



Notable News

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Welcome!

By John Myles, Principal Investigator

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*"..We are proud to
currently be supporting 9
innovative seed grant
projects..."*

Greetings CUHI Colleagues,

I am pleased to introduce the first issue of our newsletter, *Notable News*. It has been an exciting journey since the Centre's inception at University College, in the University of Toronto, in June of 2004. There have been several developments over these last 18 months including the implementation of training and mentoring opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students, a community intern training position, the establishment of a monthly seminar series, the production of funding and data resource catalogues (available to CUHI members), and the launching of our web site (www.cuhi.utoronto.ca).

Several new partners from the academic, policy and community realms have joined our research interest groups and we are proud to currently be supporting 9 innovative seed grant projects. CUHI was also very well represented at the International Conference on Urban Health (ICUH) in Toronto this Fall with several of our members offering poster presentations, seminars and conference workshops.

Given our close partnership with the Wellesley Central Health Corporation we are committed to supporting the development of community based research initiatives. As this calendar year draws to a close it seems timely to share our past accomplishments, future endeavours and notable news with you.

Sincerely,

John Myles
Principal Investigator
Centre for Urban Health Initiatives



John Myles, PI.

Focus on Research

By Jennifer Butters, Director of Research

Contact the Centre Coordinator at cuhi.admin@utoronto.ca for more detailed project information/contacts

Current Research Underway

CUHI facilitates research that examines how the social and physical conditions in cities affect the health of the people who live there. In addition to the 9 seed grant projects being funded, a variety of other research projects associated with the Centre are currently underway. These include the following:

- *Toronto Tributary Study*
- *Contaminants in Ethnic Foods*
- *Unlocking Context: Operationalizing "Neighbourhood" in Urban Health Research*
- *Contaminants in Indoor Air*
- *Where are the PCBs Coming From in Toronto?*
- *Antisocial Behaviour and the Automobile: Automobile-linked Crime in Canada.*
- *Pathways In and Out of Homelessness in a Population of High-Risk Young Men*

CUHI-related Proposals Submitted

Throughout the fall several new proposals were submitted to a variety of funding agencies. A few examples of this work are presented below:

- *Regional Air and Multimedia Environmental Quality in Response to Climate Change and Emission Scenarios (CFCAS)*
- *The Drugs-Violence Nexus Among Students, Drop-outs and Detainees in Four Sites: A Cross-National Analysis of the DAVI [Drugs, Alcohol and Violence International] Data on Adolescents (CIHR)*
- *Enhancing Positive Youth Development Through Sport: A Multidisciplinary Mixed Methods Approach (W.T. Grant Foundation)*
- *Improving Sport to Enhance a Positive Youth Development (CIHR)*
- *An Examination of the Use of Nutritious Food Basket Data in Ontario (CFDR- LOI)*
- *Examining Dietary Quality Food Security Status and Anthropometric Measures Among Canadian Community Health Survey Cycle 2.2 Respondents (CIHR)*
- *Enhancing Environmental Health Protection in a Multi-cultural City: How Can We Make Toronto's Pesticide Use Reduction Program More Relevant to Ethnic and Cultural Minorities? (SSHRC)*

Cont'd on Pg. 3.



CUHI Exhibit at the ICUH,
Toronto, October 26-28, 2005

Focus on Research *Cont'd*

Recent Publications

The following is a sample of recent (2005) publications by CUHI Seed Grant Recipients, RIG Directors, & the Centre PI.

Cole D.C., Robson L., Lemieux-Charles L., McGuire W., Sicotte C., Champagne F. (2005) Quality of working life indicators in Canadian healthcare organizations: a tool for healthy healthcare workplaces? *Occupational Medicine*. 55(1):54-59.

Jones-Otazo H., Clarke J.P., **Diamond M.L.**, Archbold J.A., Ferguson G., Harner T., Richardson M.G., Ryan J.J., Wilford B. (2005) Is house dust the missing exposure pathway for PBDEs? An analysis of urban fate and human exposure to PBDEs. *Environmental Science & Technology*. 39: 5121-5130.

Motelay-Massei A., Harner T., Shoeib M., **Diamond M.L.**, Stern G., and Rosenberg B. (2005) Using passive air samplers to assess urban-rural trends for persistent organic pollutants and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. 2. Seasonal trends for PAHs, PCBs, and organochlorine pesticides. *Environmental Science & Technology*. 39:5763-5773.

Ross N.A., Dorling D., **Dunn J.R.**, Henriksson G., Glover J., Lynch J.W., and Ringback Weitof G. (2005) Metropolitan income inequality and working age mortality: A cross-sectional analysis using comparable data from five countries. *Journal of Urban Health*, 82(1):101-110.

