Inside this issue:

People News 1
Kudos 3
Teaching and Program Updates 4
Research Update 5
New FHS Publications 6
FHS in the Community 9
FHS in the News 11

Dean’s Corner

FHS Bulletin

FHS has undertaken an external review over the past six months that has confirmed some of our strengths and identified areas that we need to address. The External Reviewers’ report confirmed that the Faculty has made extraordinary progress in hiring faculty and staff, developing undergraduate and graduate programs, attracting outstanding students, and in attracting research grants and awards. Success in these outcomes however, has been achieved at some cost. The Report confirms that the Faculty was built rapidly – perhaps too rapidly - under difficult conditions of high faculty service contributions and resource constraints. As a result, our sense of community has suffered and there are fractures across a Faculty that would prefer to pride itself on a sense of shared values and interdisciplinary strength. The review calls for a period of consolidation and internal efforts to strengthen trust, shared understandings of purpose and commitments, and fair and reasonable expectations across all faculty, staff and students. We are in the process of implementing actions to achieve these goals and I believe that with a sense of common purpose, we will succeed.

In spite of these concerns, this Newsletter once again documents the extraordinary achievements of our students, staff and faculty. We continue to attract outstanding people to our community, our students continue to win prestigious national awards, our faculty are recognized by their peers for their extraordinary contributions, and our faculty continue to innovate as teachers and attract major funding, publish important scientific contributions, and translate this knowledge into policy and practice through numerous public venues. These successes would not be possible without the exemplary support of our silent partners – our staff – who excel in providing an environment where student and faculty success is promoted. I would like to note in particular the contributions of Manjeet Gill to the development of FHS over the past 7 years. We are proud of Manjeet’s important promotion to FASS, but we will miss her warm personality and efficient administrative input. We will also miss the dedication and commitment of Karen Palmer over the past five years to the well-being of our MPH students, scattered across the globe but always front of mind through Karen’s watchful gaze.

I would also like to personally congratulate Bob, Bruce and Benedikt for the recognition they have received, and Stefanie, “Edie”, Brittany and Cindy for once again reminding us why our investment in the next generation is so important. Finally, I want to take this opportunity to celebrate the successful tenure of six of our members (Nicole, Mark, Susan, Pablo, Jeremy, and Scott); a major milestone in an academic career.

-John O’Neil
People News

FHS welcomed/s the following:

- **Annie Ding**, joined FHS as the new Research Support Clerk in April 2013.
- **Jasmine Kastner** (graduate of the MSc program) was hired as the Uganda-based Reproductive Health Qualitative Study Coordinator for Dr. Angela Kaida's HIV and Reproductive Health research program in Uganda. Jasmine has relocated to Mbarara, Uganda for a year starting in May 2013.
- **Jeff Laplante**, Project Officer with the CIHR-Institute for Aboriginal People’s Health.
- **Bohdan Nosyk** was appointed as the FHS’ new Endowed Chair in HIV/AIDS Health Economics at St. Paul’s Hospital (February 2013). Dr. Nosyk will be primarily based at St. Paul’s Hospital in the BC Centre of Excellence in HIV/AIDS.
- **Luciana Rad** will join FHS as the new Financial and Budget Coordinator as of July 2, 2013.
- **Justin Sharpley** (MSc student) joins the Somers Research Group (SRG).
- **Dr. Miki Talebi**, Research Coordinator, and **Ms. Rosemary Lever**, Senior Research Assistant, join the Children’s Health Policy Centre (CHPC) BC Healthy Connections Project. As well, **Ms. Sarah Mughal**, Research Assistant, joins the CHPC’s Children’s Mental Health Research Quarterly team.

Au revoir:

- **Karen Palmer** is leaving FHS after five years as a Lecturer supporting the MPH Practicum. Karen will continue with FHS in an Adjunct position in order to complete her CIHR funded research
- **Manjeet Gill** (Budget Coordinator) accepted the new position of Finance Manager in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (April 2013) after 7 years at FHS.
- **Anna Day** (Research Support Clerk) accepted a new position in the private sector in February 2013 after almost 2 years at FHS.
- The Somers Research Group (SRG) bids farewell to **Allison Laing** (RA) and **Jeff Lawlor** (RA) on the MHCC At Home Study.
- **Elena Argento** MPH alum completed her role as Communications Assistant within FHS in April 2013 and is now in South Africa.

Kudos (Awards & Recognition)

- **Drs. Nicole Berry, Susan Erikson, Pablo Nepomnaschy, Jeremy Snyder and Scott Venners** were all awarded tenure and promotion to Associate Professor in June, 2013. **Dr. Mark Brockman** was awarded tenure (already an Associate Professor) and **Dr. Angela Kaida** was awarded contract renewal.
- **Dr. Benedikt Fischer** was appointed a University Professor for a five year term in May, 2013. There are only ten University Professors at SFU at any one time, appointed on the recommendation of the Vice-President Academic.
- **Dr. Robert Hogg** was awarded the CUFA BC Paz Buttedahl Career Achievement Award, an award for sustained outstanding contributions to the community beyond the academy through research or other scholarly activities by an individual or a group over the major portion of their career. It is one of three "Distinguished Academics" awards made by CUFA BC. He is also incoming President of the Canadian Association for HIV/AIDS Research (CAHR) 2013-2015. Dr. Hogg co-chaired the CAHR conference with Dr. Mark Hull and Dr. Neora Pick held at the Westin Bayshore in Vancouver, BC on April 11-14th, 2013.
- **Dr. Bruce Lanphear** was selected as the Academic Pediatric Association’s 2013 Public Policy and Advocacy Award recipient, the highest honor the Academic Pediatric Association can bestow for public policy and advocacy activities. Lanphear was noted for the remarkable degree he has helped to change the course of lead policy for the benefit of all children.
• **Dr. John O’Neil** was elected the President of the Canadian Association of Health Science Deans and hosted the annual meeting at SFU on May 13 & 14, 2013. He will be leading a new initiative this year to develop a national leadership development program for health science students. Dr. O’Neil was also appointed to the Board of Directors of NeuroDevNet, a National Network of Centres of Excellence dedicated to the study of children’s brain development.

**FHS Child Health Faculty Award Recipients 2013:**

• **Allen R.** For “A randomised air filter intervention study of environmental tobacco smoke, air pollution and fetal growth”

• **Barha C. (Postdoc Fellow)** for “Salivary cortisol hormone assays”

• **Lanphear B.** For “Prevention of conduct policies and ADHD: Role of environmental toxicants and early intervention programs,“

• **Lear S.** for “Investigating ethnic differences in the cardiorespiratory fitness of children and its association with body composition”

• **Prefontaine G.** For “Molecular determinants for growth hormone expression and childhood gigantism”

• **Nepomnaschy P.** for “International workshop on the evolutionary aspects of early child development”

• **Tairyan K.** for “Proposal to create world’s first free high quality competency-based training in maternal and child health”

**Student and Trainee Awards:**

• **Cindy Barha** (supervisor: P. Nepomnaschy): awarded a 3 year CIHR postdoctoral fellowship ($135,000)

• **Brittany Bingham** (supervisor: J. Somers): awarded the CIHR/NCCPH Training grant in Population Health Intervention Research PhD Fellowship in January 2013.

• **Oghenowede Eyawo** and **Stefanie Rezansoff** (both supervised by R. Hogg) were each awarded 3 year CIHR Frederick Banting and Charles Best Canada Graduate Scholarship (doctoral award) ($105,000). As well, **Stefanie** received a Canadian Federation of University Women 1989 Ecole Polytechnique Doctoral Commemorative Award ($7,000).

• **Anna Carolsfeld**: SFU Gordon M. Shrum Gold medal

• **Angela Russolillo** (PhD student) was awarded the FHS Dean’s graduate student convocation medal

• **Danny Sung**: FHS Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement in the BA program

• **Aaron Sobkowicz**: FHS Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement in the BSc program

• **Alyssa Jordan**: FHS Award for Citizenship and Exemplary Academic Performance

• **Genevieve Jin**: FHS Award for Outstanding Service to the Faculty of Health Sciences

• **Jean de Dieu Tuyisenge** and **Brandon Yau**: FHS Awards for Outstanding Community Service

• **Phoebe Sarkar**: FHS Award for Extraordinary Achievement

• **Wais Darwish**: FHS Dean’s Medal

Incoming student received major SFU entrance scholarships:

• **Meghan Wagler** (PhD), **Christopher VanVeen** (PhD), **Emma Dunkley** (MPH)

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**Teaching and Education Program News**

**Program News**

**New Student Awards established in 2013:**

• FHS now offers new Aboriginal undergraduate and graduate student awards in the population and biomedical health sciences supported by Merck and the Illahie Foundation. Many thanks to FHS Advancement Director Charlotte Lawson for all her hard work on developing these awards.
• The Faculty of Health Sciences Graduate Awards were established at Simon Fraser University in 2013 as an opportunity for faculty and staff to donate funds for those who are pursuing an MSc or PhD research degree in health sciences.

• The Judy Graves Graduate Award was established to celebrate the work of Judy Graves, a city employee renowned for her work with the homeless of Vancouver, upon her retirement on May 29, 2013. The award is intended to recognize and provide funding to graduate students at Simon Fraser University who have demonstrated a similar passion to Judy for fighting for social justice and advocating for those living on the margins of society. Preference is to be given to students in the Faculty of Health Sciences.

• FHS has been awarded institutional funding from the CIHR Institute of Population and Public Health and Public Health Agency of Canada’s Dr. James Rossiter Master’s of Public Health Practicum Award Program. This award totaling approximately $24,000 will supplement FHS funds and other existing practicum stipends made available by host institutions and the Mowafaghian Award to support our MPH students during their practicum placements. Details on how to apply will be disseminated by FHS advisors.

New Teaching and Learning Initiatives:

• New graduate student **reading group in biostatistics and epidemiology**. Formed by faculty from FHS (Lawrence McCandless) and the Dept of Statistics (Michelle Zhou & Joan Hu), the group meets bi-weekly (started in May 2013) from 11:00-12:00 in Blusson Hall (BLU 11401)

• **FHS Teaching & Learning Celebration**: On March 21, 2013 20 participants representing instructors, staff and administration gathered for the first “Celebration of Teaching and Learning” in FHS. The event brought people together to showcase innovative teaching taking place in the graduate and undergraduate courses in FHS, and to exchange ideas about teaching excellence and scholarship. Activities included an innovation story panel, posters, dynamic posters and mini-discussions.

• **TechTalks and Tutorial Workshops**: **TechTalks (organized by B. Berry and N. Van Houten)** are one-hour lunchtime mini-workshops that explore applications of technology in teaching. The first two sessions have focused on the basics of adopting Canvas, SFUs new Learning Management System. Future sessions will explore Canvas as a course delivery tool and ways that blogging can be used to enhance teaching. TechTalks are held on Tuesdays at noon in Blu 11021. **Tutorial Workshops (organized by M. Lechner, R. Tucker, N. Van Houten with B. Berry)**, offered on May 24 and May 31, are two-hour workshops designed to address practical and pedagogical questions that instructors have about adding tutorials to their classes. For more information see the FHS T&L blog at: [http://blogs.sfu.ca/departments/fhs-teaching/](http://blogs.sfu.ca/departments/fhs-teaching/)

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**Research Update**

1. **Brockman, M.** Characterization of signalling mechanisms that regulate antigen sensitivity and cytotoxic functions in CD8+ T lymphocytes, NSERC Discovery Grant, $36,000 (2013-2014).

2. Tompa E. and MacEachen E. (PIs) with 42 co-investigators including FHS’ **Calvert, J.** Income security and labour-market engagement: Envisioning the future of disability policy in Canada. SSHRC Partnership Grant, $2.5 million (2013-2020).


5. Lui-Ambrose TY, Davis JC, Eng JJ, **Goldsmith CH**, Graf P, Hall P, Hsiung G-YR, Middleton L: Complex Mental and Social Activities to Promote Cognitive Function in Older Adults with Chronic Stroke. CIHR Operating Grant, $467,602(2013-2016)


7. Miller J, Perrynowski MR, MacDermid J, Gross AR, Walton DM, **Goldsmith CH**. Clinical and biological responses of people with neck pain being treated with manual therapy of varying duration and frequency: A pilot study. Physiotherapy Foundation of...

(Continued on page 5)


12. **Lee K** (PI) **Erikson S**. Corporate influence on declining global public health indicators? An interdisciplinary approach to developing comparative methodology and analyses for determining causal links between declining global public health indicators and corporate praxes. CIHR Planning Grant, $21,000 (2013-14).


15. **Pantophlet R**. Probing MBL function in oligomannose-specific anti-HIV antibody responses. CIHR Catalyst Grant. $98,300 (2013-2014)


20. **Waddell D**. has received a five-year renewal of her Tier II Canada Research Chair in Children’s Health Policy (2013–2018).


24. **Winters M** (PI). Tapping Administrative Data to Identify Social and Environmental Determinants of Older Adults Who Are “Living Well”. LiVWELL Catalyst Grant, Simon Fraser University, **$15,000** (2013-2014).


27. **Winters M**. Healthy Health Promotion through Active Transportation – A Pre-Post Evaluation of a Vancouver-Based Public Bikeshare Program. City of Vancouver $50,000 (2012 –2014).


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**FHS in the Community**


3. **FHS hosted the 3rd annual public lecture, “Culturally Grounded Suicide Prevention among On Reserve First Nations Communities”** by Dr. Jitender Sareen, MD FRCP is a Professor of Psychiatry in the Departments of Psychiatry, Psychology and Community Health Sciences at the University of Manitoba. March 27, 2013, SFU Surrey funded by an endowment from the Surrey Fire Fighters’ Charitable Society and Sherrold and Marina Haddad.


18. Janes C led a workshop at Harbour Centre, Jan 31-Feb 1 on the public health consequences of resource extraction. Attending were scholars from Mongolia, Ecuador, Zambia, and Canada.


33. Morrow, M (Co-producer). History of Madness Productions. The Inmates Are Running the Asylum, Film Premier May 9th, 2013. See trailer on YouTube

34. Morrow, M. Gender, Mental Health and Social Inequities. Advancing Excellence in Sex and Gender Health Research, CIHR Institute for Gender and Health Montreal, Quebec. October 30, 2012.


40. Puskas, C. [abstract] oral presentation at the CPHA meeting in Ottawa this coming June, 2013, and a travel award through the conference to support her attendance.


46. van Houten, N. “Demystifying measles infection and discuss why we are still at risk” in Café Scientifique, Mar. 20 at 7 p.m. at the CBC’s Vancouver studio.

47. van Houten N. Workshop “Active Approaches to Evidence-Based Teaching” was delivered with Cindy Xin from TLC and Kathleen Fitzpatrick from BISC at the SFU Symposium on Teaching and Learning on May 15th and 16th. She was also a member of the organizing committee.


54. Whitehurst, D. and Dr. Nick Bansback (UBC) are co-organizing the 2013 Vancouver Health Economics Methodology (Van-HEM) annual meeting, June 7, 2013 at SFU Vancouver (Harbour Centre). This 2013 meeting will bring together academics interested in health economics methodology from both BC and Seattle, providing a forum for collaboration and exchange within the Pacific Northwest.


58. Engel L, Bryan S, Noonan VK, Evers MAA, Dirksen CD, Whitehurst DGT. Psychometric validation of the preference-based measure SF-6D in people with spinal cord injury. 3rd Vancouver Health Economics Methodology (Van-HEM) Annual Meeting, Vancouver (Canada), 7 June, 2013


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**FHS in the News**

2. Dr. Ralph Pantophlet research was featured in the CIHR 2013 Annual Report.
3. Dr. Julian Somers’ Research Group was featured in a documentary, “A home for Edgar” on CTV News Sunday April 14th at 12:30pm on CTV BC. [http://bc.ctvnews.ca/more/first-story/a-home-for-edgar-1.1248938](http://bc.ctvnews.ca/more/first-story/a-home-for-edgar-1.1248938)
6. Dr. Michel Joffres’ work as a member of the Canadian Task Force on Preventive Health—Depression Screening Guideline Received extensive national media Coverage – May 13-22”
   - CBC.ca: “Routine depression screening for adults not recommended” (also in French – Radio-Canada), Globe and Mail: “Doctors should not routinely screen all patients for depression, task force says”
   - Globalnews.ca: New guidelines recommend against routine screening for depression in Canada
   - Sun News Network/QMI- Docs don’t need to regularly screen for depression in adults: CMAJ
   - Psychcentral.com- Study discourages depression screening in absence of symptoms
   - Daily Rx- No more over-screening for depression
   - Sante Quebec - Des spécialistes prônent l’abandon du dépistage systématique de la depression
   - Epoch Times – Routine Screening for depression in adults not recommended
   - Medpagetoday.com- Screening for Depression Lacks Strong Evidence
• Other coverage: newswire.ca, metro news, sciencedaily.com, Cape Breton Post, prnewswire.com, healthcanal.com,

• Numerous Broadcast Clips: CTV News, 660 News Calgary, Global News Vancouver and Calgary, City News Toronto,

7. Dr. M. Joffres as part of the Canadian Task Force on Preventive Health Care on Cervical Cancer Screening Guideline was covered by Radio Canada: http://www.radio-canada.ca/nouvelles/sante/2013/01/07/001-test-pap-frequence.shtml

8. Dr. M. Joffres as a member of the Canadian Task Force on Preventive Health Care Sodium study (Hypertension) was covered by Fox News, Vancouver Sun, UCSF.edu. The AHA Hypertension news release, “Reducing sodium in U.S. may save hundreds of thousands of lives over 10 years” (February 11, 2013 – Pamela Coxson, Nancy Cook, Michel Joffres et al.) was internationally covered, with TOTAL media impressions = 156,993,571 TOTAL hits = 199. Examples include:


• Healthy Living - http://healthyliving.msn.com/nutrition/cut-salt-save-500000-us-lives-over-a-decade-study-finds