

MICYRN Network News

Newsletter 6

maternal infant
child & youth
research network



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réseau de recherche
en santé des
enfants et des mères

MICYRN News

We are happy to report that the transfer of MICYRN headquarters from Edmonton, Alberta to Vancouver, BC is now complete. Thank you to the Child and Family Research Institute for housing our offices and providing support. The new co-Directors of MICYRN, Dr. Anne Junker and Dr. Aubrey J. Tingle, have transitioned into their new positions, undertaking a comprehensive environmental scan and assessment of needs in the pediatric research community that will help to define the future directions of MICYRN. We have also met with many of the heads of MICYRN core groups and provincial leaders in pediatric research in order to develop plans for the upcoming years ahead and to examine ways to sustain our network goals, looking to successful models both in Canada and internationally for guidance. The MICYRN website has also made the transition to its new BC-hosted location and is currently in the process of being revamped; stay tuned for a fresh new look!
www.micyrn.com

Annual CAPHC Meeting

MICYRN leadership is looking forward to attending the annual Canadian Association of Pediatric Health Centres (CAPHC) meeting in Halifax, Nova Scotia, which runs October 18-21st. Dr. Anne Junker and Dr. Aubrey Tingle are scheduled to speak about the progress and future directions of MICYRN at the Canadian Committee of Child Health Research Institutes (CCCHR) meeting held October 15th and at the Canadian Children's Hospital Foundations Executives meeting on October 18th.

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*

Update on MICYRN—Past...Present...Future!

The core committees and partners of MICYRN have had a very productive year so far with plans for more to come in the near future. Following is an abbreviated summarization of recent activities and the links to the documents that have been produced as a result of all of these admirable efforts. For further details please refer to our website (www.micyrn.ca) as directed in sections below:

Kathy O'Leary and Shannon D. Scott of Edmonton, AB, performed a Knowledge Translation (KT) Needs Assessment and Environmental Scan producing a report with the support of MICYRN in order to determine what KT resources are currently available to Canadian pediatric clinician-researchers, and additionally, what knowledge needs exist within this group. The answers gained from their report will be used to help inform MICYRN to determine what resources would be most beneficial to develop for the clinician-researcher community.

www.micyrn.ca/cores/knowledge-translation.html

The Research Partnerships Core has also been very productive under the direction of Dr. Martin Osmond. The creation of a directory of pediatric research networks and groups functioning across Canada proved to be a much larger undertaking than originally expected, with an inventory of over 200 networks found so far. The directory has been linked to the MICYRN website under the Committees section (www.micyrn.ca/cores/research-partnership-core.html) and any additions or changes can be emailed to Jennifer Zander at jzander@cw.bc.ca. We hope that this is useful to pediatric researchers in finding collaborators and groups who share common research interests, ideas, and potential resources.

Additionally, this group has undertaken an extensive survey relating to the needs of Canadian pediatric networks and has recently collected the results. This survey examined the structure and function of currently operating networks and asked questions regarding the purposes and goals ...con't page 2

Review of Ethical Issues in Pediatric Research

Dr. Laura Arbour presented a review of ethical issues particular to research involving children and adolescents, at an international workshop on September 21-22, 2009, at which challenging ethical and regulatory issues in global pediatric clinical trials were discussed. The workshop was hosted by the Office of Pediatric Therapeutics (OPT) of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. Dr. Arbour, a medical geneticist in Victoria, BC, has been involved in an initiative of the Canadian National Council on Ethics in Human Research (NCEHR) to develop best practices in pediatric research. A resulting

publication provides a review of International and Canadian norms, and discussion of particular ethical challenges of child health research. Financial support for the NCEHR initiative was provided by MICYRN, Health Canada, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and Réseau de médecine génétique, the Canada Research Chair in Law and Medicine, and the Centre de recherche en droit public of the University of Montreal. MICYRN continues to be involved with the NCEHR group, and in discussions to engage research ethics board members across Canada, with a view to developing harmonized, practical guidelines.

Pediatric Research in Canada

A new multi-authored book (J. Samuel, B. Knoppers, D. Avar) has been released addressing a number of difficult and often ignored questions in research involving children and youth. The book addresses current topics in Canadian research such as genetic research, pediatric biobanks, newborn screening research and more. For more information or to obtain a copy of this book please contact Les Editions Themis. (www.themis.umontreal.ca)

Con't...Update on MICYRN—Past...Present...Future!

Con't from page 1...of the networks, barriers to their progress, and ideas for ways that MICYRN could potentially increase their chances of success. These results are currently being analyzed and will be compiled into tables of data which we will soon share on our website. Please stay tuned!

Dr. Bartha Knoppers and Dr. Denise Avar, co-leaders of our Research Ethics and Regulatory Affairs Core, have partnered with both MICYRN support and with the support of the National Council on Ethics in Research to co-write (in partnership with Dr. Julie Samuel and Dr. Lee Black) a report entitled "Best Practices for Research Involving Children and Adolescents". This report reviews common research ethics practices in Canada and internationally and suggests best practice guidelines for genetic, pharmaceutical, longitudinal, and palliative pediatric research. You can find a link to this document on the MICYRN website (www.micyrn.ca) under the Committees tab, in the Research Ethics and Regulatory Affairs section.

As a result of one of the MICYRN Seed Grants for Emerging Teams and Networks awarded last year a workshop was funded to discuss the Canadian Birth Cohort Research Network. The workshop was held in Toronto this April, hosted by Dr. Stephanie Atkinson and Dr. Alan Bocking, and was very well attended. Among the items addressed were developing a national registry of existing birth cohorts, looking at potential future collaborations and participation of investigators in birth cohort studies, and examining the factors involved in the creation of a large Canada-wide cohort merger. Participants also discussed a transdisciplinary training plan for those working in the field of early determinants of healthy pregnancies and child development. A full report on the workshop proceedings as well as a listing of Canadian birth cohorts can be found on the MICYRN website (www.micyrn.ca) under the Committees tab, in the Research Methods section.

Hope to see you all at the meetings in October!

MICYRN Administration:

Director: Dr. Anne K. Junker
ajunker@cw.bc.ca; 604.875.3591

Associate Director: Dr. Aubrey J. Tingle
atingle@cw.bc.ca; 604.875.2475

Managing Director: Jennifer Zander
jzander@cw.bc.ca; 604.875.2000, ext. 4788