

BC Environmental and Occupational Health Research Network

Third Annual General Meeting
January 25, 2008 1:00-2:45 pm
Sutton Place Hotel, Vancouver

Minutes

1. Introduction of new Leadership

Craig Stephen

Craig Stephen, Board Chair, introduced Henry Harder as the new BCEOHRN Scientific Director who started in this capacity in September 2007, after having been Associated Scientific Director since the inception of the Network in 2005. Henry Harder holds a faculty appointment at the University of Northern BC.

Craig Stephen introduced Paul Demers, as the new Associate Scientific Director. Paul Demers holds a faculty appointment at the University of BC.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Craig Stephen

The agenda was approved as presented.

3. Brief History of BCEOHRN

Henry Harder

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

2004:

- Mar: MSFHR Network program announced
- Environmental scan, preliminary list of EOH researchers
- Nov: Province-wide consultations – proposal developed / submitted

2005:

- Jan: 4 year funding approved; funds held at UNBC
- Interim Scientific Director, Craig Stephen
- Associate Scientific Director, Henry Harder
- Jun: Executive Director hired, Pat Atherton
- Nov: Inaugural general meeting, SD: Susan Kennedy
- Membership numbers about 150

2006:

- Recruitment drive: SD meets with BC Cancer Agency; SFU; UNBC/NHA; UVic/VIHA
- Collaboration with UBC's Office of Health Research Resource Office to develop its Facilities and Research Equipment Database (FRED) to better meet the needs of EOH researchers across BC
- Mentorship Program begins 'mini-networks' through Peer-to-Peer/mentoring groups
- BCEOHRN members' message board and listserv launched
- Membership numbers about 380

Henry Harder revisited the vision and mission of the Network.

Vision

- A network of innovative research teams conducting world-class research intended to improve the health of people affected by occupational and environmental risks, who interact with communities so that research results are used to effect change.

- 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.

Mission

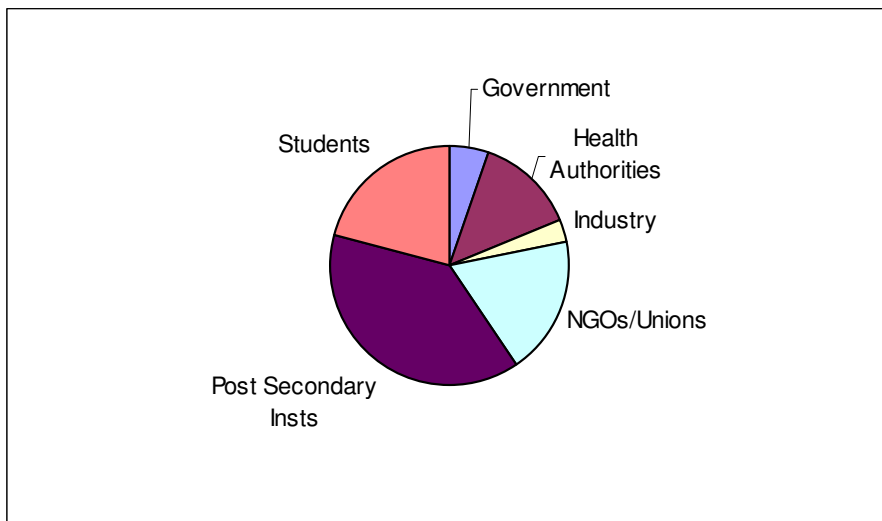
- Increase knowledge among researchers of common resources, common questions and shared opportunities;
- Help researchers and research users navigate the environmental and occupational health community in BC to facilitate efficient access to information and capabilities; *and*
- Assist in attracting and maintaining a vibrant occupational and environmental health research community in BC by supporting training, research development, and communications

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

Henry Harder provided highlights of the past year.

Membership is now around 600 people:

Organization	# Members	Organization	# Members
BC Cancer Agency/Research	19	Northern Health	21
BC Ctr for Disease Control	12	Post Secondary Inst (<5 mems)	19
BCIT	8	OHSAH	17
Douglas College	3	SFU	38
Fraser Health	18	TRU	11
Federal Govt	14	Unions	4
Municipal Govt	5	UBC	205
Provincial Govt	11	UBCO	4
Industry	17	UNBC	36
Interior Health	17	UVIC	37
Malaspina	6	Vancouver Coastal Health	15
NGOs	57	Vancouver Island Health	8



An overview of the Board was provided:

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

- *Caroline Alexander, Northern Health*
- *Ray Copes, BC CDC*
- Hugh Davies, UBC
- *Jack Nickel, Health Canada*
- Henry Harder, UNBC (Scientific Director)
- *Susan Kennedy, UBC*
- Craig Stephen, Centre for Coastal Health (Chair)
- Tim Takaro, SFU
- Shannon Wagner, UNBC

- **Research trainees (target 3):**
- *Gabrielle McHugh, UNBC*
- *Carla MacLean, UVic*
- Eleanor Setton, UVic

(Italicized retiring at this AGM)

Henry Harder introduced current staff:

- Pat Atherton, Executive Director, Victoria
- Rosemary Collard, Database Coordinator (incoming), Vancouver
- Kathleen McLean, Database Coordinator (outgoing), Vancouver
- Romana Pasca, Regional Program Coordinator, Prince George
- Carmen Van Unen, Regional Program Coordinator, Prince George

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.
- **Supporting networking:** Travel support has been made available to students and junior faculty to attend BCEOHRN networking events, including the Spring 2007 knowledge translation workshop.
- **Supporting trainees, new investigators:** Programs to support trainees/new investigators include the mentorship program and the research capacity development program.
- **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.
- **Knowledge Translation:** The Network convened a knowledge translation and exchange workshop in April, 2007, with keynote speakers Dr. Patricia Martens and Dr. Penny Ballem.
- **Checking in:** A recent members' satisfaction survey was made available online; paper copies were made available at the AGM for participants' feedback into Network activities and operations. Results of this survey will help guide future strategic planning.

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 2007) is 24; the total number of awards to date is 18.

WebEx, the online real-time collaborative tool has been used extensively by BCEOHRN members over the past year. Some examples include: sharing lectures; connecting faculty members with students; program planning for upcoming workshop; special interest group monthly meetings.

5. Where we're going – 2008 Henry Harder

Henry Harder outlined a number of initiatives for 2008, including:

- Continued support for existing programs such as maintaining currency of the database content through a dedicated staff member; calls for applications to the research capacity development fund; and networking and mentoring activities.
- Enhanced communication provided through additional staff support.
- New travel support for members to present at conferences located around the globe where they are presenting on environmental/occupational topics
- The May 2/08 workshop on data access, "Advancing research through innovative linkage of health and exposure data", to be held at the Wosk Centre for Dialogue in Vancouver.
- A board strategic planning session to be held this Spring to develop plans for 2008-2012, using an optimistic view of the Network's future funding.

6. Financial Statement Review Henry Harder

Henry Harder provided an overview of the actual expenses for 2007 and the planned budget for 2008.

7. HoPN Performance Review Henry Harder

The MSFHR Health of Population Networks' four-year funding expires on December 31/08. MSFHR will be conducting a satisfaction survey of randomly-selected members in the Spring. A funding re-application process will be held in the summer months with an external peer-review. Funding decisions will be announced in the late Fall for beyond 2008.

To that end, BCEOHRN has launched a members' satisfaction survey to solicit the opinions of the members about performance to date. A paper copy of the survey was provided in AGM participants' packages and an online version was available as well.

8. Connecting Members Kathleen McLean / Rosemary Collard

Kathleen McLean and Rosemary Collard provided a presentation to introduce and review the features of the BCEOHRN members' database and grey literature database. The databases are being well used, judging by monthly web usage statistics, with the number of hits on the site increasing each month. Rosemary is working to add new members and keep up to date existing members' profiles, as well as adding new grey literature.

