

BC Environmental and Occupational Health Research Network

Fourth Annual General Meeting

November 7, 2008 2:00-3:30 pm

Sutton Place Hotel, Vancouver

Minutes

1. Welcome Craig Stephen

Craig Stephen, Board Chair, opened the meeting with introductions to Henry Harder, BCEOHRN Scientific Director and Paul Demers, Associate Scientific Director.

Craig reported that 156 BCEOHRN members were in attendance at this meeting, a record for all past BCEOHRN events.

2. Brief History of BCEOHRN Henry Harder

Henry Harder provided a brief overview of the Network to date, highlighting the preceding years' activities.

2004:

- MSFHR Networking program announced
- Environmental scan, preliminary list of EOH researchers
- Province-wide consultations – proposal submitted

2005:

- Funding approved (funds held at UNBC)
- Inaugural general meeting; Scientific Director appointment ratified: Dr. Susan Kennedy
- Membership numbers about 150

2006:

- Scientific Director holds regional meetings held around the province
- Mentorship Program begins 'mini-networks' through Peer-to-Peer groups
- Membership numbers about 380

2007:

- Henry Harder / Paul Demers appointed to roles of Scientific Director / Associate Scientific Director roles
- Members and grey lit databases launched
- Knowledge Translation and Exchange workshop held in April
- Membership numbers about 590

Henry Harder reported that the BCEOHRN Board held a strategic planning session in March 2008, which was informed by the BCEOHRN members' satisfaction survey carried out in the winter of 2007/08. Overall the survey results were very positive. Results are available:

http://www.bceohrn.ca/files/images/BCEOHRN_Members_Satisfaction_Survey.pdf.

At the strategic planning session, Board members refined the Network's vision & mission statements and created a strategic plan with goals reflecting BCEOHRN developments. The strategic plan is available: <http://www.bceohrn.ca/StrategicPlanning>.

Vision

BCEOHRN will be recognized and respected as providing national leadership in occupational and environmental health research which will ultimately protect human health.

Mission

- To facilitate interdisciplinary occupational and environmental health research through connecting and supporting people to create excellence in education and research results' dissemination;
- To foster a truly provincial network that creates new efficiencies, partnerships and opportunities that will make BC a magnet for training, attracting and retaining top quality researchers.

Strategic Goals

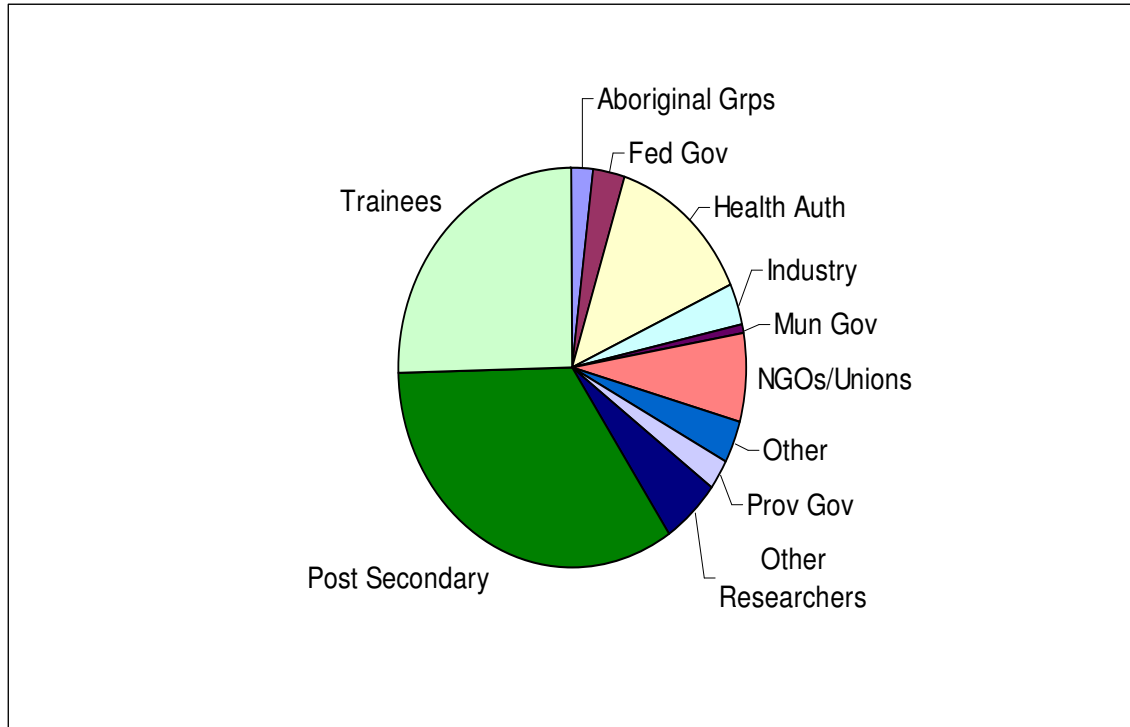
- Improved collaborative research
- Improved research capacity
- Improved research funding
- Student support
- Improved knowledge transfer

3. What we've done this year, overview Henry Harder

Henry Harder provided highlights of the past year.

Membership is now around 840 people:

UBC	234	VCH	18
SFU	58	BCCDC	16
UNBC	52	TRU	16
UVic	43	VIHA	14
Post Sec <5 mems	37	UBCO	12
FHA	26	BC Cancer Res Ctr	11
NHA	26	BCIT	11
Fed Gov	25	BC Cancer Agency	9
OHSAH	25	Vancouver Island U	8
IHA	21	WorkSafeBC	8
Prov Gov	20	Municipal Gov	6



An overview of the Board was provided:

Researchers / research users (target 9, min 6 researchers):

- Henry Harder, BCEOHRN Scientific Director, UNBC
- Paul Demers, BCEOHRN Associate Scientific Director, UBC
- Charl Badenhorst, Medical Health Officer, Northern Health, Fort St. John
- Hugh Davies, UBC*
- Eleanor Setton, UVic
- Craig Stephen, Centre for Coastal Health, Nanaimo (BCEOHRN Board Chair)
- Tim Takaro, SFU*
- Scott Venners, SFU
- Shannon Wagner, UNBC*

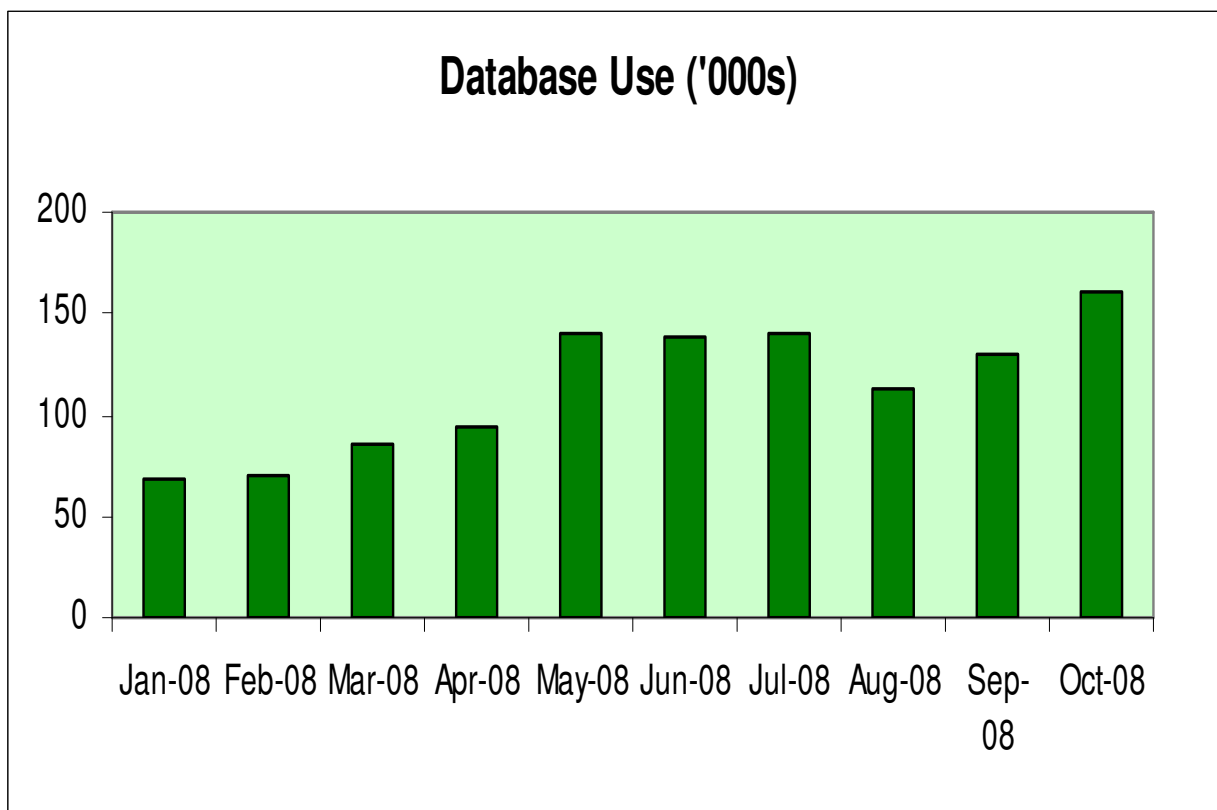
Research trainees (target 3):

- Perry Hystad
- Sonia Lamont
- Imelda Wong

*standing for re-election

Henry Harder reviewed the past year's BCEOHRN activities:

- **Supporting access to researchers and resources:** The BCEOHRN members' database, which includes members' contact information, biographies, research projects and BC-based grey literature, has been a well-used tool over the past year. The following figure shows the number of hits (in thousands) by month in 2008.



