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CIHR INSTITUTE OF ABORIGINAL PEOPLES' HEALTH

NETWORK ENVIRONMENTS FOR ABORIGINAL HEALTH RESEARCH ANNOUNCEMENT



Left to Right: Dr. Jeff Reading, Steven Fletcher, Parliamentary Secretary for Health and MP for Charleswood-St. James-Assiniboia, Elder Margaret Lavallee

The announcement for the CIHR-IAPH program, Network Environments for Aboriginal Health Research (NEAHR), an investment of \$15.8 million over three years, was made on January 22, 2008, in Winnipeg, Manitoba by Parliamentary Secretary for Health Steven Fletcher on behalf of the Minister of Health. The announcement cited the necessity to improve the overall health of Aboriginal people and improvement of health services for Aboriginal communities. The event included a number of key players in Aboriginal health and research in Manitoba including: Dr. Catherine Cook, the principal investigator for the University of Manitoba NEAHR Centre; Ron Evans, Grand Chief of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs; and Dr. Judy Bartlett, Manitoba Métis Federation.

The NEAHR program will establish a national network of health researchers that work on addressing the health priorities of Aboriginal

people. The design of the program provides for strong advisory and leadership to be provided by the Aboriginal community. There are seven regional centres as well as two national centres that work in collaboration with Aboriginal communities to increase capacity for health research and translation of knowledge that will benefit and ultimately improve Aboriginal peoples health. The focus is health research training at the undergraduate, graduate, doctoral and post-doctoral levels in Aboriginal health research as a distinct specialty. Through this investment, Canada continues to lead in its fostering of an environment for advanced Aboriginal health research.

For full text of the press release "Parliamentary Secretary Fletcher announces more than \$15 million for the creation of an Aboriginal Health Research Network", see the CIHR web page: <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/335647.html>.

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e-news



EVALUATION OF ACADRE PROGRAM INDICATES PROGRESS, SUCCESS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN CAPACITY-BUILDING

Aboriginal Capacity and Developmental Research Environments (ACADRE) Program Wraps Up, NEAHR Program Begins

Aboriginal health research is critically needed to increase knowledge and create solutions that will address the disparities in health experienced by Aboriginal peoples in Canada. Through the CIHR-IAPH flagship initiative created in 2001, the ACADRE program has made tremendous strides in the capacity-building of Aboriginal communities, health researchers and trainees that contribute to the development of an advanced agenda in Aboriginal health research in Canada. However more still needs to be done to enhance the pipeline of Aboriginal health researchers into the field that are both well trained in the sciences, and skilled and responsive to working with Aboriginal communities.

The ACADRE program formally came to an end September 30, 2007. The centres were operated at universities under the leadership of leading Aboriginal health researchers, with governance and collaboration from the Aboriginal community. One national and seven regional ACADRE centres across Canada formed a national collaborative network with the goal of advancing Aboriginal health research and knowledge translation. To evolve and sustain the ACADRE program while enhancing its original intent, CIHR-IAPH now supports nine Network Environments for Aboriginal Health Research (NEAHR).

CIHR-IAPH commissioned the RMI Group Inc. to conduct a final program evaluation of ACADRE focused on outcomes; this was completed in November, 2007. Overall the program has achieved its goals of involving Aboriginal communities in advisory and governance bodies, communicating effectively with regional stakeholders and communities, and recruiting and supporting trainees to health research at the undergraduate, Masters, doctoral and post-

doctoral levels. Knowledge translation and strategic national coordination are opportunities for CIHR-IAPH and the Aboriginal Health Research Network (comprised of the nine NEAHR and formerly known as the ACADRE Secretariat) to further develop.

Support for students and research trainees, and opportunities for student networking increased; further, students viewed the funding support as important to advancing their education. While the majority of funding is currently directed at Masters and PhD students, the evaluation indicated a need to increase the monitoring and engagement of funded undergraduate students. Numbers of students and trainees supported are*:

- 120 undergraduate summer internships
- 100 Masters
- 84 PhD
- 13 Post Doctorate or New Investigator

CIHR-IAPH is confident that through the ACADRE and NEAHR programs it is on the right track to creating an advanced health research agenda in Aboriginal health. The pioneers of the ACADRE program, the first generation of Aboriginal health researchers and Aboriginal communities across Canada, are commended for their commitment and passion for making the ACADRE program in Aboriginal health research capacity-building a success.

