

Media Release

For Immediate Release

February 17, 2014

Innovative research grants poised to transform health care in Atlantic Canada.

Halifax, N.S. – Transformational research is forecasted for the future of health care in Atlantic Canada with the QEII Foundation and IWK Foundation’s new Transforming Research into Care (TRIC) grant recipients announced today.

TRIC grants are the result of a partnership between Capital Health and the IWK Health Centre, funded by the QEII Foundation and the IWK Foundation. The grants are awarded to successful teams of researchers and administrators who propose ideas that will fuel direct and positive changes for health care. These ideas include better patient outcomes, reduced wait times and improved access to care. What makes the granting model unique is the team has to implement a solution together, making the approach among the first of its kind in Canada.

“The goal is to get experts in their field to work together to directly improve care for patients,” said Dr. Patrick McGrath, Integrated VP of Research and Innovation for Capital Health and the IWK. “We based the TRIC grants on the strong belief that clinicians and administrators are at the core of health care, and both have many great ideas about how to improve the system, but you have to get them exploring potential solutions together in order to make true, transformational changes.”

Dr. McGrath led the idea to merge researchers’ skills with administrators’ practical knowledge. Stemming from his leadership, and both Foundations’ financial support, TRIC grants became a reality with the first adjudication process happening in late 2013.

There are 15 successful recipients from the QEII and IWK, with a wide range of health care improvement initiatives, for a total funding of \$308,113. Applicants applied for one of three levels of funding: \$3,000, \$30,000 or \$100,000. The review committee considered the magnitude of each proposal’s benefit in terms of quality, safety, outcomes and cost of care, as well as any commercial potential.

Among the winners is a team of seven lead by Dr. Karthik Tennanrkore, division of Nephrology, and Cynthia Stockman, health services manager at the QEII.

“Our team was very excited to learn we received a TRIC grant,” said Dr. Tennankore. “Cynthia and I, along with our team, are studying the effect of an online communication portal on home dialysis patient satisfaction and quality of life. These types of tools have been successful in studies of other chronic disease patients, so we are optimistic that it will prove beneficial for our patients.”

“This novel approach funds the planning of potentially high clinical impact projects. We have a wonderful opportunity to make meaningful changes that could close some significant gaps in the health care system...It’s a fabulous initiative and we’re proud to be recipients of this grant.”
– Dr. Jill Chorney, IWK’s Complex Pain Team.

A seven-member recipient team from the IWK includes Dr. Jill Chorney, a psychologist and researcher in the Centre for Pediatric Pain Research, Dr. Isabel Smith with the IWK Autism Research Centre and Colleen D'Entremont, a manager in the pediatric perioperative services. The project will identify ways to improve the perioperative experience for children with autism spectrum disorders.

“This is a novel approach that funds the planning of potentially high clinical impact projects,” said Dr. Chorney. “We have a wonderful opportunity to make meaningful changes that could close some significant gaps in the health care system for children with autism spectrum disorders. It’s a fabulous initiative and we’re proud to be recipients of this grant.”

Nearly 40 researcher-administrator teams applied for TRIC grants, and winners were determined following a stringent, multi-faceted process by a committee of researchers, administrators and community members. The next round of TRIC grants will take place this spring.

QEII Foundation TRIC Grant Recipients (7)

Dr. Christine Short, FRCPC, Division Head, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, CDHA
Mary-Ellen Gurnham, Executive Director of Learning & Chief Nursing Officer, Capital Health

Collaboration between care providers has many proven benefits including: improving patient safety and decreasing the length of stay. This project will develop an evaluation framework to determine success of interprofessional collaborative practice within Rehabilitation Services and Supportive Care.

Dr. Fred Burge, MD, MSc, Professor and Research Director, Dalhousie Family Medicine
Lynn Edwards, BSc, HEC, P.Dt, MHSA Director, Primary Health Care, Capital Health

The impact of a web-based “frailty portal” in family practice for patients, caregivers and providers: identification, screening and appropriate care planning. The goal is to reduce preventable emergency department visits and hospitalizations.

Alexander J Clark, Medical Director, Pain Services Capital Health, Professor, Department of Anesthesia, Pain Management and Perioperative Medicine, Dalhousie University
Karen Mumford, MHSA Director Peri-Operative Services, Ophthalmology, Critical Care & Tissue Bank, Capital Health

Patients who use high doses of opioids for pain management pose challenges for health care providers in the perioperative period. The goal is to determine how to provide better post-surgical pain care for those patients who already use high doses of opioids for pain management.

