

THE AHA CENTRE

NEWSLETTER • APRIL 2018

Hello everyone!

Spring has arrived and we have been very busy at the AHA Centre. With the closing of the fiscal year and the finalizing of CIHR reporting, we are gearing up for CAHR 2018. We have a lot of news to share from our centre and beyond so let's jump right to it!

FUNDING APPROVAL FOR "WOW" STUDY:

It is with great pleasure that we share the news that the CIHR approved funding for the "Weaving Our Wisdoms" study. We send our congratulations to Sherri Pooyak, Stephanie Nixon, Renee Masching, Marni Amirault, Sandy Lambert, Val Nicolson, Tracey Prentice and Chad Dickie.

Here is a quick overview:

Rationale: Indigenous People in Canada are disproportionately affected by HIV, yet interventions to support their health are commonly based on Western ways of knowing. Land-based approaches to wellness and to research are urgently needed to support Indigenous People living with HIV.

Overarching Objective and Study Design: To (1) develop, (2) investigate and (3) share lessons related to a land-based approach that aims to "weave our wisdoms" in order to optimize wellness and "whole"-istic health among Indigenous people living with HIV. The project has 3 phases aligned with each of the 3 objectives. All phases are guided by research principles related to CBR, Indigenous knowledge, decolonizing methods, and two-eyed seeing.

Stay tuned for more information about this study!



Photo: Victoria, BC (2015)

NARAC SEEKS NEW MEMBERS:

THE AHA CENTRE'S NATIONAL ABORIGINAL RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NARAC) IS SEEKING NEW MEMBERS!

NARAC is mandated to provide leadership, advice, support, vision and direction in all areas of research within CAAN and the AHA Centre 2.0, drawing from past and continued involvement in the First Nations (status and non-status), Inuit and Métis Community-based Research community, for all CAAN's and the AHA Centre's research initiatives.

What you need to know when considering whether or not to join:

- This committee meets quarterly by teleconference
- Meetings are generally 1.5 hours
- NARAC reviews documents produced by the AHA Centre (i.e.: fact sheets, grant proposals, ethics proposals, information sheets etc.)
- NARAC members also serve as the review committee for our Community Engagement Fund applications
- You must have an understanding of Community-Based Research

We seek up to five new members to help us fill out our committee. As with all CAAN and AHA Centre committees, diverse representation is essential. We have 'vacancies' in the following areas of representation:

- Persons living with HIV
- Youth
- Inuit
- Métis
- Academic researcher
- Two-Spirit
- Transgender
- Eastern and Northern Canada

If you are interested in joining NARAC and/or would like more information, please contact Sherri Pooyak (sherrip@caan.ca) or Marni Amirault (marnia@caan.ca).

KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION COMMITTEE:

WE ARE ESTABLISHING AN AHA CENTRE KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION COMMITTEE AND WE ARE HOPING YOU WILL JOIN!

Knowledge Translation is a key area of the AHA Centre, as such, we developed an objective around the activity to **"Promote and support the translation of research evidence into culturally responsive and accessible formats"**.

Some of the key KT activities of the Centre to date include:

- Our Wise Practices Gatherings
- The newly named Journal of Indigenous HIV Research (JIHR):
<http://ahacentre.weebly.com/about.html>
- Our newly launched website:
<http://ahacentre.weebly.com>
- Fact sheet development:
<http://ahacentre.weebly.com/resources.html>

We have also recently completed a CIHR Catalyst grant that brought together international Indigenous Peoples to explore Indigenous KT, Indigenous ways of knowing and Indigenous knowledge sharing.

The KT committee will meet bi-monthly (every two months) unless otherwise needed. Discussions will begin with the development of

a KT strategy for the AHA Centre with a focus on integrating Indigenous ways of know and doing into our KT processes and products.

If you have expertise and experience in mainstream and/or Indigenous Knowledge Translation and would like to join this committee, please send expressions of interest and/or any questions you may have by **Friday, May 18, 2018** to Marni: marnia@caan.ca

AHA REPRESENTATION AT CAHR 2018:

- The two abstracts that we submitted to CAHR were accepted: 'Capacity Bridging' as a poster and 'Research in a Good Way' as a presentation. Fact sheets for both of these topics are currently on our site:
<http://ahacentre.weebly.com/resources.html>
- Attached is a '[CAHR Roadmap](#)' to all of the Indigenous-focused presentations and posters at CAHR.
- We will also be giving an update at an ancillary event at CAHR 2018: The BC CBR Quarterly Group is hosting an ancillary event at CAHR 2018 called "The BC Community-Based Research Quarterly Meeting at CAHR 2018." For more info or if you are interested in attending: <https://pacificaidnetwork.org/bc-community-based-research-quarterly-meeting-at-cahr-2018>.

AHA CENTRE AND REACH COLLABORATION:

The AHA Centre and REACH are co-facilitating a CBR workshop for Tilcho communities in May. The goal of this workshop will be to orient Tilcho staff to CBR with a particular emphasis on survey design. We look forward to this partnership and meeting new friends from the NWT!

THE CEDAR PROJECT FEATURED IN THE LANCET:

In February of this year, The Lancet released its first ever Canada series. We would like to highlight the picture series: [Picturing health: health advocates for indigenous communities in British Columbia, Canada](#) which features the incredible work of The Cedar Project.

AHA CENTRE WEBSITE:

We now have a [bulletin board](#) on our site! Send us your news and announcements and we will happily post them.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES:

(All posting are on our website)

CAAN is looking for an IPHA Liaison as well as an Accounting Intern:

- [IPHA liaison for CAAN](#)
- [Accounting Intern for CAAN](#)

DRUM 2 is looking for a post-doctoral fellow:
<http://ahacentre.weebly.com/news-and-events.html>

Hotii Ts'eeda Research Centre in Yellowknife: Summer student positions are available for NWT students:

<https://nwtspor.ca/news/hotii-tseeda-job-opportunities?t=1&cn=ZmxleGlibGVfcmVjcw==&refsrc=email&iid=6941a7fe7ea54eb282bf639ca0774eca&uid=2902360287&nid=244+272699400>

OTHER NEWS:

- International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2018), Amsterdam, Netherlands. The Canadian Society for International Health is pleased to be developing and coordinating activities for the Canada Exhibit at AIDS 2018. As part of our efforts to highlight the reality of people with lived experience of HIV/AIDS, and people who work in the field, CSIH is looking for story submissions through

text, photos, and/or video:

https://csihevents.org/canada_aids/calforpresentations

- The Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) recently released the [National Inuit Strategy on Research \(NISR\)](#) document. The strategy document identifies areas for partnership and action that can strengthen the impact and effectiveness of Inuit Nunangat research for Inuit.
<https://itk.ca/national-strategy-on-research/>
- The Coady International Institute, based at St. Francis Xavier University, is offering an [Indigenous Women in Community Leadership \(IWCL\) program](#) to support First Nations, Métis and Inuit women in building their leadership capacities. Application deadline is May 1, 2018.
<http://coady.stfx.ca/themes/women/IWCL/>

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or comments:

<http://ahacentre.weebly.com/contact-us.html>