- **Supporting networking:** Travel support has been made available to students and junior faculty to attend BCEOHRN networking events, including the Spring 2008 conference *Advancing research through innovative linkage of health and exposure data*. Resources have been allocated to the maintenance of the website and databases to keep data current. This year the new 2010 Initiatives Working Group was struck, comprised of members interested in collaborating on research projects made possible by the unique experience of the 2010 games.
- **Supporting trainees, new investigators:** Programs to support trainees/new investigators include the mentorship program and the research capacity development program. This year the Research Capacity Development Officer role was created and filled to assist members with grant-writing. A mentorship program gap analysis was completed over the summer months, culminating in the creation of the role of Mentorship Program Coordinator, which was filled this fall. This year the new Conference Travel Bursary competition was launched, providing a process for trainees and new investigators to compete for funding to present at conferences.
- **Communications:** Activities to provide strong communications across the membership include the regularly updated, website, biweekly email updates to members, support for web-based and face-to-face seminars, and workshops. A newsletter reporting out on the Spring workshop was circulated over the summer months.

A review of the Research Capacity Development Award Program was provided. The purpose of the program is to help new research teams successfully compete for national and international research funds. The total number of applications to date (2005 to October 2008) is 32; the total

number of awards to date is 22. Details of projects are available at:
<http://www.bceohrn.ca/RCDGAwards>

4. Where we're going – 2009 Henry Harder

Henry Harder outlined a number of initiatives for 2009. Current funding ends September 30, 2009; it may be extended by MSFHR through a re-application process. Consequently, forward-looking financial sustainability planning is underway by the Board. Sourcing funding is a challenge as the Network is an amorphous entity, as opposed to a formal not-for-profit or other legal entity. Internal work is being done to review what programs are being requested and valued by members. Funding options / governance models will be identified based on this work; options will be presented to membership for discussion and ratification.

The Network will continue to allocate resources for continued support of:

- Database content
- Research capacity development
- Networking and mentoring activities
- Travel support
- Grant-writing assistance/workshops

The 2009 Spring workshop will focus on environmental and occupational health impacts around the Olympic Games.

A new initiative under development to better link policy makers and researchers is *Policy Makers Day*. The first WebEx, December 4, 2008 at 2:00-3:00 will be the first discussion by members interested in this initiative, which may result in a workshop or regular meetings.

Henry Harder thanked current BCEOHRN staff who managed the meeting's registration desk and/or were making presentations at this meeting:

- Pat Atherton, Executive Director, Victoria
- Renuka Grover, Database Coordinator, Vancouver
- Romana Pasca, Regional Program Coordinator, Prince George
- Carmen Van Unen, Regional Program Coordinator, Prince George
- Tanya Wahbe, Research Capacity Development Officer, Vancouver
- Joann Yuan, Mentorship Program Coordinator, Vancouver

5. Financial Statement Review Henry Harder

Henry Harder provided an overview of the actual expenses currently for 2008 and the planned budget for 2009.

6. 2010 Initiatives Working Group Tim Takaro

Tim Takaro, Chair of the 2010 Initiatives Working Group, provided an overview of this group's work to date. The group held its first face to face meeting in the morning prior to the AGM after having met via WebEx over the summer and fall. The group is looking at opportunities provided through the Games. Topical areas have been developed for potential research projects:

Topical Area
Air pollution / Torch Footprint / Greenhouse Gases / Long-distance Transportation

Activity / Public Health Exercise / Promotion / Sustainable Transportation
Relationships between Emergency Planning & Surge Capacity for Health System
Infectious disease monitoring (including food & water)
First Nations
Jobs / Labour
Housing

Working Group members come from the universities, health authorities, VANOC and others. The website includes a list of the Group members, funding opportunities and potential research teams: <http://www.bceohrn.ca/2010+Research+Educational+Events>.

The 2009 Spring conference will highlight projects around impacts at the Beijing and Atlanta games and projects around the 2010 games.

