



THE AHA CENTRE

NEWSLETTER • JUNE 2020

Work at the AHA Centre has been clipping along at a good pace. Even though our in-person meeting plans are on hold, we have been keeping in touch electronically and working hard to maintain forward motion with our projects. Summertime is already looking to be busy but we are welcoming the new season with open arms.

Peer Reviewers Needed!

The AHA Center is looking for help with peer review for our [Community Engagement Fund](#) and [Volume XI of the Journal of Indigenous Health Research](#). Both projects require academic and community-based researchers to review all applications. Please consider lending your talents and expertise to these important community resources by contacting us to let us know you're interested.

BC NEHR Announcement

On April 20th of this year it was announced that our amazing co-director, Charlotte Loppie, was awarded funding for a Network Environment for Indigenous Health Research (NEHR) which will be based at the University of Victoria in BC.

"Rather than a platform for research, we envision the BC NEHR as a blanket that supports innovation and uncovers brilliance; it is a representation of our values and principles as well as a tangible foundation upon which to

build meaningful partnerships in the pursuit of enhanced wellness for Indigenous peoples," says Loppie, Associate Dean of Research in the Faculty of Human and Social Development.

Congratulations Charlotte!

<https://www.uvic.ca/news/topics/2020+indigenous-health-research+media-release>

Our CEO on CBC Radio

Our dynamic CEO, Margaret Kisikaw Piyesis, was recently interviewed by the CBC's The Morning Edition on the high rates of HIV infection in Saskatchewan. Margaret advocates for safe injection sites and resources for those who are vulnerable. She also urges government officials to "...think harder and to think faster" so that proactive plans can be implemented for Indigenous communities. Margaret is calling for active communication between communities and government officials where solutions from Indigenous ways of knowing can be developed and put into immediate action.

The full interview is available online: <https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-66-the-morning-edition-sask/clip/15781256-front-line-workers-advocate-for-change-to-fight-the-spread-of-hiv>

www.ahacentre.ca

Journal of Indigenous HIV Research (JIHR) – Find Out More!

For more information on this year's theme of navigating allyship, please check out our webinar hosted by REACH, our collaborating partner on this special issue.

<https://pacificaidnetwork.org/pan-webinar/journal-of-indigenous-hiv-research-call-for-submissions/>

Submission for volume XI of the JIHR are due on June 30, 2020.

All the details can be found on our [website](#).

Roadmap to CAHR

The Canadian Association for HIV Research (CAHR) held a virtual conference this year and we, once again, put together a roadmap of the Indigenous presentations. The theme of this year's conference was Hope, Victories and Perseverance beyond 2020.

The roadmap can be found on our bulletin board:

<https://www.ahacentre.ca/bulletin-board.html#roadmap>

Good News to Share

We are so happy to announce that two members of our research team, Kate Jongbloed and Jenny Rand, have successfully defended their doctoral dissertations. Congratulations Dr. Jongbloed and Dr. Rand!

AIDS 2020: Indigenous Peoples Networking Zone

There will be a virtual Global Village this year at AIDS 2020 and we are happy to report that we submitted a presentation with an overview of the AHA Centre (who we are and what we do) to the Indigenous Peoples Networking Zone. The pre-conference will be held from July 3rd – 5th, 2020 and the conference officially opens on July 6th, 2020.

For more information, please visit IIWGHA's website:

<http://www.iiwgha.org/aids-2020/>

Webinar: Traditional Indigenous Medicine in North America

The National Collaborating Centre for Indigenous Health will be hosting a webinar on Friday June 26, 2020 at 2pm EDT.

Description:

Despite the documented continued use of traditional healing methods, modalities and its associated practitioners by Indigenous groups across North America, widespread knowledge is elusive amongst most Western trained health professionals and systems. This despite that the over 6 million Indigenous peoples who currently reside in Canada and the United States (US) are most often served by Western systems of medicine. A systematic search of multiple databases was performed, with consequent title and abstract review of articles published on traditional Indigenous medicine in the North American context utilizing an established scoping review framework. The research was an attempt to catalogue the wide array of published research in the peer-reviewed and grey literature on traditional Indigenous medicine in North America in order to provide an accessible databases for medical practitioners, scholars and communities to better inform practice, policymaking, and research in Indigenous communities specifically through an Indigenous public health lens. The efforts and results of this research will be presented.

To register, please visit:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2986564259352193296>

Suggested Readings

Risk and preventing perinatal HIV transmission: uncovering the social organisation of prenatal care for women living with HIV in Ontario, Canada

Allyson Ion, Saara Greene, Christina Sinding & Daniel Grace

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/13698575.2020.1760217?fbclid=IwAR1CeAhjXMg7BxO2IPZL3VIVCGoQvICGovrRMKrLVXHig7ZCYfAF3cL3hfs&journalCode=chrs20#.XrMV7n87iS8.facebook>

This paper presents an institutional ethnography that explored how risk discourse organised the experiences of pregnant women living with HIV and was reproduced in the work of healthcare providers operating in a 'high risk' prenatal clinic in Ontario, Canada. This inquiry began from the standpoint of pregnant women living with HIV, and made connections between women's experiences, the work of healthcare providers delivering prenatal care, and the ruling relations that organised women's experiences and healthcare providers' activities. The study revealed how risk was an omnipresent discourse in women's lives and became visible through the treatments women were prescribed, the prenatal clinic appointment schedule women were expected to follow, and the application of medical interventions. The discourse of risk coordinated the work of healthcare providers and was inextricably linked to practices that prioritised foetal health. Women's daily realities and experiences were overshadowed by the healthcare providers' focus on the foetus and mitigating perinatal risks. As a result, the work women did to organise their lives to participate in care, and the physical and emotional costs they experienced when attending their appointments, taking their medicines, and following clinical procedures were overshadowed within an institutional context where the primary goal was to reduce risks to their babies – even if women shared concerns and aspirations about preventing perinatal HIV transmission. Women's experiences reveal some important consequences regarding the current organisation of prenatal care that emphasises risk and possible ways to enhance prenatal care policies and practices.

When Pandemics Call: Community-Based Research Considerations for HIV Scholars

Ijeoma Opara, Cristian J. Chandler, Danielle C. Alcena-Stiner, Nkiru A. Nnawulezi & Trace S. Kershaw

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10461-020-02878-2>

Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), a novel coronavirus, is the etiological agent causing the 2019 coronavirus disease (COVID-19) [1]. The COVID-19 pandemic has produced a significant disruption to almost all aspects of life, including reshaping—at least temporarily—the ways in which HIV researchers interact with critical stakeholders: people living with HIV (PLWHIV), healthcare systems, and community organizations serving PLWHIV. COVID-19 initiated several disturbances in the social ecology so ardently studied by practitioners and represents both challenge and opportunity for community-engaged researchers. Despite the difficulty in pinpointing all impacts of COVID-19, interdisciplinary research is looking to historical data about the HIV pandemic in an attempt to estimate possible scenarios [2, 3]. For example, the initial HIV crisis affected households, businesses and governments from the loss of life, changes in the labor force and changes in public spending on healthcare [4]. COVID-19 is of particular interest due to the implication that immunocompromised persons may be at increased risk, particularly PLWHIV who are not virally suppressed, whether they have a reduced CD4 cell count or are not currently on antiretroviral therapy (ART) [5]. Further, key services relevant to HIV care and continuum outcomes may be limited due to prioritization of slowing the spread of COVID-19 [6].

Contact Us

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

<http://www.ahacentre.ca/contact-us.html>