



ACHORD

Alliance for Canadian Health
Outcomes Research in Diabetes

Alberta Diabetes Surveillance System (ADSS)

It is exciting that the Alberta Diabetes Surveillance System is out of its dormancy phase and starting to make some head way. One of the first deliverables of the ADSS is the production of a diabetes Atlas that would provide a snapshot of diabetes information by health region and community. The Atlas will focus on the incidence, prevalence and mortality of people with diabetes, and patterns of health care usage in the different health regions of Alberta. Patterns of different comorbid conditions in people who have diabetes such as cardiovascular disease, kidney disease, eye disease and mental health will also be reported. It is the partnership between IHE and Alberta Health and Wellness (AHW) that makes it possible for us to use administrative health data to report on diabetes in Alberta. The ADSS will provide much needed information that will guide healthcare policy decisions and ultimately improve quality of life for Albertans with diabetes.

As the different working groups have been corresponding over the last few weeks, they are making decisions with

regards to the different data components that they would like to see included in their respective chapters. As a result of their progress, we are already starting to receive some of the data from AHW in the areas of DM and general epi trends as well as DM and First Nations, kidney disease and eye disease. This data comes at an opportune time as our ADSS data analyst, Greg Hugel, has recently come on board in the beginning of September.

Once some of the output is produced in the form of simple graphs and Atlas mapping, the different working groups (composed mainly of health care professionals) will have what they need to begin writing their respective chapters.

As the momentum continues, it is the plan that our first ADSS Atlas will start production in March 2007 with subsequent Atlas' produced every two years after that. In addition, an ADSS website will be launched in 2007, providing an interactive source for diabetes surveillance in Alberta.

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ACHORD: Seen and Heard

Recent Publications

McLean DL, McAlister FA, Johnson JA, King KM, Jones CA, Tsuyuki RT for the SCRIP-HTN Investigators. Improving Blood Pressure Management in Patients with Diabetes: The Design of the SCRIP-HTN study. *CPJ-RPC* 2006;139(4):36-39.

Maddigan SL, Feeny DH, Majumdar SR, Farris KB, Johnson JA. Understanding the determinants of health for people with type 2 diabetes. *Am J Public Health* 2006;96:1649-1655.

Davison SN, Jhangri GS, Johnson JA. Longitudinal Validation of a Modified Edmonton Symptom Assessment System (ESAS) in Hemodialysis Patients. *Am J Kidney Dis* 2006 doi:10.1093/ndt/gfl380.

Ohinmaa A, Schopflocher D, Jacobs P, Demeter S, Chuck A, Golmohammadi K, Klarenbach SW. A population-based analysis of health behaviors, chronic diseases and associated costs. *Chronic Dis Can* 2006;27(1):17-24.

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Report from the Chair



Jeffrey A. Johnson

Summer is now behind us and I am happy to take this opportunity to report on recent activities of the ACHORD Group. I am happy to report that our group is continuing to grow with three new people joining in recent times. Mr. JM Gamble has joined as a Masters student in Public Health Sciences. Dr. Carolyn Green has joined ACHORD and the Department of Public Health Sciences as a Post Doctoral Fellow. Mr. Greg Hugel has joined ADSS and ACHORD as a Data Analyst. All three of our new people are featured in the Meet the Staff section of the newsletter.

Lauren Brown and I will be presenting posters at the Canadian Diabetes Association Annual Meeting in Toronto October 18-21,

2006. As we have done in the past, the entire group of ACHORD Trainees will be attending the meeting, supported by the NET grant funding.

In September I attended the European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD) meeting in Copenhagen, where I participated in a panel discussion on the role of oral antidiabetic agents in improving long-term survival. We are also in the final stages of planning for the upcoming IHE Consensus Conference on self-monitoring diabetes, scheduled for November 14-16, in Edmonton. We have an international list of speakers and a high-profile consensus panel. I invite you to participate in what will undoubtedly be an interesting conference.

Meet the Staff

John-Michael (JM) Gamble, BSc, BScPharm



JM Gamble

As a first year undergraduate student at Lakehead University JM was highly immersed in the cross-country ski culture. Cross-country skiing was the reason he located to Thunder Bay; however, during the later half of his first year he began to discover a love for biology. JM chose to study biology and quickly realized what a myriad of opportunities existed. JM explored various research environments, volunteering in a microbiology laboratory and assisting a master's student to identify and classify various macro invertebrates. His primary interests however revolved around human health, human physiology, and chemistry. Pharmacy seemed a natural discipline that would mold these interests. In the spring of 2001 JM graduated from Lakehead University and moved to Edmonton to pursue a career in pharmacy with the intent of working in the research environment. In the summer of

2002 JM explored Pharmacokinetics research during a Merck Undergraduate Research Studentship. During JM's final year of pharmacy he gained a greater understanding of the importance and application of evidence based therapeutics and an interest in clinical epidemiology was sparked.

