2011 Department of Community Health and Epidemiology

Student Research Day

Friday, March 4, 2011
Health Sciences B111
University of Saskatchewan
Student Research Day Agenda

Health Sciences Building B111, University of Saskatchewan

Friday, March 4, 2011

11:30 – 11:45 Registration sign-in, snacks and refreshments
11:45 – 12:00 Opening Remarks – Dr. Sylvia Abonyi
12:00 – 4:30 pm Student presentations HSC B111
(see Student presentation times for individual presentations)
4:30 – 5:30 pm Reception and Awards RUH 2753 (Seminar Room)
Closing Remarks - Dr. Nazeem Muhajarine

Research Day Organizers: Bonnie Janzen
                          Cheryl Bolster

Student Research Day  Department of Community Health & Epidemiology
### Session 1  12:00 – 1:15  Moderator: Dr. Sylvia Abonyi

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Presenter</th>
<th>Supervisor(s)</th>
<th>Abstract Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hubert Alimezelli</td>
<td>Dr. Anne Leis</td>
<td>Determinants of Self-rated Health of Official Language Minority Seniors in Canada: The Case of Francophones Living in the Rest of Canada and Anglophones Living in Quebec</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Briana Hagen</td>
<td>Dr. Sylvia Abonyi</td>
<td>Exploring Relationships Between Family Context and Suicidality Among Métis Peoples in Canada: Reflections from the 2006 Aboriginal Peoples Survey</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tamara Colton</td>
<td>Dr. Bonnie Janzen</td>
<td>Gender, Social Capital and Health Among Single Parents</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugandhi Wickremarachchi</td>
<td>Dr. Rachel Engler-Stringer</td>
<td>A Neighbourhood-based Study of Food Environments in Saskatoo Stores</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Session 2  1:30 – 2:45  Moderator: Dr. June (Hyun) Lim

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Presenter</th>
<th>Supervisor(s)</th>
<th>Abstract Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rhonda Bryce</td>
<td>Dr. Punam Pahwa</td>
<td>Demographic Risk Factors for Late Pregnancy Stillbirth in Saskatchewan Women</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephanie Konrad</td>
<td>Dr. Lim and Dr. Skinner</td>
<td>Evaluation of HIV Disease Progression in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan: Identifying Determinants of Disease Progression</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jessica Grant</td>
<td>Dr. Sylvia Abonyi and Dr. Richard Long</td>
<td>The Determinants of TB Transmission Among Indigenous Populations in Canada and New Zealand</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan Tupper</td>
<td>Dr. Punam Pahwa Dr. Alan Rosenberg</td>
<td>Electronic Diary for Real-Time Symptom Monitoring in Youth with Persistent Pain</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Session 3  3:00 – 4:15  Moderator: Dr. Lori Hanson

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Presenter</th>
<th>Supervisor(s)</th>
<th>Abstract Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Donelda Gowan-Moody</td>
<td>Dr. Anne Leis</td>
<td>Saskatchewan Massage Therapists Attitudes Toward Research and the Factors That Influence Their Use of Research</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Li-Wei Philip Chen</td>
<td>Dr. Sylvia Abonyi and Dr. Marcia McKenzie</td>
<td>Restoring Eccentric Ontology: Arts-based Learning in Outdoor Environmental Education - A Participatory Action Research Project</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heather Millar</td>
<td>Dr. Anne Leis</td>
<td>Supporting Cancer Survivors with the Provincial Program LiveWell with Chronic Conditions: Preliminary Results of the Program Leaders' Perspectives</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justin Harder</td>
<td>Dr. Lori Hanson</td>
<td>Knowledge Translation and the Enhanced Street Youth Study</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Abstract Title: Determinants of Self-rated Health of Official Language Minority Seniors in Canada: The Case of Francophones Living in the Rest of Canada and Anglophones Living in Quebec

Student Presenter: Hubert Alimezelli
Supervisors: Dr. Anne Leis
Committee Members: Dr. Punam, Dr. Bonnie Janzen, Dr. Chandima Karunanayake, Dr. Wilfred Denis, and Dr. Allen Backman

Background: Minority populations have long been shown to be in poorer health than the general population but the extent to which the same can be said about official language minority populations in Canada with great confidence is still uncertain.

Purpose: To determine the factors associated with the self-rated health of minority francophone seniors living in Canada.

Method: The proposed oral presentation will present findings of research which uses Statistics Canada’s 2006 post-census Survey on the Vitality of Official Language Minorities (SVOLM) in order to determine through multiple linear regression the factors associated with the self-rated health of minority francophone seniors living in Canada. These factors will be compared to those of minority Anglophone seniors living in the province of Quebec. The study uses a population health approach with a framework provided by the Andersen Model of Health Services Utilization.

Results and Conclusion: To be determined.
Abstract Presentations

Abstract Title: Exploring Relationships Between Family Context and Suicidality Among Métis Peoples in Canada: Reflections from the 2006 Aboriginal Peoples Survey

Student Presenter: Briana Hagen
Supervisor: Dr. Sylvia Abonyi
Committee Members: Dr. Bonnie Janzen, Dr. June Lim

Background: According to a 2003 Health Canada report, suicide was the leading cause of death among Aboriginal peoples under the age of 45, accounting for 23% of deaths in this population. While previous research has explored many potential risk factors for suicide among Aboriginal populations, none has looked at the relationship of family context to suicidality, nor has there been any focus on the Métis population independent of other Aboriginal groups. Research in other populations has shown that parental separation or divorce, along with having no biological relatedness to your parent/guardian has been significantly associated with suicidality (Gould, 2008 & Slap et al, 2001).

Purpose: This study looks at the relationship between family context and suicidality among Métis in Canada as reflected in the 2006 Aboriginal Peoples Survey.

Methods: Since no Métis-specific health framework has yet been reported in the literature, this project is informed by the First Nations policy and planning model developed by the AFN (2006). This holistic health framework is likely more reflective of Métis culture and health beliefs than any of a number of Euro-western perspectives, and is consistent with the framework for the Aboriginal Peoples Survey (2006 wave) from which the data for this project are drawn. The Aboriginal Peoples Survey (APS) is a national cross-sectional survey of 61,041 First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. Within the APS, family context is constructed using several variables including parents’ marital status, childhood adoption, number of siblings, etc. Analysis involves a multi-stage process consisting of bivariate and multivariable analyses.

Results: This presentation will report preliminary descriptive findings highlighting age and sex differences in suicidality, as well as characterizing some measures related to family structure, culture, and context that are being included in bivariate and multivariable analyses.

Conclusion: This is the first study to examine the relationship between family context and suicidality among Métis in Canada. Results of this study will address an identified gap in the literature, identify areas for future research focus, and may inform suicide prevention/intervention policies and strategies.
Abstract Presentsations

Abstract Title: Gender, Social Capital and Health Among Single Parents

Student Presenter: Tamara Colton
Supervisor: Dr. Bonnie Janzen
Committee Members: Dr. Bill Laverty, Dr. Ivan Kelly, Dr. Hyun Lim

Background: A large body of international research reveals that single mothers experience poorer health than their partnered counterparts, with socioeconomic disadvantage identified as an important contributory factor in understanding this health disparity. More limited research suggests a similar association between partner status and health for men. One of the more recent explanations that has been put forth to explain differentials in health between single and partnered parents is social capital. Although the precise mechanisms are not known, a growing body of research has linked social capital to a variety of physical and mental health outcomes. In addition, evidence suggests that single parent families may experience lower levels of social capital than their partnered counterparts. However, few studies have examined whether social capital is potentially useful in explaining health differentials between single and couple parents.

Purpose: To examine whether: 1) disparities in health between single and partnered parents can be explained by differences between these groups in social capital, above and beyond that explained by economic factors; and 2) the nature of the relationship between partner status, social capital and health varies by gender.

Methods: The current study will be using data from Statistics Canada’s 2008 General Social Survey (Cycle 22). Participants will be restricted to parents with at least one child under the age of 20 years living in the household. Independent variables will include gender, partner status (partnered parent vs single parent), sociodemographic factors (e.g. employment, income, educational attainment) and various indicators of social capital. Health outcomes to be used in the study will include self-rated general and mental health. Bivariate and multivariable analyses with model building will be used to answer the research questions posed.

