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CRISM Prairie Node *News and Notes*

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CRISM is a national network dedicated to translating substance misuse intervention research results into practice and policy.



Funded by the Canadian
Institutes of Health
Research

News and Notes is designed to keep you in the loop on Regional and National CRISM activities.

1st Annual CRISM Prairie Node meeting

Save the date - June 23 and 24, 2016

The date for our first Prairie Node meeting has been set!

Thanks to many of you, who have already indicated their interest in attending. We will open up a formal registration process soon. Registration is free for Node members. The meeting will be held in Calgary, at the University of Calgary's **Hotel Alma**.

The Node will cover members' costs for travel, accommodation, and food. *Note:* we will be reserving a block of rooms, so you do not need to book directly with the hotel. If you would like anything other than a standard room, please let us know (you will be required to cover the difference in cost).

National CRISM meetings

On Feb 22, 2016 the CRISM executive groups from each Node met in Monbtreal with CIHR representatives, including Dr. Tony Phillips (Scientific Director, CIHR Institute of Neurosciences, Mental Health and Addiction).

The meeting included presentations from each Node to update the team on regional Node progress, strategic planning for CRISM at the National level, and discussion of network governance. Plans for conducting the CRISM National study (Optimizing patient-centered care: A pragmatic randomized controlled trial comparing models of care in the management of prescription opioid misuse; OPTIMA) were also discussed, including each Node's challenges and readiness for study start up.

Following the CIHR meeting, the OPTIMA regional PIs (Ron Lim and Denise Adams for the Prairie Node) spent 2 days working through details of the OPTIMA trial management and study parameters with regional PIs from across the country.

Prairie Node Team photo (left to right): Colleen Dell, Ron Lim, Denise Adams, Cam Wild, Stacey Petersen, Allan Aubry



Postdoctoral Fellowship opportunity

University of Alberta - Postdoctoral fellow

We are inviting applications for a post-doctoral fellowship (PDF) in addiction research, located at the University of Alberta. The successful candidate will work with Dr. Cameron Wild on several funded research projects.

Applications are invited from recent PhD graduates. Applicants must have strong writing skills, a strong publication record, and strengths in quantitative and/or qualitative research approaches. Prior experience in health services and population health research on addictions is strongly preferred. Interested applicants trained in relevant areas of public health and/or the social and behavioural sciences who are committed to developing a career in addiction research are invited to submit an application.

[Click here to access PDF opportunity](#)

Node staff

We would like to extend a warm welcome Dr. Barb Fornssler to the Prairie Node. Barb brings with her extensive experience in stakeholder engagement and knowledge dissemination, a strong publication record, and strengths in quantitative and qualitative research approaches. Barb will act as our Node Knowledge Translation/Mobilization coordinator and will be based at the University of Saskatchewan.



Node webinars

27 Things to Know about the Role of Animals in Addiction

Working with animals in the substance misuse field is new to practice and even more recent to research. Join a Prairie CRISM research team on the 27th of April, May and June for a series of brief webinars to learn, share and join a network of researchers, service providers and consumer advocates interested in studying animal assisted interventions (AAI) in the addictions field.

- April 27, 12:00—12:45 (CST): The human-animal bond: Understanding zooeyia
- May 27, 12:00—12:45 (CST): The history of Animal Assisted Interventions: From definitions to diseases

- June 27, 12:00—12:45 (CST): Animal assisted interventions in addictions practice and research

To register or find out more, please send your email address to Alicia.Husband@usask.ca and indicate which date(s) you are registering for. These webinars are open to anyone interested in joining, and are made possible with funding provided by the Prairie CRISM node to Dr. Darlene Chalmers (University of Regina) in partnership with Dr. Colleen Anne Dell (University of Saskatchewan).

[Click here for more information: Node webinars on animals and addiction](#)

Member survey results

Thanks to everyone who responded to our invitation to complete the Prairie CRISM Node Member survey! We have compiled responses received as of November 30, 2015 into a short report. Please click the 'Member Survey Results' button below to access these results.

Based on member feedback we have proposed a series of next steps. This document can be accessed by clicking on the 'Progress Report/Next Steps' button below.

If you are new to CRISM or haven't completed the survey, register your interest in being a Member by clicking on the 'Access our Member Survey' button below. Your responses will be added to the next results summary.

[Click here to access Member Survey Results document](#)

[Click here to access Progress Report/Next Steps document](#)

[Click here to access our Member Survey](#)

Node development funding opportunities

The CRISM Prairie Node will consider ad-hoc requests from Node Members (Investigators

and Knowledge Users) on a rolling basis to provide one-time funding up to \$15,000. Funds are to be used to support research and/or knowledge exchange activities in the area of substance misuse interventions.

To date, we have received 4 applications from Members for Node support, of which 2 are approved and 2 are under review. Congratulations to **Bonnie Lee** (University of Lethbridge) and **Darlene Chalmers** (University of Regina) and their colleagues.

Members can submit applications via email to Denise Adams at denise.adams@ualberta.ca. The application form can be accessed via the button below.

[Click here to access the Node Funding application](#)

National CRISM Study

One of CIHR's requirements for the CRISM Network was for the 4 Nodes to collaborate to complete at least one National-level study. CIHR has approved **OPTIMA**: Optimizing patient centered-care: a pragmatic randomized controlled trial comparing models of care in the management of prescription opioid misuse.

Planning has begun with the identification of Regional PIs within each Node. For the Prairie Node, **Dr. Ron Lim** and **Dr. Denise Adams** will be regional co-PIs for OPTIMA.

We are delighted to welcome the Calgary Opioid Dependency Program (Site Investigator: **Dr. Ron Lim**) and the Edmonton Opioid Dependency Program (Site Investigator: **Dr. Avi Aulakh**) as study sites.

We are doing groundwork to identify additional sites in Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

Other Node Members who have expressed interest in OPTIMA will be brought into discussions as the regional and national OPTIMA teams further develop the study protocol.

If you are interested in contributing to this study or can recommend key sites or people in our Node who should be involved, please send an email to denise.adams@ualberta.ca with a copy to cam.wild@ualberta.ca. We will follow up with you as part of the process of organizing our Node's participation in this National project.

The National study proposal submitted to CIHR is available by clicking the button below.

[Click here to access the National CRISM proposal submitted to CIHR](#)

Links

Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR)

Alberta Innovates - Health Solutions and *CIHR* jointly sponsor the Alberta SPOR SUPPORT unit, which offers assistance to researchers working on patient-oriented research. For more information, click the button below.

Saskatchewan Centre for Patient Oriented Research (SCPOR). For more information, click the button below.

Prescription drug misuse information

The US-based *Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)* provides a weekly update service on the latest trends in prescription drug misuse. Each week, they summarize dozens of articles and resources of interest to researchers and non-academics alike. Clicking on the button below will take you directly to their sign up page to subscribe to this service.

[Click here to connect with Alberta's SPOR SUPPORT unit](#)

[Click here to connect with Saskatchewan's SPOR SUPPORT unit](#)

[Click here to subscribe to SAMHSA's Prescription Drug Abuse Weekly Update](#)

Questions? Comments? Contact us

Dr. Denise Adams is the CRISM-Prairie Node Manager.

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News and Notes is a way to keep informed about Prairie CRISM Node developments.

Email us anytime if you would like to discuss Node activities or want additional

information. Please send to denise.adams@ualberta.ca with a copy to

cam.wild@ualberta.ca

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