**Up to September 2006; these may be lower than actual due to staggered reporting timelines across ACADREs and the program's completion in September 2007.*

CIHR HIV/AIDS Research Initiative Funding Opportunity

The CIHR-Institute of Infection and Immunity, in partnership with CIHR-IAPH launched the funding opportunity, Centres for Population Health and Health Services Research Development in HIV/AIDS.

The goal of the funding opportunity is to facilitate the targeted development of an integrated network of centres specializing in HIV/AIDS health services and policy research that will conduct and facilitate research on the determinants of health affecting the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

The centres will foster development of integrated programs of research capacity building and knowledge translation that will lead to: improved services, increased resilience and decreased vulnerability to HIV transmission within vulnerable populations and communities, in particular Aboriginal peoples.

The funding opportunity has two separate funding pools, General and Aboriginal, at least one meritorious application will be funded in each of the funding pools. For more information about this opportunity, see the CIHR Funding Opportunities Database at website:

<http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/780.html>.



SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF THE HEALTH OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES :

CIHR Making Connections to Link Researchers and Indigenous Peoples to Improve Health



Dr. Jeff Reading Addresses the 19th International Union for Health Promotion and Health Education, Vancouver, Canada, June 10-15, 2007

Since its inception, CIHR-IAPH has identified opportunities to work globally to address the health status of indigenous peoples through: support for research; facilitating collaborative initiatives with researchers and national funding agencies with the aim of improving indigenous peoples' health; and knowledge translation and networking by Scientific Director Dr. Jeff Reading. Consistent with the CIHR mandate that includes international partnership and collaboration, CIHR-IAPH continues to identify strategic opportunities to create linkages and knowledge that will lead to improving Aboriginal peoples' health in Canada.

Examining social determinants is increasingly important in global health, as is looking at comparative information between countries. However, as Dr. Jeff Reading explained in his plenary presentation to The 19th IUHPE World Conference, health determinants such as poverty are understood as 'causes of the causes' of poor health and disease incidence. To understand why indigenous peoples' health status is consistently the lowest in countries around the world, one must look at

the impacts such as colonialism and displacement from traditional lands as upstream factors to socio-economic factors affecting poor health and disease prevalence.

Creating linkages and establishing networks are key in building research capacity and opportunities for knowledge exchange. To this end, CIHR-IAPH has been involved in the International Network for Indigenous Health Knowledge and Development (INIHKD, since its creation in 2003). The INIHKD is an international assembly dedicated to improving the health of indigenous peoples in Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the United States. CIHR-IAPH has participated in organizing and presenting at all three of its gatherings (Australia, Canada, New Zealand) and supported a Canadian delegation to the October 14-18, 2007 Gathering in Rotorua, New Zealand.

Through a partnership with the Health Research Council of New Zealand and the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia, CIHR through CIHR-IAPH launched the International Collaborative Indigenous Health Research Partnership on Resilience in 2004. The three national funding agencies are planning to re-launch this initiative in 2008 with a focus on chronic disease.

In September 2007, the CIHR-IAPH Institute Advisory Board created a working group that will advise CIHR-IAPH on strategic initiatives in global indigenous health research, undertake activities to strengthen linkages and enhance CIHR-IAPH collaborative initiatives and partnerships.

For more information about CIHR-IAPH and its initiatives in global indigenous health research, see other articles in this newsletter, and see also the CIHR-IAPH website:

<http://www.cihr-irsc-irsc.gc.ca/e/8668.html>.



CANADA - U.S. COLLABORATE ON GLOBAL INDIGENOUS SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

Joint 2007 Summer Institute at Johns Hopkins University a Success, 2008 Summer Institute to be Hosted by the University of Alberta

CIHR-IAPH, in conjunction with many partners from Canada and the United States, supported the first Joint Indigenous Health Summer Research Institute in 2007. Held at, and hosted by the Johns Hopkins University, participants and instructors from the health service and research community from the four participating countries, came together to examine and begin to address the health inequalities of indigenous populations of the U.S., Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

The institute was supported by the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (Health Canada), CIHR-IAPH, and the National Institutes of Health – Fogarty International Centre (United States). Indigenous students from Canada, the U.S. and representatives of Australia and New Zealand engaged in activities and lectures examining historical, cultural and social impacts on indigenous populations in the participating countries, and their health inequalities.

