



# ACHORD

Alliance for Canadian Health  
Outcomes Research in Diabetes

## ACHORD Has Moved!

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ACHORD moved from the Institute Of Health Economics to the University Campus on Wednesday, October 24, 2007. It was quite a move, since we had been located at the Institute Of Health Economics since our inception. We are currently occupying 3 classrooms in the University Terrace Building (formerly known as University Extension Centre). Our new temporary location mailing address is:

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University of Alberta  
1-40 University Terrace  
Edmonton, AB T6G 1K4  
Phone (780) 492-7317  
FAX (780) 492-7455

ACHORD will be in this temporary space until our new and final office space is ready for occupancy in the Alberta Diabetes Institute in 2008. Please update our address and phone numbers in your records, we will update you again when we move to our permanent office space.



## ACHORD Seen and Heard

### Recent Publications

Blackburn D, Wilson T, Lamb D, Eurich D, Johnson JA, Dobson R, Blackburn J. Atenolol as initial antihypertensive therapy: An observational study comparing first line agents. *J Hypertens* 2007;25:1499-1505.

Pohar SL, Johnson JA. Health Care Utilization and Costs in Saskatchewan's Registered Indian Population with Diabetes. *BMC Health Services Research* 2007, 7:126.

Eurich DT, McAlister FA, Blackburn DF, Majumdar SR, Tsuyuki RT, Varney J, Johnson JA. Benefits and harms of antidiabetic agents in patients with diabetes and heart failure: systematic review. *BMJ*. 2007;doi:10.1136/bmj.39314.620174.80.

Guirguis LM, Schindel TJ, Johnson JA. Evaluating pharmacists' experience using diabetes practice tools: A pilot study. *CPIJ/PC* 2007;140(5)312-319.

Toso C, Shapiro AM, Bowker S, Dinyari P, Paty B, Ryan EA, Senior P, Johnson JA. Quality of life after islet transplant: impact of the number of islet infusions and metabolic outcome. *Transplantation* 2007;84:664-666. PMID: 17876283 [PubMed – in process]

Bize R, Johnson JA, Plotnikoff RC. Physical activity level and health-related quality of life in the general adult population: A systematic review. *Prev Med* 2007 Jul 21; [Epub ahead of print].

McAlister FA, van Diepen S, Padwal R, Johnson JA, Majumdar SR. How evidence based are the recommendations in evidence-based guidelines? *PLoS Medicine* 2007 Aug 7;4(8):e250.

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## Report from the Chair



Jeffrey A. Johnson

Christmas is quickly approaching and it appears that winter is now here to stay. I am happy to take this opportunity to report on recent activities of the ACHORD Group. We have fantastic news in regards to ACHORD's most recent PhD graduate, Dean Eurich. We are very pleased to tell you that Dean won the Governor General's Gold Medal award which was presented to him at the U of A Fall Convocation November 22, 2007. There are only two of these awards given out per university in Canada during convocation. The medals recognize outstanding scholastic achievements for graduate students. Dean has also recently started his position as an Assistant Professor in the School of Public Health. Congratulations Dean, we are proud of you! Continuing with the good news, we recently received the news that my Canada Research Chair Tier II has been renewed for a further 5 years as well.

The group been busy going to various meetings throughout the late summer and fall. As we are nearing the end of the New Emerging Team (NET) grant funding, we were busy this fall preparing an Emerging Team grant, which we submitted to the CIHR Institute of Nutrition, Metabolism and Diabetes in November. This funding would further establish and support the growth of the ACHORD research program.

Greg Hugel went to the Joint Statistical Meetings in Salt Lake City in July. In August, Dean Eurich, Lauren Brown and I attended the ISPE Conference in Quebec City, and Dean Eurich was awarded the Best Methods Abstract by a Student at this meeting. In September Lauren Brown and Stephanie Vermeulen joined me at the European Association for the Study of Diabetes Meeting in Amsterdam, where we presented posters on ADSS data. The entire ACHORD group went to the CDA Annual Meeting in Vancouver October 24-27 where numerous poster and oral presentations were made.

Dissemination activities for the ADSS were also ramping up in the past few months. Stephanie Vermeulen and I travelled to Lethbridge in late August to meet with various audiences in the Chinook Region. We recently received a grant from the Public Health Agency of Canada to support additional dissemination activities around the province. We are planning a trip to the Palliser Region for mid-January with other trips to the other regions in Alberta to follow.

I would like to take this time to wish everyone the best in the holiday season and a fantastic New Year!

## ACHORD Seen and Heard (cont)

### Recent Publications (cont)

Pohar SL, Majumdar SR, Johnson JA. Healthcare costs and mortality for Canadian urban and rural patients with diabetes: Population-based trends from 1993 – 2001. *Clinical Therapeutics* 2007;29:1316-1324.

International SMBG Working Group. Self-monitoring of blood glucose in type 2 diabetes: Towards consensus. [Letter to Editor]. *Diabetes Care* 2007;30(10)e105.

### Recent Presentations

Brown LC, Johnson JA. Development of Type 2 Diabetes in Patients taking Atypical Antipsychotic Agents: A Systematic Review. International Conference on Pharmacoepidemiology, Quebec City, Quebec August 19-22, 2007. *Pharmacoepidemiol Drug Saf* 2007;16(Suppl 2)S158.

Brown LC, Majumdar SR, Johnson JA. Type of antidepressant therapy and risk of type 2 diabetes in people with depression. 23<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Pharmacoepidemiology and Therapeutic Risk Management (ISPE), Quebec City, Quebec August 19-22, 2007. *Pharmacoepidemiol Drug Saf* 2007;16(Suppl 2)S158.

Eurich DT, Majumdar SR, McAlister FA, Tsuyuki RT, Yasui Y, Johnson JA. Does incorporating health-related quality of life into composite outcome analysis improve transparency? [Podium Presentation] 23<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Pharmacoepidemiology & Therapeutic Risk Management (ISPE), Quebec City, Quebec August 19-22, 2007. *Pharmacoepidemiol Drug Saf* 2007;16(Suppl 2)S30.

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## Meet the Researcher: Doreen Rabi, MD, FRCPC, MSc

Dr. Doreen Rabi is a clinical endocrinologist and new faculty member at the University of Calgary. Doreen is building an independent research program in Calgary. Her research interests revolve around the themes of sex and gender, diabetes, cardiovascular outcomes and health services research.

Having completed her medical and specialty training in Ontario, Doreen came to Calgary in 2003 to complete an MSc in clinical epidemiology under the supervision of ACHORD investigator Dr. Bill Ghali. Doreen received an Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research Clinical Fellowship to support her graduate training. Her MSc thesis involved a series of projects examining the effect of income on access to diabetes care, clinical profiles at the time of referral to diabetes specialty care, and burden of coronary atherosclerosis.

As a trainee in clinical research, Doreen became involved with both ACHORD and the Gender and Sex Determinants of Cardiovascular Disease (GENESIS) Interdisciplinary Capacity Enhancement Team. As a research

fellow, Dr. Ghali, ACHORD and GENESIS provided Doreen with exceptional mentorship and as she transitioned to a junior investigator, these networks provided unique opportunities for collaboration.

Shortly after being appointed to assistant professor in March of 2007, Doreen was awarded her first operating funds grant from CIHR. This success is shared with Doreen's co-investigators from ACHORD (Drs. Jeff Johnson, Bill Ghali and Scot Simpson) and GENESIS (Drs. Louise Pilote and Kaberi Dasgupta). The project, entitled "From Adherence to Outcomes: A study of sex differences in the use and impact of cardioprotective medications in diabetes", examines whether sex differences in use or adherence of cardioprotective medications accounts for any of the observed sex differences in cardiovascular outcomes documented in those with diabetes. This project uses Saskatchewan Health data, a rich data source that uses a number of linkable data files that include information on resident demographics, outpatient physician billing claims, hospital admission and discharge records, pharmacare data and vital statistics.