Michael Vallis, PhD R Psych Psychologist and Lead, Behaviour Change Institute, Primary Health Care, Capital Health; Associate Professor, Family Medicine and Psychiatry; Adjunct Professor, Psychology and Health and Human Performance, Dalhousie University
Tara Sampalli, PhD, Manager –Behaviour Change Institute, Assistant Director – Research, Quality and Knowledge Management Primary Health Care, Capital Health; Assistant Professor, Medical Informatics, Faculty of Medicine, Dalhousie University

Health care is designed to react to disease rather than prevention. The goal is of this project is to evaluate the integration of health behaviour change interventions into primary care settings.

Tara Sampalli, PhD, Manager - Behaviour Change Institute and Assistant Director - Research, Quality and Knowledge Management Primary Health Care, Capital Health, Assistant Professor, Medical Informatics, Faculty of Medicine, Dalhousie University
Lynn Edwards, BSc, HEC, P.Dt, MHSA Director, Primary Health Care, Capital Health

Improving chronic care delivery and functional health outcomes for individuals with multimorbidities in Primary Health Care

Dr. Graeme M. Rocker, Head, Division of Respiriology, Capital Health, Professor, Department of Medicine, Dalhousie University
Paula Bond, VP, Acute Care, Person Centered Health, Capital Health

Expanding the INSPIRED COPD outreach program to the Emergency Department: assessing feasibility, efficiencies and outcomes

Karthik Tennankore, MD, FRCPC, Division of Nephrology, Department of Medicine, Capital Health
Cynthia Stockman, RN, BScN, MN, Health Services Manager, Outpatient Nephrology, Capital Health

The effectiveness of an online portal for the delivery of care to home dialysis patients.

IWK Foundation TRIC Grant recipients (8)

Erna Snelgrove-Clarke, RN, PhD Staff Nurse, Birth Unit and PSCU, IWK Health Centre and Assistant Professor, Dalhousie School of Nursing

Jennifer West, BScN, MHS Manager, IWK Health Centre, Birth Unit

A change in the approach to how women push when they are fully dilated, or second stage management, has the potential to increase vaginal deliveries, decrease cesarean births, as well as, decrease the length of hospital stay for mothers.

Isabel Smith, PhD Psychologist, Autism Research Centre, IWK Health Centre; Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics, Psychology and Neuroscience, Dalhousie University

Heather Osborne-Vincent, Manager, Rehabilitation Services IWK Health Centre and Barbara Casey, Manager, Mental Health and Addictions Program, IWK Health Centre.

Defining a health education partnership for earlier identification and assessment of Autism Spectrum Disorders in school aged children. Goal is to achieve a more efficient detection and more timely diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder to improve academic outcomes for children.

Kathleen Pajer, MD, MPH Chief, IWK Health Centre Department of Psychiatry; Senior Physician, Mental Health and Addictions Program; Professor and Head, Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Dalhousie University Faculty of Medicine,

Mary Ann Hiltz, CHIM, MHA, VP Strategy and Organizational Performance, IWK

Transforming the emergency mental health service at the IWK: preparing for an evidence-based prospective evaluation.

Dr. Jill Chorney, PhD, Centre for Pediatric Pain, IWK Health Centre

Colleen d'Entremont, RN, BScN, CPN(C) Manager, Pediatric Perioperative and Sterile Processing Services, IWK Health Centre

Identifying ways to improve the surgical experience for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder, as well as their families and members of the care team.

Dr. Janet Curran, PhD Clinical Scientist, IWK Health Centre, Assistant Professor, School of Nursing, Dalhousie University

Jocelyn Vine, VP Patient Care, IWK Health Centre

Tricia Cochrane, VP Community, Annapolis Valley DHA

Cathy Blades, VP Clinical Care, SouthWest Health

Improving transitions of care for complex and medically fragile children and youth, to adult-based care.

Anthony R Otley MD MSc FRCPC, Head, Division of Gastroenterology & Nutrition, IWK Health Centre and Professor of Pediatrics, Dalhousie University

Karen Carter, Manager, Ambulatory Medical Care, IWK Health Centre

Mission is Remission®: can a disease self-management website reduce the demand placed on the healthcare system?

Mark Bernstein, Head/Chief, Department of Pediatrics, IWK Health Centre

Jocelyn Vine, VP of Patient Care, IWK Health Centre

Improving health outcomes of medically complex children as they transition from pediatric to adult-based care through increased coordination between pediatricians and family physicians

Heather Rose, MD, MHSc, FRCPC Head Division of IWK Community Pediatrics and Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, Dalhousie University

Anne Cogdon, (Former) Executive Director, Primary Care

Laying the groundwork to plan and evaluate the effectiveness of a pediatric community clinic