Glazier R.H., Vahabi M., Damba C., Patychuk D., Ardal S., Johnson I., Woodward G., DeBoer D.P., Brown A., Low H., McConnell C., Lawrie L., and Dudgeon S. (2005) Defining needs-based urban health planning areas is feasible and desirable: A population-based approach in Toronto, Ontario. *Canadian Journal of Public Health*. 96:380-4.

Steele L.S., **Glazier R.H.**, Lin E., Mustard C.A., Austin P. (2005) Measuring the effect of a large reduction in welfare payments on mental health service use in welfare-dependent neighborhoods. *Medical Care*. 43:885-91.

Holt N. L., Bewick B. M., and Gately P. J. (2005). Children's perceptions of attending a residential weight-loss camp in the UK. *Child: Care, Health and Development*, 31, 223-231.

Hou F. and **Myles J.** (2005) Neighbourhood inequality, neighbourhood affluence and population health. *Social Science and Medicine*. 60: 1557-1569.

O'Campo P., Burke J., Peak G.L., McDonnell K.A., and Gielen A.C. (2005) Uncovering The Neighborhood Influences On Intimate Partner Violence Using Concept Mapping. *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*. 59(7):603-8.

Rajaratnam J.K., Burke J.G., and **O'Campo P.** (2005) Maternal & Child Health and Neighborhood context: The Selection and Construction of Area-Level Variables. *Health and Place*. September 24.

Smargiassi A., Baldwin M., Pilger C., Dugandzic R., and Brauer M. (2005) Small scale spatial variability of particle concentrations and traffic levels in Montreal: a pilot study. *Science of the Total Environment*. 338:243-251.

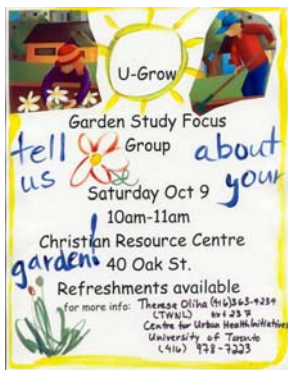
Duncan M.J., **Spence J.C.**, and Mummery, W.K. (2005). Perceived environment and physical activity: A meta-analysis of selected environmental characteristics. *International Journal of Behavioural Nutrition and Physical Activity*. 2(11).

Veenstra G., Luginaah I., **Wakefield S.**, Birch S., Eyles J., and Elliot S. (2005) Who you know, where you live: social capital, neighbourhood and health. *Social Science & Medicine*. 60(12): 2819-2832.

Dionne M.M. and **Yeudall F.** (2005) Monitoring of weight in weight loss programs: a double-edged sword? *Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior*. 37(6):315-8.

Community Researcher Spotlight

By Galen Trull, Centre Coordinator



UGROW Project
Focus Group Poster
(Carolyn Taron)

"...We all have something to contribute to urban health research."

Carolyn Taron has played an integral role as Community Intern on the CUHI staff team since June 2004. In this position, she has been working specifically with the UGROW (Urban Gardening Research Opportunities Working Group) project, conducting focus groups and organizing innovative dissemination strategies to investigate community gardening and its impact in South East Toronto. Carolyn's creativity and commitment to community exemplify the true spirit of community based research.

Reflections from the Community Intern

By Carolyn Taron

CUHI opened up a horizon of possibilities for me both personally and professionally. I learned about community based research and discovered a love of listening, and valuing the stories of the under-heard in our urban communities. I was also able to pursue my own growing interests in food issues, neighbourhood health, community art, community gardening and local economic development, and to develop my existing community leadership skills through the organization and implementation of numerous community engagement activities and dissemination events. Through these experiences I learnt that whether we are a community gardener, an artist, an academic researcher, a tenant representative or a community member, we all have something to contribute to urban health research.



UGROW Project Poster (Carolyn Taron)
Displayed at: American Community Gardening
Conference, Minneapolis 2005; International Medical
Geography Symposium, Fort Worth 2005; ICUH,
Toronto, 2005

New Faces at CUHI

JOÃO ALBERTO TOMACHESKI

Research Fellow from Brazil:

Mr. Joao Alberto Tomacheski is a PhD candidate in the Department of Sociology at the University of Brasilia (Brazil), and a civil servant of the Brazilian federal government - health ministry. He joined CUHI as a Research Fellow this past September, under the supervision of Dr. Dennis Magill, to continue his studies in the Canadian context over the course of the 2005-2006 academic year. PhD thesis: *Social Conditions of the Creation and Implementation of a Public Policy: the Sectorial Agents and the Brazilian Single Health System*. We are pleased to have Joao with us and extend a sincere, "Boa Vinda" to him and his wife, Eneida, who is accompanying him from Brazil.

SHARON FEHRMANN

Work-Study Undergraduate Student

Sharon Fehrmann is a third year undergraduate student at the University of Toronto, majoring in Sociology and Political Science. Her areas of academic interest include social and health research, community development, and international development. She began working with CUHI as a work study student in September 2005 with the hope of gaining exposure to the field of urban health research. Her experience thus far has exposed her to the nature of community-based research, and to various health-related research projects in the Toronto area. Sharon looks forward to gaining further insight and skills in urban health before leaving for a student exchange to New Zealand in the new year.

ALEXIS KANE SPEER

Undergraduate Summer Student (2005)

Alexis Kane Speer is currently completing her final year of a B.A. in Sociology and Urban Studies at the University of Toronto. This past summer she was delighted to accept an undergraduate research assistant position with the Centre. In this role, Alexis developed an exhaustive funding catalogue designed to provide CUHI members with information on funding sources available in their area of study (catalogue available upon request, please contact the Centre Coordinator). Beyond graduation, she is intending to pursue graduate studies followed by a career in urban community development.

*Dennis Magill takes
CUHI to Brazil for an
invited presentation on
the Canadian Health
Care System,
Puerto Alegre, Brazil
(December 2005)*



*Student Meet & Greet Party
All students involved with the
Centre (past & present) are
invited to attend.*

Date: Thursday, January 26, 2006
Time: 3:00pm - 4:00pm
Place: CUHI Office

*Exhaustive funding
catalogue available to
CUHI members...
contact the Centre
Coordinator for
details.*

Upcoming Seminars & Events

SPOTLIGHT ON URBAN HEALTH RESEARCH SEMINAR SERIES

Visit www.cuhi.utoronto.ca for more information

December 7, 2005, Wednesday 1:10-2:10pm, University College, Rm. 256, University of Toronto
Social Research and Public Policy: Emerging Frameworks for Community Engagement and Policy Response
 Dr. Ito Peng, Department of Sociology, University of Toronto; Margot Lettner, Dept of Politics and Public Administration, Ryerson University, and Health Studies Program, University of Toronto

February 1, 2006, Wednesday, 3:00 - 4:00pm, University College, Rm. 256, University of Toronto
Hunting for the 1918 Spanish Flu Virus
 Dr. Kirsty Duncan, AIC Institute of Corporate Citizenship, Rotman School of Management

March 1, 2006, Wednesday, 3:00 - 4:00pm. University College, Rm. 256, University of Toronto
Brazilian Health Care
 João Tomacheski, Research Fellow, CUHI; PhD candidate University of Brasilia (Brazil)

FOOD FOR TALK DISCUSSION FORUM

Contact cuhi.admin@utoronto.ca for more information.

December 2, 2005, Friday 12:30 - 2:30pm
 York University, HNES 140
From Global North to Global South: Growing Food in the City
 Panel: Karine Jaouich, FoodShare; Anan Lololi, Afri-Can FoodBasket; and Cecilia Rocha, Ryerson University.
 Moderated by Sarah Wakefield, University of Toronto



**CENTRE FOR
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January 27, 2006, Friday 12:30 - 2:30pm
 York University, HNES 140
Communities Planning for Healthy Food: A Food Policy and Planning Workshop
 Kami Pothukuchi, Department of Geography and Urban Planning, Wayne State University

February 17, 2006, Friday 2:00 - 4:00pm
 Ryerson University, Sally Horsfall Eaton Centre for Studies in Community Health, (Rm. tba) 99 Gerrard Street East
Public Health Realities and Lessons Learned: Making Food Policy Change from the Perspective of Public Health
 Ellen Desjardins, Nutritionist, Region of Waterloo

March 14, 2006 Tuesday 12:30 - 2:30
 York University, HNES 140
Eating, Ethics and the Generative Spaces of Alternative Food Networks
 Sarah Whatmore, Professor of Environment and Public Policy, Director International Graduate School, Oxford University Centre for the Environment

April 7, 2006 Friday 2:00-4:00pm
 University of Toronto, University College Room 163
Food environments and obesity - neighbourhood or nation?
 Steven Cummins, MRC Fellow, Department of Geography, Queen Mary University of London; Visiting Scholar, School of Public Health, University of Michigan

SPECIAL SPEAKER EVENT

January 2006
 *Details to follow

CONFERENCES OF INTEREST

May 31st - June 3rd 2006
 Community Campus Partnerships for Health's 9th Conference
Walking the talk: Achieving the Promise of Authentic Partnerships
 Minneapolis, Minnesota, U.S.A

February 21 - 22nd 2006
 Ontario Prevention Clearinghouse
Moving Upstream Together: Partnering for Ontario's future health and well-being
 89 Chestnut (formerly Colony Hotel) Toronto
 Visit www.opc.on.ca for more information