

Rural Health Research

NEWS

2011-2012 CRHRS Board of Directors

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Planning for a New Era of Communications

In the fall of 2010 the former newsletter committee was granted a mandate to expand its role to include all forms of media, and is now known as the Communications committee. However, we had a hiatus in the newsletter production due to personnel changes and personal overload amongst the committee members (see accomplishments, below!). In the intervening time, the board has discussed new directions.

This edition marks the return of our member-driven newsletter. We also welcome a new member to the communications team, Dr. Cheryl Zawaduk, of Thomson Rivers University in central British Columbia, who recently completed doctoral studies at SFU (see citations, below). We will be updating the newsletter format based on a member's survey completed and communicating with you, the members, as we continue to improve our format and communications with you. (Silvia Vilches and Kyle Whitfield).

10th Annual Conference: "Keeping it Rural: Health, Multiculturalism & the Rural-Urban Interface" - Richmond, BC, October 20 – 22, 2011

By Karen Bartlett, Ph.D.

The 10th Annual conference explored the theme of the urban-rural interface, an appropriate subject for the meeting held in Richmond, BC. Although Richmond appears to be a vibrant, multicultural city neighboring Vancouver, the secret heart of Richmond is still very much agricultural.

continued on page 2



Drs. Martha MacLeod
Dana Edge & James A. Dosman



Drs. Dana Edge & Karen Bartlett



Regional Focus - Rural Healthy Aging in Place: New Study Looks at How Seniors Maintain Independence

Juanita Bacsu, BA, MA, Project Coordinator, SPHERU - Saskatchewan Population Health and Evaluation Research Unit, University of Regina and University of Saskatoon

Researchers at the Saskatchewan Population Health and Evaluation Research Unit (SPHERU) are working to improve rural seniors' health equity. Rural seniors often have poorer mental health status, higher rates of functional disability, and report more chronic illness than urban seniors. While there is evidence of poor health among rural seniors, there is a paucity of research actively addressing rural seniors' health inequity at the population level.

continued on page 2

Canadian Rural Health Research Society Newsletter

In this issue

Planning for a New Era of Communications	1	Celebrating 10 Years of Rural Health Research in Canada	4
10th Annual Conference	1	Publications, Reports, Articles, etc	6
Regional Focus - Rural Healthy Aging in Place	1	Promotions, Awards or New Positions	6
Abstract by A. Guzman	2	Grants, Awards or New Projects	7
PHARE Graduate Student Perspective: Reflections on the Richmond Conf.	3	Conference/Meetings	7
Editor's Note	3	Rural Journals	7
		Welcome to Lévis, QC	8

Regional Focus

continued from page 1

A new pilot study released by SPHERU focuses on the supports that facilitate independence and healthy aging in place among rural seniors. The Role of Social Systems in the Health of Seniors Living in Rural Saskatchewan report finds that rural seniors' health needs extend significantly beyond the formal healthcare system. Issues related to inadequate seniors' housing, financial concerns, and limited public transportation services were identified as key to promoting healthy aging in rural communities. These are just a sample of the findings from the pilot study report available online at www.spheru.ca.

Led by Dr. Bonnie Jeffery, the report highlights the findings from interviews with forty-two seniors and five caregivers living in the rural Saskatchewan communities of Watrous and Preeceville. Guided by a population health approach, the study sheds light on the need for more information and awareness of existing services such as home care and respite care services.

Team members on the pilot study included researchers Bonnie Jeffery, Sylvia Abonyi, Shanthi Johnson, Diane Martz, Nuelle Novik, Juanita Bacsu, and community partners Noreen Johns, Murray Westby, Ivan Peterson, Joanne Bodnar, and Jay Prekaski. Funding for the pilot was provided by the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation, and the Canadian Centre for Health and Safety in Agriculture through the Canadian Institutes of Health Research.

2 • Spring 2012

Over the next three years, this research will expand and progress through the follow-up study, Healthy Aging in Place: Improving Rural and Northern Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Seniors' Health through Policy and Community Level Interventions. Funded by the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation, SPHERU researchers will be working in partnership with the communities of Wolseley, Watrous and Ile a la Crosse, Saskatchewan to improve healthy aging in place for both rural and northern Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal seniors.