9. Peers helping peers/Mentoring program Corinne Ong

Corinne Ong, Chair, reported that she is stepping down as Chair of the Mentoring Program Working Group, which was struck at the November 2005 AGM. Members include: Pat Atherton, BCEOHRN; Corinne Ong, UBC; Eileen Owen-Williams, UNBC; Cheryl Peters, UBC; Eleanor Setton, UVic. Kay Teschke, UBC, stepped down from the Working Group this year. Eileen Owen-Williams will also be leaving her role as Group Leader of the Injury Prevention group.

Corinne extended her thanks to the Working Group members for their past year's involvement and noted that some new volunteers are needed for the Group for this year, including a Chair.

Cheryl Peters is working on developing a new Group for students and new professionals.

The Peer-to-Peer/Mentoring groups have been renamed *Special Interest Groups* (SIG):

Geographic Information Systems SIG

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

Eleanor Setton, former Group Leader, provided an overview:

20 members

- Grant applications done in the past year, letters of support from GIS group which helped with success.
- Monthly WebEx meetings with e-mail communication in between
- Wiki includes:
 - GIS-related problems and solutions
 - Updates on GIS/health research and health analyses
 - Upcoming funding opportunities, conferences, or other activities of interest

Injury Prevention SIG

Contact: [Eileen Owen-Williams, UNBC](#)

6 members

- WebCT site – some challenges to using the technology, concerns about posting research results regarding protection of intellectual property
- Elluminate used (virtual classroom). Requires the use of a microphone, so created additional challenges. WebEx to be used in the future.
- UNBC's servers crashed, so the site needs to be rebuilt.
- Annual planning will assist with future activities.
- Looking for new Group Leader.

Water SIG

Contact: [Corinne Ong, UBC](#)

28 members: environmental health officers, researchers, government researchers and others

- Monthly WebEx meetings: special topics, grant applications
- Wiki to share documents
- Email discussions
- Meeting being planned for SIG members in Kamloops in April – originated by Interior Health. Agriculture Canada is interested in doing mobile water testing in Kamloops.

Members who are interested in joining existing groups or starting a new group are encouraged to contact the [BCEOHRN office](#).

Craig commented that while the groups have experienced some challenges over the past year, it's important to remember that none of the groups existed prior to BCEOHRN's existence and that they have gone a long way to building research capacity in the province.

10. Upcoming Spring Conference

Sarah Henderson

Sarah Henderson (student, UBC), Chair of the Educational Event Working Group 2008,

highlighted the upcoming spring conference. Working Group members include: Paul Demers (UBC), Eleanor Setton (Uvic), Romana Pasca (student, UNBC), Perry Hystad (student, UBC) and Ryan Allen, UBC. The conference will address aspects of data access. It will be held on May 2 at the Wosk Centre for Dialogue at SFU downtown.

11. 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):

Fall 2006

Fly-in-fly-out Mines: Occupational Health Implications for the Female Aboriginal Workforce in Northern BC (acknowledged, no presentation)

Costa, Silvana, University of British Columbia, Norman B. Keevil Institute of Mining Engineering *

Teschke, Kay, University of British Columbia, Health Care and Epidemiology **

Harder, Henry University of Northern British Columbia, Community Health Program

Mills, Dawn, University of British Columbia, Norman B. Keevil Institute of Mining Engineering

Effects of Outdoor Pollution from Smoking Sources at Work on the Health of Hospitality Workers

*Okoli, Chizimuzo, University of British Columbia, Nursing **

Ratner, Pamela, University of British Columbia, Nursing **

Brauer, Michael, University of British Columbia, School of Environmental Health

Lee, Kiyong University of Kentucky, College of Public Health

Hahn, Ellen University of Kentucky, College of Nursing

Johnson, Joy, University of British Columbia, School of Nursing

Ward, Helen, University of British Columbia, Department of Medicine

Spring 2007

Development of a Woodstove Exchange Program Evaluation

*Ryan Allen, Simon Fraser University, Faculty of Health Sciences * and ***

Michael Brauer, University of British Columbia, School of Environmental Health

Ray Copes, BC Centre for Disease Control and University of British Columbia

Peter Jackson, University of Northern British Columbia, Environmental Science and Engineering Programs

