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The REAL Issue

Aging is a process that we all go through. It can present both opportunities and challenges to not only us, but also the health care system. The Canadian Longitudinal Study on aging (CLSA) will follow 50,000 men and women between the ages of 45 to 85 for 20 years with the goal of improving our understanding of the aging process and the factors that shape healthy aging. The study will create a research platform that will allow researchers, policy-makers, governments and other stakeholders to answer critical questions about aging that will improve health and quality of life through the development of evidence-based programs, services, policies and health care.

This long-term study will collect information on the changing biological, medical, psychological, social, lifestyle and economic aspects of people's lives as they age. The CLSA has two different participation groups, one who will participate by phone and the other that will take part in a home interview and visit to a data collection site. Dalhousie University is home to one of the 11 collection sites across Canada.

To ensure the study is representative of the Canadian population, CLSA researchers are working with provincial health departments to randomly select participants. People between the ages of 45 and 85 are eligible to take part, but require an invitation to participate. Recruitment for telephone participants began in March 2010 and in-person participation recruitment began in April 2012. 4,400 people from Nova Scotia will take part in the CLSA. The invitations were sent by mail in collaboration with the Department of Health Wellness.

The CLSA is the largest study of its kind ever to be undertaken in Canada. I am proud to be a member of the advisory committee and encourage you to learn more and keep up-to-date on its progress by visiting the [CLSA website](#).



Krista Connell, CEO

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NSHRF Special Initiatives and Projects

Knowing About Research (KAREs) Program

Nova Scotia has a vibrant and strong health research community. The work being conducted by the province's health researchers is advancing knowledge in many different fields provincially, nationally and internationally. We designed the Knowing About Research Program (KAREs) to connect health researchers and research trainees with their local politicians. The program's main objective is to assist politicians in understanding the importance of the work being undertaken by Nova Scotia's health research community.

KAREs provides tools and information for the Nova Scotia health research community to use to engage local politicians to build awareness and understanding of the value of supporting health research in Nova Scotia. We encourage you to visit the [KAREs Program Guidelines pages on our website](#) to learn more about the program. Please contact our [communications officer](#) with any questions you may have regarding KAREs.

PHSI Opportunities Announcement held in Halifax

On Thursday, July 26, the Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of Health, visited the IWK to announce funding of two CIHR PHSI opportunities. Krista Connell, our CEO spoke at the announcement on behalf of the NSHRF and the New Brunswick Health Research Foundation (NBHRF). We partnered with NBHRF and CIHR to fund Dr. Isabel Smith and her team study that looks at the effectiveness of early intensive behavioural intervention programs for children with autism spectrum disorder in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. To learn more about the announcement, please visit CIHR's [website](#).



(L to R): Dr. Bruno Battistini, Chief Executive Officer, New Brunswick Health Research Foundation, Dr. Isabel Smith, CIHR-PHSI grant recipient, Psychologist, Department of Pediatrics, Dalhousie University, Dr. Patrick McGrath, CIHR-PHSI grant recipient, Vice President Research, IWK Health Centre, Ms. Krista Connell, Chief Executive Officer, Nova Scotia Health Research Foundation, the Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of Health, and Ms. Anne McGuire, President and Chief Executive Officer, IWK Health Centre

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Watch Krista's Lighting Talk on REAL Knowledge

In June, our CEO, Krista Connell, gave a Lighting Talk at Alberta Innovates Health Solutions Making Connections Conference 2012. She spoke about our REAL Knowledge program and used Dr. Nicole Buckley of the Canadian Space Agency dead bird's metaphor to kick it off. You can watch her talk [here](#).

Research Programs

Congratulations to the 2012-13 Establishment and Development/Innovative Grant Funded Applicants

The lists of funded applicants for the 2012-13 Establishment and Development/Innovative Grants are now available on our [website](#). The [Establishment Grants](#) are intended to assist in building research capacity and to provide initial support for new health researchers in Nova Scotia over a 1-3 year period. The [Development/Innovative Grants](#) are intended to provide funding for Nova Scotia health research initiatives that will strengthen a grant submission to a peer reviewed provincial, national or international health research competition.

Regional Partnership Program Funding Opportunity

The [Regional Partnership Program](#) (RPP) supports applications that are judged to be of high scientific merit through the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) peer review scoring of 3.5 and above, but are beyond the funding capacity of the CIHR's base budget in their regular competitions. At this time, the only funding tool eligible under this program is CIHR's bi-annual "Operating Grant". Application information is available on CIHR's [website](#).

Our specific RPP requirements can be found on our [website](#). Our deadline for the next intake of applications is five days after CIHR's deadline. The next intake under the RPP will be September 2012. The CIHR deadline is **September 17, 2012**. Applicants must electronically submit the required documents to us by **September 24, 2012 11:59 p.m.** Any questions can be directed to [Jennifer McNutt, Manger, Research Programs](#).

Partnerships for Health System Improvement (PHSI) Funding Opportunity

The intent of the [Partner for Health System Improvement \(PHSI\) program](#) is to strengthen Canada's healthcare system through collaborative, applied and policy-relevant research. PHSI is Canada's premier health services and policy research funding opportunity — and with its strong emphasis on partnerships and knowledge translation, it is also a major resource for managers and policy makers who want relevant research to inform their decision-making. PHSI funds teams of decision makers and researchers to conduct applied health services and policy research.

We have a collaborative agreement with CIHR to be a competition partner on this funding opportunity. This means that we will consider financially supporting applications in which Nova Scotia researchers and/or decision makers figure prominently.

