



ACHORD

Alliance for Canadian Health
Outcomes Research in Diabetes

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ACHORD Grand Opening

On Thursday, May 21, 2009, ACHORD held a Grand Opening of our new permanent office space in the Alberta Diabetes Institute, located at 2-040 Health Research Innovation Facility. This event was very well attended. We were joined by ACHORD team members from Calgary with many guests from University of Alberta, Primary Care Network in the Edmonton area, Canadian Diabetes Association, Institute of Health Economics. Dr. Jeff Johnson gave a brief overview of the history of

ACHORD and the steps involved over the years to get the funding in place to make the ACHORD Offices a reality. He thanked many people in his speech as well as the funding agencies that have funded various research projects over the years and currently. A plaque was installed acknowledging the various funding agencies contributions that have enabled ACHORD to continue to grow and move ahead with their research. Thank you to all who attended the event.



Report from the Chair



Jeffrey A. Johnson

Hope you are all enjoying the warmer weather we are finally experiencing; I think it is now safe to say that summer has arrived! We have been enjoying our new office space in the Alberta Diabetes Institute on campus, particularly because our group is expanding. I am pleased to introduce several new staff members to our group. In order of hire, I would like to welcome Dr. Steven Johnson, Jasjeet (Jashu) Minhas and Robin Lau to our group. Steve Johnson has joined our group as a Research Associate. Jashu Minhas is a summer student working under the supervision of Dr. Dean Eurich. Robin Lau is a former MSc student who I co-supervised and has joined us as a Research Assistant under my supervision. Darren Lau has just joined our group, he is in the second year of his MD/PhD program. We are also hosting Mariel Bagdan as a summer student from the Faculty of Pharmacy under the supervision of Dr. Scot Simpson.

As we noted on our ACHORD website, we have many ACHORD people that have been awarded several different honours this year, so many that we have dedicated a section to them in this newsletter. Congratulations to Samantha Bowker who successfully defended her PhD Thesis on June 29, 2009. Dr. Bowker will be changing roles within the ACHORD Group now, leaving us as a graduate student but continuing on as a Research Associate for our ongoing research on diabetes medications and cancer outcomes.

We have presented ACHORD research at many meetings in the past few months. I was invited to speak at the CPhA Conference in May. JM Gamble attended the CAPT Conference in Montreal, Greg Hugel and Saskia Vanderloo attended the CSEB Conference in Ottawa. I attended the CAHSPR Conference in Calgary and CPhA Conference in Halifax; Dean Eurich, JM Gamble, Scot Simpson, Me2 Majumdar and I all attended the ADA 69th Annual Scientific Sessions in New Orleans, where I was invited to present our research on diabetes and cancer. We have many conferences lined up for the coming months: Greg Hugel will be attending the JSM Conference in Washington, DC in August. Samantha Bowker, Lauren Bresee and I will be attending the EASD Conference in Vienna in September and we are ramping up for the IDF Conference in Montreal in October. ADSS work continues as we prepare for the 2009 version of the Alberta Diabetes Atlas, now scheduled to be released in September. Our ABCD Project is also moving along; our first Implementation and Evaluation Steering Committee meeting was held on June 3. This was a very productive meeting, with excellent feedback and great ideas to move forward on.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very safe and happy summer. I am looking forward to updating you on ACHORD's activities in the fall.

Meet the Student: Jasjeet (Jashu) Minhas, BSc, BEd



Jashu Minhas

Jashu was raised in Grande Prairie, Alberta, and graduated from the University of Alberta in 2007 with a combined Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Education degree majoring in Mathematics and a minor in Biological Sciences. Though teaching was an amazing experience, continued interest in mathematics brought her to further education and she is now registered in the Master's of Science degree in Biostatistics. Currently she is completing her final year of this degree, under the co-supervision of Dr. Dean Eurich and Dr. Edit Gombay.

Joining ACHORD for the summer was quite a logical choice for Jashu. It is the perfect fit by combining her love for numbers with her desire to help others, and make an impact on society. She is excited to be working with this team, and is hoping that her time here will contribute to improved data analysis. Jashu's hobbies include ice hockey, ball hockey, playing alto saxophone and learning to play the piano. She likes to be active, and is looking forward to spending time outside.

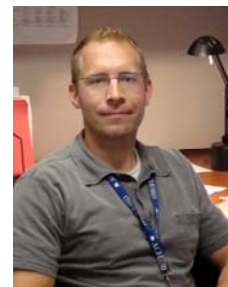
Meet the Researcher: Steven Johnson, PhD

Steve completed his Bachelor of Science in Human Nutrition followed by a Master of Science in Human Nutrition and Metabolism at the University of Saskatchewan. Steve spent 3 years at Pharmalytics, a Contract Research Organization in Saskatoon. After his industry experiences, Steve moved to Alberta to complete his PhD in Human Nutrition. Following his Doctoral training, Steve completed Postdoctoral Fellowships in Pediatrics with Dr. Geoff Ball at the Pediatric Centre for Weight Health at the Stollery Children's Hospital and then with Dr. Ron Plotnikoff at the Physical Activity and Population Health research laboratory at the University of Alberta.

Steve's research interests are mainly in the development and evaluation of 'real world' programs to promote physical activity and healthy eating for

people with type 2 diabetes. Steve is currently working on the Healthy Eating and Active Living for Diabetes – Primary Care Network (HEALD-PCN) project. This project came from a partnership that was established with the St. Albert and Sturgeon primary care network and Dr. Jeffrey Johnson. The goals of HEALD-PCN are to develop and evaluate new programs and to evaluate existing programs for adults who fall along the 'dysglycemic continuum' in a new and emerging model of care in Alberta.

For fun, Steve likes to be active which usually means chasing his nearly 2 year old daughter around. Steve currently resides in Sherwood Park with his wife Michelle, daughter Marrin and dog Herman.



Steve Johnson

ACHORD Staff and Student Awards

ACHORD has been very successful in obtaining personnel/salary awards and scholarships in 2009. Please join us in congratulating the following people:

Dr. Jeffrey Johnson was successful in obtaining an AHFMR Senior Health Scholar Award. Jeff also holds a Canada Research Chair Tier II Award which was renewed in 2008.

Dr. Doreen Rabi was successful in obtaining an AHFMR Population Health Investigator Award.

Dr. Dean Eurich received a CIHR New Investigator Award in Clinical Research. Dean also holds an AHFMR Population Health Investigator Award, which he received in 2008.

ACHORD Trainees have also done well with awards: Dr. Sonia Butalia most recently received an AHFMR Clinical

Fellowship Award. This is in addition to the CIHR Fellowship Award Sonia received earlier on in the spring. Sonia is completing her MSc at the University of Calgary under the supervision of Drs. Rabi and Johnson.

JM Gamble received the 2009 Fredrick Banting and Charles Best CDS Doctoral Award through CIHR. This award is in addition to the CDA Award JM received earlier this spring. JM also holds an AHFMR Studentship Award for his PhD, under supervision of Dr. Dean Eurich.

Saskia Vanderloo received the Health Quality Council of Alberta Studentship Award, and a Canada Graduate Scholarship from CIHR. Saskia is working on her MSc with Jeff Johnson.

Congratulations to all of you; keep up the great work!

ACHORD Seen and Heard

Johnson JA, Vermeulen SU, Toth EL, Hemmelgarn BR, Ralph-Campbell BA, Hugel G, King M, Crowshoe L. Increasing incidence and prevalence of diabetes among the Status Aboriginal population in urban and rural Alberta, 1995-2006. *Can J Pub Health* 2009;100(3):231-36.

Simpson SH, Haggarty S, Johnson JA, Schindel T, Tsuyuki RT, Lewanczuk R. Survey of pharmacist activities and attitudes in diabetes management. *Can Pharm J* 2009;142:128-34.

Asakawa K, Feeny D, Senthilselvan A, Johnson JA, Rolfson D. Do the determinants of health differ between people living in the community and in institutions? *Soc Sci Med* 2009, doi:10.1016/j.socscimed.2009.05.007.

Clement FM, Klarenbach SW, Tonelli M, Johnson JA, Manns BJ. The impact of selecting a high hemoglobin target on health-related quality of life for patients with chronic kidney disease: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Arch Int Med* 2009;169(12):1104-1112.

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ACHORD Chair

Dr. Jeffrey Johnson

University of Alberta

Department of Public Health Sciences



ACHORD

Alliance for Canadian Health
Outcomes Research in Diabetes

Staff and Students

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



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ACHORD Seen and Heard (cont)

Recent Publications (cont)

Johnson JA, Lewanczuk R. Opportunity Knocks: A diabetes strategy for pharmacists in Canada. [Guest Editorial]. *CPJ* 2009;142(Suppl 1)s4.

Recent Presentations

KRESCENT Workshop, Pharmacoepidemiologic studies in diabetes and CKD. Kidney Foundation, Westin Hotel, Edmonton, Alberta, May 9, 2009.

Luo N, Johnson JA, Coons SJ. Determining the minimally important differences of four preference-based health indices: a simulation approach. *IPSOR 14th Annual International Meeting*, May 16-20, 2009, Orlando, Florida (submitted).

Asakawa K, Senthilselvan A, Feeny D, Johnson JA, Rolfson D. Estimation of health-related quality of life (HRQL) trajectories: assessing cohort effects, mortality effects and the determinants of health using Health Utilities Index Mark 3 (HUI3) – an eight-year longitudinal study. [Oral Presentation]. Cana-

dian Society for Epidemiology and Biostatistics Conference, May 25-28, 2009, Ottawa, ON.

Hugel GM, Johnson JA, Balko SU. Prevalence of Diabetes in Low Income and Status Aboriginal People in Alberta. *Canadian Society for Epidemiology and Biostatistics Conference*, May 25-28, 2009, Ottawa, ON.

CPhA Annual Conference, Opportunity Knocks: The Role of the Canadian Pharmacists in Diabetes Care, CPhA Annual Conference, Halifax, Nova Scotia, May 31, 2009.

Simpson SH, Majumdar SR, Johnson JA, Eurich DT, Gamble JM. Metformin plus Thiazolidinediones have a Neutral Effect on All-Cause Mortality Compared to Metformin plus Sulfonyleureas. *American Diabetes Association*, June 5-9, 2009, New Orleans, Louisiana.

69th American Diabetes Association Annual Meeting, Insulin and Insulin Analogues and Cancer Risk. *69th American Diabetes Association Annual Meeting*, New Orleans, Louisiana, June 9, 2009.

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

7th Annual ACHORD Retreat

March 18-19, 2010

The Banff Centre

Banff, Alberta, Canada