

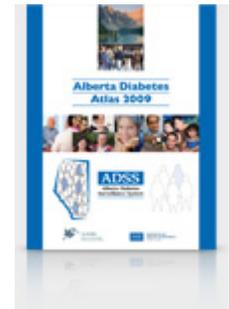


ACHORD

Alliance for Canadian Health
Outcomes Research in Diabetes

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Alberta Diabetes Atlas 2009

The 2009 edition of the Alberta Diabetes Atlas was released on November 12, 2009 and is available for download on the ADSS website www.albertadiabetes.ca. The Atlas provides information on the number of people living with diabetes in Alberta, their related health conditions, and the health services they use. The content of the 2009 edition is an enhancement of the information presented in the last edition (2007) of the Atlas with new information highlighting health care utilization costs of diabetes to the health system, as well as epidemiological trends for children and adolescents and for diabetic patients with hypertension; health care utilization data for the under-20-year old

population, as well as the Status Aboriginal population. In addition, two chapters have been expanded – “Diabetes and Stroke” also includes information on the different types of stroke and “Diabetes and Lower Limb Amputations” includes information on foot disease. The Atlas offers health care providers and policy makers with up to date information on the scope of diabetes in Alberta and vital information necessary for program planning and development. The 2009 Alberta Diabetes Atlas was launched by a media release on November 12, 2009 and was mailed to various stakeholders in Alberta and across Canada.

ACHORD Seen and Heard

Recent Publications

- Rabi D, Lewin AM, Brown J, Edwards AL, Johnson JA, Ghali WA. Lay Media Reporting of Rosiglitazone Risk: Extent, Messaging and Quality of Reporting. *Cardio-vasc Diabetol* 2009 Jul 24;8(1):40. PMID: 19630978.
- Johnson JA, Lewanczuk R. Diabetes Practice Guidelines. In: *Canadian Pharmacists Journal*, 2009;142 (Suppl 1):S1-S47. Available at www.cpjournal.ca.
- Johnson JA. When 2 guidelines collide... [Commentary]. *CPJ* 2009;142(Suppl 1):s25.
- Johnson JA, Balko SU, Hugel G, Low RC, Svenson L. Increasing Incidence and Prevalence with Limited Survival Gains among Rural Albertans with Diabetes: A retrospective cohort study, 1995 – 2006. *Diabetic Medicine* 2009;26:989-995.

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Report from the Chair



Jeffrey A. Johnson

Welcome to our final ACHORD Newsletter of 2009. Hard to believe that Christmas is nearly here and a New Year is just around the corner! As with most of our newsletters we are saying hello to new staff and students and unfortunately, are saying goodbye to some as well. Dale Storie, our ACHORD Librarian, accepted a faculty position in the U of A Health Sciences Library. We would like to thank Dale for all of his contributions to ACHORD and would like to wish him all the best in his new position. Congratulations also to Dr. Steve Johnson who has accepted a faculty position with Athabasca University, which he starts in January. Steve will continue to work closely with ACHORD leading the HEALD-PCN project under ABCD. We would like to welcome Dr. Logan McLeod and Lisa Tjosvold to ACHORD. Logan is a health economist and new faculty member in the School of Public Health. Lisa is joining ACHORD in January 2010 as our new Research Librarian. We also have several new ACHORD students, who are introduced in this newsletter. Welcome to you all!

JM Gamble and Saskia Vanderloo have both been busy winning awards - both were awarded 2009 Banting and Best Canada Graduate Scholarships at the U of A Celebration of Teaching and Learning. JM won the Best PhD Oral Presentation at the School of Public Health INSIGHTS Research Day and Saskia won the best poster prize at the Western Regional Training Centre for the Health Services Research Fall Institute 2009 in Vancouver. Congratulations to you both, keep up the great work!

I have had a busy past few months, with a number of invited talks at international meetings, including EASD, IDEG and IDF. These talks are highlighted in the Seen & Heard section of the newsletter. Of particular interest is our ongoing research on antidiabetic agents and cancer outcomes. In December I will be participating in a Consensus Conference on this topic put on jointly by the American Diabetes Association and the American Cancer Society in Atlanta.

The fall was busy for ADSS preparing for the Alberta Diabetes Atlas 2009. We had fantastic media coverage locally and province wide. Thank you to everyone that contributed to the Atlas, without all of you a publication of this magnitude would not be possible. We are now busy getting things set up for ABCD intervention projects. We held an Advisory Committee meeting in November and we received some great feedback. Sandra Rees and I are continuing to develop strong partnerships with AHS and several PCN's around the province. We are planning for a Spring 2010 implementation of programs for managing depression and improving health behaviors. Planning is also underway for the ACHORD Retreat being held on March 18 & 19, 2010 in Banff.

As you can see we have had a very busy year! I would like to take this time to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous 2010! I look forward to updating you on ACHORD activities in the Spring of 2010.

Meet the Student: Darren Lau



Darren Lau

Darren is an MD/PhD student pursuing the PhD portion of his combined training program. His research will likely focus on assessing influenza and pneumococcal immunization uptake among diabetic adults in select Alberta PCNs, and exploring the potential benefit offered by practice-based immunization improvement interventions.

Darren decided to pursue PhD studies in health services research and policy in his second year of medical school. The health care system was - and still is - facing increasing demands under circumstances of limited resources, and Darren desired to understand and investigate the chal-

lenges and potential solutions proposed. His initial interest was the challenges posed by high technology care. His interests have since shifted to primary care and chronic diseases, which affect many Canadians and are a leading driver of morbidity, mortality, and health care utilization.

Darren used to be a frequent trail hiker, and his most "extreme" hike was the West Coast Trail in 2007. While he doesn't get to go out of town for fun much these days, he tries to stay active by running. Edmonton's transportation utility corridor provides some enjoyable pastoral scenery for running near his home.

Meet the Student: Gaetanne Murphy

Gaetanne Murphy obtained her Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy at the University of Alberta in 1991. She worked in the Capital Health region for a number of years as a hospital pharmacist and as a drug utilization pharmacist. She currently works as a research officer for the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH) while pursuing her MSc in

Epidemiology on a part-time basis. Gaetanne looks forward to working with her supervisor, Dr. Dean Eurich, and the other ACHORD researchers and students as she completes her graduate degree.

Gaetanne is married to Seán and has two teenage daughters, Kathryn and Brynn.



Gaetanne Murphy

Meet the Student: Robin Lau

Robin Lau was born and raised in Edmonton and graduated from the University of Alberta in 2008 with a Master of Science in Health Policy Research. Robin realized that he was interested in continuing with school and decided to pursue a PhD under the supervision of Dr. Jeffrey A. Johnson. Robin is currently in his first year of his PhD program and is now in the process of researching and modeling the cost-effectiveness of diabetes prevention in Alberta. When not busy working on coursework and on his dissertation, Robin is busy volunteering at the Telus World of Science as a Gallery Interpreter, with

his primary job of engaging parents and inspiring children into learning about the wonders of the body and the beauty of nature's design. In his spare time, Robin is currently learning how to play classical guitar, how to speak Mandarin, and hopes to learn to ballroom dance in the near future. He enjoys jogging, badminton, swimming, weight training and traveling. His travels have taken him to India, China, Hong Kong, United Arab Emirates, Bali and Singapore and have provided him with a richer understanding and appreciation for other cultures. He hopes to continue his travels after he graduates.



Robin Lau

Meet the Student: Jongnam Hwang

Jongnam was born and raised in Seoul, Korea and graduated from Wonkwang University in 2005 with a Bachelor of Health. Jongnam studied English at UBC in Vancouver after completing his degree. This is when he realized that he was interested in continuing to study Public Health, especially, health policy and service. After his language study in Vancouver, he started his MPH program at Seoul National University in 2007 and finished his program in February 2009. He did his research and defended his thesis on "Effects of social participations on cognitive functions in middle & elderly population". He is currently in his first year of his Ph.D program under the supervision of Dr. Jeff

Johnson and Dr. Sarah Bowen.

Joining ACHORD is a great opportunity for him. He thinks it is the best environment to study and experience various topics that he is interested in. He enjoys working with this team, and he hopes that his time with ACHORD will give him a chance to learn about the Canadian health care system and participate in many research activities.

In his spare time, Jongnam enjoys reading books and listening to music. He also likes playing tennis and badminton with his friends. Jongnam is looking forward to experiencing his first winter in Edmonton.



Jongnam Hwang

ACHORD Seen and Heard (cont)

Recent Presentations

Hugel G, Johnson JA. Prevalence of Diabetes in Low Income and First Nations People in Alberta, Canada. Joint Statistical Meeting, Washington, DC August 2-6, 2009.

Xie E, Pullenayegum E, Gerstein H, Johnson JA, O'Reilly D. Estimation of Utility Values for Diabetes-related Complications in Ontario, Canada. 26th Plenary Meeting of the EuroQol Group, Paris, September 3-5, 2009.

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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
Dr. Samantha Bowker
Ms. Lauren Bresee
Ms. Shirley Ewmett
Mr. JM Gamble
Mr. Greg Hugel
Mr. Jongnam Hwang
Dr. Steven Johnson
Ms. Teresia Karuri
Mr. Darren Lau
Mr. Robin Lau
Ms. Sherry Lydyniuk
Ms. Jasjeet Minhas
Mr. Clark Mundt
Ms. Gaetanne Murphy
Ms. Sandra Rees
Ms. Lisa Tjosvold
Ms. Saskia Vanderloo

ACHORD Seen and Heard (cont)

Recent Presentations (cont)

Simpson SH, Hill M, Balko SU, Hugel G, Johnson JA. Decreasing stroke rates among Albertans with and without diabetes, 2003-2007. IDF 20th World Diabetes Congress, October 18-22, 2009, Montreal, Quebec.

Bresee LC, Johnson JA. Prevalence of cardiovascular disease in people with diabetes with and without schizophrenia: a population-based cohort study. [Oral Presentation] IDF 20th World Diabetes Congress, October 18-22, 2009, Montreal, Quebec.

Simpson SH, Majumdar S, Tsuyuki R, Lewanczuk R, Spooner RG, Johnson JA. Impact of adding a pharmacist to primary care teams on blood pressure control in people with type 2 diabetes: a randomized controlled trial (ISRCTN97121854). [Oral Presentation] IDF 20th World Diabetes Congress, October 18-22, 2009, Montreal, Quebec.

Balko SU, Johnson JA, Hugel GM, Low C, Svenson L. Increasing Incidence and Prevalence with Limited Sur-

vival Gains among Rural Albertans with Diabetes: A retrospective cohort study, 1995 – 2006. IDF 20th World Diabetes Congress, October 18-22, 2009, Montreal, Quebec.

Invited Talks

Johnson JA. Which factors in diabetes mellitus affect quality of life and how to translate these into clinical practice? Lilly Symposium, "Therapeutic Choices in Patients with Diabetes: Implications for Glycaemic Control, Treatment Adherence, and Quality of Life". Vienna, Austria, September 29, 2009.

Johnson JA. Epidemiology and oral agents (thiazolidinediones and sulfonylureas). Diabetes therapy and cancer Symposium, 45th Annual Meeting of the European Association for the Study of Diabetes, Vienna, Austria, October 1, 2009.

Johnson JA. Cost and projection of the problem. Diabetes and hyperglycaemia: the size of the problem Symposium, 20th World Diabetes Congress, Montreal, Quebec, October 19, 2009.



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Baby News!

We have had a flurry of baby girls born to members of the ACHORD Group. Stephanie and Justin Balko had their first child, Helena, in October. In November, Logan and Jenn McLeod had their first child, Marielle, and also in November JM and Emily Gamble had Sophia, a little sister for their son Scott. Congratulations to you all!

ACHORD Events

7th Annual ACHORD Retreat
March 18-19, 2010
The Banff Centre
Banff, Alberta, Canada