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Notable News

Fall 2006

Initiatives

www.cuhi.utoronto.ca

cuhi.admin@utoronto.ca

Goal: To build capacity for high quality, interdisciplinary, collaborative, practice-oriented research and knowledge exchange that builds understanding of the impacts of local physical and social environments on the health of urban residents.

Welcome...

By Brenda Ross, Director of Research (A)

Alexis Kane Speer, our Centre Coordinator, and I have a new appreciation for how busy fall can be at a University Based Research Centre. It was a challenge choosing what would be most interesting reading in our fall issue of Notable News so we have tried to give you a sampling of sorts.

We have new leadership of the Food Research Interest Group (RIG) though Sarah Wakefield is still involved with CUHI. The transition of leadership to Fiona Yeudall from Ryerson University was seamless since she has been involved with the RIG since CUHI's inception. Fiona is well networked with researchers, service providers and community agencies across Toronto and is a member of local, provincial and national Food Security Networks.

We had some recent press and community uptake of our urban health research including the **"Making Toronto's Streets"** report by Paul Hess; **"Fat City: Questioning the Relationship between Urban Sprawl and Obesity"** by a CUHI Graduate Fellow, Jean Eid; **"Seeds, Soil, and Stories"** report on community gardens in Southeast Toronto by Carolin Taron; and the **"Toronto Tributary Study"** by Miriam Diamond.

New CUHI student initiatives include expanding research and learning placement opportunities for students and offering student travel grants for urban health related conferences. We continue to offer paid research experience to graduate students within each RIG and we have our first Post-Doctoral Fellow, Wendy Mendes, in full gear.

Our fall seed grant program has had broad appeal across Canada. We received 72 inquiries and 40 applications from a range of universities and departments with an equally diverse range of community and policy partners. Proposals are now under review by Research Advisory Members and External Reviewers who we are grateful to have participating.

CUHI Board of Directors participated in a SWOT planning exercise (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) this fall. The information gleaned points to the need for more purposeful planning with emphasis on networking, engaging new researchers and providing more opportunities for policy and community engagement.

In closing, I would like to highlight a new initiative of CUHI with our partner, the Centre for Research on Inner City Health, St. Michael's Hospital: the launch of Toronto-IRONHI (Intensive Research on Neighbourhoods and Health Initiative). You can read more about it on our centre page. We are actively seeking research and community partners to conduct comparative case studies in IRONHI neighbourhoods to explore health opportunity structures..

Check out our website to view updates on CUHI Urban Health Research happenings. If you see ways to become involved with CUHI or have suggestions, please contact us. CIHR, our funder, is embarking on a Network Analysis of the Centres for Research Development (including CUHI), so you may be hearing from us in the new year.

New CUHI Food Research Interest Group Leadership

Food RIG Leader Sarah Wakefield, PhD has taken a leave of absence from her role directing CUHI's tastiest Research Interest Group and has left Fiona Yeudall to take her place in the kitchen. Fiona Yeudall, PhD RD has been involved with the Food RIG since CUHI was founded, primarily through her work with Sarah Wakefield, Donald Cole & Miriam Diamond, and was the recipient of both a CUHI seed grant (with Jennifer Reynolds of Foodshare) and a junior faculty buy-out. She is an assistant professor in the School of Nutrition and a faculty associate in the Centre for Studies in Food Security at Ryerson University, where she teaches in the areas of lifecycle nutrition, nutritional assessment and professional practice. Dr Yeudall's research focuses on assessing food and nutritional security status of vulnerable groups. She is currently involved in interdisciplinary research programs examining benefits and risks associated with urban agriculture in Toronto and Nakuru, Kenya, and has previously conducted research in Kampala, Uganda and Mangochi, Malawi. She received her undergraduate degree in human nutrition from the University of Guelph and completed her dietetic internship at the Ottawa Regional Dietetic Internship Program. Prior to completing her PhD in nutrition at the University of Otago in New Zealand, she worked as a dietitian in various settings including a local community health centre, municipal health department and federal department of health. She is a member of the Ontario Public Health Association Food Security Workgroup, an executive member of the Dietitians of Canada Food Security Network and the Canadian Association for Food Studies.

CUHI Book Corner



“Residents’ Health Tied to Neighbourhoods” “Unequal City – A Look at Contrasting Neighbourhoods”

These were newspaper headlines in November describing the results of a new report: Improving the Health of Canadians: An Introduction to Health in Urban Places. This report was developed by the Canadian Population Health Initiative, a part of the Canadian Institute for Health Information, with expert advisory members from CUHI. This report looked at how spaces and places in urban areas may influence health and well being. It explored the links between health outcomes and the interaction of social and physical aspects of neighbourhoods and housing in urban areas across five cities. This report was welcomed by CUHI and will provide a springboard for urban health researchers interested in unraveling the link between urban place and health.

There has been a growth in research on neighbourhoods since the late 1990's. In fact there are books published specifically on neighbourhoods and their influence on health and individual well being. Here are a few recent acquisitions in our CUHI library:

“Placing Health: Neighbourhood Renewal, Health Improvement and Complexity” (2006)

Tim Blackman looks at how where people live matters to their health. Health improvement strategies often target where people live, but do they work? This book tackles this question by exploring new theoretical, empirical and practice perspectives on this issue, anchored by major studies of England's Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy and the Programme for Action on Health Inequalities.

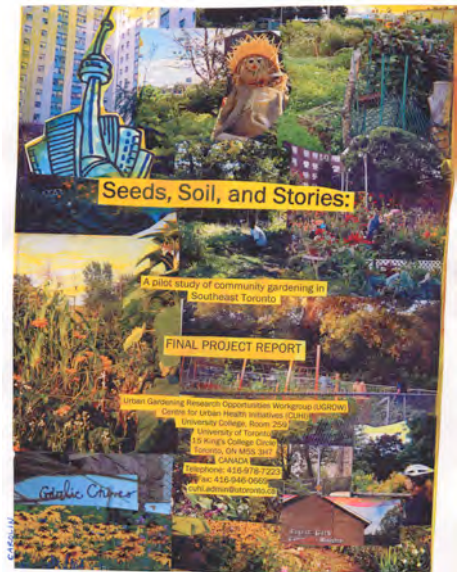
“Cities and the Health of the Public” (2006)

Freduenberg, Galea & Vlahov assess the primary determinants of well-being in cities, including the social and physical environments, diet, health care and social services. This book includes chapters on the history of public health in cities, the impact of urban sprawl and urban renewal on health, and the challenges facing cities in the developing world.

Hot Off the CUHI Press!!!

“Seeds, Soil, and Stories” Final Project Report Urban Garden Research Opportunities Workgroup (UGROW)

Community gardens are increasingly seen as a mechanism for improving nutrition and increasing food security in marginalized urban neighbourhoods, but the evidence available to support these claims is limited. We went to urban gardeners in Southeast Toronto to learn first-hand how community gardening has made a difference in their lives. Results suggest that while enhanced health and access to fresh produce are important components of gardening, the empowering and community-building aspects were of central importance to gardeners. Community gardens play a role in developing friendships and social support, sharing food and other resources, appreciating cultural diversity, learning together, enhancing local place attachment and stewardship, and mobilizing to solve local problems. These benefits were set against a backdrop of bureaucratic resistance to gardens, insecure land tenure and access, concerns about soil contamination, and a lack of awareness by community members and decision-maker of their importance for local people. The results also highlight the need for ongoing resources and programs to support gardens in these many roles. The primary author of this report is former CUHI Community Intern, Carolin Taron who since its release have been working with the Food RIG on creative means of disseminating this information to the community. Acknowledgements go also to Sarah Wakefield and UGROW!



