



ACHORD

Alliance for Canadian Health
Outcomes Research in Diabetes

ACHORD Moves to New Office

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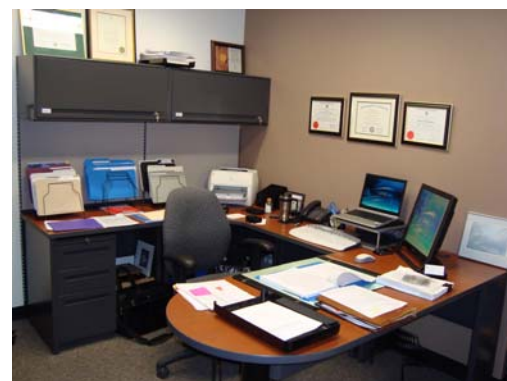
On Monday, February 23, 2009, ACHORD moved to our new permanent office space in the Alberta Diabetes Institute, located at 2-040 Health Research Innovation Facility.

Our new address and contact information is:

ACHORD
Department of Public Health Sciences
University of Alberta
2-040 Health Research Innovation Facility
Edmonton, AB T6G 2E1
Phone (780) 248-1010
FAX (780) 492-7455

Please note the new contact number but the fax number remains the same. Please update our address and ACHORD contact number in your records. Individual phone numbers you may have had in the past all remain the same.

We are planning a Grand Opening and Open House on Thursday, May 21, 2009. More information on the Grand Opening will be available on our website in the near future. We are all very happy to finally be in our new area and are hoping you will be able to join us to celebrate.



Report from the Chair

After a long winter, I think we are all happy to see the days getting longer and are looking forward to the arrival of spring! I am pleased to introduce several new staff members to our group. In order of hire, I would like to welcome Clark Mundt, Dale Storie, Teresia Karuri and Shirley Ewmett. Clark Mundt, who is a kinesiologist by training, joins us as Project Coordinator. Dale Storie is our ACHORD Research Librarian. Teresia Karuri joined the ABCD and ADSS projects as Project Coordinator in February and Shirley Ewmett joined the ACHORD Team as Receptionist/Administrative Assistant in mid-March. Welcome to all of you! I would like to congratulate Lauren Brown on her marriage to Steve Bresee in November, 2008. We wish you all the best Lauren and Steve!



Jeffrey A. Johnson

The ACHORD Team has continued to work hard with abstracts of our work being submitted for many different upcoming meetings and conferences. ADSS work continues in full swing as we prepare for the 2009 version of the Alberta Diabetes Atlas, scheduled to be released in June. Our ABCD Project is also moving forward; our first Advisory Committee meeting was in February, and our first Implementation and Evaluation Steering Committee meeting is planned for June

3. At the end of March Richard Lewanczuk and I are travelling to China to meet with the Health Bureau and CDC in the Zhejiang province and the Chinese CDC in Beijing. We will be sharing with them our efforts in diabetes surveillance and chronic disease management in Alberta.

As we noted on our ACHORD website, Doreen Rabi and I were both awarded 7-year salary support awards from AHFMR. Doreen will hold an AHFMR Population Health Investigator Award, and I advanced to a Senior Health Scholar award. Congratulations to us both!

In addition to all of those exciting happenings, perhaps our biggest announcement is the recent move of our ACHORD offices into the Alberta Diabetes Institute in the Health Research Innovation Facility at the University of Alberta. We are busy unpacking now, but are planning a Grand Opening on Thursday May 21st. Watch for further information and our Open House invitation. The 6th Annual Banff Retreat took place on March 5 & 6, 2009.

I hope everyone has a great spring; looking forward to updating you on further ACHORD activities in early summer!

Meet the Student: Sonia Butalia, BSc, MD, FRCPC



Sonia Butalia

Sonia was born and raised in Peterborough, Ontario and completed her Bachelor of Science degree at the University of Western Ontario. She subsequently went on to complete medical school and internal medicine training at the University of Toronto. In July 2007 she moved westward to Calgary for subspecialty training in endocrinology and metabolism and is now in her final year.

Early on in residency training, Sonia knew that she wanted to combine her clinical interests with research. This fall Sonia started working on a Master's of Science in clinical epidemiology at the University of Calgary under the supervision of Drs Jeff Johnson and Doreen Rabi. She is delighted to be joining ACHORD as a new research trainee. In her spare time Sonia enjoys going to the gym, playing tennis, and traveling.

Meet the Staff: Dale Storie, MLIS, MA



Dale Storie

Dale, who was raised in Saskatchewan as well, holds a BA in English from the University of Regina, and a Master of Library and Information Studies and MA in Humanities Computing from the University of Alberta. He worked as a public program coordinator at the Regina Public Library and taught English in Taiwan before moving to Edmonton to attend graduate school.

After finishing his Masters' degrees in 2008, Dale accepted an academic internship at the University of Alberta Libraries, where he worked for several months before beginning his current position as ACHORD research librarian. He currently splits his time between the ACHORD group and the Health Sciences Library.

Meet the Staff: Clark Mundt, MSc

Clark graduated from the University of Ottawa in 2000 with a Bachelor of Science in Human Kinetics. An ongoing interest in health, particularly obesity and physical activity, eventually led him to the University of Saskatchewan where he completed a Master's of Science degree in Kinesiology looking at the relationship of sugar-sweetened drink intake and physical activity level to fat mass in youth.

Clark's work for his Master's opened his eyes to the widespread obesity epidemic, its related complications, and the growing burden it exerts on the health care system. It also sparked his

interest in public health and epidemiological studies. Clark joins ACHORD as a project coordinator hoping to positively contribute to public health research in preventing diabetes, as well as improving the general well being of existing diabetics.

Much of Clark's spare time is taken up with being active and preventing personal obesity. Like many good Canadians he can't play enough hockey but he also enjoys rowing, weightlifting, cycling, in-line skating, backpacking and trying to fatigue his energetic dogs.



Clark Mundt

6th Annual ACHORD Retreat, March 5 & 6, 2009

ACHORD hosted its 6th Annual Retreat on March 5-6, 2009 at the Banff Center. This informal meeting provides an opportunity for ACHORD investigators, collaborators and students to share research updates, and plan for continued growth of the ACHORD Research program. We were joined by two international guests this year, Bendix Carstensen of Denmark and Istvan Bazcko of Hungary. The retreat was also the venue for the ADSS Steering Committee Meeting.

Thank you to all who presented at the Retreat:

- Jeff Johnson and Sandra Rees on ABCD
- Project Presentations by Lauren Bresee, Saskia Vanderloo, Samantha Bowker, Doreen Rabi, Sonia Butalia and JM Gamble
- Bendix Carstensen reported on the Danish National Diabetes Registry
- John Seubert, Peter Light and Scot Simpson on the pharmacology, pharmacogenomics, and pharmacoepidemiology of sulfonylureas.
- Dale Storie presented on Library and Web Resources

Unfortunately our physical activity this year was cancelled due to the weather, so a free afternoon was enjoyed instead. Some people went ahead and braved the

elements on their own and walked to the town centre.

We were fortunate to have Mr. Jim Olver, Director of Guest Services from the Banff Centre join us for dinner and do a short presentation on the History and Interesting Facts about Banff after dinner on Thursday evening. Jim's presentation was enjoyed by all.

The last item of the Retreat was a discussion led by Jeff Johnson regarding the Future Directions and Collaborations for ACHORD. We were able to collect some valuable feedback regarding the revamping of our website. Dr. Doreen Rabi led discussions on the ACHORD training program; more information on the program is on the ACHORD Website, www.achord.ca

Thank you to everyone who attended the Retreat. As is the case every year, this event is a success because of those of you that attend. Thank you to Scot Simpson who took over as facilitator of the Retreat this year; great job Scot! And to Sherry Lydyniuk, who continues to organize one great meeting! Plans for the ACHORD Retreat 2010 at the Banff Centre are already underway; we are looking at March 18-19, 2010 as the dates for next year's retreat, so mark those dates in your calendar!



ACHORD Chair

Dr. Jeffrey Johnson

University of Alberta

Department of Public Health Sciences

Staff and Students

Ms. Stephanie Balko
Ms. Samantha Bowker
Ms. Lauren Bresee
Mr. Halim Elamy
Dr. Dean Eurich
Ms. Shirley Ewmett
Mr. JM Gamble
Mr. Greg Hugel
Ms. Teresia Karuri
Ms. Sherry Lydyniuk
Mr. Clark Mundt
Ms. Sandra Rees
Mr. Dale Storie
Ms. Saskia Vanderloo



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ACHORD Seen and Heard

Recent Publications

McAlister FA, Eurich DT, Majumdar SR, Johnson JA. The risk of heart failure in patients with Type 2 diabetes treated with oral agent monotherapy. *Eur J Heart Failure* 2008;10:703-708.

Wang W, Tonelli M, Hemmelgarn B, Gao S, Johnson JA, Taub K, Manns B; Alberta Kidney Disease Network. The effect of increasing dialysis dose in overweight hemodialysis patients on the quality of life: a 6-week randomized crossover trial. *Am J Kidney Dis* 2008;51(5):796-803.

Levy AR, Christensen TLU, Johnson JA. Utility values for hypoglycaemia elicited from diabetic and non-diabetic respondents in Canada and the United Kingdom. *Health Qual Life Outcomes* 2008;6:73.

Eurich DT, Gamble JM, Simpson SH, Johnson JA. The Darkening Clouds of Diabetes: Do Trends in Cardiovascular Risk Management Provide a Silver Lining? *Diabetes Care* 2008;31(11):2136-2142.

Norris CM, Sperus JA, Jensen L, Johnson JA, Hegadoren KM, Ghali WA, for the AP-PROACH Investigators. Sex and Gender Discrepancies in Health-Related Quality of Life Outcomes Among Patients with Established Coronary Artery Disease. *Circ Cardiovasc Qual Outcomes* 2008 DOI: 10.1161/CIRCOUTCOMES.108.793448.

The SMBG International Working Group.

Self-monitoring of blood glucose in type 2 diabetes: An inter-country comparison. *Diabetes Research and Clinical Practice* 2008;82:e15-e18.

McLean DL, McAlister FA, Johnson JA, King KM, Makowsky MJ, Jones CA, Tsuyuki RT for the SCRIP-HTN Investigators. A Randomized Trial of the Effect of Community Pharmacist and Nurse Care on Improving Blood Pressure Management in Patients with Diabetes Mellitus: Study of Cardiovascular Risk Intervention by Pharmacists-Hypertension (SCRIP-HTN). *Arch Intern Med* 2008;168(21):2355-2361.

Majumdar SR. Self-Monitoring of Blood Glucose was not cost effective in non-insulin-treated type 2 diabetes. *Evid Based Med* 2008 Dec 13(6):170-1.

Majumdar SR. Glycaemic control was not affected by self-monitoring of blood glucose in type 2 diabetes. *Evid Based Med* 2008 Dec 13(6):170-1.

Ghali, WA, Rodondi N. HDL Cholesterol and Cardiovascular Risk. *BMJ* 2009 Feb 16;338:a3065.doi:10.1136/bmj.a3065.

Leung AA, Eurich DT, Lamb D, Majumdar SR, Johnson JA, Blackburn DA, McAlister FA. Risk of heart failure in patients with recent-onset type 2 diabetes: population based cohort study. *J Card Failure* 2009 Mar;15(2):152-7.

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) 248-1010.

ACHORD Events

ACHORD Grand Opening

Thursday, May 21, 2009

2-040 Health Research Innovation Facility

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada