucahit EMET (Associate Professor, Department of Emergency), to discuss research matters of mutual interest.


International Sociological Association Research Committees on Aging (RC6) and Family (RC11), Aging Families/Changing Families International Conference, Syracuse, New York


Melesse DY, Evans C, Yu N, Blanchard JF, Marrie RA. Patterns of persistence, switching, and adherence and the risk of discontinuation of disease-modifying therapies over the course of multiple sclerosis: a population-based study. 6th Annual Neuroinflammation Symposium and MB-ON endMS


Presentations, cont'd


and Biostatistics (CSEB) Conference. Toronto ON.