



May 2011 » E-news

NSHRF NEWS

Accepting applications for the 2011-12 REDI Awards

In May we launched a call for the 2011-12 Research Enterprise Development Initiatives (REDI) Award applications. The REDI Awards, which support research related activities across the province, consist of three categories: Research Skills Award, Team Development Award, and the Catalyst Award.

For more information and how to apply please visit our [website](#). Applicants are asked to allow four to six weeks for a response after submitting their applications.

We Need Your Input - Please Take 10 Minutes to Complete this Needs Assessment

We are collaborating with the Canadian Platform to Increase Usage of Real-World Evidence (CAPTURE). Our goal in working with CAPTURE and other like minded stakeholders on this project is to increase the effectiveness of health promotion and chronic disease prevention work through enhanced capacity for evaluation and knowledge exchange. In order to plan capacity building activities that are relevant for those working in health promotion in Nova Scotia we need your input.

Please take 10 minutes to complete this on-line evaluation needs assessment using Select Survey. The deadline for completion is June 15th. To participate in the Needs Assessment go to: <https://survey.nshealth.ca/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=m6K26541>

You can learn more about the CAPTURE project at www.thecaptureproject.ca.

Update on the Mental Health and Addictions Strategy

We are continuing to support the Government of Nova Scotia and the Mental Health and Addictions Strategy Advisory Committee in the development of a Strategy for the province. In May we finished the consultation stage of the strategy, and have consulted with over 90 organizations/groups and more than 1,200 Nova Scotians took part. Over the next few months, we will be working with the Advisory Committee to continue to develop the strategy. To keep up-to-date on the process, please click [here](#).

OTHER NEWS

Cochrane Thursdays in June

Over four sessions in June, the Nova Scotia Cochrane Resource Centre will be broadcasting a three-part Introductory Author Training course, presented by Adrienne Stevens, Education Coordinator at the Canadian Cochrane Centre. This course will be a great introduction to the Cochrane Collaboration, the process of conducting a Cochrane review, and how to navigate your way around the Cochrane Library.

Sessions will be held on Thursdays starting June 2nd, from 1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m. The webinars themselves will be an hour in length, with an additional half hour of questions/answers and exercises at the end of the formal presentations. Participants are welcome to bring lunch and light snacks/drinks will also be provided. Topics covered during each of the four weeks are as follows:

- Week 1: Who and what is The Cochrane Collaboration? What are systematic reviews? (2 June)
- Week 2: Learn & search The Cochrane Library (9 June)
- Weeks 3 and 4: A 'snapshot' of the steps of conducting a Cochrane Review (16 & 23 June)

All the sessions will be broadcast in room 409 (fourth floor) in the Department of Community Health & Epidemiology, Centre for Clinical Research, 5790 University Avenue, Halifax. If you are interested in attending the sessions, please register by sending an e-mail to cochrane.ns@dal.ca. In order to get the most out of the course we recommend that you attend all the sessions, but requests to attend one or more of the webinars individually may be considered. Please note that spaces are limited.

IN PROFILE: NOVA SCOTIA RESEARCH

Project Title: **A Prescription for Patient Safety: Implications of Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) on Adverse Drug Reporting and Learning in Nova Scotia Community Pharmacies**

Principal Investigator: Dr. Todd Boyle (St. Francis Xavier University) and Dr. Neil MacKinnon (Dalhousie University)

Quality related events (QREs), are defined as known, alleged or suspected medication errors that reach the patient (e.g., incorrect drug, quantity, dose, or patient), as well as medication errors that are intercepted prior to dispensing, decreases the safety of pharmacy practice in Canada. The underreporting of QREs prevents a wide variety of pharmacy stakeholders from learning from such errors and taking proactive steps to prevent them from recurring.

Developed by researchers from Dalhousie University, St. Francis Xavier University, the Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists, and the Institute for Safe Medication Practices Canada, SafetyNET-Rx is a continuous quality improvement (CQI) program designed to improve QRE reporting and learning in community pharmacies. SafetyNET-Rx combines

the key elements of CQI with the latest in integrative information systems to provide pharmacy staff with the support (e.g., processes, training, and technology) needed to better identify, report, and learn from QREs.

Using the SafetyNET-Rx program as a case, Drs Boyle and MacKinnon and their team are currently exploring the implications, risks and success factors of QRE reporting and CQI program implementation in Nova Scotia community pharmacies. The research will also look at both pre- and post-adoption issues surrounding the establishment of a CQI program within such pharmacies.

From their research, the team will seek to improve knowledge of the key, social, economic, technological and policy issues that contribute not only to maintenance of a healthy population in Nova Scotia, but also to the success of Nova Scotia small businesses and the effectiveness of provincial policies related to QRE reporting.

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 roster through your [Canadian Common CV](#).

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