Conclusion: The proportion of families headed by a single parent is on the rise in Canada. The results of this study will contribute to our understanding of the role of social factors in explaining disparities in health between single and partnered parents.
Abstract Title: *A Neighbourhood-based Study of Food Environments in Saskatoon Stores*

**Student Presenter:** Sugandhi Wickremarachchi  
**Supervisor:** Dr. Rachel Engler-Stringer  
**Committee Members:** Drs. Bonnie Janzen and Nazeem Muhajarine

**Background:** Saskatoon is set to grow significantly over the next few decades and the health of its residents will depend on access to nutritious and affordable food. A food access report by the Saskatoon Health Region last year found that less than half of the city’s residents live within walking distance of a supermarket (1 km), and fewer than 17% can choose from more than one supermarket. Neighbourhoods with the poorest access to supermarkets were found in the core neighbourhoods and on the edges of the city. A growing interest in built environments has led to increased research of food environments, though little of this is Canadian-specific to date.

**Purpose:** This study aims to characterize - by neighbourhood - the price, availability and quality of healthy food options in Saskatoon’s supermarkets, convenience stores and specialty food stores. Combined with a spatial analysis of food store type by neighbourhood, the study also asks if there is a relationship between access to healthful food and socioeconomic status. This thesis project is carried out within the larger study, *A Characterization of the Food Environment in Saskatoon for Families with Children*, headed by Dr. Rachel Engler-Stringer.

**Methods:** This study uses a cross-sectional design to characterize the consumer and community food environments in Saskatoon. Using a Canadian adaptation of the Nutrition Environment Measures Survey for Stores (NEMS-S) instrument, this study is sampling food stores (grocery, convenience and specialty) in Saskatoon’s residential neighbourhoods. Composite NEMS-S scores will be mapped by neighbourhood using ArcGIS and will be analyzed with respect to select socio-economic status map layers - education, income, vehicle ownership and single-parent status.

**Results:** Data collection is currently underway. Though the data will not have been analyzed in time for Student Research Day, an overview of the data collection process can be provided.

**Conclusion:** Not yet available
Abstract Title: *Demographic Risk Factors for Late Pregnancy Stillbirth in Saskatchewan Women*

**Student Presenter:** Rhonda Bryce  
**Supervisor:** Dr. Punam Pahwa  
**Committee Members:** Dr. Debbie Mpofu, Dr. Bonnie Janzen

**Background:** Statistics Canada data indicates that between 2002 and 2006, the late stillbirth incidence (≥ 28 weeks gestation) was 3.0/1000 and 4.0/1000 among Canadian and Saskatchewan births respectively. Little work has been undertaken to describe the occurrence, characteristics, and associations of late pregnancy loss in Saskatchewan.

**Purpose:** To examine late stillbirths among Saskatchewan women regarding incidence, attributed causes, characteristics, and associated area-level factors.

**Methods:** This study utilized Saskatchewan Vital Statistics data for cases occurring between 1987 and 2007 (n=1119). Descriptive statistics and incidence were examined utilizing Chi-square testing and Poisson regression. Associations between characteristics were evaluated by log-linear modeling. Poisson regression explored area-level factors in relation to incidence within the eighteen census divisions.

**Results:** Although some variation occurred over time and remoteness, women were typically ≤ 35 years of age, of moderate parity, non-Aboriginal, had no previous stillbirths, and were not carrying a multiple gestation. Approximately half of the fetuses were inadequately grown and half were preterm. Incidence per 1000 births differed for Saskatchewan and Canada (3.86 [95% CI 3.63-4.09], 3.43 [95% CI 3.39-3.47] respectively) with Canada declining (p = 0.001). Several divisions had values that were statistically higher than Saskatoon’s Division 11. Associations were seen between multiple characteristics; most notably the combination of Aboriginality, increased maternal age, and large-for-gestational-age appeared over-represented compared to live births characteristics. Area-level analysis suggested that regions with more Aboriginal preschoolers or greater amounts of herbicide application had increased incidence (RR = 1.53 and 1.55, p ≤ 0.001).

