



Updates on the Canada-UK HIV and Rehabilitation Research Collaborative (CUHRRC): December 2011

CUHRRC is an international research collaborative that includes people living with HIV, researchers, clinicians, representatives from AIDS service organizations and policy stakeholders in Canada and the United Kingdom (UK) with an interest in HIV and rehabilitation research. We just recently welcomed two new UK members, Darren Brown from the British Rehabilitation and HIV Association (RHIVA) and Rebecca Mullin from Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust (UK). In total, we now have 18 members from Canada and 16 members from the UK.

The following is an e-update on CUHRRC activities since our June 2011 teleconference.

Current CUHRRC activities include:

- 1) Kelly O'Brien presented a poster on the formation and current activities of the CUHRRC at the World Congress of Physical Therapy Conference in Amsterdam, Netherlands in June 2011.
- 2) The research team from the scoping study entitled "*HIV and Rehabilitation: Bridging Policy and Practice*" led by Jacqueline Gahagan and funded by Research Evidence into Action for Community Health (REACH) met in September 2011 by teleconference, and is currently carrying out the literature review and synthesis of existing HIV rehabilitation policies in Canada and the UK. For more information on this study, please contact Eric Ross, research coordinator, at eric.leslie.ross@gmail.com.
- 3) The research team from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) funded catalyst grant "*Profiling Episodic Disability, Rehabilitation Services Use, and Living Strategies among People Living with HIV in Canada*" developed a survey instrument and sampling strategy to assess disability and rehabilitation services use for people living with HIV. The team is piloting the online survey with adults living with HIV across Canada and results will be used to inform the implementation of a larger Canadian survey study.
- 4) Building on the above catalyst work, members of the CUHRRC Catalyst Research Team submitted an operating grant proposal entitled "*Measuring and Modeling Disability, Comorbidities and Rehabilitation among People Living with HIV in Canada: The HIV Health and Rehabilitation Survey*" to the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Fall 2011 Competition. The purpose of this research is to establish a comprehensive profile of disability experienced by people living with HIV in Canada and determine how contextual factors such as comorbidities, related rehabilitation services and living strategies influence the disability experience. The anticipated notice of decision date for this CIHR operating grant competition is January 30, 2012.
- 5) The CUHRRC website now has a new web address, <http://cuhrrc.hivandrehab.ca>. Please update your bookmark accordingly. The website is currently under review and further re-development. Stay tuned for our new look in 2012!
- 6) Members of the CUHRRC are planning to submit an application to the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) in February 2012 for a Dissemination Event Grant. This funding could help to facilitate the planning and implementation of a CUHRRC Summit that would translate research findings related to the CUHRRC. If you are interested in being involved with this application, please contact Kelly O'Brien at kelly.obrien@utoronto.ca.

For more information on these activities and/or the CUHRRC, please contact Chia-Yu Lin, CUHRRC coordinator, at CUHRRC@mcmaster.ca.