



Research Bulletin

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Student Successes

Congratulations to five students for a very successful year with us! Daniela Fazzio, Rene Hiebert, and Lisa Schwartzman defended their PhD theses in Psychology, while Duong Nguyen and May Lee graduated with MAs in Psychology and are now working towards their PhDs.

Our work with these and many other students helps to meet a shortage of training opportunities in developmental disabilities & autism in Manitoba.

The **St. Amant Research Centre** is dedicated to improving the quality of life for individuals with developmental disabilities through research and education.

The Research Centre is possible thanks to the generous support of

- University of Manitoba faculties of Nursing, Human Ecology, and Arts.
- The Winnipeg Foundation
- St. Amant Foundation

Your Community Advisory Group

We've established a Community Advisory Group to enhance communication among researchers and the community at large. This vital group provides a forum to discuss topics related to research in developmental disabilities, including autism.

Stakeholders came together at four meetings in 2007 and asked, *What can we do together to enhance the positive impact of research on the quality of life of people living with developmental disabilities?* Two key priorities were quickly established:

1. Bring Research to Real Life
2. Select Inspiring Research Priorities & Shape the Research Agenda

The group is now working on specific actions to achieve these goals.

Join the Discussion

Membership in the CAG is open to service providers, researchers, and to anyone with an interest in the field of developmental disabilities or autism.

Please contact Quinn Senkow (info on reverse) if you are interested in participating in this valuable forum, or would like to receive more information.

We also invite suggestions for particular agenda topics, both from CAG members and from Research Bulletin readers.

Summaries of CAG meetings and activities will be shared in future Research Bulletins— even if you don't join the group, please join the discussion!

Award to Support Knowledge Translation

The St. Amant Research Centre team (with Dr. Shahin Shooshtari, Group Organizer) was proud to receive \$2,500 in December from the Centre for Life Course Health at the Faculty of Human Ecology, University of Manitoba. These funds will be used to host a knowledge translation workshop for developmental disabilities in Manitoba.

Building new knowledge is important, but providing useful information to and receiving input from stakeholders are just as important. Yet in Manitoba there is no organized, comprehensive knowledge translation initiative for research and practice in developmental disabilities that addresses all stages of the research-knowledge cycle.

As members of the new “Developmental Disability Research Cluster,” we will partner with a diverse group of stakeholders including researchers from other disciplines, policy makers, planners, service providers and consumers to develop and implement a Knowledge Translation Model for Developmental Disabilities in Manitoba.

This collaborative process will help guide our research agendas in developmental disability and facilitate dissemination of our research findings through the network of government, non-government and community-based organizations, practitioners, and families.

The Life Course Health Initiative began in 2007 with a mission to promote research excellence in the creation and translation of an evidence base for the development of effective social and health policy and practice in Canada and beyond.

More information about the initiative is available at:

http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/human_ecology/clch

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