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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.



CIHR IRSC

Funded by the Canadian  
Institutes of Health  
Research

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

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## **CRISM Prairie Node website is live**

**Our website is up and running!**

Please bookmark our website for information about CRISM and the Prairie Node as well as links to upcoming events.

**[www.crismprairies.ca](http://www.crismprairies.ca)**

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## **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

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The program and meeting registration can be accessed through the links below.

[Program at-a-glance](#)

[Meeting registration](#)

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## **Inner City Health and Wellness Program Annual Symposium**

**Monday, June 13th, 2016**

**8:30 AM - 4:30 PM**

**Robbins Learning Pavilion, Royal Alexandra Hospital**

**Edmonton, Alberta**

The day will include:

- Update on ARCH team and research findings
- Skills training in harm reduction, trauma informed care and fundamentals of addiction Medicine
- An Inner City Health Research and practice showcase

Guest Speakers

**Dr. Karine Meador**

Assistant Director of

Inner City Health and Wellness

“How is This Still a Thing? Fighting for Opioid Agonist Treatment”

**Dr. Mat Rose**

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To RSVP please email Zahra Mawji at [zmawji@royalalex.org](mailto:zmawji@royalalex.org)  
or call **780-735-4035**.

*There is no cost to attend this event.*

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## Invitation to Participate: Take Home Naloxone Evaluation

Alberta is experiencing a large increase in fentanyl related deaths. In response to this crisis, the province is taking steps to make the opioid overdose reversal drug, naloxone, available to opioid users across the province through Take Home Naloxone (THN) programs. Alberta Health (AH) and the Alberta Community Council on HIV (ACCH) established THN programs through the partner agencies in ACCH in the summer of 2015. Alberta Health Services (AHS) established a province-wide THN program with kit distribution through over 600 sites: emergency departments; community addiction and mental health clinics; addiction detox and residential services; correctional facilities; and some pharmacies and medical clinics.

At the same time, Health Canada has removed the prescription requirement from Naloxone and AH is working to change provincial regulations so the drug is available behind the counter at pharmacies without a prescription. This change is anticipated to make naloxone more easily accessible and widely available.

Alberta Health, ACCH and AHS have partnered to evaluate THN programs across the province. A provincial evaluation provides the opportunity to assess the impact of large scale distribution of naloxone, compare different models of delivering THN programs, and study the outcome of changing the prescription status of naloxone. It also provides an opportunity to assess how THN programs can contribute to holistic harm reduction

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working in the field of substance abuse on the evaluation of the THN programs. The present provincial evaluation of the THN programs is in the early stages of planning and there are opportunities for interested researchers or students to:

- Provide conceptual input into the direction of the overall evaluation through participation on the working group,
- Develop a more in-depth study of a local THN program,
- Develop a more in-depth study of a specific aspect of the THN programs (e.g., overdose prevention training, program efficiency), or
- Develop a broader study of the fentanyl crisis that could inform THN programs and their evaluation.

Currently there are limited resources for the provincial THN evaluation; however, AH, ACCH and AHS can facilitate access to program information, staff, clients and administrative data for researchers interested in studying THN programs.

**For more information please contact:**

**Kay Rittenbach, PhD**

Assistant Scientific Director, Addiction & Mental Health Strategic Clinical Network, AHS  
Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry, University of Alberta

**[Katherine.Rittenbach@ahs.ca](mailto:Katherine.Rittenbach@ahs.ca)**

780-616-6623

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## **Panel discussion: Rethinking our approach to substance use**

The University of Alberta's School of Public Health Alumni Chapter will be hosting a panel in Edmonton on **Thursday, June 2** from **7 - 8:30 p.m.** in room 2-190 Edmonton Clinic Health Academy. For more information about this panel or to register (fee required), click

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## 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](#)

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## 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

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- 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](mailto: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](#)

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## 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](mailto:denise.adams@ualberta.ca). The application form can be accessed via the button below.

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

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## 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](#)

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## Questions? Comments? Contact us

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



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CRISM Prairie Node

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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](mailto:denise.adams@ualberta.ca) with a copy to [cam.wild@ualberta.ca](mailto:cam.wild@ualberta.ca)

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