

Revitalising Health for All: Learning from Comprehensive Primary Health Care Experiences

Dear Collaborators:

This first issue of our Newsletter is to update you on our research project. The project is funded by the Canadian Global Health Research Initiative through its special Teasdale-Corti Global Health Research Partnership Program.

What is the Teasdale-Corti Global Health Research Partnership Program?

The *Teasdale-Corti Global Health Research Partnership Program* is an innovative new collaborative health research program developed by the four founding partners of the Canadian Global Health Research Initiative – Canadian Institutes of Health Research, International Development Research Centre, Health Canada and Canadian International Development Agency – with input from the Canadian Health Services Research Foundation (CHSRF) and Canadian and developing country partners. It is inspired by the ongoing legacy of Drs Lucille Teasdale and Piero Corti, a Canadian and Italian medical couple who dedicated their lives to bringing the full spectrum of health care to rural Ugandans through St. Mary's Hospital in Lacor, Uganda. (see http://www.idrc.ca/en/ev-108118-201-1-DO_TOPIC.html).

Although over two hundred and fifty applications were made in response to the grant announcement only thirteen projects in total were funded, one of which was our project. Let us know if you would like to receive a short description of each of the other funded projects.

There are plans for the co-principal applicants of all thirteen projects to meet annually in order to learn from one another, and to see where there are mutually beneficial activities that can be shared between them.

What will the Revitalising Health for All project do?

Over the next four years, Revitalising Health for All will provide training, support and small amounts of research funding for junior researchers and their policy or program partners to undertake new studies of Comprehensive Primary Health Care (CPHC). These studies will answer questions of local or regional importance. The overall goal of the project is to renew the evidence base for CPHC and build regional and global networks of researchers and policy-makers who want to use research knowledge as one tool for advancing (and revitalizing) CPHC. Regional training programs will be held annually in four parts of the world: India, Africa, Latin America and Australia/Canada (with a focus on Aboriginal peoples in these two countries). These training programs will be held in 2008, 2009 and 2010. Regional meetings to bring together a larger number of interested groups, practitioners and policy-makers will be held alongside these training programs in 2009 and 2010.

What will be my role/my institution's role in the research project?

Two types of people and institutions joined with us as collaborators in this project. One type

comprises researchers and research institutions; a second type consists of 'research users' – people working in the policy or program side of CPHC. Towards the end of 2007, all of you will receive material describing how research pairs (one junior researcher and one research user) can apply to participate in the training programs that begin in 2008. Training positions will be awarded by a review committee, which will be established towards the end of 2007. If more research pairs apply than can be accommodated by the funding available, allocation of training positions will be made by the review committee.

Your role will be to circulate these materials widely to all potentially interested researchers and research users. This will include, of course, your own research or policy/program staff. There is no guarantee, however, that researchers or research users in your institution will be selected – the selection process will be arm's length and independent. Given your interest in CPHC, however, it is likely that you will know someone who is chosen amongst the research pairs. In addition your role will be to identify some of the important local or regional questions about CPHC that these research pairs should consider when they prepare their application to the training program, and also possibly to act as a mentor to research pairs as they develop their activities.

If you are a researcher/research institution, we expect that you will be able to use the results of this project (research findings, training modules, networks) in your future health training and research activities. If you are a research user/institution, we expect that you will be able to use the results of this project to make better decisions about advancing CPHC.

What are the next steps?

Two staff have started work on this project effective April 1st: Dr. Corinne Packer, University of Ottawa, Canada, who will co-ordinate research activities; and Ms. Nikki Schaay, University of

Western Cape, South Africa, who will co-ordinate training program development and activities.

A project management committee is being created, consisting of Profs. Ronald Labonté and David Sanders, Dr. Corinne Packer, Ms. Nikki Schaay, and a representative from each of the four global regions (India, Africa, Latin America, Aboriginal Australia/Canada). Not all representatives are yet confirmed. We expect the management committee to hold its first 'internet' meeting in May.

Several part-time research staff are being hired to undertake the first year's research activity: a global systematic review of all published and 'grey' literature documenting, evaluating or simply describing attempts to implement CPHC. These research staff will be located with certain collaborators in each of the different regions in which training and new research will take place in later years. This first year of research synthesis will be completed in early October. This is another area where we will seek your involvement: helping us to find the grey (non-academically published) literature.

The management committee and a small number of other invited collaborators will meet towards the end of this year to finalize the training program.

A project web-site is being developed, and should be operational by June 2007.

We would like to thank you once again for all the support that you provided to us in developing this project to review and revitalise comprehensive primary health care across the different continents and communities. We look forward to working in close collaboration with you over the next four years.

Although we are only starting the process of engaging with the various activities that are required to get the project up and running we would really encourage you to forward any

questions that you might have at this stage to us. We would be more than happy to respond to your

queries and set up a process of dialogue with you.

You can reach us at the following contact details:

Ronald Labonte
Institute of Population Health
University of Ottawa
1 Stewart Street, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
K1N 6N5
tel: +613 562-5800, ext. 2288
fax: +613 562-5659
e-mail: rlabonte@uottawa.ca
web: www.iph.uottawa.ca
Corinne Packer
Institute of Population Health
University of Ottawa
1 Stewart Street, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
K1N 6N5
tel: +613 562-5800 ext. 2053
fax: +613 562-5659
e-mail: cpacker@uottawa.ca

David Sanders
School of Public Health,
University of the Western Cape,
Private Bag X17
Bellville, 7535
South Africa
e-mail: dsanders@uwc.ac.za

Nikki Schaay
University of the Western Cape,
Private Bag X17,
Bellville, 7535,
South Africa
tel: +21 959-2809
e-mail: schaay@mweb.co.za



uOttawa

L'Université canadienne
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UNIVERSITY of the
WESTERN CAPE



School of Public Health