Christy Lightowlers, University of Victoria, Department of Geography

Gail Millar, University of Northern British Columbia

Curtis Noonan, University of Montana

Aleck Ostry, University of Victoria

Natalie Suzuki, Environmental Quality Branch, BC Ministry of Environment

Stephan van Eeden, University of British Columbia

Sverre Vedal, University of Washington

Tony Wakelin, BC Ministry of Environment

Tony Ward, University of Montana

Ben Weinstein, BC Ministry of Environment

Healthcare Workers Potential Exposure to Toxic Cleaning by-products

*Cris Barzan, University of British Columbia, School of Environmental Health **

Winnie Chu, University of British Columbia, School of Environmental Health **

George Astrakianakis, Occupational Health and Safety Agency for Healthcare in BC

Indigenous Diet Challenge 2008

*Dawn Marsden, Sulsila Lelum Wellness Centre**

Richard Mathias, University of British Columbia, Health Care & Epidemiology **

Graham Smith, University of British Columbia, Education

Jeri Sparrow, Sulsila Lelum Wellness Centre

Jay Wortman, University of British Columbia, Medicine

Fall 2007 – recipients were asked to stand and be acknowledged

Developing Global Occupational Health Research Capacity in British Columbia

*Hasanat Alamgir, Simon Fraser University, Faculty of Health Sciences * and ***

Tim Takaro, Simon Fraser University, Faculty of Health Sciences

Paul Demers, University of British Columbia, School of Environmental Health

Hugh Davies, University of British Columbia, School of Environmental Health

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, University of British Columbia, Department of Medicine; School of Environmental Health * and **

Stephan VanEeden, iCAPTURE Center for Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Research

Ryan Allen, Simon Fraser University, Faculty of Health Sciences

Joel Kaufman, University of Washington

Michael Brauer, University of British Columbia, School of Environmental Health

Ed Chessor, University of British Columbia, School of Environmental Health

Steve Rogak, University of British Columbia, Mechanical Engineering

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

*Jeffrey R. Masuda, University of BC, Institute of Health Promotion Research **

Jennifer Terpstra, University of BC, Interdisciplinary Studies *

Alexis Crabtree, Vancouver Coastal Health, Addiction Services *

Natasha Panina, Trinity Western University *

Jim Frankish, University of British Columbia, Centre for Population Health Promotion Research **

Allan Best, Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute, Clinical Epidemiology & Evaluation

Blake Poland, University of Toronto, Department of Public Health Sciences

Trevor Hancock, BC Ministry of Health

Measuring Muscle Fatigue with Mechanomyography and Electromyography

*Winnie Chu, University of British Columbia, School of Environmental Health ***

Albert Leung, Simon Fraser University, Engineering Science

Summer Reveley, University of British Columbia, School of Environmental Health *

*Allison Schaap, University of British Columbia, School of Environmental Health **

* New Investigator

** Principal Investigator

12. Board Elections

Craig Stephen

Nominees were asked to provide an introduction and to speak about their roles and interest in the Network. Craig Stephen called for additional nominations from the floor. After an election, the newly formed BCEOHRN Board of Directors is as follows.

BCEOHRN Board Members 2008

- **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

13. Acknowledgements

Craig Stephen

Susan Kennedy was thanked on behalf of the Network for her work as Scientific Director from October 2005-September 2007. Kathleen McLean was thanked for her work in developing the members' database. Outgoing Board members (see item 4 above) were thanked for their work in developing the Network over the past two years.

14. Members' Satisfaction Survey

Craig Stephen

The BCEOHRN members' satisfaction survey was circulated on paper, after having been made available online earlier in the year; members were encouraged to provide feedback on Network operations and input on new initiatives.

15. 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.