Increasing Capacity to Inform Oral Health Policy
SOARing Ahead

Oral Health Research Affinity Group

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Increasing Capacity to Inform Oral Health Policy


Recommendations arising:

1) That ongoing mechanisms be put in place to maintain the current focus on oral health research. One such mechanism is the creation of an Oral Health Research Affinity Group at the NL Centre for Applied Health Research.

2) That opportunities be sought to capture the overall current interest in oral health in NL, which is at historically high levels. This interest is evident in the creation of the documents for the NL Oral Health Plan and the associated consultation process. It is also evident in the enthusiasm and interest shown by the attendees at this forum, not only the oral health professionals, but also members of the community – particularly seniors’ organizations.
1) The forum has resulted in the decision to establish an **Oral Health Research Affinity Group** through the NL Centre for Applied Health Research. The research affinity group is co-chaired by Dr. Sharon Beuhler (Professor Emeritus, MUN Faculty of Medicine) and Dr. Peter Hornett (Chief of Dental Services, Labrador-Grenfell Regional Health Authority). It will facilitate oral health research and will include a range of stakeholders representative of researchers and oral health professionals, and the broader community interested in the role of research in advancing population oral health in NL.
About NLCAHR

The Newfoundland and Labrador Centre for Applied Health Research was established in September 1999 with core funding from the province’s Department of Health and Community Services, Memorial University of Newfoundland and the Health Care Corporation of St. John’s.

The Centre is located administratively within Memorial University and has a mandate that covers all faculties and schools of the university, as well as researchers employed in health and community services institutions in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

NLCAHR’s mission is to contribute to the effectiveness of the health and community services system of Newfoundland and Labrador and to the physical, social and psychological health and wellbeing of the province’s population by supporting the development and the use of applied health research in this province.
Research Affinity Groups

- The Newfoundland and Labrador Centre for Applied Health Research has established several ‘affinity groups’ to bring together, on a regular basis, researchers in the university and in the health system who share a common interest in key areas under the domain of applied health research.

- The following affinity groups have been formed:
  - Aging
  - Arts and Health
  - Autism
  - Complementary and Alternative Medicine
  - Eating Issues, Disordered Eating and Body Image
  - Oral Health
  - Patient Safety
  - Quantitative Analysis
  - Rural and Northern Health
  - Women’s Health/Gender and Health
  - Vitamin D
NLCAHR Definition of ‘Applied Health Research’

Applied health research as defined for purposes of funding support by NLCAHR, is work on human individual and population health issues that is intended to have an impact on:

- The health of individuals
- The health of populations and communities
- Decisions about government health policy
- Health system organization
- Healthcare delivery
Applied Health Research includes work on:

- Health and community services and policies
- Health systems organization
- Population health
- Public health
- Community health
- Epidemiology
- Health technology assessment
- Knowledge translation
- Clinical practices
Applied Health Research

- Projects that consist primarily of biomedical research or clinical drug trials are not considered to be applied health research.

- Applied health research involves work in a wide range of disciplines and can be multi-disciplinary and collaborative. It can employ quantitative, qualitative or mixed methodologies. It is designed, unlike local quality assurance studies, to produce findings that can be generalized beyond the specific case or sample being studied.
OH RAG – Inaugural Meeting Agenda

- Introduction - Dr. Stephen Bornstein
- Membership
- Statement of Purpose
- Resources – Documents and links for posting on OH RAG Website
- Frequency of Meetings
- Updates
  - ICOH/Senior’s Project / Teledentistry – Joanne Clovis
  - Labrador Aboriginal Oral Health Initiative – Mark Filiaggi
  - NL Oral Health Plan – Wanda Legge
  - Canadian health Measures Survey – Implications for NL
The Oral Health Research Affinity Group will meet regularly to discuss oral health topics of significance in Newfoundland and Labrador. The primary purpose of the group will be to consider existing and potential oral health issues that may benefit from the implementation of applied health research. The group will promote, encourage and facilitate within its means, such research. The membership will include a range of stakeholders representative of researchers, oral health professionals, policy makers, Government, and the broader community interested in the role of research in advancing oral health in Newfoundland and Labrador.
Oral Health Research Affinity Group

Future Topics for Discussion

- Legislative Changes (particularly as regards supervision of dental hygienists)

- Potential Areas for future Applied Health Research

- Research Thesis – “Impact of Subsidies on the Uptake of the Childrens’ Dental Health Plan

- ??? Suggestions Arising from this Forum