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Canadian Research Initiative in Substance Misuse

## News and Notes

News and Notes keeps you in the loop on Regional and National activities from the Canadian Research Initiative in Substance Misuse (CRISM) Prairie Node.

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You can contact CRISM Prairies using the information provided at the bottom of this email.



Funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research



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

## CRISM Prairies Updates

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## CRISM environmental scan: Naloxone distribution across Canadian provinces and territories

In response to an epidemic of opioid overdose deaths in Canada, distribution of the opioid antagonist naloxone has been identified as a key emergency measure to effectively prevent rising mortality. As a result, the programs aimed to distribute publicly-funded naloxone kits have been launched across the country.

Between January and May 2019, CRISM developed an environmental scan to consolidate information regarding current practices and programs aimed to distribute naloxone for use in suspected opioid overdose in Canada. The environmental scan process reviewed available grey literature and used interviews with key informants to better understand access and distribution of naloxone across Canadian jurisdictions.

Released in June 2019, the scan finds that over 590,000 publicly-funded naloxone kits have been distributed across more than 8,700 distribution sites in Canada. More than 61,000 kits have been reported used to reverse an overdose. Currently, all provinces and territories maintain publicly funded take-home naloxone programs. While access to naloxone has increased across the country, there remain important barriers to achieving equitable access across communities.

To access the full report, the scan at a glance, and timeline please visit the National [CRISM website](#) or [click here!](#)

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## Events & Activities

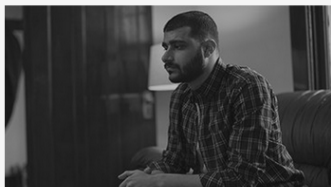
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### In Plain Sight - New Audio Series from Health Canada

#### Audio series on opioids: In Plain Sight

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In Plain Sight is a Health Canada audio series that explores the personal stories of people affected by the opioid crisis.



Every day, approximately 11 people die from opioid overdoses in Canada. We see this on the news. We know that it's happening. We know that it's real. Yet, we tell ourselves that it couldn't happen to the people we know, the people we work with, the people we love; that it couldn't happen to us. The reality is, the opioid crisis is happening right before our eyes, in plain sight, and it can affect anyone.

Health Canada is proud to present a new audio series called *In Plain Sight* that explores the personal stories of people affected by the opioid crisis in Canada.

The series is available on [Canada.ca/Opioids](#), and will be made available on iTunes and Google Play. We ask that you take the time to listen to these stories and share them with your network.

In addition, you can follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) and help [share social media messages](#) to help us raise awareness about the opioid crisis in Canada. Messages about In Plain Sight will be posted on Facebook and Twitter over the next few months.

If you have any questions about the *In Plain Sight* audio series, please email: [hc.opioidscommunications-opioides.sc@canada.ca](mailto:hc.opioidscommunications-opioides.sc@canada.ca)

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**Dr. Christy Sutherland**  
**Crushed hydromorphone as an iOAT option**

**education event**

**Crushed hydromorphone as an iOAT option:  
 rationale and early experience of Vancouver's pilot program**



Special Guest Speaker:

**Christy Sutherland** MD CCFP DABAM

Education Physician Lead - BC Centre on Substance Use  
 Medical Director - Portland Hotel Society  
 British Columbia's Family Physician of the Year (2018)

Friday, September 6, 2019  
 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
 Metro City Medical Clinic (Calgary)  
 150, 909 - 5 Avenue SW

(live streamed for remote participants)

RSVP to [MedEd@metrocitymedicalclinic.ca](mailto:MedEd@metrocitymedicalclinic.ca)



With the support of CRISM Prairie Node, ARCH (Calgary PLC) and Metro City will co-host a learning and dialog event featuring Dr. Christy Sutherland. After the first several months of her clinic's crushed hydromorphone iOAT pilot program in Vancouver's Downtown East Side, Dr. Sutherland will share with us the program's rationale as well as her early observations and patient experiences.

Please RSVP by email to [MedEd@metrocitymedicalclinic.ca](mailto:MedEd@metrocitymedicalclinic.ca)

**Saskatchewan Cannabinoid Research Symposium**  
**August 15 & 16 2019**

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# CANNABINOID RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM 2019



This event brings together researchers and knowledge users from across the province to share and discuss knowledge gaps and future directions for Cannabis indications and research in this new era of Cannabis legalization and medicinal and recreational use.

Participation in this 2-day learning and networking event is FREE and includes all meals. Attendance is limited to the first 150 registrants. To reserve your place, please go to the [Eventbrite registration site](#).

### Poster Abstract Submission

The Symposium is excited to showcase the research of new investigators, researchers, and trainees, from all disciplines and research streams. Abstracts should not exceed 250 words and must include a clear title, all contributing authors (with the presenting author listed first), author affiliations, funding declaration, and a summary of the research, including background and relevance, methods, results, and conclusion. Accepted abstracts will be invited to present a poster. Space is limited to 25 posters and preference is given to trainees presenting in the poster competition.

Please email your abstract to [gen.clark@usask.ca](mailto:gen.clark@usask.ca), no later than **July 15**.

### Trainee Poster Competition

Open to all undergraduate and graduate students, residents, postdoctoral fellows, and research associates conducting cannabinoid-related research. Poster abstracts are accepted until **July 15**. Download the trainee [poster competition information here](#).

Please visit the [conference website](#) for further information.

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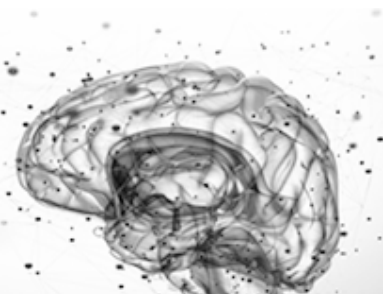
## Resources & Funding Opportunities

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### Pre-Announcement: Cannabis Research - Veterans' Health Pool



**CIHR** | Institute of Neurosciences,  
Mental Health and Addiction



Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) will partner with CIHR to fund the Veterans' Health Pool for this funding opportunity.

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The purpose of the current [Team Grant](#) is to explore in more detail the potential therapeutic benefits and harms associated with cannabis use in a number of targeted areas identified through previous consultations. In particular, these Team Grants will address stakeholder priorities by supporting specific defined priority areas in targeted pools, to strengthen the evidence base and to build cannabis-related research capacity.

Veterans Affairs Canada's (VAC) mandate is to support the well-being of Veterans and their families. Using the determinants of health, VAC has developed a Veteran-specific well-being framework. VAC's objective is to fund research that will create evidence to inform policy related to cannabis use for medical purposes. VAC's current cannabis policy is available [here](#).

#### **New Research Area - Veterans' Health Pool**

Research into the impact of chronic cannabis use for medical purposes on Veteran health and determinants of health, including social determinants of health. Applications that involve clinical, health services and/or policy research approaches will be considered in this pool. In addition, VAC maintains administrative data for approximately 10,000 Veterans in receipt of cannabis for medical purposes. VAC may work with applicants to make use of this administrative data where possible and/or assist with Veteran recruitment.

#### **Funds Available**

\$3 million is available to fund two (2) applications relevant to the Veterans' Health Pool (sponsored by Veterans Affairs Canada).

To view the html web version of the pre-announcement [please click here](#). The updated funding opportunity will be posted on ResearchNet by the end of July 2019.

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### CCSA Launches New Website



Canadian Centre  
on Substance Use  
and Addiction

Over the past year, the [Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction](#) (CCSA) has been working hard on revamping the CCSA website. During the development process stakeholders, partners and staff were consulted to help create a site that works for every user. With the help of partners' feedback and suggestions, the site is designed to ensure that information is easy to find and accessible.

Key features of the new CCSA website include:

- Over 350 publications in both English and French;
- A revamped publications section, featuring popular subjects and series, as well as featured, recent and popular publications;
- A dedicated news section that highlights CCSA News, CCSA in the News (media interviews), Addiction News Daily and CCSA's podcast, The Evidence;
- A snapshot feature on the homepage that provides a quick look at key activities and events in which CCSA is involved; and
- A dedicated experts section that helps you easily find over 25 leading experts at CCSA.

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## Data Science Fellowship Opportunity



The Data Incubator is an intensive 8 week fellowship that prepares masters students, PhDs, and postdocs in STEM and social science fields seeking industry careers as data scientists. The program is free for Fellows and supported by sponsorships from hundreds of employers across multiple industries.

### Who Should Apply

Anyone who has already obtained a masters or PhD degree or who is within one year of graduating with a masters or PhD is welcome to apply. Applications from international students are welcome.

### Location

Fellows have the option to participate in the program either in person in New York, San Francisco Bay Area, Boston, Washington DC, or online.

### Dates

All sections will be from 2019-09-16 to 2019-11-08.

### Application Link

<https://www.thedataincubator.com/fellowship.html?ch=rec&ref=r9dcfc7b2a73a>

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## Did you miss it? Items from our previous issues...

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### Winnipeg Safer Consumption Spaces Consultation

The Safer Consumption Spaces Working Group in Winnipeg is a voluntary collective of people from organizations who came together with a common interest in learning from people who use drugs about the spaces of everyday drug use, and the spaces they envision and value.

The Working Group has completed a report on the findings of their consultation and needs assessment in Winnipeg. Please access the report directly on their [website](#).

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## Final Project Report Released

Led by Principle Investigator Dr. Lori Hanson and Co-Investigator Dr. Peter Butt at the University of Saskatchewan, the aim of the *Consolidating Perspectives* study was to bring information and perspectives together regarding the evolving opioid crisis in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

The project summary report is now [available for download](#) on the CRISM Prairies website.

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**Questions? Comments? Contributions?**  
Please be in touch using the information provided below!

### News For the Node?

If you have news for the node please send the information that you would like included in our next issue to [barb.fornssler@usask.ca](mailto:barb.fornssler@usask.ca). If something is happening in our region we are happy to share!

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News and Notes is a way to keep informed about CRISM Prairies developments. Email us anytime if you would like to discuss Node activities or for additional information. Please send to node manager [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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