International Health Research in Nova Scotia: Understanding and Seizing the Opportunities

Sonya Corkum
Sonya Corkum is a knowledge translation consultant who has been working with the World Health Organization since 2004 to develop a multi-national initiative to develop networks to promote the use of health research evidence in low and middle income countries. She is also working with various Canadian organizations to further develop their role in accessing, using or promoting evidence. Sonya holds degrees in Science, in Health Education, a certificate in Public Health as well as an Executive MBA, and she is from Nova Scotia!

Allison Annette Foster
Ms. Allison Foster has a Masters Degree in Enterprise Management of the International School of Communications and Management at the "Cesare Alfieri School" in Florence, Italy and a certificate in International Business from the Haas School of Business at the University of California at Berkeley. In addition, Ms. Foster has developed the Powerful Partners Coaching Group in Washington, a coaching firm for managers and executives.

Since 2001, Ms. Foster has worked with the Pan American Health Organization as a technical officer in the Human Resources for Health Unit, Health Systems Strengthening Area, Pan American Health Organization, where she played a key role development of the Toronto Call to Action of 2005. In 2006 she worked jointly with Health Canada in the design of the blueprint for a Canadian-Caribbean collaboration in Human Resources for Health, which was subsequently funded by CIDA and other donors.

Ms. Foster is presently working in Trinidad Tobago, Belize and other countries to help the national authorities and stakeholders put in place their national long term plans for health human resources development.

Shanthi Johnson
Shanthi Johnson, Ph.D., P.Dt., FDC, FACSM is a Professor at the School of Nutrition and Dietetics at Acadia University in Nova Scotia and an adjunct professor at the Canadian Centre for Activity and Aging, School of Kinesiology, University of Western Ontario in Canada. Her research interest involves health promotion and falls prevention among older adults with a multidisciplinary perspective. While aging and health has been the main focus of her research, she has espoused a life course perspective and worked with several age groups and she has been involved in research in the areas of population health, health services research, and international health in collaboration with researchers in Canada, US, Poland, Australia and India.

Dr. Gail Tomblin Murphy
Dr. Gail Tomblin Murphy is an Associate Professor, School of Nursing, Faculty of Health Professions and Department of Community Health and Epidemiology, Faculty of Medicine, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia and a Co-investigator at the Nursing Research Effectiveness, Utilization, and Outcomes Unit at the University of Toronto.

Dr. Tomblin Murphy is recognized as a Canadian and international expert in health services research. She brings expertise in health human resource planning (HHRP) with expertise in needs based approaches to health human resource planning, demand forecasting models, and testing health service delivery models. She has extensive experience working with policymakers and senior decision makers in the Federal government and jurisdictional governments and internationally. She works closely with the World Health Organization, the Pan American Health Organization and a broad range of research users and researchers to build capacity using needs-based approaches in health systems planning and HHR in Brazil, Canada, Peru, and Jamaica, and in both the Afro region and European region of the WHO. Her research has garnered wide-spread interest from governments and other stakeholders because of its potential to significantly impact HHRP policy in Canada and internationally. Gail holds over six million dollars in Health Services and Health Human Resource Planning research funding from both National and jurisdictional funding agencies, and ministries of health.

Gail is the Science Lead in HHR for CIHR and is a member of the Advisory Committee on Health Delivery and Human Resources (ACHDHR). In collaboration with Dr. Linda O’Brien-Pallas, and Dr. Stephen Birch, they have developed a conceptual framework for Health Human Resource Planning and health policy planning which has been adapted for use by the Canadian Institute of Health Information (CIHI) and the World Health Organization (WHO) and is the basis of the Pan Canadian Framework by the Federal/Provincial/Territorial governments in Canada.