Report Cover by Carolin Taron

Unseen Roadblocks in Toronto’s Street Plan, U of T Study Warns (Press Release)

Toronto’s new plan for its streets, that envisions more people choosing to use public transit, cycle or walk, will stall because city institutions are set up based on old ideas about the functions of roads, says a University of Toronto researcher. University of Toronto, geographer Paul Hess and Beth Milroy of Ryerson University penned “Making Toronto’s Streets,” in response to questions posed by community activists Janice Etter and Rhona Swarbrick, authors of Toronto’s Pedestrian Charter. The study explores why Toronto’s road classification system, developed for road engineering and maintenance purposes, is so much more influential on Toronto street management plans than people’s walking habits.

The city’s existing planning model is based on the idea that streets should keep the functions of moving traffic and accessing properties separate as much as possible, say researchers. Roads are organized into a hierarchy of arterial, collector and local streets such that arterial streets are specialized for moving traffic and local streets are specialized for accessing property. Pedestrian issues have been left largely unaddressed by existing planning mechanisms.

However, the vision embodied in Toronto’s Official Plan and the Pedestrian Charter look to Toronto’s traditional main streets as a model. These streets mix many functions, providing access to property as well as being places for shopping, strolling and socializing. Hess and Milroy show that the city’s institutional practices, which decide budget, repair priorities, and development plans, are still aligned with the old, divided vision of road functions. “The existing institutional structure makes it easy to avoid hard debates and trade-offs about how streets are designed and used, and very difficult for staff to implement change,” says Hess. “The new vision has been simply layered on top of conventional practices without addressing how they conflict.”

According to Hess, “Making Toronto’s Streets” is the first of its kind, outlining how a city – Toronto, in this case – makes, maintains and changes its streets. Intended as a resource to street planners and officials, the study offers eight recommendations for Toronto, chief among which is that a working group be immediately struck to help bring pedestrian concerns to street-planning tables and insist that a commitment pedestrian infrastructure be included in development proposals.

“Making Toronto’s Streets” was funded by University of Toronto’s Centre for Urban Health Initiatives Seed Grant program, which promotes investigations that connect community concerns with university researchers.

Toronto Intensive Research on

A Joint Initiative of:

The Centre for Urban Health Initiatives (CUHI),
University of Toronto, and
The Centre for Research on Inner City Health (CRICH),
St. Michael's Hospital

A great deal of recent health research has studied the role neighbourhoods play in shaping health outcomes. There is now evidence that over and above an individual's socio-economic position, their residential neighbourhood's physical, built, social, economic, service-based and cultural attributes exert an influence on their health status.

Toronto IRONhI seeks to describe and understand how "health opportunity structures" differ between neighbourhoods and how they may contribute to health outcomes. Its primary objective is to improve understanding of the pathways and mechanisms linking neighbourhoods and health and to inform policy and community action about how neighbourhood-based interventions could address health disparities.

Toronto-IRONhI has selected six Toronto neighbourhoods to house comparative case studies of the pathways linking the social, economic, built and service attributes of neighbourhoods to health. Neighbourhoods have been selected for their contrasts – some lower-income neighbourhoods, some upper-income, some inner-city, some suburban, some under-served, some better-served. The six neighbourhoods are:

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------------------|
| Parkdale South | Banbury-Don Mills (control) |
| St. Jamestown | North Riverdale (control) |
| Eglinton East | Weston-Mt. Dennis |

Two of the neighbourhoods are City and United Way Priority Neighbourhoods and two already have established research partners. Toronto IRONhI will create research capacity and foster genuine multi-sectoral, interdisciplinary health research on neighbourhoods between academic researchers, policy makers and community stakeholders.



Census Tracts in St. Jamestown



Census Tracts in Weston - Mount Dennis



The St. Jamestown (SJT) Healthy Immigrant Study

is a signature project of the Wellesley Institute and builds on many years of service to SJT, both as Wellesley Central Hospital and as the Institute. This study arises from the observation that immigrants arrive in Canada healthier than residents, yet their health deteriorates rapidly after they have arrived. The project recently received SSHRC-CURA preliminary funding to develop the full grant. In the interim period, Wellesley Institute is committed to fund the project and its activities.

