

THE AHA CENTRE

NEWSLETTER • JUNE 2018

Summer is upon us!

We are happy to report that we have had a very busy and productive couple of months. Here are some highlights as well as updates and news.

CAHR 2018:

We were excited for the opportunity to connect with many AHA Centre team members during this year's CAHR conference in Vancouver, BC, April 26 – 29. The AHA Centre had a strong presence during CAHR 2018 with an oral presentation: *"Doing Research in a Good Way" Decolonizing the Research Practice* and a poster: *Capacity Bridging: reciprocal and equitable knowledge sharing on a research team*. You can find these documents on the Resources page of our website. Sherri also delivered a plenary session held by CATIE called: Implications for the Front Lines on Sunday April 29th on behalf of the Cedar Project as well as sharing on the work of the AHA Centre at the Pacific AIDS Networks Ancillary Event held on April 26, 2018. The Ancillary event provided CAHR attendees to observe PANs CBR Quarterly Meeting. It was a great opportunity to showcase the work that AHA Centre does and how we can support others engaged in CBR.

T'LICHO INTRODUCTION TO CBR WORKSHOP:

The AHA Centre partnered with the CIHR Centre for REACH to host a three-day introduction to Community Based Workshop with staff from the T'licho Government in the Northwest Territories. We met at Casey House in Toronto May 8 – 10, 2018.

Drawing on expertise from both the REACH and AHA Centre teams, the learning objectives



Photo: CAHR (2018)

of this workshop were to:

- identify and prioritize the CBR training goals of the T'licho Government;
- agree on what Community-Based Research is;
- learn from each other about research ideas and practices; and map the road ahead.

CAAN AGM 2018:

CAAN's AGM and Skills Building sessions will be held in Toronto, ON from September 18th to 20th. The theme this year is: **Strong Leadership**

Building Strong Communities. Forms for registration, scholarship, award nomination, abstract submission, and exhibition/sales table are available on our site at:

www.ahacentre.ca/bulletin-board.html

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FUND:

We are so happy to announce that we are now accepting applications for this planning grant. **Deadline to apply: July 31, 2018**

Up to \$10 000 per call is available to assist Indigenous communities, Indigenous AIDS Service Organizations, and/or Indigenous students interested in developing a research project.



Community Engagement Planning Grants are meant to:

- Provide funding to develop a research project.
- Encourage community engagement (i.e.: plan meetings with new team members, develop research ideas and proposals)
- Support the development of larger research grant proposals (to organizations such as CIHR, SSHRC, Waakebiness-Bryce, NIH US).

All details and application forms can be found on our website:

www.ahacentre.ca/community-engagement-fund.html

JOURNAL OF INDIGENOUS HIV RESEARCH (JIHR):

(Previously known as the CJACBR)

The call for papers for Volume 10 has been extended to **August 1, 2018!**

Special reminder that student paper can also be submitted

The JIHR is a peer-reviewed journal, published by CAAN, which welcomes contributions from any author. Innovative HIV/AIDS research articles demonstrating Community-Based Research (CBR) with a focus on Indigenous communities and peoples.

Articles are accepted under the following themes:

- Aboriginal community-based HIV/AIDS research and development.
- Dissemination of results/findings
- Commentary
- Emerging issues in HIV/AIDS CBR in regard to Aboriginal people
- Ethical CBR in the Aboriginal community
- International work that includes an Aboriginal Canadian component
- Stories
- Student work

[JIHR Call for Papers and Info](#)

WOW STUDY RESEARCH COORDINATOR JOB POSTING:

The **WOW Research Coordinator** will have an integral role in the research project. This will include supporting the research team,

Community Research Associates and the WOW Steering Committee, who are guiding this study. Weekly meetings will occur with the Nominated Principle Investigator to support the Research Coordinator and the project. The successful candidate must be willing and able to travel evenings and weekends, as required.

Key Duties and Responsibilities:

- Facilitate communication and coordination;
- Assist in engaging Indigenous people living with HIV;
- Collaboratively design the program for the land-based initiative with our team;
- Assist with participant recruitment and data collection/entry/analysis; recruitment and ethical processes;
- Plan and coordinate logistics for the project (e.g., travel, arrange meetings);
- Contribute to capacity building opportunities
- Participate in knowledge transfer activities (e.g., conference or community presentations);
- Perform all reporting requirements required by the project and funding agency and other duties as required of this position.

NEWS FROM OUR TEAM:

It is with great excitement that we announce that Candice Lys, Executive Director of FOXY/SMASH and member of the AHA Centre Governing Council and Research Team, has successfully defended her PhD through the University of Toronto Dalla Lana School of Public Health. Congratulations Dr. Lys!

INDIGENOUS GENDER AND WELLNESS TRAVEL AWARD:

The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) will be launching Travel Awards to bring interested First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples (aged 18 and older), researchers, organizations, Indigenous community members, and other allies of Indigenous Peoples to attend an *Idea Fair and Learning Circle* on "Indigenous Gender and Wellness".

Indigenous young adults, researchers, allies, organizations and Indigenous community members are invited to apply for funding to

ahacentre.ca

participate in this CIHR Idea Fair and Learning Circle. The Idea Fair and Learning Circle will be held in Montreal in June of 2019.

