

In this issue:

Call for Peer Reviewers

Knowledge Sharing Support Award

In Profile Research: Brian Wilson, Ph.D



The REAL Issue

Nova Scotia has a vibrant and robust health research community. At the NSHRF, we not only work to support the health research happening in our province, we also work to promote that research to the rest of Canada and the world.

I recently signed off on our 2011-12 Annual Report (to be released later this fall) and was once again reminded of the great research happening in our province. The 2011-12 Annual Report highlights the work of the past fiscal year, and again demonstrates that the Nova Scotia health research community hits above its weight.

Over the years, we have commissioned several reports to measure the results of health research in Nova Scotia, including – [“Measuring Nova Scotia’s Results in Health Research – 2009 Updated Report”](#). We are currently working on an update to this report. I have pulled some of the great results from the 2009 report for your reference and look forward to sharing the updated results with you soon;

- Population Health is an area of research strength for Nova Scotia.
- Health research in the province contributes to:
 - 673 person years of employment;
 - 1.9 million annually for provincial revenues; and
 - \$25.1 million to Nova Scotia’s GDP.
- Between 2000 and 2008, \$5.2 million from NSHRF funding programs was able to attract \$38.4 million in leveraged funds. This amounts to \$7.40 in external funding for each NSHRF dollar invested.

The success of the province’s health research community not only comes from those conducting the research and those supporting it, it also comes from the community spirit. It was great to see how the community came together to provide feedback on the Canadian Institutes of Health Research’s proposed program reform this year. I am always excited to see the collaboration that exists between the research institutions in Nova Scotia. This community spirit is key to the success of our province.

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I also have to acknowledge the commitment of our [Board of Directors](#) and [Research Advisory Committee](#). Their unwavering guidance has helped us provide support to the province for over ten years. We look forward to seeing many more successes for our small province in the years to come.



Krista Connell, CEO

RESEARCH PROGRAMS

Call for Peer Reviewers

The NSHRF is currently accepting nominations for the 2013 Research Programs Peer Review Committees. Details of our peer review process, guidelines, committees and peer review roster system can be found on our [website](#).

Nomination Process

Self-nominations or suggestions of potential reviewers are both welcomed. To be considered as a potential NSHRF peer reviewer, please submit the following:

- Letter of intent that outlines any past experience as a peer reviewer, information about the nominee's area of expertise (including up to ten (10) research and methodological expertise keywords), confirmation of the nominee's availability on the peer review meeting dates; and
- a current copy of the nominee's curriculum vitae.

Peer Review Meeting Dates (Halifax, Nova Scotia)

June 11 and 12, 2013 - Health Policy, Health Services and Health Outcomes Peer Review

June 18 and 19, 2013 - Biomedical Peer Review

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The NSHRF uses a roster system to optimize the alignment of peer reviewer expertise with research proposal /grant submissions. Nominees (self or suggested) will be reviewed by peer review committee officers and NSHRF management.

Recommendations will be made based on fit with the [committee criteria](#). Selected nominees will be invited to let their names stand on the peer review roster by March 15, 2013 for review of the 2013 Establishment, Development/Innovative and Scotia Support Grants. Nominees will agree to be available on the meeting dates. When research proposals are submitted in March 2013, peer reviewers from the roster will be confirmed for participation in the 2013 peer review process based on reviewer fit with submitted applications; other reviewers will remain on the roster for future competitions.

For more information contact [Jennifer McNutt](#), Manager, Research Programs.

KNOWLEDGE PROGRAMS

Knowledge Sharing Support Award

The Knowledge Sharing Support Award (KSSA) will open for applications on Monday, October 15, 2012. The objective of the award is to share health research knowledge in new and innovative ways and to support dissemination activities that benefit knowledge users and/or decision makers within the health system. Applications for KSSA's will be accepted starting October 15, 2012. Applications will be accepted until program funds are fully expended. For more information about this opportunity visit the [NSRHF Website](#) or contact [George Collier](#), Manager, Knowledge Programs.

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IN PROFILE: NOVA SCOTIA RESEARCH



Neuroprotective actions of relaxins Brian Wilson, Ph.D, Acadia University

Statistics from the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Nova Scotia identify stroke as a leading cause of death and disability for Nova Scotians with approximately 1,500 Nova Scotians experiencing a stroke each year. Brian Wilson and his team at Acadia University are researching how relaxin and related peptides prevent damage to the central nervous system during stroke, as well as the role these peptides play in recovery.

Relaxin was first characterized as a hormone of pregnancy because it helps to promote the widening of the birth canal and cervical softening towards term. We now know that relaxin has protective effects in a variety of ischemic tissues by improving circulation, suppressing inflammation, and promoting activities that allow tissues to heal. This is best evidenced by studies of patients with congestive heart failure where the heart muscle is producing relaxin to protect itself from ischemic injury.

The team is building on their recent finding that relaxin protects brain tissue from ischemic injury. It is possible that relaxins are dilating blood vessels around the dying brain tissue by stimulating the production of a vasodilator called nitric oxide thus improving blood supply. Nitric oxide may also inhibit inflammation and decrease the death of neurons.

Results from this research will be presented at the Sixth International Conference on Relaxin and Related Peptides and the Annual Meeting of the Endocrine Society. This research shows promise to increase our understanding of the role of relaxin peptides and their receptors in limiting damage to brain tissue during ischemia and may move us closer to therapeutic use of these peptides in patients who have suffered a stroke.

To learn more about research happening at the Wilson Lab visit their [website](#).

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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. We do this through our E-News publications and the [What's New](#) section on the homepage of our website. Make sure you check the website for up-to-date events and opportunities and ones that don't always meet our E-News publication deadlines.

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.

To learn more about this opportunity visit the [Research Net](#) website.

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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 has a potential impact on nursing practice, whether direct or indirect.

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

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.

More information on the research priorities of the [CNF](#) and [CIHR-IA](#) can be found on their websites.

For more information about this opportunity visit the [Research Net](#) website.

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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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