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Partnerships for Health System Improvement (PHSI) Funding Opportunity (Continued)

Application details are available on [CIHR's website](#). If you are interested in applying, contact [Jennifer McNutt, Manager Research Programs](#) by phone or email with your intent to request partner funds from NSHRF no later than **September 17, 2012**. The details of our specific requirements are outlined in the NSHRF Competition Partner Requirements document which can be found on our [website](#). The required information must be submitted to Jennifer McNutt by **October 9, 2012**.

We advise those interested in applying to review the "Funds Available" section of the CIHR funding opportunity details [webpage](#) to note the changes that are new this year.

Research Enterprise Development Initiatives (REDI) Programs

Congratulations to the 2012-13 REDI Awards Funded Applicants

The list of funded applicants for the 2012-13 funded applicants is now available on our [website](#). The REDI Awards support research related activities across the province. There are three types of awards: Research Skills Award, Team Development Award and Catalyst Award. Learn more about the funding opportunity [here](#).

In Profile: Nova Scotia Research

We first funded Chris McMaster, PhD, Dalhousie University in 2009 and have seen his research have great success over the years. Chris is project leader of [The IGNITE Project](#), which is the culmination of enormous efforts by a large collection of people with a vision to reduce the impacts of orphan diseases through strategic research and development. Orphan diseases are rare disorders that affect less than one in 2,000 people in Canada or less than 200,000 individuals in the United States. But, collectively, the 7,000 known orphan diseases impact 1 in 12 Canadians, causing physical and mental hardship, and draining money and resources from our health care system. The IGNITE Project was funded by Genome Canada.

On June 6, 2012, Chris and his IGNITE Project co-leader, Conrad Fernandez, MD, presented the key components of The IGNITE Project and its implications for patient care. You can view the video [here](#) to learn more.

Other News

External Funding Opportunities and Events

We are always willing to share external funding opportunities and events for the Nova Scotia health research community. This is often done through our E-News publications and the [What's New](#) section on the homepage of our website. Be sure to check the site regularly for new external funding opportunities and events.

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CIHR releases the "What CIHR Heard: Analysis of Feedback on the Design Discussion Document."

This document presents a summary of the feedback received from CIHR's researcher and stakeholder communities regarding the proposed changes to the Open Suite of Programs and Peer Review Process. Please visit CIHR's [website](#) to read the report along with a message from President Dr. Alain Beaudet and a question and answer (Q&A) document.

New CIHR Inflammation Team Grant Funding Opportunity

CIHR and its partners are pleased to announce the first funding opportunity of the Roadmap Signature Initiative - Inflammation in Chronic Disease: Health Challenges in Chronic Inflammation Initiative (Team Grant). Application deadline: November 15, 2012.

This funding opportunity set forward the following objectives:

- to create a critical mass of technical and scientific expertise by establishing inflammation research teams that will unite researchers across relevant research disciplines and at least two health research themes (biomedical, clinical, population health, and health services);
- to promote research approaches to create new knowledge and ensure the effective application of research to solve important problems identified in the inflammation in chronic disease field and promote the clinical translation of research outcomes into improved patient care and health, social and economic benefits nationally and internationally;
- to provide a high-quality, multi-disciplinary training and mentoring environment.

Learn more [here](#).

Sigma Theta Tau International and Canadian Nurses Foundation Grant

The purpose of this grant is to support research that advances the practice of nursing with an emphasis on nursing care issues. Application deadline: December 1, 2012

Nursing care research or clinical nursing research is defined as research that is practice-based or that will provide the groundwork for future practice-based research studies. Research funded through this grant must provide evidence that there is a potential impact on nursing practice, whether direct or indirect.

More information can be found [here](#).

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Canadian Institutes of Health Research and Canadian Nurses Foundation Funding Opportunity
Nursing Intervention Research for Older Adults (Small Health Organizations Partnership Program).
Application deadline: October 15, 2012

CIHR, through the Small Health Organization Partnership Program (SHOPP), in partnership with the Canadian Nurses Foundation (CNF) and the CIHR Institute of Aging (IA) will provide funding for applications that are determined to be relevant to the following research priority areas described below:
Intervention research focused on improving care and quality of life for older persons and/or their caregivers.

Applications with a focus on the spectrum of care for older persons with complex needs involving dementia are encouraged.

Proposals are to include aging and/or the aged as essential elements of the research objectives, hypotheses and analyses (e.g., dynamics of aging, age-relevant models and/or aged subjects). With respect to diseases common in old age, the focus must be on the effects of the disease specifically in the elderly, rather than on diseases in a general context.

For more information, see [Doctoral Research Award: Fall 2012 Priority Announcement \(Specific Research Areas\)](#)

Be Inspired! Take Action! The Atlantic Summer Institute Celebrates Community Leadership

The Atlantic Summer Institute on Healthy and Safe Communities (ASI) returns to Charlottetown this summer with a spotlight on community leadership. The theme this year is Inspiration to Action: Leadership for Active Communities and the program runs from August 22-24 at Holland College.

The ASI seeks to create positive social change in Atlantic Canada by encouraging a holistic approach to community development. Bringing together Francophone, Anglophone and Aboriginal communities, the ASI supports collaboration across sectors and regions, and between cultures and generations. This year's programming aims to inspire and engage women and men to become champions for change in their communities.

Learn more [here](#).



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Did You Know?

Looking for a colleague, possible collaborator, or expert source of information? Take a look through the [Nova Scotia Directory of Health Researchers](#), available online at the NSHRF website.

If you are a Nova Scotian researcher working in a discipline either directly or indirectly related to health, please take a minute to add your name to the directory through your [Canadian Common CV](#).

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