Socio-environmental Dimensions of Safety of Mexican Seasonal Farmworkers in Saskatchewan: Opportunities for Learning Sustainability.

Abstract: by Arcadio Guzman



A. Guzman & Dr. D. Edge

In Saskatchewan, the agricultural safety and health concerns of migrant farmworkers, and related training needs, have not been studied. The purpose is to explore the socioenvironmental dimensions of farmworkers in Saskatchewan and to understand the relationships among farm management, agro-environmental hazards, worker safety and health training, information and communication, and agricultural sustainability. Safe and healthy working conditions are essential requirements of agricultural sustainability; farm work has inherent risks that are sometimes

10th Annual Conference:

continued from page 1

The conference kicked off on Thursday with workshops on knowledge translation and grant writing, both well attended and enjoyed. On Friday morning, sociologist Dr. Aleck Ostry (University of Victoria) gave a provocative talk on social determinants of rural health in BC. Two roundtables, one on food security, the other on antimicrobial resistance in poultry invited audience discussion. The concurrent sessions saw 58 oral presentations, and the 42 posters were displayed for the entire conference. New this year was a special poster prize awarded by the CRHRS for best student poster, and ballots were distributed to all attendees to select a peoples' choice award for best poster. Prizes were awarded at the gala banquet held at the UBC Museum of Anthropology.

On Saturday morning, two of the founders of the CRHRS, Jim Dosman (University of Saskatchewan) and Martha MacLeod (University of Northern British Columbia), and society chair Dana Edge discussed the future of rural health research by looking back over the last ten years, and sharing stories about the passion that brings together researchers to improve the life, work, and environments of rural Canadians. Judging from the enthusiastic response from the audience, the passion is still very much alive, and will carry us well into the future (and to next year's conference in Quebec!)



Drs. James A. Dosman, Dana Edge & Martha MacLeod

made more serious by social conditions; information and knowledge. Education and training for key stakeholders can lead to improved outcomes in terms of worker safety and performance. Interviews will be used to explore stakeholder worker experiences.

Financial support is provided by the PHARE Graduate Training Program.

Rural Health Research News

PHARE Graduate Student Perspective:

Reflections on the Richmond Conference

by: Arcadio Guzman

What I especially liked at the conference was the friendly academic interaction among participants. This active interaction is important because it creates more meaningful outcomes than those obtained when one works in isolation. The seminars on how to develop a research protocol and knowledge translation were key to expand the conference's interdisciplinary scope. The knowledge translation presentation provided strategies useful to socialize research findings and new knowledge with different stakeholders. I strongly believe that the socialization of knowledge contributes to development of societies. Particularly, the conference provided intellectual tools to translate and disseminate knowledge.

My research and the PHARE Program:

The Public Health and the Agricultural Rural Ecosystem (PHARE) Graduate Training Program equips me with interdisciplinary knowledge, strategies and scholarship support to further the understanding of the complex relationships among rural health, agriculture, stakeholders, and rural communities. The understanding of such relationships helps to implement actions that contribute to improve the well-being of rural communities and their associated workplaces.