The overall goal of the project is to help the community better understand the challenges and to assist them in developing and implementing solutions. The project aims to triangulate community-based research, capacity building and policy advocacy at all levels. One of the main objectives of the project is to determine the physical, social, cultural, and community factors that influence individual, family, and community health. The specific research questions, objectives, hypothesis, and research design will be worked out and finalized in collaboration with partners and stakeholders of the project.

Neighbourhoods & Health Initiative (Toronto- IRONhi)

IRONhi Activities in 2006-07:

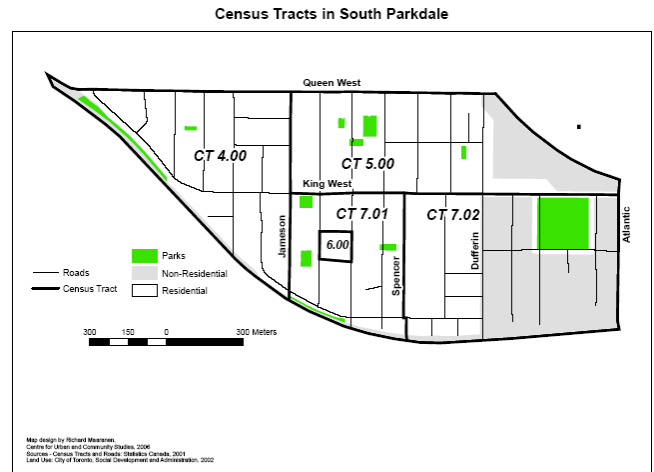
There are three core initiatives being implemented this academic year. The first is the collection of primary data on attributes of the neighbourhoods using standardized, observer-based checklists of neighbourhood quality, services, and social organization. The second is the recruitment of residents from the selected neighbourhoods as participants in a 'concept mapping' exercise designed to collect data on their understanding of what aspects of neighbourhood affects their health. This project will be a first step to engage residents of the selected neighbourhoods as participants in the research. The third core project is a community health survey. We plan to survey roughly 1,200 residents of the four low-income neighbourhoods in order to establish the health status of the population, to determine the prevalence of risk factors for poor health and to ask people about their community's priority health and neighbourhood issues. We expect the field work for the survey to take place in the spring and summer of 2007.

IRONhi provides the infrastructure for research that would explore the mechanisms, pathways and avenues for intervention in the following possible areas:

- **Neighbourhood factors and their influence on healthy child development**
- **Adult mental health & addictions**
- **Availability and use of resources/services and how this influences health**
- **Ethnicity, immigration, concentrated poverty, neighbourhoods and health**

We are actively seeking comparative case study projects in IRONhi neighbourhoods and encourage you to direct your inquiries to CUHI or to:

James R. Dunn, Ph.D.
 Research Scientist, Centre for Research on Inner City Health,
 St. Michael's Hospital
 Associate Professor of Geography and Public Health Sciences,
 University of Toronto
 Tel: (416) 864-6060 x3313



Collaborating with CURA

The Centre for Urban and Community Studies at the University of Toronto and St. Christopher House, a large multi-service agency in Toronto, propose a series of applied policy-relevant research projects using as a case study seven adjacent inner-city Toronto neighbourhoods to answer the following questions:

Can we preserve existing lower-income and socially and ethnically mixed, affordable neighbourhoods in the face of forces that are raising costs (particularly housing costs) and displacing or excluding certain people, businesses, and community services? How can people in urban neighbourhoods successfully shape the development of their environment to create a community that is socially cohesive and inclusive? What can we learn from recent and emerging community practice about effective action against negative forces and support for positive forces to ensure better outcomes? The purpose of this research is to better understand the way in which both global and local forces affect urban neighbourhoods and to develop models that promote community engagement and help low-income communities influence public policy.

