



MICYRN Funding News

We are disappointed to report that we have recently received news that the MICYRN CRI-RHF has not been funded. We would once again like to thank everyone for all of their time, hard work and ongoing support with this application. We strongly believe that MICYRN is the right model and organization, combined with remarkable people, to assist with fostering and enhancing clinical research aimed at mothers, infants, children and youth in Canada.

Therefore, we are pleased to announce that MICYRN will be participating in the upcoming CFI New Initiatives Fund (NIF) competition. This competition creates an opportunity for MICYRN to transform existing and emerging national perinatal, neonatal, and pediatric research partnerships through significant, coordinated investment in biobanking and clinical data research infrastructure across the country.

A Notice of Intent to apply to the competition is due to CFI by June 30th with the full application deadline of October 3rd. Funding announcements will be made June 2009.

MICYRN/CCCHR Annual Meeting

This year MICYRN and the Council of Canadian Child Health Research (CCCHR) are partnering to host a joint Annual Meeting which will occur on Thursday, October 16th in Edmonton, Alberta. This meeting will take place prior to the Canadian Association of Pediatric Health Centres (CAPHC) Annual Meeting which runs October 19-22nd also in Edmonton, Alberta. Additional details regarding the MICYRN/CCCHR meeting will be made available once they are finalized. We look forward to seeing all of you there!

Information on the CAPHC Annual Meeting can be found at:
<http://www.caphc.org/annual.html>

*MICYRN's Vision: Healthy mothers, infants,
children & youth—through high quality,
collaborative clinical research*

Developing Best Practices for Research Involving Children and Adolescents: Filling the Knowledge Gaps

The National Council on Ethics in Human Research (NCEHR), in collaboration with the Centre de recherche en droit public at the University of Montreal, is currently undertaking a very important initiative on the *Development of Best Practices for Research Involving Children and Adolescents: Filling the Knowledge Gaps*. The initial work is supported by Health Canada and the Institute for Human Development Child and Youth Health (IHDCYH) from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). This project will examine new ethical challenges that have emerged in the five following fields: pharmaceutical research, longitudinal studies, social science and educational research, genomic research and palliative care research.

The objectives of the project are:

- Identify the issues that have emerged since the publication of the *Report on Research Involving Children* by the National Council on Bioethics in Human Research in 1993 (now National Council on Ethics in Human Research) as well as the Best Practices or policies that have been implemented;
- Build consensus among policymakers, researchers, and health professionals on *Best Practices for Research Involving Children and Adolescents*; and

- Develop durable partnership in policy and practice with regards to research involving children and adolescents in Canada.

To further discuss the special issues related to research with children and youth, a one-day meeting on June 18th, 2008, is organized in conjunction with the 19th Canadian Bioethics Society Annual Conference in St John's, Newfoundland. The conference will serve as a platform to learn more about the initiative, to review examples and to provide input in the development of the *Best Practices* in Canada. Moreover, we are delighted to have as a keynote speaker Kathleen Cranley Glass to talk about the evolution of research involving children since 1993. The program of the meeting should be available shortly.

For more information about the NCEHR's initiative or the meeting, please contact:

Julie Samuël, Research Associate
Centre de recherche en droit public
University of Montreal
julie.samuel@umontreal.ca

Reaching for the Top: A Report by the Advisor on Healthy Children & Youth

Dr. Kellie Leitch is the Chair/Chief of the Division of Pediatric Surgery and a Pediatric Orthopedic Surgeon at the Children's Hospital of Western Ontario/Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry. She is also currently serving as the Advisor on Healthy Children and Youth to the Federal Minister of Health, Tony Clement. Through her work as the Advisor, Dr. Leitch has met with over 750 people and reviewed more than 500 documents and reports to generate the recently released report entitled "Reaching for the Top: A Report by the Advisor on Healthy Children & Youth".

This report makes three fundamental conclusions that have been drawn based on Dr. Leitch's exploration into the health and wellness of Canada's children and youth. These conclusions are:

- that Canada is doing surprisingly poor when compared to other OECD nations in the measures of health and wellness of children and youth;

- that Canada must invest more in the health and wellness of children and youth; and
- that from a health perspective, Canada has the potential to be the number one place in the world for a child to live in and grow up.

Five recommendations have been made based on these conclusions and they span from injury prevention, childhood obesity and mental health services to the implementation of a longitudinal study to help understand the health status of Canada's children and the environmental factors that affect their health in addition to the creation of a National Office of Child and Youth Health with a permanent advisor.

The full report can be accessed on-line at:

http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hl-vs/pubs/child-enfant/advisor-conseillere/index_e.html

Canadian Child Health Clinician Scientist Program (CCHCSP) 6th Annual National Symposium

We are pleased to announce the 6th annual national symposium for the Canadian Child Health Clinician Scientist Program (CCHCSP), to be held in Edmonton from October 17 to 19, 2008. We are very excited about our invited speakers for this year's theme: "Eyes Wide Open: Unexpected Opportunities for Research". Dr. Douglas D. Osheroff (Nobel Prize in Physics 1996; G. Jackson and C.J. Wood Professorship in Physics Stanford University), who will be speaking on "How advances in Science are made" and Dr. Terry Klassen (current chair of Paediatrics at the University of Alberta) will be giving his insights into the future of paediatric research in Canada. The national meeting is a great place to meet international colleagues who are doing multi-disciplinary paediatric research and paediatric clinician scientists across Canada. We hope you can join us.

CCHCSP: Provides support for highly qualified child health clinician candidates to develop their requisite knowledge and skills for a career as an independent scientist in child health research. Trainees engage in research training and a core curriculum in one of the participating Child Health Research Training Centres.

Dr. Douglas D. Osheroff:

Shared the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1996 with David Lee and Robert C. Richardson for discovering the superfluidic nature of ^3He while a graduate student at Cornell. He now teaches at Stanford University in the Departments of Physics and Applied Physics. His research is focused on phenomena that occur at extremely low temperatures. Dr. Osheroff was selected to serve on the Space Shuttle Columbia investigation panel and currently serves on the board of advisors of Scientists and Engineers for America, an organization focused on promoting sound science in American government.

Dr. Terry Klassen:

Has been the Professor and Chair of the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Alberta and Clinical Leader for the Child Health Program of Capital Health, which is home for the Stollery Children's Hospital since 1999. He founded the Alberta Research Center for Child Health Evidence (ARCHE) and was a founding member of Paediatric Emergency Research of Canada (PERC). He is an accomplished researcher with publications in the British Medical Journal (BMJ), the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA), and the New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM). In 2003, in recognition for his lifetime achievement in research in paediatrics, he was awarded the Research Award from the Ambulatory Paediatric Association.

MICYRN Administration:

Chair: Dr. Terry Klassen

Terry.Klassen@capitalhealth.ca; (780) 407-7084

Executive Director: Tara McCreedy

tara.mccreedy@ualberta.ca; (780) 492-6357

Project Coordinator: Jennifer Beck

jennifer.beck@ualberta.ca; (780) 407-6455