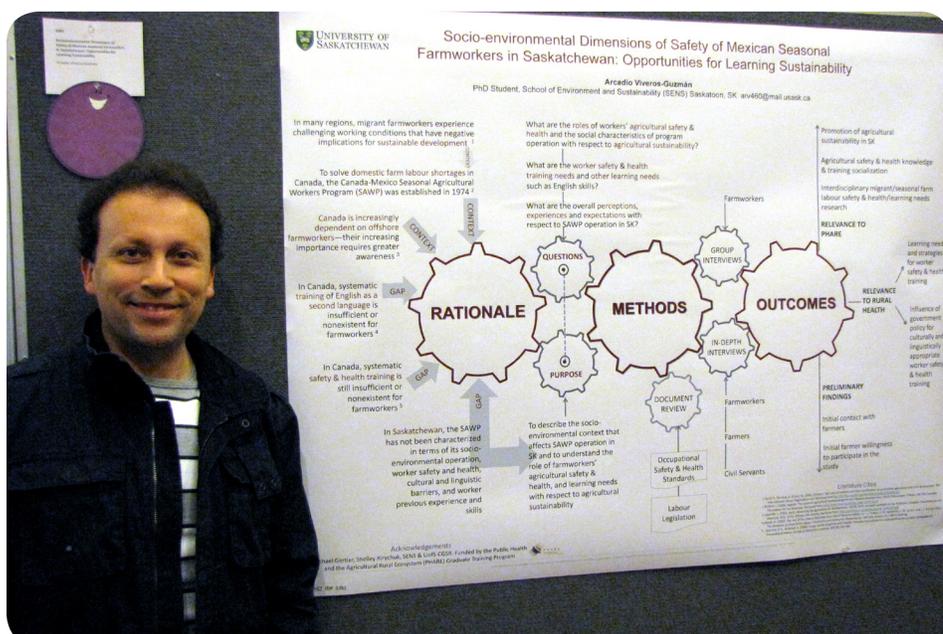
The PHARE Program is not only about medical sciences for improving the rural and agricultural lifestyles. As a PHARE trainee I place particular attention to the social and policy aspects of agricultural safety and health. Knowledge translation strategies are also included in the training. The interaction within and among trainees, professors, advisors, guest lecturers, and staff, is permanent; and contributes to enrich our research projects from different viewpoints.

Editor's note:

The Public Health Agricultural Rural Ecosystem (PHARE) program is a national rural research training program situated at the University of Saskatchewan. Each year 15-20 graduate students of the PHARE program attend the annual CRHRS conference, participate in dedicated PHARE sessions and present papers and posters in regular conference sessions.

This year, **Arcadio Guzman** won both the "People's Choice" as well as the adjudicated CRHRS poster awards for his depiction of the policy "cogs" which drive marginalization of Mexican agricultural workers in Canada.

Congratulations!



Arcadio Guzman



Celebrating

The official birth of the Canadian Rural Health Research Society (CRHRS) happened in the fall of 2001 in Saskatoon at the Health Research in Rural and Remote Canada: Taking the Next Steps conference.

The Society was born from the Rural Health Research Consortium, a group of individuals from across Canada that were working together to build capacity in research endeavors related to health in rural and remote areas and the CIHR Strategic Initiative in Rural Health. At the first scientific meeting in Ottawa (2000) the Consortium aimed to “Identify the broad spectrum of rural health issues and develop a network of researchers involved in various facets of rural health research”. The Consortium’s Mission was “To facilitate research aimed at improving the health of people living in rural and remote Canada”.

Taking the Next Steps

Oct 18 – Oct 21, 2001, Saskatoon, SK

The Rural Health Research Consortium moved to become a national non-profit agency promoting rural and remote health research issues. This second Annual Scientific Meeting: Health Research in Rural and Remote Canada: Taking the Next Steps was structure for thought and discussion on the future of this agency.

Making Challenges, Creating Opportunities

Oct 24 – Oct 26, 2002, Halifax, NS

At this conference, the Canadian Rural Health Research Society fostered mutually supportive and multidisciplinary opportunities for effective and vibrant scientific exchange aimed at improving the health of people living in rural and remote Canada.

Addressing Health & Life Issues for Rural People

Oct. 19 – Oct. 23, 2003, Saskatoon, SK

CRHRS joined forces with CCHSA to address the profound changes affecting the very survival of rural people, this historic conference sought to connect knowledge and past experience in new ways to point to the Future of Rural Peoples.

Rural Health: Celebrating Diversity & Strength

Oct 21 – Oct 23, 2004, Sudbury, ON

Jointly sponsored by the Canadian Rural Health Research Society and The International Rural Nursing Congress, this conference addressed multidimensional issues related to rural nursing and health care and the special issues that impact the health of people in rural areas.

Bridging the Distance: Rural & Northern Health Research – Faire le pont: Recherche en santé rurale, nordique et circumpolaire

Oct. 27 – Oct. 29, 2005, Quebec City, PQ

Jointly sponsored by the CRHRS and the CSCH, participants were able to learn about and discuss research results, approaches, and policy frameworks with others interested in the health and well-being of those who live and work in rural and northern communities.

