



Michael Smith Foundation for
Health Research

President’s Quarterly Report

Update on MSFHR activities from Dr. John Challis

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Latest MSFHR News

Board discusses high level future directions for MSFHR as part of strategic planning

MSFHR is conducting a multi-phase strategic planning process to gain input on future directions and activities. As part of the process, the MSFHR Board of Directors held a retreat in January to discuss the organization's mandate. They emphasized the importance of:

- supporting and maintaining research capacity-building programs;
- being more strategic and proactive in helping the government and health authorities define health system issues and address them through research;
- expanding our efforts to bring key stakeholders together.

MSFHR will now begin engaging with our stakeholders, leading to a second Board of Directors retreat in the late spring/early summer. In the meantime, more information on our strategic planning process and timing will be shared as it becomes available. The outcome of the process will be a shared vision and strategic priorities to guide MSFHR in its next phase of work.

Special Projects Updates

BC Nursing Research Initiative launches programs

Developing a BC Nursing Health Services Research Network

In October and November 2008, MSFHR and the BC Nursing Research Initiative (BCNRI) hosted five town hall meetings across the province. The meetings were held to discuss progress of the BCNRI to date, to explain the purpose and development process for a BC Nursing Health Services Research Network, and to gain input on success measures and first year priorities for the Network. A report detailing the outcomes of the Town Halls, which will help inform a funding proposal for the Network, is available:

Nursing Research Facilitators

The BC Nursing Research Initiative (BCNRI) has announced funding for a Nursing Research Facilitator for each health authority to build awareness and support the development of practice-relevant nursing health services research. Facilitators will work closely with existing health research support groups/individuals already established in their health authority. They also will interact and coordinate information flow between the BC Nursing Health Services Research Network (once created; see above) and health authorities, thereby contributing to an overall picture of nursing health services research across the province. Guidelines have been distributed to health authority Chief Nursing Executives. Proposals are due February 10, 2009, and funding will flow following MSFHR Board approval of the BCNRI 2009/10 fiscal budget.

Developing a Nursing Health Services Research Database

During November 2008, MSFHR on behalf of the BCNRI surveyed potential users on what kind of database would be most useful to the BC nursing research community.

MSFHR Supports evaluation & analysis initiatives

Active Communities Initiative Evaluation

The Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport has contracted MSFHR to undertake an independent evaluation of the Active Communities Initiative. Phase 1 of the evaluation (July 2008 to October 2008) involved the development of evaluation options by an expert think tank including Dr. P.J. Naylor, Dr. Irving Rootman, and Dr. Jim Frankish, all BC-based experts in physical activity and community-based evaluation. In November 2008, the Ministry funded Phase 2: an implementation evaluation, to be completed by March 31, 2009. MSFHR has contracted Cathexis Consulting to undertake the evaluation and will seek the advice and recommendations of the Ministry, the Evaluation Advisory Committee, and the Expert Advisory Panel on key deliverables of the evaluation.

Expert Review of Early Childhood Development Evaluation Framework

Last month MSFHR's Analysis & Evaluation department hosted a gathering of experts and stakeholders with specializations in child development, family support programming, and community-based evaluation. The objective of the meeting was to review a parenting support evaluation framework developed by a group of BC early childhood development (ECD) funders and community-based agencies. Led by the Success By 6 initiative and funded by the Max Bell Foundation, the evaluation framework is intended to provide a common tool for measuring the effectiveness of early childhood development programs across BC. Funding for the review was provided by Success by 6, HELP, and the Public Health Agency of Canada.

Health Services and Policy Research Support Network targets Health Human Resources

A review committee met this week at MSFHR to review eight submissions to a Request for Proposals process designed to gain further insight into what knowledge and research capacity currently exists in the three health human resource sub-themes that have been approved for attention with Health Services and Policy Research Network (HSPRSN) funds:

1. Ways to better employ existing providers;
2. Development of new models of staffing; and
3. Development of new models of practice.

The five-member review panel included three members of the HSPRSN Steering Council: Dr. Kelly Barnard (Ministry of Sport & Healthy Living), Dr. Steven Schecter, (Sauder School of Business, UBC) and Dr. Janet Joy, Director of Innovation in Health Technology, Vancouver Coastal Health). They were joined by two external members: Dr. Ivy Bourgeault, CIHR Chair in Health Human

Resource Policy, University of Ottawa; and Dr. Andrea Bauman, Associate Vice-President, International Health, Faculty of Health Sciences, McMaster University and Director, McMaster site, Nursing Health Services Research Unit.

The successful applicant will undertake a synthesis of the literature on the three sub-themes, examining each for effects on patient care, health outcomes, staff engagement and job satisfaction. The final report, due April 30, 2009, will also describe what research is currently underway, what has been done, what is known in these areas, and who is working in these areas within Canada and internationally. The report will support the HSPRSN Steering Council in developing research and funding strategies.

MSFHR People

MSFHR welcomes four new directors to the Board

MSFHR's Board of Directors is pleased to announce the appointment of four new members:

- Dr. Nadine Caron, Assistant Professor, Surgery, University of Northern British Columbia
- Dr. Tom Feasby, Dean of Medicine, University of Calgary
- Dr. Nigel Murray, President & CEO, Fraser Health
- Dr. John O'Neil, Professor and Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences, Simon Fraser University.

CEO acknowledged for research achievements

In December 2008, the University of Toronto honoured MSFHR President & CEO, Dr. John Challis, with the title of University Professor, recognizing his achievements in the field of reproductive medicine. University Professors are chosen by a committee of seven distinguished scholars, chaired by the vice-president and provost. Recipients of this prestigious award are nominated by peers from at least two academic departments, with support from up to five scholars of international standing within their disciplines but from academic communities outside of the university.

In March, Dr. Challis will receive the President's Distinguished Scientist Award from the Society for Gynecologic Investigation (SGI). This award is made annually to a senior member of the society who has made significant and lasting contributions to the society and to scientific research in reproductive medicine. The recipient is selected by the President with the advice of officers and other members.

MSFHR recruits for Senior Director, Programs

MSFHR has contracted the services of the recruitment firm Pinton, Forrest & Madden to conduct the search for a Senior Director, Programs position. Candidate interviews are scheduled to begin in February. To facilitate the transition in leadership for the Programs department, Kathy Jang has postponed her retirement date until February 27, 2009.