All maps have been produced and contributed by Richard Maaranen of the Centre for Urban & Community Studies, University of Toronto.



Physical Environments RIG – A Project Update

Levels of Selected Persistent Organic Pollutants in the Sediments of Urban Rivers in the Greater Toronto Area

Robson, M¹, Melymuk, L¹, Lapierre, D¹, Helm P,² and Diamond M¹

¹Department of Geography, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M5S 3G3.

² Ontario Ministry of the Environment, 125 Resources Road, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M9P 3V6.

It is now widely acknowledged that large urban areas such as cities act as a considerable source of many pollutants to the wider environment.

One of the key ways in which many of these pollutants migrate away from these urban areas is via their input to and association with the sediments present in urban rivers and streams. Therefore an accurate knowledge of the levels of these pollutants in sediments is a key tool for understanding their long term environmental fate.

To investigate this area, sediment samples were collected from ten locations in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) with a wide variety of land-uses ranging from fully urban to undeveloped areas.

These samples were then analyzed for a range of persistent organic pollutants (POPs), including polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and organochlorine pesticides (OCPs). As expected, concentrations of PCBs and PBDEs followed trends in population density. Concentrations of PAH were related to population density and vehicular traffic, and concentrations of OC pesticides were spatially variable.

CUHI Graduate Fellows Research

Fat City: Questioning the Relationship between Urban Sprawl and Obesity

Jean Eid, University of Toronto

Henry G. Overman, London School of Economics, Diego Puga, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Matthew A. Turner, University of Toronto

We study the relationship between urban sprawl and obesity. Using data that tracks individuals over time, we find no evidence that urban sprawl causes obesity. We show that previous findings of a positive relationship most likely reflect a failure to properly control for the fact the individuals who are more likely to be obese choose to live in more sprawling neighborhoods. Our results indicate that current interest in changing the built environment to counter the rise in obesity is misguided.

A Place and Space for Change: Exploring Residents' Perceptions of their Natural Environment and Health in Malton (Mississauga), Ontario

***Elizabeth Noble, Graduate Department of Geography and Centre for Environment: University of Toronto
2006 M.A. Thesis***

Linkages between the environment and health are a growing area of research, particularly at the local and neighbourhood levels. Perceptions of the environment have also been shown to influence health. While geographic scale is salient for the study of the environment and health, few studies have examined perceptions of the environment and health across scales. This research responds to this gap, presenting a study of perceptions of the environment and health across scales, with a focus on the local scale. Surveys and focus group sessions were conducted with participants from community groups in Malton (City of Mississauga), Ontario, in order to explore participants' perceptions of the Mimico Creek environment and health. Participants identified links between perceptions of the environment and health at various scales. Participants indicated that perceptions of the environmental health of the Mimico Creek influences health in Malton at both individual and neighbourhood levels.

Both papers can be downloaded from our website: www.cuhi.utoronto.ca/funding/gradfellowships.html

A Sample of Advocacy Research Funded by CUHI Seed Grants

Community Engagement and Public Policy Responses: A Comparison of HIV/AIDS and Homeless Communities

Author: Peng I., Lettner M.

August 14, 2006 [presented at the XVI International AIDS Conference: Toronto, ON]

Issues: Although recent research on the HIV/AIDS and homeless communities have had significant impacts on public awareness towards the issues, and as well, contributed to a growing body of evidence pointing to the need for policy action, social policy responses have been highly variable.

Description: Despite the growing research evidence suggesting need for more support for these communities throughout the 1990s, the HIV/AIDS community was able to advocate for policy changes, such as those involving internet pharmacy, drug pricing, catastrophic drug, and common drug reviews, while the homeless communities saw a significant public spending cuts in public housing and social welfare. The different public policy outcomes suggest that the pathway between research and knowledge generation on the one hand; and the translation of research evidence to public policies, on the other, may not be always rational or straightforward. To date, very few studies have examined the process of knowledge translation. This study examines how the HIV/AIDS and homeless communities in Toronto mobilize their knowledge in the public policy process – how they frame their issues, what evidence they use, how they raise awareness, and how they set policy agenda forward – and in turn, how policy communities engage with community actors in policy making processes.