Taking Action Together

Oct 19 – Oct 21, 2006, Prince George, BC

At this conference participants learned about and discussed research results, research approaches, practice and policy frameworks with others who were interested in the health and well-being of those who live and work in rural and remote communities.

Connecting Communities: Rural & Urban

Oct 11 – Oct 13, 2007, 2007, Vermillion, AB

The Canadian Rural Health Research Society was an active part of the 19th Annual Rural Policy Conference of the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation. One of the hot topics shared by both organizations was solutions for rural development.

Rural Health in Changing Environments

Oct. 19 – Oct 23, 2008, 2008, Saskatoon, SK

As part of PHARE International Symposium, the CRHRS Session addressed public health issues related to the agricultural rural ecosystem, promoted sharing of new knowledge, examined the social, political, and environmental impact on the health of the rural peoples and connected with other researchers from around the globe.

Rural Life, Health, Environment – The Full Spectrum

Oct. 15 – Oct. 17, 2009, Kingston, ON

This conference provided a forum for researchers, decision makers, practitioners and other stakeholders interested in the health and well-being of rural residents to share recent research and to discuss appropriate research approaches and policy frameworks.

Rural Health: Connecting Research and Policy – Santé rurale: Lier recherche et politiques publiques

Sept. 23 – Sept. 25, 2010, Fredericton, NB

This conference provided opportunities for researchers, decision makers, practitioners, policy makers, graduate students, community members and other stakeholders interested in the health and well-being of rural and Northern residents and communities.

Keeping it Rural: Health, Multiculturalism & the Rural-Urban Interface

Oct. 20 – Oct. 22, 2011, Richmond & Vancouver, BC

This conference provided opportunities for researchers, decision makers, practitioners, policy makers, graduate students, community members and other stakeholders interested in the health and well-being of rural and Northern residents, and communities within multiculturalism and the rural-urban interface.

*Celebrating 10 years
of Rural Health Research
in Canada*



10 Years of Rural Health Research in Canada

By: Sueli B. de Freitas

In 2002 at the conference on Health Research in Rural and Remote Canada: Meeting Challenges, Creating Opportunities in Halifax, the Mission Statement was revised “To facilitate research and knowledge translation aimed at understanding and promoting the health of people living in rural and remote Canada.

The visual identity for the Canadian Rural Health Research Society (CRHRS) was created in 2002. The logo was designed to reflect its mission and goals and to promote instant recognition. The concept included the idea of “building from the ground up – planting a seed and watching it grow”. Within the Society identity, for each conference, a logo has been conceptualized and designed to reflect the topics and themes of that particular conference. These logos reflect the identity of rural health topics the CRHRS has identified in its 10 year history.

Goals: (1) To build inter-disciplinary, multi-disciplinary, mutually supportive and community-focused research networks concerned with rural and remote health. (2) To develop health research that is responsive to the needs of people living in rural and remote communities.

Targets: (1) Increase in the number of researchers active in rural and remote health research. (2) Increase in targeted funding for rural and remote health research at provincial and national levels.



(3) Increase in the number of nationally funded peer-reviewed research projects in rural and remote health. (4) Increase in the number of studentships, post-doctoral fellows and research chairs with a focus on rural and remote health. (5) Increase in the involvement of rural and remote communities in planning, implementing and evaluating health research.



Canadian Rural Health Research Society Newsletter

Publications, Reports, Articles, etc.

The following publications and notices are provided to the newsletter committee from our CRHRSC members.

Beverly D. Leipter, Robyn Plunkett, Donna Meagher-Stewart, Lynn Scruby, Heather Mair, Kevin B. Wamsley "I Can't Imagine My Life Without It!"

Curling and Health Promotion: Photovoice Study CJNR 2011 Vol. 43 No 1, 60-78. Rehabilitation. Sep-Oct; 18(5):509-24.

Bollman, Ray D. and Heather A. Clemenson. (2008) "Structure and Change in Canada's Rural Demography: An Update to 2006." Rural and Small Town Canada Analysis Bulletin Vol. 7, No. 7 (Ottawa: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 21-006-XIE). (<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/bsolc/olc-cel/olc-cel?catno=21-006-X&CHROPG=1&lang=eng>).