7. Grant Writing Program

Tanya Wahbe

Tanya Wahbe began in this role in June 2008. She provided a brief overview of her role: 1) to seek funding to support BCEOHRN's mandate and events and; 2) to provide grant-writing assistance to BCEOHRN members. Ways in which Tanya can assist members:

- Forming linkages to create strong teams of co-applicants and collaborators
- Identifying grant opportunities related to your team's objectives
- Planning and facilitating grant writing workshops using WebEx

Some of the things Tanya has accomplished:

- Facilitated a grant-writing workshop in collaboration with WorkSafeBC, offered live and via WebEx.
- Facilitated grant application development for team members applying for a CIHR Meetings, Planning and Dissemination Grant.
- Reviewing members' research proposals, networking with colleagues of relevant backgrounds, and alerting members of appropriate RFPs.
- Providing feedback to agencies on RFPs, application guidelines and forms to improve clarity and user-friendliness.
- Sourcing funds for members developing research and education projects related to the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.
- Facilitating grant-writing workshop in collaboration with Vancouver Island Health Authority and BCRRHRN, to be delivered live and via WebEx on **January 29, 2009**.

Tanya encouraged any members interested in her assistance to be in touch with her. Her webpages can be found at: <http://www.bceohrn.ca/GrantWritingAssistance>.

8. Mentorship Program

Joann Yuan

Joann Yuan, Mentorship Program Coordinator, reported on this program. The Mentorship Program Working Group, struck at the November 2005 AGM, includes members: Sonia Lamont (Chair), BC Cancer Agency; Pat Atherton, BCEOHRN; Ian Parfitt, Selkirk College; Cheryl Peters, UBC; Corinne Ong, Ryerson University.

Joann reported on the current Special Interest Groups (SIG)s, which offer mentoring opportunities.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS SIG)

Contact: [Ian Parfitt, Selkirk College](#)

- Monthly/Bimonthly meetings of 5-10 participants
- Proposals to federal GeoConnections programme
- Provide information on accessing datasets, answering technical questions, sharing conference and workshop experiences
- Future plans include WebEx presentations from external experts and presentations from group members
- Active wiki with meeting notes

Students and New Professionals Special Interest Group (SNP SIG)

- WebEx Meet in April
- Lunch and Learn in May: "The Occupational Health of Sex Trade Workers"
- Upcoming event expected to expand province-wide and be on the topic of careers in occupational and environmental health - early 2009
- Currently close to 30 members

Water SIG

Contact: [Corinne Ong, Ryerson](#)

- NSERC Strategic Project grant being led by UBCO faculty member (5 SIG Members)
- NSERC grant application for a project using microarrays to test water supply (6 SIG Members)
- March: LOI using same technology submitted to Collaborative Health Research Project (CIHR/NSERC)
- June: Conference in Kamloops to discuss arsenic and water

Joann outlined initial developments in the new Mentorship Program, including:

- Add website content
- Modify the members' database
- Develop student speaking and presentation opportunities
- Professional development workshops/seminars

Longer term goals for the program include:

- Continue SIG activity
- Further establishing student speaking/presentation opportunities
- Additional website content
- Ongoing promotions to various BC institutions
- Increase database activity
- Planning ongoing workshops or seminars
- Development of a strong internship program

Members interested in the Mentorship Program can find more information at:

<http://www.bceohrn.ca/mentorship>.

9. Research capacity development/networking support

Craig Stephen
Recipients

Craig Stephen provided a brief overview of the BCEOHRN Research Capacity Development fund. Past recipients had been invited to present a short overview of their projects. Presentations were made by the following recipients (in italics):

October 2007 Recipients

Developing Global occupational health research capacity in British Columbia

Hasanat Alamgir* / **, Faculty of Health Sciences, Simon Fraser University
Tim Takaro, Faculty of Health Sciences, Simon Fraser University
Paul Demers, School of Environmental Health, University of BC
Hugh Davies, School of Environmental Health, University of BC
Mushtaque R. Chowdhury, James P. Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University
Charles P Larson, International Centre for Diarrheal Diseases Research, Bangladesh

Exposure Facility for Research in Cardiopulmonary Effects of Particle Exposure

Christopher (Chris) Carlsten* / **, Department of Medicine; School of Environmental Health, University of BC
Stephan VanEeden, iCAPTURE Center for Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Research
Ryan Allen, Faculty of Health Sciences, Simon Fraser University
Joel Kaufman, University of Washington
Michael Brauer, School of Environmental Health, University of BC
Ed Chessor, School of Environmental Health, University of BC
Steve Rogak, Mechanical Engineering, University of BC
Luisa Giles, Medicine, University of BC

