

THE AHA CENTRE

NEWSLETTER • AUGUST 2018

It has been a time of travel for the AHA Centre! We have had the great pleasure to visit Bella Bella, British Columbia, Edmonton, Alberta, and the Netherlands for AIDS 2018.

AIDS 2018 (AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS)

The AHA Centre was well represented by staff and team members at the Indigenous Pre-Conference and at AIDS 2018 in Amsterdam last month. We were represented at both events by Renée Masching (AHA Centre Co-Director) and Marni Amirault (Community-Based Research Manager) and we're happy to report that the list of AHA Centre team members who were in attendance is long: Rene Boucher (CAAN-ON), Jasmine Cotnam (CAAN-ON), Saara Green (McMaster University), Carmen Logie (University of Toronto), Carrie Martin (CAAN-QUE), Valerie Nicholson (CAAN-BC), Kevin Pendergraft (Clinical Trials Network: CTN), Raye St. Denys (Shining Mountains Living Community Services), and Trevor Stratton (CAAN, IIWGHA: International Indigenous People's Working Group on HIV and AIDS). We will provide a brief summary of AHA Center activities in Amsterdam here, but we encourage you to check out the AIDS 2018 website for session / presentation recordings, photos, abstracts and more:

<http://www.aids2018.org/Home/qclid/EAlalQobChMIgMOlwZzt3AIVhpfCh0NawdhEAAYASAAEgIPKPD BwE>

Indigenous Pre-Conference: July 21-22, 2018:

The theme of the two-day Indigenous Pre-Conference, *Building Bridges: Uniting the Strengths of Indigenous Peoples* made space for important discussions around working

together—across cultures, and international borders—in order to facilitate an Indigenous-led response to HIV. We were humbled to be joined by UNAIDS Executive Director, Michel Sidibé, Chief Medical Officer of Public Health for FINIB, Dr. Tom Wong, and the Chairperson of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Miriam Wallet Aboubakrine who all delivered Keynote addresses. United Nations representatives James Malar (Stop TB Partnership), Givonnani Ravasi (Pan American Health Organization) and Andy Seale (World Health Organization) presented on a UN Panel that was facilitated by Trevor Stratton (IIWGHA). The document: *Documenting Lessons and Measuring Progress Towards Global HIV/TB/Hepatitis C Targets in Indigenous Communities* was also released in hard copy. Once a digital version is released, we will be sure to share it—AHA Centre staff have contributed to this project.

A Deliberative Dialogue facilitated by Roberto Orellana (University of Portland, USA) was held over the course of the Pre-Conferences' two afternoons. Discussion was opened up from the



stage to all delegates, providing an opportunity to reflect on the morning's presentations and to share experiences and wisdom around working across, within and

among diverse groups. Deliberative Dialogue conversations were informed by the Pre-Conference theme (*Building Bridges: Uniting the Strengths of Indigenous Peoples*) and information shared through morning presentations. A report highlighting the Deliberative Dialogue is forthcoming and we will be sure to share it!

The AHA Centre participated in the several presentations in the Indigenous Networking Zone in the Global Village and also pitched in in hosting the booth. We made our AHA Centre Fact Sheets (The AHA Centre 2.0; Capacity Bridging; and Doing Research in a Good Way) available in an effort to contribute to awareness around all of the amazing work that is being done by Indigenous communities in Canada. The AHA Centre also facilitated a discussion around Capacity Bridging in the Indigenous Networking Zone.

Photos from Amsterdam

CAAN and CTN Memorandum of Understanding: An example of two Canadian research networks building bridges.



(Kevin Pendergraft, Renee Masching, Kristin Westland (not pictured), and Marni Amirault, presenters).



Members of the Family Matters Research Team presenting at AIDS 2018.

Left to Right: Marni Amirault, Krista Shore, Rene Boucher, Renée Masching, Don Turner.

The Honourable Ginette Petitpas Taylor, Health Minister of Canada stopped by the Indigenous Networking Zone for a visit.



She held several meetings with Indigenous communities while in Amsterdam. CAAN and the AHA Centre were represented by Renée Masching.