To request a copy email: RayD.Bollman@sasktel.net

Bollman, Ray D. and Heather A. Clemenson (2008) Structure and Change in Canada's Rural Demography: An Update to 2006 with Provincial Detail (Ottawa: Statistics Canada, Agriculture and Rural Working Paper No. 90, Catalogue no. 21-601-MIE)(www.statcan.gc.ca/cgi-bin/downpub/listpub.cgi?catno=21-601-MIE). LIVE

To request a copy email: RayD.Bollman@sasktel.net

Herron R.V. and MW Skinner (in press) 'Farmwomen's emotional geographies of care: a view from rural Ontario' Gender, Place & Culture (DOI: 10.1080/0966369X.2011.572432).

Leipter, B., Plunkett, R., Meagher-Stewart, D., Scruby, L., Mair, H., & Wamsley, K. (2011). "I couldn't imagine my life without it!" Curling and health promotion: A photovoice study. *The Canadian Journal of Nursing Research*, 43(1), 60-78.

MacLeod A, MW Skinner and E Low (2012) 'Supporting hospice volunteers and caregivers through community-based participatory research' *Health & Social Care in the Community* 20, 190-198.

Malone, J.L. (2012). Ethical professional practice: Multigenerational trauma in a rural Aboriginal community. *Rural and Remote Health*, 12(1), 1891.

Malone, J.L. (2011). Professional practice out of the urban context: Defining Canadian Rural Psychology. *Canadian Psychology*, 52(4), 289-295.

Malone, J.L., & Dyck, K.G. (2011). Professional ethics in rural and northern Canadian psychology. *Canadian Psychology*, 52(3), 206-214.

Skinner M, N Hanlon and G. Halseth (2011) Health- and social-care issues in aging resource communities? in J Kulig and A Williams (eds), *Health in Rural Canada*, UBC Press, Vancouver, 462-480.

Skinner M.W and A.E. Joseph (2011) 'Placing voluntarism within evolving spaces of care in ageing rural communities' *GeoJournal* 76, 151-162.

Skinner MW, NM Yantzi and MW Rosenberg (2009) 'Neither rain nor hail nor sleet nor snow: provider perspectives on the challenges of weather for home and community care?' *Social Science & Medicine* 68, 682-688.

Williams, A., Crooks, V.A., Whitfield, K., Kelley, M, Richards, J, DeMiglio, L., and Dykeman. S. (2010) Tracking the evolution of hospice palliative care in Canada: A comparative case study of seven provinces. *BMC Health Services Research* 2010, 10:147. <http://www.biomedcentral.com/1472-6963/10/147>

Whitfield, K. and Williams, A. (Spring 2010) Growing Palliative Care: The Story of Alberta. In E. Waugh, R. Crutcher, and O. Szafran (Eds.), *At the Interface of Culture & Medicine: Contemporary Canadian Studies*, University of Alberta Press. p. 35-63.

Zawaduk, C. (2011). It takes a village: Rural nursing preceptorship as cultural mediation (Doctoral Dissertation), Simon Fraser University, British Columbia: Author. 1-254. Available from <https://theses.lib.sfu.ca/thesis/etd6463>.

Promotions, Awards or New Positions

- It is with delight to announce that Dr. Kyle Whitfield, a Board member of the CRHSR was successful in receiving tenure in the Faculty of Extension, at the University of Alberta. YEA!
- Silvia Vilches, originally a student member of the Board and a PHARE trainee, is pleased to announce the completion of her Ph.D. at UBC (Planning), and the start of a two-year SSHRC post-doctoral fellowship at Simon Fraser University, in which she will study poverty policy in Canada.