The University of Alberta is hosting the 2008 Summer Institute at the Banff Centre, Banff, AB, July 21-25, 2008.

National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation Recognizes Dr. Jeff Reading For Leadership and Excellence in Aboriginal Health

Dr. Jeff Reading will be joining the esteemed ranks of Aboriginal peoples' most respected leaders and achievers that are recognized annually by the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation. Jeff Reading is one of fourteen National Aboriginal Achievement Awards (NAAA) recipients that will be presented with their award on March 7, 2008 at the Sony Centre for the Performing Arts in Toronto, Ontario. Jeff Reading will receive an NAAA in the category of Health.

The NAAA award recipients are recognized for their knowledge, expertise, and importantly for their significant contributions to the greater society. The event will be taped live and televised on Global and APTN television networks. For more information about the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation, see their website:

<http://www.naaf.ca/>.

CONFERENCE CALENDAR

February 15, 2008

National Council on Ethics in Human Research (NCEHR) 2008 National Conference, Pre-Conference:

Guidelines for Health Research Involving Aboriginal People Getting to an Agreement: The Community Perspective

Ottawa (Ontario)

http://www.ncehr-cnerh.org.english/events/ncehr_events.php

February 25-26, 2008

2nd Annual Aboriginal Health Conference

Calgary (Alberta)

http://www.insightinformation.com/index.cfm?ci_id=25184&la_id=1

May 4-7, 2008

CUexpo 2008 Community-University Partnerships: Connecting for Change

Victoria (British Columbia)

<http://www.uvic.ca/research/ocbr/cuexpo/index.html>

June 1-4, 2008

Canadian Public Health Association 2008 Annual Conference, Public Health in Canada: Reducing Health Inequalities through Evidence and Action

Halifax (Nova Scotia)

http://www.interprofessional.ubc.ca/Idgenous_Diabetes.html



FOCUS ON GLOBAL HEALTH RESEARCH



The Canadian Coalition for Global Health Research

The Canadian Coalition for Global Health Research (CCGHR) is a not-for-profit organization that was formed in 2001; today it is funded through the Canadian International Development Agency, CIHR, Health Canada and the International Development Research Centre and foundations. The CCGHR's objectives include mobilizing support for global health research, creating partnerships with Canadians and researchers in low and middle-income countries, and knowledge translation – turning research into action.

To further support the development of global indigenous health research, CIHR-IAPH supported CCGHR to conduct two studies on global indigenous health research and an implementation plan. CIHR-IAPH is currently supporting the CCGHR to implement its Integrated Work Plan on Indigenous Health. Leading this effort on behalf of CCGHR is the Aboriginal company, Kishk Anaquot Health Research, led by its Principal Investigator Kim Scott. Kim Scott was engaged by CCGHR to work collaboratively with the Chair of the CCGHR Task Force on Global Indigenous Health Research, Dr. Harriet Kuhnlein, to implement the plan.

One of the implementation plan's primary objectives is to organize the first CCGHR Summer Institute for New Global Health Researchers that will be specifically dedicated to addressing indigenous health research issues. The 5th Summer Institute co-hosted by Network Environments for Aboriginal Research BC (NEARBC) will be held at the Quw'utsun' Cultural and Conference Centre in Duncan, British Columbia, Canada, July 16-23, 2008. The CIHR-IAPH Institute Advisory Board Working Group on Global Indigenous Health Research will be assisting and working with the CCGHR and its Task Group on Global Indigenous Health Research in the planning and development for this important event.

Through the collective efforts of leading Aboriginal health researchers undertaking global indigenous health research, funding agencies and organizations, and organizations such as CCGHR, it is anticipated that this emerging specialty in health research will continue to grow and develop, and ultimately contribute to better knowledge and action for indigenous peoples in Canada and low and middle-income countries.

For more information about CCGHR and its activities in global indigenous health research, see their website:

<http://www.ccghr.ca/>.

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