Health Promoting Inner City Environments: A participatory research approach to reducing environment and health inequities and improving community health in Vancouver

Jeffrey R. Masuda, Institute of Health Promotion Research, University of BC*
Jennifer Terpstra, Interdisciplinary Studies, University of BC*
*Alexis Crabtree, Addiction Services, Vancouver Coastal Health**
Natasha Panina, Trinity Western University*
Jim Frankish**, Centre for Population Health Promotion Research, University of BC
Allan Best, Clinical Epidemiology & Evaluation, Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute
Blake Poland, Department of Public Health Sciences, University of Toronto
Trevor Hancock, BC Ministry of Health

Measuring Muscle Fatigue with Mechanomyography and Electromyography

Winnie Chu**, School of Environmental Health, University of BC
Albert Leung, Engineering Science, Simon Fraser University
Summer Reveley*, School of Environmental Health, University of BC
Allison Schaap, School of Environmental Health, University of BC*

March 2008 Recipients

Psychosocial predictors of return to work in individuals with spinal cord injury

Anita DeLongis**, Department of Psychology, University of BC
Georgia Pomaki, Department of Psychology, University of BC*
Stephanie Cadieux, BC Paraplegic Association
Catherine Backman, Department of Occupational Science, Occupational Therapy, University of

BC

Susan Forwell, Department of Occupational Science, Occupational Therapy, University of BC

Development of a Nanoparticle Sensor Group

Boris Stoeber**, Department of Mechanical Engineering & Department of Electrical Engineering, University of BC

Allison Schaap*, School of Environmental Health, University of BC

Winnie Chu, School of Environmental Health, University of BC

Ash Parameswaran, School of Engineering Science, Simon Fraser University

Pesticide Bylaws and Human Exposure to Cosmetic Use Pesticides

Scott A. Venners * / **, Health Sciences, Simon Fraser University

Ray Copes, Environmental Health BC Centre for Disease Control; National Collaborating Centre - Environmental Health; University of BC

See Poster Presentation

Creating new training and research capacity to link ecosystem health and public health

Craig Stephen**, Centre for Coastal Health

Lea Borden*, Centre for Coastal Health

Lorna Medd, Vancouver Island Health Authority

Jane Parmley*, Centre for Coastal Health

Carl Ribble, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine / Dept. Ecosystem and Public Health, University of Calgary

* New Investigator

** Principal Investigator

10. Board Elections

Craig Stephen

Three Board members have completed their two-year terms and are standing for re-election: Hugh Davies, Tim Takaro, and Shannon Wagner. Craig Stephen called for additional nominations from the floor. There being none, all three were acclaimed into Board positions. The BCEOHRN Board of Directors is as follows.

BCEOHRN Board Members 2009

- **Henry Harder**, BCEOHRN Scientific Director, University of Northern British Columbia, Prince George
- **Paul Demers**, BCEOHRN Associate Scientific Director, University of British Columbia
- **Charl Badenhorst**, Medical Health Officer, Northern Health, Fort St. John
- **Hugh Davies**, University of British Columbia
- **Perry Hystad**, Student, University of British Columbia
- **Sonia Lamont**, Student and Cancer Prevention Coordinator, BC Cancer Agency
- **Eleanor Setton**, University of Victoria
- **Craig Stephen**, Centre for Coastal Health, Nanaimo (BCEOHRN Board Chair)
- **Tim Takaro**, Simon Fraser University
- **Scott Venners**, Simon Fraser University
- **Shannon Wagner**, University of Northern British Columbia, Prince George
- **Imelda Wong**, Student, University of British Columbia

11. Draw

Craig Stephen

As a partnering sponsor, BCEOHRN held a draw for five complimentary registrations to:
Alerting, Reassuring, Guiding: Three Risk Communication Toolkits for EH&S Professionals

March 9 & 10, 2009
Renaissance Vancouver Hotel Harbourside
1133 West Hastings, Vancouver, BC

Winners were congratulated:

- Morteza Bashash, Vancouver
- Eleanor Setton, Victoria
- Yan Li He, Vancouver
- Kenneth Law, Vancouver
- Kate Bassil, Vancouver

12. Adjournment

Craig Stephen

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned in order that members could turn their attention to the poster session component of the day.

This meeting was recorded using WebEx. To view the recording, go to:

<https://msfhr.webex.com/msfhr/lsr.php?AT=pb&SP=MC&rID=28176102&rKey=EBB149280FCE331B>

Dr. Bruce Lanphear's presentation precedes the AGM, which begins at the recording counter time of 1:09. The player indicator can be dragged forward to view any point in the recording.