



British Columbia  
Environmental and Occupational  
Health Research Network

# Network News

The newsletter of the BC Environmental and  
Occupational Health Research Network

Funded by the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research

Working to make BC a  
national leader in occupational  
and environmental health  
research

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## A message from the Scientific Director

Dear colleagues,

The past several months have been busy with Network development activity.

Membership in BCEOHRN continues to grow. We currently have **almost 300 members from across the province**, representing 13 post-secondary and 29 other institutions - significant growth over the 150 members last September.

The March 2006 Research Capacity Development Grants awarded about **\$70,000 to seven teams**. A list of projects and the teams' new investigators are included here for your information. We congratulate all recipients for their excellent proposals and wish them the best of luck with their projects.

This summer we are embarking on the **development of databases** that include: members' contact information and research interests; unpublished (grey) literature from BC; and shareable resources located across the province that will be available for members' use for free or for a fee. Two student assistants have been hired to assist in these projects - you can expect to hear from them over the next few months. We anticipate the databases being initially populated and available for your use sometime this summer. Watch our website for developments as they unfold!

I wish you all an enjoyable summer.

Susan M. Kennedy,  
Scientific Director

## March 2006 Research Capacity Development Grant Recipients

*Developing and Evaluating A Tool to Examine Quality Workplace Environments for Nursing Faculty in Schools of Nursing in British Columbia.*

Donna Daines, TRU

*Spatial Analysis of Industrial Pollution and Chronic Disease Incidence in Aboriginal Communities in British Columbia.*

Anders Erickson, UNBC

*Assessment of the occupational dermal exposure risks of antineoplastic drugs to BC healthcare workers and an evaluation of the associated cleaning protocols for drug-contaminated surfaces.*

Chun-Yip Hon, UBC Hospital

*Interdisciplinary Workshop on Aquatic Biomedicine and Environmental Health: Joining British Columbia researchers in the use of bivalves as models for cancer in humans.*

Annette Muttray, UBC

*The role of wildlife in the health of First Nations communities in BC.*

Jane Parmley, Centre for Coastal Health

*Emergency Service Work: Implications for Family and Disability Management*

Shannon Wagner, UNBC

*Team Building and Proposal Development to Assess Food Security and Environmental Health with Heiltsuk First Nation.*

Tanya Wahbe, UBC

## BCEOHRN Initiatives

— Highlights —

### Funding Opportunities

#### **The Networking Facilitation Fund**

provides funding to members to come together via technologies or through face to face meetings to collaborate. For details, please see the website.

#### **The Research Capacity Development Grant**

application deadline date is October 1.

### Mentorship Program

#### **Mentoring/peer-to-peer support groups are being piloted**

by a number of interested members to determine if this format is appealing to the broader Network membership.

These groups are small, comprised of senior and junior members or groups of peers and could have as few as two members working together. Anyone can participate to lend their expertise or to get assistance from others. Mini-networks arising from this initiative could be of real benefit to members, including new grant proposals.

Mentoring/Peer-to-Peer Support Groups have been established in the areas of: **GIS, Injury Prevention and Water.**

For details, please visit the website. If you are interested in starting your own mentoring/peer-to-peer group with BCEOHRN members, please contact us.

## Your Network's Board of Directors:

- Susan Kennedy, UBC, Vancouver (Scientific Director and Chair)
- Caroline Alexander, Northern Health Authority, Fort St. John
- Ray Copes, BC Centre for Disease Control, Vancouver
- Melissa Friesen, Student, UBC, Vancouver
- Rick Gallagher, BC Cancer Research Centre, Vancouver
- Henry Harder, UNBC, Prince George
- Gabrielle McHugh, Student, UNBC, Prince George
- Carla MacLean, Student, UVic, Victoria
- Jack Nickel, Health Canada, Vancouver
- Eleanor Setton, Student, UVic, Victoria
- Craig Stephen, Centre for Coastal Health, Nanaimo
- Kay Teschke, UBC, Vancouver
- Shannon Wagner, UNBC, Prince George

## Membership Benefits

Being developed over the next year

- A readily accessible and up-to-date database
- Regular funding and conference alerts
- Travel bursaries to trainees or new investigators to attend BCEOHRN educational events
- Grants to support the development of strong collaborative research teams
- Resources to generate knowledge transfer across research users
- Regional liaison work to ensure that the provincial network is built on strong local interactions

Visit our website at:

[www.bceohrn.ca](http://www.bceohrn.ca)

Contact us: Pat Atherton, Executive Director, via email [pat@bceohrn.ca](mailto:pat@bceohrn.ca) or phone 250.888.3925