



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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Recent Developments



A message from the Scientific Director

Dear colleagues,

I am delighted to be able to send you this message as the new Scientific Director for the BC Environmental and Occupational Health Research Network. A very successful 1st annual general meeting for the Network was held in November. Over 60 of us attended – a terrific turnout. I'd like to express my thanks to Craig Stephen (immediate past Scientific Director) and all the BCEOHRN Board Members who provided service to the network in its first year of development.

As an update, I'm pleased to report that membership currently numbers over 230 people, representing 10 post-secondary and 27 other institutions. At the AGM held last fall the Board of Directors was ratified (see right hand column). About \$7,000 has been provided in travel bursaries to bring members from across the province to meet. The 2005 call for Research Capacity

Development Grants resulted in about \$20,000 awarded to two members:

Glenys Webster

PhD Candidate, University of British Columbia, School of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene was awarded a grant for her proposal: Influence of pre-natal PBDE exposures on fetal thyroid hormones.

Carla MacLean

PhD Candidate, University of Victoria, Department of Psychology, was awarded a grant for her proposal: Exploring eye-witness testimony in the investigation of occupational injury or disease.

A second Call is underway at this time and announcements of recipients will be made in March via our website.

The network is entering its second year and planning is underway for **new initiatives**. Priority will be given to a number of areas.

Several network members have volunteered to work on the issue of **mentorship** (broadly cast, including one-on-one mentorship and 'team' mentorship ideas, eg. thinking about ways to help all of us, but especially new investigators and students, improve our success rates in grant and scholarship applications). Your input into this program is encouraged.

The new **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.

A **fully searchable database** of members and their expertise is under development. This feature will appear on our website in the next few months.

A **database of shareable platforms** is currently being investigated to inform members of tools available throughout the province.

New ways of bringing seminars out of the lecture theatre and into the offices of our members are being investigated. New technologies might include **desktop videoconferencing and web-based seminars**.

We are looking for your input to identify a few concrete activities or initiatives we can undertake this next year. Please give this some thought and send your suggestions, comments, thoughts on any activities, educational workshops, or other initiatives you would like to see addressed. **An online survey is available** for this purpose on our homepage.

I look forward to working with you as we further develop the Network.

Susan M. Kennedy,
Scientific Director

Your Network's New 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

Contact us: Pat Atherton, Executive Director, via email pat@bceohrn.ca or phone 250.888.3925