WEAVING OUR WISDOM PLANNING MEETING, KOEYE COMMUNITY IN HEILTSUK TERRITORY, BC:

In July, the AHA Centre staff and team members along with a few other incredible Indigenous People living with HIV and/or AIDS (IPHAs), travelled to the beautiful community of Bella Bella, located along the northern west coast of BC. Bella Bella is a remote community that had us meeting in Vancouver to take a small commuter plane and then a boat to the location of our meeting. This planning meeting was the result of two years of planning and successful grant applications and is a CAAN led project, led by an AHA Centre staff member (confusing I know). The WOW study began as an opportunity to bring together IPHAs and allies to discuss how to integrate and implement a land-based methodology in researching with IPHAs. We initially received funding from the *Waakebiness-Bryce Institute for Indigenous Health (WBIH) Track B-Planning Project* and were successful in a CIHR Operating Grant that was submitted in 2017. With the support of these two grants the team was able to meet and discuss over two full days to begin the process of our operating grant objectives which is: *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.

We were welcomed by the Qqs Projects Society and met at the Koeye Camp, “an innovative Heiltsuk youth science and cultural camp program that takes place every summer in the Koeye River Valley”

<http://www.qqsprojects.org/projects/koeye-camp/>. We would also like to thank and shout out to Jessica Housty for her welcome and hospitality as well as to everyone who was at the camp.



Over the course of our 2-days we were able to fully experience what it means to be on the land, being in a remote area with limited access to cell service, Wifi and an hour boat ride to stores and the “outside world”. Being on the land at Koeye provided us the opportunity to experience the beauty and connection to the Mother Earth. In addition to being so far removed from the “real world”, the IPHAs who guided our conversation, shared their vision and purpose cannot fully be explained in such a short newsblast. Other than to say, the “researchers” on this team feel honoured and humbled by their guidance. We will share more in the form of a commentary for the Journal of Indigenous HIV Research (JIHR) so stay tuned for that. It was an incredible opportunity and we are so excited to be moving forward on this project.

I hope that you get the opportunity to get to Koeye someday. It is completely magical.

The WOW Team

*Koeye is phonetically pronounced “kwe” (as in girl in Anishinaabe language). This is not official, just how I understand the word to be pronounced.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:

CIHR: REQUESTS FOR APPLICATIONS

The HIV/AIDS Research Initiative with strategic leadership from the CIHR Institute of Infection and Immunity (III) and the CIHR Institute of Indigenous Peoples' Health (IIPH) is pleased to announce the launch of 2 Requests for Applications (RFAs):

1. [Catalyst Grant: HIV/AIDS Community-Based Research](#)
2. [Operating Grant: HIV/AIDS Community-Based Research](#)

Through these RFAs, the initiative is committed to supporting research that focuses on key populations including: First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples, ethno-racial communities with high rates of infection, gap and other men who have sex with men, people currently or previously incarcerated, people who use drugs, youth and women.

The deadline for applications is October 3, 2018

INDIGENOUS RESEARCH CAPACITY AND RECONCILIATION—CONNECTION GRANTS

(Government of Canada Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council)

This grant supports interdisciplinary events and outreach activities geared toward short-term, targeted knowledge mobilization initiatives to contribute to the CRCC-prioritized national dialogue. These events and activities represent opportunities to engage and exchange knowledge on successful ways of conducting Indigenous research that are transformative and contribute to reconciliation, including holistic, interdisciplinary and distinctions-based approaches.

The deadline to apply is September 6, 2018

For complete details, please visit:
<http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/programmes-programmes/indigenous-research-recherche-autochtone-eng.aspx>

REACH is recruiting...

In partnership with Mount Royal University, applications are now being accepted for the position of a **Community Based Research Regional Coordinator** based in Calgary. This position will be responsible for directly supporting the main goals of the Community Based Research (CBR) Collaborative in Alberta namely: a) coordinating CBR efforts, b) building CBR capacity, c) providing infrastructure for funding and program success, and d) promoting KTE and learning for impact. For full details, please visit:

<https://mtroyalca.hva.hrsmart.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/455/0>

MEMBERS NEEDED:

The National Aboriginal Research Advisory Council (NARAC) is still accepting applications. We are seeking representation in the following areas:

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

For more information on NARAC, please visit:

<http://www.ahacentre.ca/our-team.html#national>

SPECIAL THANK YOU:

Shining Mountains Living Community Services has been one of our partners since the AHA Centre first took root in 2012. Thank you for your support and for the amazing work you do!

CONTACT US:

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

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