



Michael Smith Foundation for
Health Research

Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research
Tenth Annual General Meeting
Thursday, September 15, 2011

Report of the Interim President & CEO

On behalf of the Foundation, I am pleased to provide this report on MSFHR activities since the last Annual General Meeting in September 2010. To start, I would like to acknowledge the many contributions of Dr. John Challis, the Foundation's President & CEO until July 2011, under whose leadership many of the activities on which I report took place.

Government Relations

We were pleased to receive a cheque for \$20 million from the BC Ministry of Health on March 30, 2011 for our activities during fiscal year 2011/12. A public announcement of the funding is expected this fall.

MSFHR staff and Board members have increased their interactions with various levels of government over the past year. Our work with the Ministry of Health and health authorities on the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning System (MELS) to support the Ministry's Integrated Primary and Community Care (IPCC) initiative is progressing well and is key to our demonstrating relevance to government and the health system. We are also partnering with the Ministry on several other knowledge translation (KT) initiatives where there is synergy between our KT plans; these include workshops on evaluating and using research evidence.

Finally, we began the process of presenting our funding case for 2012/13 to various government representatives and have received positive feedback. Since the start of July 2011, we have been relying exclusively on members of the MSFHR staff and members of the Board in our relations with the BC government.

Administration

Since the retirement of Dr. John Challis at the end of June 2011, I have been privileged to serve in the capacity of interim President & CEO, assisted by two other members of the Board, Mr. Don Avison and Dr. Paul Terry. A search committee for the next President & CEO has been established. It is chaired by Dr. Martin Taylor, and includes board members Ms. Sue Paish, Dr. Nadine Caron, Ms. Karimah Es Sabar and Dr. Michael Hayden.

Dr. Bev Holmes has been appointed Vice-President, External Relations in recognition of the importance of this area of activity and the excellence of her work to date.

To streamline the administration of award competitions, work has progressed throughout the year on Easygrants, a centralized grants management system that will handle the entire end-to-end award lifecycle, from announcing new competitions to closing awards.

Competitions

Scholar and trainee competitions

We launched new competitions on December 21, 2010 for career investigator (scholar) and trainee (post-doctoral fellow) awards. Ten review committees met in early June to adjudicate applications. Finally, 32 scholar awards and 63 post-doctoral awards were approved for funding. This year, nine provincial and national organizations co-funded MSFHR's post-doctoral awards, expanding the number of recipients by 15

HSPRSN Health Human Resources: Innovations for Evaluation

Five health authority applications were selected for funding through the Health Services and Policy Research Support Network (HSPRSN). The funds support health authorities to evaluate innovative programs in health human resources.

BC Nursing Research Initiative (BCNRI)

In January, two research projects were approved under the BC Nursing Research Initiative (BCNRI). Two commissioned research projects were also funded in January. A second BCNRI research project competition was launched in April 2011. Twenty-eight preliminary applications were reviewed and 12 were invited to submit full applications by November 1, 2011. Finally, in June 2011 a request was launched for suggestions of priority research topics to be considered for additional commissioned research.

Other Research Projects

The Nursing Research Facilitator program, funded through the BCNRI, was extended until March 31, 2013. The program supports practice-relevant nursing health services research by providing funding and resources for a facilitator in each health authority.

MSFHR completed the peer review for the Transplant Research Foundation (TRF) of BC and provided the funding recommendation for the TRF Venture Grant competition. The competition was launched in 2008 to support new, high-risk/high-reward research by BC investigators in a pilot/feasibility stage.

The BC Ethics Harmonization initiative progressed well during the year, including a first phase in which the consortium of universities involved, working with a project manager, tested processes for shared review of ethics proposals. A proposal for funding years two through five was received August 15, 2011. The proposal was signed by Vice Presidents from four universities and five health authorities.

As part of its knowledge translation (KT) plan MSFHR is providing support to one or two successful applications to the Peter Wall Solutions Initiative (PWSI) to test the implementation and evaluation of the proposed health "solutions." MSFHR staff participated in the PWSI letter-of-intent review panel and have invited expressions of interest from health research-related teams that will be submitting full applications.

In April 2011 MSFHR provided award review and administration for a new competition co-funded by the BC Cancer Foundation and the VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation: the Dr. Nelly Auersperg Studentship Award for Ovarian Cancer.

MSFHR issued a request for a proposal to examine the long-term effectiveness of the human papillomavirus vaccine Gardasil™. The purpose of the 15-year study is to determine whether (and if so, when) a booster shot is required to ensure life-long immunity to HPV. The proposal was reviewed by an international panel in July 2011. The panel noted the excellence of the proposed team and the importance of the project; however they requested some revisions to the proposal before the funding is released.

Analysis & Evaluation

Evaluation activities for the Nursing Research Facilitator Program (part of the BCNRI) took place throughout the year based on a recently-developed evaluation framework designed with end user participation.

Data collection, quality assurance and coding for 2008-09 annual reports from about 550 personnel and infrastructure award recipients were completed during the year. A redesign was also undertaken, drawing on the expertise of MSFHR's Research Advisory Council, of the data collection processes for the 2009-10 annual reports.

The Foundation has worked this year on designing and developing case studies to showcase MSFHR and our award recipients, and also contribute to the in-depth information available to demonstrate the value and importance of health research and MSFHR's unique role. Results will be published in multi-media form online later this year.

A career investigator analysis and a team analysis were conducted to determine the contributions of these programs to building health research capacity in BC. Reports were produced and posted online, and feature stories were written on several scholars and teams for our website.

Community and Partner Relations

Last fall we released an online annual report, *Focus Forward*, reporting on highlights from the first year of our *Strategic Direction* (2009-2010).

MSFHR staff continued to work on a range of initiatives with our many health research partner organizations, including National Alliance of Provincial Health Research Organizations (NAPHRO), Forum of Health Research Funders (G20), and CIHR. We served on several steering committees, including the Cochrane Canada's symposium (held in Vancouver in February 2011) the Allergen conference, and the BC Government's Year of Science health event.

Our sponsorships this year included the UBC Life Sciences Institute's Café Scientifique series, the Dr. Don L. Riddle Retirement Symposium, and Shad Valley. We also partnered with Merck to co-fund a one-year post-doctoral fellowship at the Centre for Drug Research and Development.

Finally, we presented the inaugural Aubrey J. Tingle prize to Dr. Julio Montaner at our trainee awards celebration in June 2010. This past spring, we were delighted to announce that the second annual Aubrey J. Tingle prize is to be awarded to Dr. Michael Hayden later this year.

Knowledge Translation

We finalized a one-year knowledge translation (KT) plan focusing on five objectives: KT training for researchers, KT training for research users, implementation-evaluation demonstration projects, KT guidelines in our funding applications and indicators in our reports, and internal support structures and processes. Work related to all objectives is well underway.

Our first KT Scientist Training Workshop was hosted in partnership with UBC's University Industry Liaison Office in May 2011. The second workshop was held in partnership with SFU and Fraser Health in early September 2011. Several more are being planned, and potential partners include Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute (two workshops), the Public Health Agency of Canada, Provincial Health Services Authority, and the University of Victoria.

MSFHR was asked to participate on Alberta Innovates – Health Solutions' KT working group. KT is one of three themes (along with highly skilled people and innovation platforms) underpinning the Alberta health research plan.

In sum, it has been a busy year, the culmination of a decade of building health research capacity in British Columbia. My thanks go to members of the Board, to Foundation staff, to the BC Government, and to the many volunteers who support our work. We are optimistic about the future as we enter our second decade.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce P. Clayman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'B' and 'C'.

Dr. Bruce P. Clayman
Interim President & CEO