Grants, Awards or New Projects

- Grant to develop school curricula packages for elementary school children. Karen Bartlett, Anne-Marie Nicol, Bonnie Henry and Caitlin Blewett received a CIHR knowledge dissemination grant to develop school curricula packages for elementary school children. The packages will be evaluated using pre-post surveys with educators and school children. The first package to be disseminated has a central component of the animated video on tick-protective behaviours called "Tick-Talk". The "Tick-Talk" video will be voice dubbed into French, Punjabi, and Mandarin. Further adventures of Alex and Raji, the central animated characters, are planned for other environmental exposures.
- Rural Primary Healthcare for Older People: Building Research Capacity, Informing Policy and Practice Skinner, M (lead principal investigator), N Keating and M Rosenberg (co-principal investigators), G Andrews, F Beland, D Cloutier-Fisher, J Guernsey, G Higginbottom, A MacLeod, V Menec and D Munoz (co-applicants), N Beben, A Corriveau, J Kasperski, D Luck, R Pellizzari and P Rosebush (collaborators), Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), Planning, Meeting and Development Grant, 2011-12, \$25,000
- Refining a Decision-Support Model for Siting Palliative Care Services in Rural Canadian Communities Crooks, V and N Schuurman (principal investigators); H Castleden, M Skinner and A Williams (co-investigators), Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), Operating Grant, 2011-14, \$301,227
- "A first meeting to examine community engaged approaches to address hospice care needs in rural Alberta: Fostering dialogue about the current picture and opportunities for collaborative research". The Campus Alberta Health Outcomes and Public Health Committee. \$2499. "A feasibility study to explore the experience of rural citizens as builders of palliative and end of life care community services". University of Alberta, Faculty of Extension. Research Grant. \$10,000. 09/10-present (in progress)

Another addition is the recent rural health MA thesis by Rachel Herron (now PhD Candidate and CIHR Doctoral Fellow, Queen's University).

- Herron, R.V. (2011). Rural Perspectives on Aging and Care. MA Thesis, Canadian Studies and Indigenous Studies, Trent University, Peterborough (supervisor: M. Skinner).

Conferences/ Meetings

Alberta September 2012 -- The Alberta Rural Development Network is sponsoring, "Rural Professional Practice: Linkages between Human Services Disciplines". This 1 day conference is an initial research project aimed at increasing the application of knowledge to rural professional practice development to bridge the gap between research and action to directly impact rural services. Further, that a community of professionals with a vested interest in rural human services will be involved in a mutual exchange of knowledge through this process and creating new knowledge. Researchers, human services professionals, educators, and community members are invited to attend.

Fairbanks, Alaska, August 5-10, 2012 – the 15th Annual International Congress on Circumpolar Health will be held in Fairbanks, Alaska. This unique international meeting brings together health professionals, researchers, and indigenous representatives from Canada, Greenland, Denmark, USA, Russia, Norway, Sweden, Iceland, Finland and other countries to explore program development, research, and scientific achievements from circumpolar experts. Abstracts submissions are now closed. Early bird registration is open until April 01. See <http://icch15.com/> for further details.

Rural Journals

To be notified of the next issue of the Journal of Rural and Community Development, go to: <http://jrkd.ca/notification.php>

CRHRS 11th Annual Conference

Welcome to Lévis, QC

Rural and Remote Health Research: Creative Approaches

October 25th - 27th, 2012

"We are pleased to welcome you to the beautiful and dynamic city of Lévis, QC (population 138,769) for the 11th annual CRHRS conference.

Lévis is located opposite Quebec City on the south shore of the St. Lawrence River, and a magical ferry ride links Old Quebec with Old Lévis. You will enjoy breathtaking views of the Château Frontenac and Old Québec City from Lévis.

In addition, the picturesque, mountainous and cultural region of Charlevoix is only a short drive away. There, you can visit the artistic town of Baie-Saint Paul – birth place of the famous Cirque du Soleil.

Being next door to the birth place of these world leaders in creativity, it is no coincidence that creativity is this year's conference theme. We have the unique privilege of welcoming Mr Gaétan Morency, Vice-President, Global Citizenship of the Cirque du Soleil as our star keynote speaker. Mr. Morency will entertain us on the subject of creativity in science and much more...

Let your imagination run wild for just a moment, and you can almost taste their magic...

Be inspired, Be with us
in Lévis!

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:



**Gaétan Morency, Vice-President,
Global Citizenship, Cirque du Soleil**



**Dr. David Saint-Jacques
Canadian Space Agency &
NASA Robotics Branch of the
Astronaut Office**

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<http://crhrs-scrsr.usask.ca/levisqc2012/index.php>

contact us / submissions



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Rural Health Research NEWS

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