After convocation from the University of Alberta in June of 2005 JM worked for one year as a community pharmacist on Vancouver Island. During the past year as a practicing pharmacist JM grew passionate about drug safety and effective medication utilization. He is beginning his Master's degree in clinical epidemiology under the supervision of Dr. Jeffrey Johnson and Dr. Scot Simpson. JM is very excited to be a part of the ACHORD team.

(Meet the Staff continued next page)

Meet the Staff (cont)

Carolyn J Green, PhD

Carolyn Green, PhD is a Canadian Institute of Health Research Fellow investigating knowledge translation practices in chronic disease management. She hypothesizes that better understanding the mechanisms by which research is embedded in health care systems will identify improvement opportunities. She is presently exploring changes to institutional practices as pharmacy is added to a multidisciplinary diabetes team on the ACHORD Vascular Intervention Program (VIP) study with Drs. Scot Simpson and Jeff Johnson. She is also taking the lead on a Cochrane review of the effectiveness of prior authorization prescribing policies.

Most recently, in British Columbia, she has studied how physician collaborations successfully improved the care of diabetes, depression and congestive heart failure. In these analyses, she has used institutional ethnography to trace translocal practices from the actualities of everyday decision-making using an

approach developed by Canadian social theorist Dorothy Smith. Her understanding of clinical practices is informed by 10 years of clinical practice as a physical therapist including international health projects in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean.

Developing better decision support for clinical and health policy decision makers is a longstanding focus of interest. Her doctoral research investigated the practices of decision makers in a regional health board with implications for decision support design. Prior to that with the BC Office of Health Technology Assessment at the University of British Columbia, she contributed to capacity development and a body of contextualized research synthesis as research coordinator. Carolyn will also contribute to provincial Health Technology Assessment in Alberta with Dr. Dev Menon of the Health Policy and Management, School of Public Health at the University of Alberta.



Carolyn J Green

Greg Hugel, MSc Statistics

Greg was born and raised in Regina, Saskatchewan. In 1997, he finished his BSc in Mathematics and BSc in Statistics at the University of Regina. Greg worked in the Actuarial Department at Crown/Canada Life Insurance Company before completing his Master of Science degree in Statistics at the University of Calgary in 2000. His Master's project was entitled "Ranking Football Teams Using Regression Analysis". After graduating from the University of Calgary, Greg moved to Toronto to work as a Statistician for a market research company called ACNielsen from January 2001 to December 2002. During his time at ACNielsen, he managed projects and completed statistical analysis for prominent clients. In December of 2002, Greg moved back to Regina and started working for the Government of Saskatchewan as the

Senior Statistician. In this position, Greg helped in producing publications such as the Saskatchewan Education Indicators Report and the SchoolPlus Indicators Report. He also updated the website for the Indicators Report and completed data requests. In October 2005, Greg moved to work for the City of Calgary in the Assessment Department. He produced property assessment values for the residential homes in various areas within Calgary.

In his spare time, Greg enjoys watching movies, football, hockey and also likes to play hockey. Even though Greg is new to Edmonton, he is very excited to be living in Edmonton and working for ACHORD since moving here in August.



Greg Hugel

ACHORD Chair

Dr. Jeffrey Johnson
University of Alberta
Institute of Health Economics

Staff & Research Trainees

Ms. Samantha Bowker
Ms. Lauren Brown
Mr. Dean Eurich
Mr. JM Gamble
Dr. Carolyn Green
Mr. Greg Hugel
Ms. Sherry Lydynuik
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ACHORD: Seen and Heard (cont from Page 1)

Recent Publications (cont)

Jacobs P, Ohinmaa A, Golmohammadi K, Demeter S, Schopflocher D, Klarenbach S. Public investment in providing information for chronic disease prevention for adults in Alberta. *Can J Public Health* 2006 May-June;97(3):197-200.

Klarenbach S, Padwal R, Chuck A, Jacobs P. Population-based analysis of obesity and workforce participation. 2006 May;14(5):920-7.

Recent Presentations

Luo N, Johnson JA, Coons SJ. Estimating the minimally important difference for prefer-

ence-based quality-of-life instruments: a simulation approach. EuroQol Plenary Meeting 2006, Barcelona, Spain, September 14-15, 2006.

Do antidiabetic drugs contribute significantly to improving longterm prognosis? World Congree of Cardiology Symposium, Barcelona, Spain. September 2, 2006.

Do antidiabetic drugs contribute significantly to improving long-term prognosis? 42nd Annual Meeting of the EASD, Copenhagen, Denmark September 13, 2006.

Workshop on International comparisons of the costs of Diabetes-related complications. Malmo, Sweden. September 18, 2006.

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.

You can expect to see the following in every issue:

- *Report from the Chair*
- *ACHORD Project Highlights*
- *ACHORD Seen and Heard*

If you have any questions about the newsletter, please call Jeffrey Johnson or any of the ACHORD staff at the Institute of Health Economics at (780) 448-4881.

ACHORD Events

IHE Consensus Development Conference
For Self-Monitoring in Diabetes
November 14-16, 2006
Westin Hotel
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada