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Latest news from the Prairie CRISM Node

1 message

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CRISM Prairie Node *News and Notes*

In This Update

- NEW - 1st Annual Node meeting - Presentations and post-gathering evaluation now available
- NEW - Member announcements
- NEW - ACRP Clinical Trials Training Program
- NEW - Research Assistant Position - UofA



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



- NEW - Post-Doctoral Fellow - Dalhousie
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News and Notes is designed to keep you in the loop on Regional and National CRISM activities.

**1st Annual CRISM Prairie Node Meeting
Presentations and Evaluation Report
Available Now!**



Thanks to everyone who attended our First Annual CRISM Prairie Node Gathering, held in Calgary on June 23 and 24, 2016!

Copies of the meeting materials and presentations are available on the Node website. You can click [here](#) to access them.

Thanks also to all Members who completed the post-gathering online evaluation. The meeting summary and evaluation report are now available as a pdf file below.

[Click Here to access the Meeting Summary and Evaluation pdf](#)

Member Announcements

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Elaine Hyska on the success of her MSI funding application!

In June, Dr. Elaine Hyska and colleagues were awarded \$98,000 from the MSI Foundation to conduct research on patient and staff experiences with the Royal Alexandra Hospital's inpatient syringe distribution program. The program aims to reduce risk HIV-related risk behaviours and improve health outcomes for people who inject drugs while hospitalized. A Prairie CRISM Node development grant leveraged funding for this project, which will be used to share knowledge on the practice of inpatient syringe distribution with acute care facilities across Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba.

ACRP announces unrestricted access to Clinical Trials Training Program

Free Program to Help Develop Competence in Clinical Research Workforce and Raise Awareness of Clinical Trials

Washington, DC – The Association of Clinical Research Professionals (ACRP) today announces immediate availability of a free educational program, "Introduction to Clinical Trials."

Introduced at DIA 2016 in Philadelphia, PA, last month, Introduction to Clinical Trials provides fundamental education about the role clinical research plays in advancing medical knowledge and the work conducted by clinical research professionals.

The course details how medical products are developed, how volunteer patients are protected, and who plays key roles in the development, research, review, and approval of medical products. The one-hour online program also explores how historical studies have laid the path for creation, revision, and enforcement of the ethical principles and guidelines governing today's clinical trials.

"ACRP is proud to offer this fundamental education in support of our mission to promote excellence in clinical research," says Jim Kremidas, ACRP Executive Director. "As the leader in clinical research workforce development, providing those new to the profession with a core understanding of clinical research is a critical initiative for ACRP. We are thrilled to be able to freely provide this program to individuals, clinical trial sites, contract research organizations, and trial sponsors and suppliers. Thank you to Labconnect LLC for providing ACRP the educational grant to develop this program."

Introduction to Clinical Trials is an ideal program for novice clinical researchers, including investigators, coordinators, and trial monitors, to develop the foundational knowledge upon which they can develop their competence as clinical research professionals. The program is also perfect for those interested in the profession or indirectly involved in clinical trials.

Introduction to Clinical Research is immediately available for free individual use through ACRP's Learning Management System (LMS) [here](#). The SCORM-compliant program can also be hosted on organizational Learning Management Systems. Contact Jenna Rouse, ACRP Director of Business Development, at jrouse@acrpnet.org or **+1.703.254.8109** for information.

In addition to supporting clinical research professionals and organizations, this program is an ideal tool for organizations seeking to help educate the public about clinical research and to raise awareness of clinical trials and the clinical research profession.

"We welcome everyone looking to spread the word about clinical research to leverage this resource, including the academic institutions and other associations around the world educating those who will ultimately become the workforce of tomorrow," says Kremidas.

Introduction to Clinical Trials is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide 1 Continuing Medical Education credit for physicians, and by the California Board of Registered Nursing to provide 1 contact hour of continuing nursing education credit.

About ACRP

ACRP supports clinical research professionals through membership, training

and development, and certification. Founded in 1976, ACRP is a Washington, DC-based nonprofit organization with more than 13,000 members who work in clinical research in more than 70 countries. ACRP's vision is that clinical research is performed ethically, responsibly, and professionally everywhere in the world. ACRP's mission is to promote excellence in clinical research. www.acrpnet.org

Employment Opportunity
CRISM Prairie Node Research Assistant
Addiction and Mental Health Research Laboratory
School of Public Health
University of Alberta

The Addiction and Mental Health Research Laboratory (AMHRL) invites applications for the position of full-time Research Assistant. AMHRL investigates psychosocial aspects of addiction and mental health. Lab projects adopt an interdisciplinary population health approach including prevalence studies, secondary interventions, phenomenological and ethnographic methods, psychometrics, and randomized controlled trials. For more information and to apply please visit the employment opportunities section on our website [here](#).

Post-Doctoral Fellow
Multidisciplinary Addictions Research
Dalhousie University

One post-doctoral fellow position is available, partially funded through an NSHRF Scotia Support training grant in addictions research awarded to Dr. Sherry Stewart and Dr. Sean Barrett, in the departments of Psychiatry and Psychology/Neuroscience at Dalhousie University. The goal of the Scotia support grant is to provide a comprehensive multidisciplinary addictions

research training program that will enable the trainee to acquire knowledge and skills in two or more of the addictions sub-disciplines in which the PI's have expertise and funding (behavioral pharmacology, neuropsychopharmacology, PTSD – cannabis, comorbidity, cognition, epidemiology, addictions prevention and treatment). This is a 12-month, full-time, contract position, renewable depending on funding. The position start date is negotiable between September 1, 2016, and January 1, 2017.

[Click here to access the PDF opportunity](#)

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)

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 programs and policies in the province.

Alberta Health, ACCH and AHS are interested in partnering with academic researchers 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

[780-616-6623](tel:780-616-6623)

Node development grants

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 5 applications from Members for Node support, of which 4 are approved and 2 are under review. Congratulations to **Bonnie Lee** (University of Lethbridge), **Darlene Chalmers** (University of Regina), **Elaine Hyshka** (University of Alberta), and **Darren Christensen** (University of Lethbridge) 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](#)

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.

Contact information

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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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