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Issue: Fall 2009



**ICDC, Committed to Reaching our Overall Objective of Improving the Efficient and Equitable Care of Patients with Chronic Medical Conditions.**



Welcome to the first edition of the Interdisciplinary Chronic Disease Collaboration (ICDC) quarterly newsletter. The newsletter will be sent, via email to all of our ICDC Team Members in order to keep everyone updated on our progress. We welcome your feedback and ideas on content at anytime, and we hope you enjoy the first edition.

## Research Updates

A Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) has been submitted for the program to the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Alberta (OIPC). Feedback from the OIPC is anticipated in November 2009 and subsequent approval at the end of December 2009.

**Phase 1:** Determine the characteristics of people with known chronic disease; identify the current gaps in care and focus on those where further study may facilitate effective policy change.

**Theme 1:** Optimizing health outcomes for patients with known chronic disease.

**Theme 2:** Earlier detection and management of undiagnosed chronic diseases or their major risk factors in patients at high risk of chronic disease.

- Protocol for Phase 1, Theme 1 & Theme 2 — has received ethics board approval from both the University of Calgary and the University of Alberta.
- The data abstraction (needed for ICDC objectives) from Alberta Health and Wellness (AHW) Strategic Intelligence Branch, is underway and on target with respect to timelines.
- Ongoing discussions are underway with AHW Surveillance Branch regarding the process for the linkage of Statistics Canada, Canadian Community Health Survey to AHW data.
- Appropriate data sources and analytical techniques are being discussed, and patient and control cohorts are currently being identified for projects in Theme 1, phase 1.



## Research Updates Continued

**Phase 2:** To collect data from surveys and use qualitative research methods to assess relevant medical and non-medical barriers to optimizing health in patients with diagnosed chronic disease.

**Theme 1:** *Optimizing health outcomes for patients with known chronic disease.*

**Theme 2:** *Earlier detection and management of undiagnosed chronic diseases or their major risk factors in patients at high risk of chronic disease.*

- Scoping review and literature searches for non-medical determinants of health has been completed.
- Discussions are taking place with Statistics Canada regarding analysis to develop propensity score from the National Population Health Survey, as a sampling frame for phase 2 survey.
- **A phase 2 videoconference with ICDC team members has been scheduled on November 25, 2009 from 8:30am MST—noon MST. The purpose of the meeting is to gain additional feedback on the design and content of the phase 2 questionnaire.**
- Protocol for the phase 2 qualitative interviews (by telephone) has been developed and submitted to ethics.
- Qualitative interviews for phase 2 will be starting in January 2010, with the qualitative work necessary for the survey to be completed in spring / early summer 2010.



**Phase 3:** to design, implement and evaluate policy-related interventions to close care gaps in “populations of interest” (at high risk of adverse clinical and economic outcomes or with significant disparity reflected by systematic underuse of beneficial therapies).

**Theme 1:** *Optimizing health outcomes for patients with known chronic disease.*

**Theme 2:** *Earlier detection and management of undiagnosed chronic diseases or their major risk factors in patients at high risk of chronic disease.*

- Final study protocol completed in April 2009, and U of A ethics approval received in June 2009.
- Pharmacist education program initiated in June 2009
- Patient enrolment began this fall and will continue for approximately 1 year



# ICDC Opportunities for MSc, PhD and Post-doc students

There are a number of opportunities available through ICDC for MSc, PhD and post-doctorate candidates who are interested in studying epidemiological or health services research.

All ICDC candidates will be encouraged to seek funding through the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) or the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research (AHFMR). However, if a candidate requires immediate funding and/or the candidate's funding request through CIHR and/or AHFMR is not successful, funding may be made available through ICDC for highly qualified candidates. In order for funding to be awarded through ICDC, candidates must be willing to undertake and devote a substantial proportion of time to a specific ICDC project.

For more information or to discuss the eligibility of a candidate, please contact Dr. Brenda Hemmelgarn via email [Brenda.Hemmelgarn@albertahealthservices.ca](mailto:Brenda.Hemmelgarn@albertahealthservices.ca)



## Fall Employee Retreat, Sylvan Lake, October 1st & 2nd, 2009



At the beginning of October, ICDC employees from Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver came together for a two day retreat in beautiful Sylvan Lake, Alberta.

The retreat focused on employee team building and included working sessions where analysts, investigators and other staff discussed data sources and analytical techniques planned for use on each objective.

Investigators will be putting together draft protocols for our Phase 1 projects. These draft protocols will serve as the starting points for discussions between ICDC team leaders and ICDC team members with disease specific expertise.

## KEEPING IN TOUCH

Our team newsletter will be published on a quarterly basis in order to keep everyone up to date on the progress of the ICDC program. If you have any comments or suggestions for content, please feel free to email the ICDC Program Manager, Anita Kozinski [akozinsk@ucalgary.ca](mailto:akozinsk@ucalgary.ca)

In addition to a quarterly newsletter, we are also working on the development of our website. More to come soon.....