Applications will be available in June 2018. Stay tuned!

For more details, please visit:

cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/50945.html

2018 NGGS TRAVEL BURSARY

The AIM-HI Network National Gathering of Graduate Students Travel Bursary will provide funding to support First Nations, Métis and Inuit health sciences research graduate students to attend the meeting held at Thompson Rivers University July 9-13, 2018

Deadline to apply: July 3, 2018

All details as well as the application form can be found on our Bulletin Board:

www.ahacentre.ca/bulletin-board.html

MEMBERS NEEDED:

The Aboriginal (Indigenous) Working Group (AWG) of the Canadian HIV Trials Network (CTN)

The AWG is seeking new members through an open call for self-nominations. The AWG has an advisory role with CTN and provides overall guidance for working with Indigenous populations; the AWG is supported by the Prevention and Vulnerable Populations (PVP) Core.

As a member of the AWG, you will be asked to provide support and guidance to reinvigorate the working group, including developing Terms of Reference and an Action Plan, and determining future projects for the group. The AWG will continue to play an advisory role for the CTN, and you may be invited to join other sub-committees or Working Groups to lead projects and develop studies relevant to First Nation, Inuit and/or Métis communities. The AWG values the input of Indigenous people and allies alike. We hope to recruit diverse representation of members including Indigenous community members, academics, researchers and people with lived experience. Members will ideally possess expertise in Indigenous HIV/AIDS research and be able to communicate via email and conference calls.

Time commitments: You will be asked to

participate in three teleconferences per year. Additional time requirements will include review of documents and other AWG-related materials. All communications outside of meetings will be conducted via email.

Self-nomination process: If you are interested in becoming a member of the AWG, please send a brief letter of intent (250-350 words) highlighting your research experience, expertise and/or lived experience of HIV/AIDS. Members will be appointed a 2-year term with the possibility of renewal.

If you have any questions about the application process or about the AWG in general, please direct them to Carrie Martin (carriem@caan.ca) or Renée Masching (reneem@caan.ca).

INTERNATIONAL NEWS:

AHA Centre Presence at AIDS 2018 and the Indigenous Pre-Conference

The AHA Centre will be represented at AIDS 2018 in Amsterdam by Co-Director, Renée Masching and Community-Based Research Manager (KT) Marni Amirault and many members of our research team.

The theme for this year's Indigenous Pre-Conference and the Indigenous Networking Zone in the Global Village at AIDS 2018 is:

BUILDING BRIDGES WITH BROTHER AND SISTER COMMUNITIES GLOBALLY. The AHA Centre has submitted an abstract to the Indigenous Networking Zone that talks about Capacity Bridging and we have been included in another submission with the CTN that talks about the partnership between CAAN, the AHA Centre and the CTN. We will share as much information as we can should either of these abstracts be accepted. We will also be sharing as much as we can about the conference on social media as well, so look forward to that!

You can keep track of the AHA Center on our social media feeds and also connect with the larger discussion by following this link provided by the conference:

www.aids2018.org/Get-Involved/Take-part/Digital-toolkit

7th International Indigenous Pre-conference on HIV & AIDS. Building Bridges: Uniting the Strengths of Indigenous Peoples

The International Indigenous Pre-conference on HIV & AIDS is an opportunity for Indigenous Peoples from all over the world and their allies to share wise and promising practices, learn from each other and build relationships across continents, cultures, traditions, and languages.

Indigenous Peoples Networking Zone (IPNZ): Building bridges with brother and sister communities globally

- An interactive program of events for the duration of the conference, including panel discussions, networking collaboration, collective brainstorming, presentations, workshops, video/audio resources, research development and dissemination, traditional practices and cultural performances from Indigenous representatives and their allies. Our official partners include: ICASO, Interagency Coalition on AIDS & Development, Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network and International Indigenous Working Group on HIV & AIDS.

IHAC Satellite Symposium International Indigenous HIV & AIDS Community

Non-Commercial Satellite

Venue: Emerald Room

Time: Wednesday 25 July 2018 – 07:00-08:30

- Session description:
PLWHA have double the risk of dying by suicide than the rest of the population. Two per cent of PLWHA in a recent study of almost 90,000 people diagnosed with HIV in the UK died from suicide, twice that of the national average. PLWHA experience significant stigma and discrimination because of their status with these being major contributing factors to suicide risk. Throughout the world, indigenous peoples have some of the highest rates of suicide recorded, with Indigenous people living with HIV being at elevated risk of suicide due to the high rates of stigma, discrimination and racism they experience. High rates of mental health problems among indigenous people also place them at greater risk of suicide. As well, Indigenous

peoples affected by HIV, TB, viral hepatitis and STIs have poor access to discrimination-free health and social services.

For additional information on the IPNZ and IHAC Satellite Symposium, please contact Trevor Stratton at trevor@caan.ca or visit www.ahacentre.ca/bulletin-board.html

SPECIAL THANK YOU:

We would like to take a moment to give a heartfelt thank you to the wonderful folks at PAN and AIRN. We appreciate your support and encouragement!

CONTACT US:

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

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