**Conclusion:** Incidence is not declining provincially and there are specific regions of concern. Recognized risk factors are often absent although proportions of certain characteristics are increasing. Several characteristics tend to occur conjointly, highlighting potential risk, including Aboriginality, maternal age, and excessive fetal growth. Regional characteristics of association include higher proportions of both Aboriginal preschoolers and herbicide-sprayed hectares.
Abstract Title: Evaluation of HIV Disease Progression in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan: Identifying Determinants of Disease Progression

Student Presenter: Stephanie Konrad
Supervisors: Dr. Hyun Lim and Dr. Stuart Skinner
Committee Members: Dr. Bonnie Janzen, Dr. Sylvia Abonyi

Background: The province of Saskatchewan has experienced a significant rise in the incidence of HIV infections over the past five years from 3.3 to 20.8 per 100,000 persons; this incidence rate is the highest in Canada and almost twice the national average. Clinicians are reporting a rapid deterioration of HIV cases to AIDS.

Purpose: The Saskatchewan HIV Strategy 2010-2013 calls for a decrease in the number of HIV patients progressing rapidly to AIDS. In accordance with these goals, this study aims to characterize and identify individual determinants of HIV disease progression. Specifically, this study will examine the effects of intravenous drug use (IDU), hepatitis C (HCV) co-infection and Aboriginal descent, characteristics that are overrepresented in Saskatchewan’s HIV epidemic.

Methods: A retrospective cohort study, composed of HIV infected patients who received care at the Positive Living Program and West Side Community Clinic, the only sites specialized on HIV/AIDS care in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Data was collected from Jan 2005 to July 2010. Analysis was restricted to adults (>18 years old) diagnosed in or following the year of 2005. Disease progression was measured in three ways: (1) observed AIDS-free interval (time from HIV diagnosis to immunological AIDS), (2) observed AIDS-free interval (time from HIV diagnosis to clinical AIDS diagnosis), and (3) time from HIV diagnosis to death. Survival analysis was used to evaluate the association of demographic, risk factors, and past medical history with AIDS and death.

Results: Pending.

Conclusion: Identification of factors influencing disease progression is vital to effectively care for patients and to improve their quantity and quality of life. While numerous contemporary studies have examined the various factors effecting disease progression, much less research has focused on the influences of Aboriginal status, IDU, and HCV co-infection in Canada. The results of this study could provide important considerations in the immunologic staging and treatment of HIV-infected individuals.
Abstract Title: The Determinants of TB Transmission Among Indigenous Populations in Canada and New Zealand

Student Presenter: Jessica Grant
Supervisors: Dr. Sylvia Abonyi and Dr. Richard Long (University of Alberta)
Committee Members: Dr. Julie Park (University of Auckland)

Background: The disparity in tuberculosis (TB) rates between Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations continues in Canada and New Zealand. Ongoing TB transmission is an important component of the high incidence of the disease. In both countries, social determinants of health, including the comparative colonial history and contemporary physical and social environment, have been implicated in TB transmission.

Purpose: The objective of this masters project was to compare the experience of TB transmission cross-culturally and identify unique and comparable factors associated with transmission in the Alberta Aboriginal population and the Maori and Pacific islands populations of New Zealand.

Methods: Comparative data analysis occurred in Canada and New Zealand. Smear positive pulmonary TB patients from Alberta were divided into transmitter and non-transmitter groups using both conventional and molecular epidemiological techniques. Corresponding qualitative interviews were then analyzed. The researcher also spent three months in New Zealand analyzing existing interviews with Maori and Pacific island TB patients. Both the Canadian and New Zealand interviews were analyzed from an interpretive phenomenological perspective for unique factors of TB transmission. The emergent factors from the Canadian analysis informed the analysis of the New Zealand interviews.

Results: In the Canadian context, high substance use, patient delay in seeking diagnosis and large number of contacts emerged as being unique in the transmitter group and mechanisms of how these three factors could result in increased TB transmission were explored. These factors are all relevant, to some extent, in the Maori and Pacific Island experience of TB in New Zealand and may indicate potential TB transmission similar to the Canadian context.

Conclusion: The results highlight the importance of considering social, cultural and historical events when exploring the dynamics of TB transmission. The cross-cultural comparison between two countries reveals the potential similarity of TB transmission indicators. In both contexts, continued research into interventions that focus on social factors of Indigenous health are necessary in reducing the incidence of tuberculosis.
Abstract Presentations

Abstract Title: *Electronic Diary for Real-Time Symptom Monitoring in Youth with Persistent Pain*

**Student Presenter:** Susan Tupper  
**Supervisors:** Dr. Punam Pahwa and Dr. Alan Rosenberg  
**Committee Members:** Dr. Carl von Baeyer, Dr. Jennifer Stinson, Dr. Adam Baxter-Jones, and Dr. Angela Busch

**Background:** Symptoms that change throughout the day require frequent monitoring to gain an understanding of symptom burden, mechanisms of disease and the impact of interventions. New technologies, such as smart phones and personal digital assistants allow frequent, unobtrusive, real-time monitoring in the participant’s usual environment.

**Purpose:** An application (app) for the iPod Touch was developed as an electronic diary for use in a study with youth with persistent pain due to arthritis and other pain conditions. The development process, and benefits and limitations of electronic technologies for data collection will be reviewed.

**Methods:** Pain Information on the Go (PInGo) electronic diary app was developed through multidisciplinary collaboration between experts in pain measurement, pediatric rheumatology and computer sciences at the University of Saskatchewan. The PInGo system is composed of an iPod Touch app to capture the survey data and a server to receive the data. Data from each participant was accessed in a password-protected webpage, from which it was copied and placed in spreadsheet software for analysis.

**Results:** PInGo provides a multidimensional survey of pain for youth ages 8-17. Programmed for 7 times per day data capture, PInGo allows in-depth measurement of within-day pain fluctuations. PInGo uses audio alerts, visual cues, time restrictions, and navigational selection dependencies to simplify the user-experience. Cloud Computing Services and Open Source software were used to implement the server-side solution; they lowered the upfront and maintenance costs, and increased the efficiency and reliability of the system when compared with a solution built from the ground-up.

**Conclusions:** Within-day fluctuations in symptoms are often overlooked due to the impracticality of administering multiple paper diaries or interviews throughout the day. However, knowledge of factors contributing to within-day symptom fluctuations provides greater understanding of disease mechanisms and symptom burden for youth with chronic and recurrent health conditions. The PInGo offers a novel electronic format for frequent real-time data capture of pain information.
Abstract Presentations

Abstract Title: Saskatchewan Massage Therapists Attitudes Toward Research and the Factors That Influence Their Use of Research

Student Presenter: Donelda Gowan-Moody
Supervisor: Dr. Anne Leis
Committee Members: Dr. Kalyani Premkumar, Dr. Michael Epstein, and Dr. Sylvia Abonyi

Background: As massage therapy (MT) is an emerging component of health care services and the volume of published peer-reviewed MT research is steadily increasing there is a need to establish the extent to which MT practice is based on sound evidence including research.

Purpose: The objectives of this study were to: 1) describe MTs perceptions of research and their appraised self-efficacy in research literacy and capacity; 2) identify what personal and professional characteristics are associated with research utilization.

Methods: Using a sequential explanatory mixed methods design, the study was conducted in two phases. In the first phase, all (815) registered members of the Massage Therapist Association of Saskatchewan (MTAS) were invited to participate in a mail-out survey. In the second phase, semi-structured qualitative interviews using a critical incident framework explored in more in depth the nature of practitioners use of research. Univariate and logistic regression analysis were conducted using SPSS.

Results: A total of 333 questionnaires were completed and returned for a 41% response rate. While overall perceptions of research were positive, self-efficacy in research literacy and capacity was low. Referring to PubMed, referring to peer-reviewed journals, believing that MT practice should be based on research, and working more than 20 hours per week were all predictive of research utilization. Case study participants descriptions of critical events revealed key issues of access, assumptions, and impact on care.

Conclusion: While registered members of the MTAS perceive research positively, there is a gap between what is known from research and what is utilized in practice. Challenges to the diffusion of research appear to be occurring at the stages of research awareness and understanding. Curriculum in MT schools should include more critical appraisal training and more research-based resources. Provincial regulatory status may be the first step to quality training and service delivery.
Abstract

Title: Restoring Ecocentric Ontology: Arts-based Learning in Outdoor Environmental Education - A Participatory Action Research Project

Student Presenter: Li-Wei Philip Chen
Supervisor: Dr. Sylvia Abonyi and Dr. Marcia McKenzie
Committee Members: Dr. Ulrich Teucher and Dr. Bonnie Janzen

Background: Current environmental crises and the deteriorating well-being of the ecology and all its species (humans included) are the results of our western anthropocentric relationship with nature. Raimundo Panikaar argues that no ecological renewal of the world will ever succeed until and unless we [humans] consider the Earth as our own Body and the body as our own Self. This means that every gesture toward the conceptualization of an ecocentric ontology is relevant in any field concerned with the state of human well-being and population health. This study looks at the example of environmental education curriculum in a Canadian private secondary school where a western anthropocentric ontology manifests itself through an instrumentalist curriculum that currently promotes the experience of human-earth hierarchy and binary. I propose that art, in outdoor environmental education (OEE), may provide the experience of being in relationship with the environment - thus, developing an ecocentric ontology in our upcoming generation of leaders, thinkers, and decision-makers.

Purpose: The study will illuminate the experience of the environment in a participatory action research project piloting arts-based learning for the Northward Bound OEE program in Temagami, Ontario. The research project investigates the student's experiences in relation to the environment when arts-based learning is introduced to OEE.

Methods: This study invites five grade 12 students as research participant-collaborators. Data collection will take place during their 2011 Winter Camping and Spring Canoe Trip, a total of ten days. Data will be collected through journaling, group conversational interviews, and documentary film-making - all student directed - and will be analyzed inductively through creative writing.
Background: Saskatchewan cancer survivors are reporting a lack of support and resources once their treatments have been completed. This problem is more acute the further away you live from Saskatoon and Regina. A cancer-survivor specific intervention is not currently available in rural communities, however; LiveWell with Chronic Conditions is a chronic disease self-management program available province-wide and addresses some key areas of concern to cancer survivors.

Purpose: To determine how LiveWell with Chronic Conditions can reach and respond to the needs of rural cancer survivors in Saskatchewan.

Objectives:
1. To understand how the existing LiveWell with Chronic Conditions program meets the needs of rural cancer survivors who seek support to make healthier lifestyle choices.
2. To explore how the program could be enhanced in terms of content, format, delivery and marketing strategy from the perspectives of cancer survivors.

Methods: A mixed-methods study was adopted. Pilot interviews with program leaders have been conducted. Needs' questionnaires are being completed by cancer survivors who participated in the LiveWell with Chronic Condition program offered in several rural health regions across the province. In addition, volunteer survivors who attended the program will be interviewed in order to provide feedback regarding content, format, and other relevant feedback that would improve the fit with their needs.

Preliminary findings: Results from the pilot interviews indicate the material covered in the program appears appropriate for the cancer survivor population. Currently, only approximately 3% of LiveWell with Chronic Conditions participants in rural communities are cancer survivors. Program leaders have agreed it could be more effectively marketed through health providers and the Canadian Cancer Society in the future. Study data collection and analysis are on-going.

Next Steps: Based on results, develop recommendations in coordination with agencies and institutions which provide services to cancer survivors.
Abstract Title: *Knowledge Translation and the Enhanced Street Youth Study*

**Student Presenter:** Justin Harder  
**Supervisor:** Dr. Lori Hanson  
**Committee Members:** Dr. Sylvia Abonyi and Ms. Katrina Plamondon, MSc

**Background:** The enhanced street-youth study (eSYS) is a nation-wide surveillance system designed to monitor the health of street-involved youth in Canada, and has been operating in Saskatoon since 1998. Within recent years knowledge translation (KT) with eSYS has become a key priority for the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) and community partners, including Public Health Services of the Saskatoon Health Region. Knowledge translation has emerged as a common strategy within health research intended to improve the effectiveness of interventions and increase the utilization of research findings.

**Purpose:** The aim of this study is to provide an understanding of how the organizational partners involved in the eSYS in Saskatoon influence the KT activities and efforts to engage the targeted user-audience, street-involved youth. With this purpose in mind, the central research question is: What do Public Health Services’ efforts to engage community based organizations and street-involved youth in knowledge dissemination activities reveal about the influence of the eSYS organizational stakeholders on youth engagement?

**Methods:** In an effort to answer this question, we have engaged in a qualitative case study that utilizes key stakeholder interviews, document analysis, and participant observation. Semi-structured interviews are being conducted with the key stakeholders involved in eSYS including PHAC, Public Health Services, Saskatoon community based organizations, and street-involved youth. eSYS documentation will be analyzed to determine what contextual perspective they bring to the development of the present eSYS KT activities and participant observation of knowledge translation activities with local CBOs and street-involved youth will also occur.

