



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.

The following is an update on CUHRRC activities since our newsletter e-update in June 2012.

New CUHRRC Members

- CUHRRC welcomes three new members to the collaborative. **Neil Coulson** is a Chartered Psychologist and Registered Health Psychologist. He is also an Associate Professor of Health Psychology at the University of Nottingham in the UK. **Elizabeth Stevens** is an HIV Occupational Therapist in Heartlands Hospital Birmingham, UK. **Janet Wu** is a Speech-Language Pathologist at St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto, Canada. In total, CUHRRC is now comprised of 42 members (24 members from Canada and 18 from the UK).

Knowledge Translation Activities

- **Client-Centred and Occupation-Focused Assessment:** Brenda Merritt and Jacqueline Gahagan delivered a keynote presentation at the 2012 International Assessment of Motor and Process Skills Symposium: Implementing Evidence-Based, Occupation-Focused Assessments and Occupation-Based Interventions in Copenhagen, Denmark entitled "*Meeting at the Intersection of HIV Care: Occupational Therapy and Health Promotion Perspectives on the Utilization of an Occupation-Based Assessment*". For more information, please contact Jacqueline Gahagan at Jacqueline.Gahagan@dal.ca or Brenda Merritt at b.merritt@dal.ca.
- **Conducting online survey research with adults living with HIV:** Findings from piloting the '*HIV, Health and Rehabilitation Survey*' led by Kelly O'Brien and funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) was presented at the Ontario HIV Treatment Network (OHTN) 2012 Research Conference in Toronto, Ontario. Results from this pilot phase informed revisions to the survey instrument and implementation, and provided broader considerations for researchers conducting online survey research with people living with HIV (PHAs). The abstract from the OHTN Conference, can be accessed at: <http://ohtnw3.ca/OHTNResearchConferenceAdmin/UsersDoc/CopyAbstracts/RN87.pdf>. For more information, please contact Kelly O'Brien at kelly.obrien@utoronto.ca.
- **New publication:** Richard Harding (UK) and his colleagues recently published an article entitled '*What factors are associated with patient self-reported health status among HIV outpatients? A multicentre UK study of biomedical and psychosocial factors*' in *AIDS Care*. 2012; 24(8):963-71. Epub 2012 Apr 23. Findings from this study revealed that physical and psychological problems persist in the presence of anti-retroviral treatment and good management of viral replication should be supported by multi-dimensional care to manage the burden of disease and optimize long-term well-being (Harding et al. 2012). For more information on this article, please contact Richard Harding at richard.harding@kcl.ac.uk.
- **Policy-to-Practice Implications for Rehabilitation in the Context of HIV:** Jacqueline Gahagan (Canada) and Stuart Gibson (UK) are currently working on the final report of the scoping review entitled '*HIV, Chronic Disease, and Rehabilitation in Canada: A Scoping Review of HIV Policy Approaches*' funded by the CIHR-funded Centre for Research Evidence into Action for Community Health (REACH) in HIV/AIDS. Results synthesize existing HIV-related rehabilitation policies in Canada and the UK that may inform

approaches to addressing the policy-to practice implications for rehabilitation service delivery for people living with HIV. For more information, please contact Jacqueline Gahagan at Jacqeline.Gahagan@dal.ca.

- **Save the Date! The CUHRRC and CWGHR Collaborative International Forum on HIV and Rehabilitation Research** will be held on **Thursday June 13 and Friday June 14, 2013** at the Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute, St. Michael's Hospital, in **Toronto, Canada**. The aim of the International Forum is to translate research evidence knowledge on HIV and rehabilitation in Canada, UK and Ireland and to identify new and emerging research priorities in HIV and rehabilitation. The Forum is funded by a Dissemination Grant from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), HIV/AIDS Research Initiative, and supported by the Public Health Agency of Canada, The Ontario HIV Treatment Network, and the University of Toronto. For more information about this event, please contact Kelly O'Brien at kelly.obrien@utoronto.ca or Nkem Iku at nkem.iku@utoronto.ca.
- **Rehabilitation HIV Association (RHIVA):** RHIVA are pleased to announce that the *British HIV Association (BHIVA) Standards of Care for People Living with HIV (2013)* have just been published. RHIVA was one of 15 co-badged organisations that contributed to this radical update of the 2007 Standards. Therapies and rehabilitation are mentioned throughout the Standards, including recommendations for OT, PT and SLT in inpatient settings and recommendations around self management and community rehabilitation. The Standards also highlight of the importance of the assessment and treatment of neurocognitive functioning and the importance of mental health and social services in the holistic care of people living with HIV. The standards are available online at <http://www.bhiva.org/standards-of-care-2013.aspx>. The Standards also gave us the opportunity to develop the first draft of competencies for OTs, PTs and SLTs with people living with HIV, which are referenced in the Standards. These are available online at <http://www.bhiva.org/documents/Links/RHIVA-competenices.pdf>. Part of the competences includes recommendations for continuous professional development, and we have recommended the *E-Module for Evidenced Based HIV Rehabilitation* as a key resource. Will Chegwiddden, Chair of RHIVA will.chegwiddden@bartshealth.nhs.uk

Updates on CUHRRC-Related Research



The HIV, Health and Rehabilitation Survey is a three year study funded by the CIHR, HIV/AIDS Research Initiative 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. We are looking forward to our second pilot of the survey instrument in the Winter of 2013 (after our Catalyst Pilot), and to fully implement the survey in Fall 2013. For more information, please contact Nkem Iku, Research Coordinator at nkem.iku@utoronto.ca.

Save the Date! The HIV, Health and Rehabilitation Survey Team will hold their first face-to-face meeting on **Wednesday June 12, 2013 in Toronto, Canada**. The purpose of this meeting will be to review the results from the second pilot and prepare for the full implementation of the HIV, Health and Rehabilitation Survey.

Website Update

- We are in the process of finalizing the new CHUHRRC website. The new and improved website will include biographies and pictures of CUHRRC members. **If you haven't already, please feel free to send a brief biography and picture of yourself that you would be willing to post on the website to Nkem Iku, CUHRRC coordinator at cuhrrc@utoronto.ca by January 31st, 2013.**

CUHRRC Membership Meeting

- CUHRRC is holding a membership teleconference meeting on **Tuesday February 12th, 2013 at 1pm-2pm Eastern Standard Time**. The purpose of this meeting will be to introduce new CUHRRC members and provide updates on the upcoming CUHRRC-CWGHR International Forum on HIV and Rehabilitation Research. Please stay tuned as Nkem Iku will send out more details for the meeting closer to the scheduled date.

For more information on these activities and/or the CUHRRC, please contact Nkem Iku, CUHRRC coordinator, at cuhrrc@utoronto.ca or visit the CUHRRC website at cuhrrc.hivandrehab.ca

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