Doreen Rabi

## ACHORD Seen and Heard (cont)

### **Recent Presentations (cont)**

Brown LC, Svenson LW, Beck CA, Vermeulen SU, Johnson JA. Trends in Mental Health in the Diabetes Population of Alberta, Canada, 1996-2005. European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD), Amsterdam, The Netherlands, September 17-21, 2007. *Diabetologia* 2007;50(Suppl 1)S153.

Eurich DT, McAlister FA, Blackburn DF, Majumdar SR, Tsuyuki RT, Varney J, Johnson JA. How should patients with diabetes and heart failure have their blood sugars controlled? A systematic review and meta-analysis of available literature. 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD), Amsterdam, The Netherlands, September 17-21, 2007. *Diabetologia* 2007;50(Suppl 1)S360.

McLean DL, McAlister FA, Johnson JA, King KM, Jones CA, Tsuyuki RT. A Randomized Trial of the Effect of Community Pharmacist and Nurse Care on Improving Blood Pressure Management in Patients with Diabetes: SCRIP-HTN. 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Canadian Cardiovascular Society, October 20-24, 2007, Quebec City, Quebec. *Can J Cardiol* 2007;23 (Suppl C):116C.

van Diepen SF, McAllister FA, Padwal R, Johnson JA, Majumdar S. How evidence based are evidence-based guidelines? 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Canadian Cardiovascular Society, October 20-24, 2007, Quebec City, Quebec. *Can J Cardiol* 2007;23(Suppl C): 43C. [Podium Presentation].

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## ACHORD Chair

**Dr. Jeffrey Johnson**  
University of Alberta  
Institute of Health Economics

## Staff & Research Trainees

Ms. Samantha Bowker  
Ms. Lauren Brown  
Dr. Dean Eurich  
Mr. JM Gamble  
Mr. Greg Hugel  
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Ms. Sherry Lydyniuk  
Ms. Maria Santana  
Ms. Stephanie Vermeulen



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## ACHORD Seen and Heard (cont from Page 3)

### Recent Presentations (cont)

Klarenbach S, Vermeulen SU, Hugel G, Johnson JA. Trends in Kidney Disease in the Diabetes Population of Alberta, 1996-2005. Can Diabetes Assoc Annual Meeting October 24-27, 2007, Vancouver, BC. Canadian Journal of Diabetes 2007:31(3) 294.

Vermeulen SU, Tennant MTS, Rudnisky CJ, Hugel G, Johnson JA. Eye Disease in the Diabetes Population of Alberta, 1995-2005. Can Diabetes Assoc Annual Meeting October 24-27, 2007, Vancouver, BC. Canadian Journal of Diabetes 2007:31(3) 260.

Brown LC, Svenson LW, Beck CA, Vermeulen SU, Hugel G, Johnson JA. Trends in Mental Health in the Diabetes Population of Alberta, 1995-2005. Can Diabetes Assoc Annual Meeting October 24-27, 2007, Vancouver, BC. Canadian Journal of Diabetes 2007:31(3)262.

Eurich DT, McAlister FA, Blackburn DF, Majumdar SR, Tsuyuki RT, Varney J, Johnson JA. How should patients with diabetes and heart failure have their blood sugars controlled? A systematic review and meta-analysis of available literature. Can Diabetes Assoc Annual Meeting October 24-27, 2007, Vancouver, BC. Canadian Journal of Diabetes 2007:31(3) 267.

Toth EL, Hemmelgarn B, Crowshoe L, Vermeulen SU, Hugel G, King M, Ralph-Campbell K, Johnson JA. Alberta Diabetes Surveillance System (ADSS) – Diabetes Atlas: Diabetes in First Nations. Can Diabetes Assoc Annual Meeting, October 24-27, 2007, Vancouver, BC. Canadian Journal of Diabetes 2007:31(3)294.

## Why this Newsletter?

The purpose of the ACHORD Newsletter is to keep you updated on the activities of the ACHORD group and to provide reviews of recent, relevant diabetes literature. The newsletter is published three times a year.

If you have any questions about the newsletter, please call Jeffrey Johnson or any of the ACHORD staff at the University of Alberta at (780) 492-7317

## ACHORD Events

5th Annual ACHORD Retreat  
March 13 & 14, 2008  
The Banff Centre  
Banff, Alberta, Canada