**Results and Conclusion:** The study results will aim to provide an appreciation of the complexity of undertaking KT within a public health organization, and recommendations for future KT efforts.
Hubert Alimezelli is a PhD candidate in the department of Community Health & Epidemiology. His background is in theology and he currently is the pastor of Resurrection Lutheran Church in Saskatoon. Once his PhD is completed, he hopes to devote more time doing research on the impact of faith/spirituality on health.

Rhonda Bryce graduated with her medical degree from the University of Saskatchewan in 1996 and completed her post-graduate training in Family Medicine in 1999. Her research interests lie in both population health and clinical epidemiology, particularly around reproductive, pediatric, women's health, and rural health issues.

Li–Wei Philip Chen did his undergraduate degree at McGill University in their combined BA&Sc (Bachelor of Arts and Science) program, majoring in both Biomedical Sciences and Language and Cultural Studies (French and Hispanic). He is currently working on his Master of Sciences degree in the department of Community Health and Epidemiology at the University of Saskatchewan.

Tamara Lynn Colton graduated from the University of Saskatchewan in 2007 with an Honours Bachelors in Psychology and in 2009 with a Master of Education (Educational Psychology and Special Education-Measurement and Evaluation). She is currently enrolled in the Master of Science program in the Department of Community Health and Epidemiology at the University of Saskatchewan.
Donelda Gowan-Moody holds a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree in Psychology and a Master of Science degree in Community Health & Epidemiology, both from the University of Saskatchewan. Donelda is currently engaged in her first year of study in the Doctoral program in Community & Population Health Science at the University of Saskatchewan. She has been a practicing massage therapist for over 20 years and thoroughly enjoys the roles of practitioner, educator, and researcher in massage therapy, complementary & alternative medicine, and integrative medicine.

Jessica M. Grant graduated from Mount Allison University in 2009 with a BSc(hons) in Biology. She is currently completing a MSc thesis in Community Health and Epidemiology in the area of Indigenous health. As part of her thesis research, she conducted a comparative project at the University of Auckland in New Zealand in Fall 2010. She has also been a research assistant with Prairie Women’s Health Centre of Excellence and the Saskatchewan Population Health Evaluation Research Unit assisting with various health research studies.

Briana Hagen graduated from the University of Winnipeg in 2009 with a B.A.(Hons) in Psychology. She is now working on her MSc. in the Department of Community Health & Epidemiology at the University of Saskatchewan. Currently, she is working with the Indigenous Peoples Health Research Centre at the University of Saskatchewan delivering a program aimed at reducing mental health disparities for First Nations and Metis women who are new to the city of Saskatoon called the Tawow Women’s Welcoming Path.

Justin Harder graduated from the University of Calgary in 2004 with a Bachelor of Social Work degree, and is currently working on a Master of Sciences from the Department of Community Health & Epidemiology at the University of Saskatchewan. Justin has worked in a variety of settings including with the community-based organizations in Edmonton, as well as the governments of Alberta and Saskatchewan.
Speaker Biographies

Stephanie Konrad graduated from the University of British Columbia in 2007 with a BSc. in Microbiology & Immunology and a minor in Psychology. She moved to Saskatchewan, and is currently completing her Master’s Degree, with a thesis focused on HIV disease progression in Saskatoon, SK. Throughout this time she has been employed as a data analyst and research assistant for both the Saskatoon Health Region and professors of the University of Saskatchewan.

Heather A.R. Millar graduated from University of Saskatchewan in 2007 with a BSc in Nutrition. Following completion of this degree she gained status as a Registered Dietitian and began her career in nutrition as a community dietitian in the Saskatoon Health Region. In 2009 she changed roles to become a clinical dietitian at Royal University Hospital and currently provides nutrition care for adult oncology and stem cell transplant patients.

Susan Tupper graduated in 1992 with a BSc in Physical Therapy from the University of Western Ontario. She practiced as a physical therapist for fifteen years primarily working with adults with chronic pain. She is completing a PhD in Community Health and Epidemiology at the University of Saskatchewan. Her research is on the within-day variability of pain in youth with arthritis and the relationship between physical activity and pain.

Sugandhi Wickremarachchi graduated from McGill University in 2002 with a BA in International Development Studies, and is currently working towards her MSc in Community Health and Epidemiology at the University of Saskatchewan. Originally from Toronto, Sugandhi has been working on issues related to health, ecological and social justice since 2000, with a primary focus on HIV.