



Updates on the Canada-UK HIV and Rehabilitation Research Collaborative (CUHRRC): Summer E-Update (July 2013)

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CUHRRC is an international research collaborative comprised of over 40 people living with HIV, researchers, clinicians, representatives from AIDS service organizations and policy stakeholders in Canada, the United Kingdom (UK), the United States of America (USA) and Ireland with an interest in HIV and rehabilitation research.

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

New CUHRRC Members

- 1) The CUHRRC welcomes two new members to the collaborative. **Mary Lou Galantino** is a Professor at the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, and Adjunct Scholar and Associate Professor in the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health at the University of Pennsylvania where she conducts research on integrative medicine and chronic diseases. **David Kietrys** is an Associate Professor in the Department of Physical Therapy Program at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey - School of Health Related Professions, where he coordinates the musculoskeletal tract of the curriculum. Mary Lou and David are CUHRRC's first members from USA. Welcome!

New CUHRRC Partnership

- 2) We are happy to announce a formal partnership between the **Canadian Association for HIV Research (CAHR)** and CUHRRC. CAHR is the leading organization of HIV/AIDS researchers in Canada, encouraging Canadian researchers to be leaders in knowledge translation and to effectively respond both to the Canadian and global HIV/AIDS epidemics. CAHR is also the organizing body for the Annual Canadian Conference on HIV/AIDS Research. We look forward to working with CAHR in future research endeavours related to HIV and rehabilitation research. For more information about CAHR, please go to <http://www.cahr-acrv.ca/>.

Knowledge Translation Activities

- 3) The CUHRRC held the first ever **International Forum on HIV and Rehabilitation Research** in collaboration with the CWGHR Annual General Meeting and CWGHR 15th Anniversary Celebration on **Thursday June 13 and Friday June 14, 2013**. The aim of the Forum was to translate research evidence knowledge on HIV and rehabilitation in Canada, UK, USA and Ireland, and to identify new and emerging research priorities in HIV and rehabilitation.

The event was a success in integrating research and clinical practice in the field of HIV, disability and research. Over 100 participants, including people living with HIV, researchers, clinicians, representatives from AIDS Service and Community-based Service Organizations, educators and policy makers from Canada, Ireland, USA and the UK attended the event providing opportunities for new collaborations and partnerships in the field. Seventeen (17) CUHRRC members presented on their research during the Forum. The proceedings of the International Forum can be accessed online via an electronic workbook at <http://bit.ly/12fDEha>.

We are in the process of developing a Knowledge Transfer Exchange (KTE) Library which will include the Forum report (highlighting the new research priorities in the field of HIV, disability and research discussed at the Forum), video recordings of presentations from the plenary and panel sessions, and the speakers' presentation slides.

The Forum was funded by a Dissemination Grant from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), HIV/AIDS Research Initiative and the Public Health Agency of Canada, and supported 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.

- 4) The 11th **International AIDS Impact Conference** will be held in Barcelona, Spain from **Sunday September 29th to Wednesday October 2nd, 2013** at the **Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona**. Three CUHRRC members (Richard Harding, Patty Solomon and Kelly O'Brien) had abstracts accepted for the conference and will present on behalf of their teams. **Patty Solomon** will deliver a podium presentation entitled: *"Increasing capacity in rehabilitation in the management of HIV: A case-based e-mail intervention"*, and a poster presentation entitled *"Aging with HIV; A Model of Disability"*. **Richard Harding** will give two podium presentations: *"Palliative care-related problems among HIV outpatients in East Africa: cross-sectional study"*, and *"A mixed methods randomised controlled trial (RCT) of the effectiveness of a palliative care intervention on psychosocial outcomes in HIV positive patients on ART in Kenya"*. **Kelly O'Brien** will deliver a podium presentation entitled *"Evidence-Informed Recommendations in Rehabilitation for Older Adults Living with HIV: A Knowledge Synthesis"* and a poster presentation entitled: *"Reliability and Validity of the HIV Disability Questionnaire with Adults Living with HIV in Canada and Ireland"*.

To view the draft AIDS Impact conference agenda, please go to <http://www.aidsimpact.com/2013/Academics/DraftProgramme/>. For more information about the conference, please go to <http://www.aidsbarcelona2013.net/eng/>.

Updates on CUHRRC-Related Research

- 5)  **The HIV, Health and Rehabilitation Survey (HHR)** 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 completed the second pilot of the HHR (after the Catalyst Pilot) with 30 adults (18 years or older) living with HIV across Canada from January to March 2013. The HHR Team met face-to-face on **Wednesday June 12, 2013** at the University of Toronto, Canada to review the results from the second pilot and prepare for the full implementation of the *HIV, Health and Rehabilitation Survey*. The team will be revising the instrument and recruitment materials over the summer and reaching out to organizations interested in supporting the recruitment. For more information on the HHR please visit the HHR webpage on the CUHRRC website http://cuhrrc.hivandrehab.ca/current_studies.php. Stay tuned for the full launch of the survey in Fall 2013!

For more information, please contact Nkem Iku, Research Coordinator at nkem.iku@utoronto.ca.

Rehabilitation in HIV Association (RHIVA) Updates

- 6) RHIVA elected a new Chair and Vice Chair for the association. **Esther McDonnell** an Occupational Therapist at the Chelsea-Westminster NHS Trust has stepped into the role of Chair for RHIVA. **Darren Brown** a Physiotherapist also at the Chelsea-Westminster NHS Trust is the new Vice Chair of RHIVA.

For more information on RHIVA activities, please contact Esther McDonnell at Esther.McDonnell@chelwest.nhs.uk or Darren Brown at Darren.Brown@chelwest.nhs.uk. You can now follow RHIVA on Twitter @RehabHIV.

CUHRRC Membership Meeting

- 7) CUHRRC plans to hold the next membership meeting via teleconference in **January 2014**. The purpose of this meeting will be to introduce new CUHRRC members and provide an update on other CUHRRC related activities. Please stay tuned for emails from Nkem Iku who will coordinate the date and time of this meeting.

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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