



Atlantic Interdisciplinary Research Network: Social and Behavioral Issues in Hepatitis C and HIV/AIDS

Issue # 1

Newsletter

Fall 2007

In this Issue

Message from PI

What is AIRN?

Objectives

*Scan of
HIV/AIDS
and Hepatitis
C Policies,
Programs and
Research in Atlantic
Canada*

*AIRN
Investigators*

*St. John's, NL
Workshop*

*AIRN Atlantic
Networking
Sessions*

*Upcoming
Event*

Message from the Principal Investigator

Welcome to the first issue of the Atlantic Interdisciplinary Research Network for Social and Behavioral Issues in HIV and Hepatitis C (AIRN)! We plan to publish this on a quarterly basis and welcome any contributions you may like to make. The intent is to exchange information and better connect those of us working in HIV and Hepatitis C in the Atlantic Region. We have been engaged in a number of activities and consultations over the last year, and look forward to continued collaboration as we move forward with research and other work we hope will influence policy and practice and ultimately improve the lives of those affected by HIV and/or Hepatitis C.

Susan Kirkland, PhD, Principal Investigator, AIRN

What is AIRN?

AIRN is a network of government, community, academic, and other stakeholders with an interest in HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C. It began with a core group of researchers from a variety of disciplines based at four Atlantic universities (UPEI, UNB, Dalhousie, Memorial) who applied for, and received, funding in June of 2004 under an Interdisciplinary Enhancement Grant from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). Funding continues to March 31, 2009.

Objectives

AIRN objectives are to:

- Conduct a program of research to increase knowledge about HIV and HC
- Enhance interdisciplinary collaboration and promote cross fertilization
- Train a new generation of researchers to build capacity for research in this region
- Work together with stakeholders to achieve results.

HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C: Scan of Policies, Programs and Research in Atlantic Canada

One of AIRN's initial activities has been the publication of a scan of policies, programs and research completed or underway in Atlantic Canada. The report, located on-line at www.med.mun.ca/AIRN, contains both a directory of services by province as well as a description of the strategies and policy frameworks in place. It serves as a foundation document providing an analysis of the state of research, policy and program response to HIV/AIDS and Hep C in the region and suggesting directions for moving forward in a more coordinated manner.

AIRN Core Investigators

Margaret Dykeman, NP, PhD
Faculty of Nursing
University of New Brunswick
margdyk@unb.ca

Jacqueline C. Gahagan, PhD
Health and Human
Performance
Dalhousie University
jacqueline.gahagan@dal.ca

Lois A. Jackson, PhD
Health and Human
Performance
Dalhousie University
lois.jackson@dal.ca

Susan Kirkland, PhD
Dept. of Community Health
and Epidemiology
Dalhousie University
susan.kirkland@dal.ca

J Gerry Mugford, PhD, CMH
Medicine, Pharmacy and
Psychiatry
Memorial University of
Newfoundland
gmugford@mun.ca

Kevork M. Peltekian, MD
Dept. of Medicine
Dalhousie University
kevork.peltekian@dal.ca

Ingrid Sketris, PharmD
Dept. of Pharmacology
Dalhousie University
ingrid.sketris@dal.ca

Jo-Ann MacDonald, BScN,
MN, PhD(c)
Faculty of Nursing
University of Prince Edward
Island
jammacdonald@upeir.ca



**Working together to
address HIV/AIDS
and Hepatitis C**

St. John's, NL Workshop

In September of 2006, AIRN sponsored a workshop in St. John's, NL, to bring together policymakers, community organizations, researchers, and others to further develop the Network. The two-day program outlined a number of research initiatives underway of which many people were unaware (presentations on-line). It also provided an opportunity for participants to identify ways of working together, the potential benefits of doing so, as well as research priorities for the region (see the report of proceedings on the AIRN website).

AIRN Atlantic Networking Sessions

AIRN is currently in the process of consulting with communities around Atlantic Canada about issues of concern to them regarding HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C. Networking Sessions have been held in Fredericton, Saint John, and Moncton, NB, Charlottetown, PEI, St. John's, NL, Halifax, NS and one more is planned November 9th in Cape Breton, NS. A synopsis of the sessions will be available on the AIRN website and will be distributed to participants and others through the AIRN Network.

Upcoming Event

The Saint John Regional Hospital, AIDS Saint John, and AIRN are pleased to announce that we will be hosting our second Visiting Scholar, **Dr. Robert Newman, M.D., M.P.H.**, in **January 2008** (date to be confirmed) in both Saint John and Halifax. Dr. Newman is President Emeritus and past CEO of Continuum Health Partners, Inc., a \$2.2 billion hospital network in New York City. He is also Director of The Baron Edmond de Rothschild Chemical Dependency Institute of Beth Israel Medical Center and Professor of Epidemiology and Population Health and Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York. Prior to the creation of Continuum in 1997, he was CEO of the Beth Israel Health Care System for 20 years.

For the past 35 years Dr. Newman has played a major role in planning and directing some of the largest addiction treatment programs in the world - including the New York City Methadone Maintenance and Ambulatory Detoxification Programs, which in the mid-'70s treated over 33,000 patients annually. He has also been a strong addiction treatment advocate in Europe, Australia and Asia. Throughout his career he has championed the right of drug-dependent persons to treatment access and choice of provider, and the right to be cared for under the same conditions as apply to the management of all other chronic medical conditions.

Please watch for further notice and join us for the enlightening session!

Should you wish to share comments or information via the AIRN Email distribution network or in this newsletter, please contact:

Carolyn Marshall, MPA
AIRN Coordinator

Dept. of Community Health and Epidemiology, Dalhousie University
E: cmarshall@ns.sympatico.ca; T: 902-479-0921; F: 902-479-0155;
URL: www.med.mun.ca/AIRN