Lessons learned: Literature review and interviews with community activists and policymakers show that successful policy mobilization is dependent on effective framing of the issue, characteristics of the community, and potential for interscaler linkages.

Recommendations: Community-based research opportunities exist for knowledge transfer, and validation of these findings with the HIV/AIDS and homeless communities, broader civil society/social justice communities and policymaking/decision-making communities in government around a range of advocacy strategies and outcomes integral to community engagement, public policymaking, and movements for change.

Next Steps: Funding options are being explored to conduct community planning workshops with HIV/AIDS and homeless communities, to disseminate and validate the research outcomes and support the development of a broader based policy advocacy toolkit for community advocates and activists.

Student Grants for Conferences



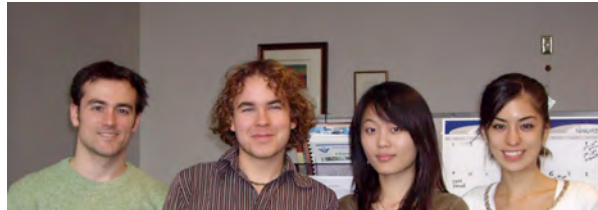
CUHI is offering a limited number of grants for students to attend urban health relevant conferences. CUHI has committed to providing several scholarships to attend both the Community-Campus Partnerships for Health: *Mobilizing Partnerships for Social Change* in Toronto (Apr 11th-14th), as well as the University of Toronto International Health Program Health & Human Rights Conference: *Public Health in the Regions of War and Political Conflict* (Jan 19th-20th). This latter conference, is designed to encourage and facilitate discussion of topics ranging from mental health and comprehensive rehabilitation to accessibility to drugs and treatments.

We encourage all CUHI members to attend both of these events.

If you are interested in student grants for either of these conferences or another urban health related forum, please call Alexis Kane Speer, the Centre Coordinator at 416-978-7223. Priority will be given to students presenting at conferences.

Health Studies Curriculum Enhancement

Out of a series of meetings with representatives from the University of Toronto Health Studies Program, opportunities were identified to enhance the undergraduate curriculum. CUHI has hired two undergraduate students and taken on volunteers to carry out two projects: Explore the expansion of service learning and research placement opportunities for students and develop an inventory of career and education opportunities for Health Studies graduates. CUHI looks forward to working with the following new faces:



From left to right: Marino Iurillo, Renaud Boulanger, Xiao Jin Chen and Marlene Searle

Marino Iurillo is a third year student working towards a double major in Health Studies and Bioethics. Marino is interested in the profession of Nursing; specifically policy implications to international health and emergency medicine. He is attracted to the Health Studies program because of its social science approach to health and its support of community-based research. Marino is excited about his position as the Service Learning Liaison for the Health Studies program as it provides an opportunity to develop and expand placement opportunities available to students. This will allow him to develop a comprehensive network of contacts that would not just benefit himself, but the entire Health Studies student body. “Together with all of us at CUHI, we will be able to aid and support Health Studies Graduates.”

Marlene Searle is a third year student enrolled in the Health Studies program, drawn to this position at CUHI out of a genuine interest in the area of health. As an international student relatively new to Toronto, Marlene wished to engage in the activities of a research centre that would extend beyond the scope of the University and introduce her to the broader realm of Canadian society. Marlene is excited to interact with the various institutions and individuals related to CUHI and the health field in general through her position as the Health Studies Career Research Assistant. She hopes to learn how to effectively collect, organize and disseminate information, as she is conscious of the importance of raising awareness amongst Health Studies students of the possible careers and educational opportunities in the field. Being an undergraduate student herself, Marlene is aware of the beneficial effects of assistance, support and guidance offered to students.

Xiao Jin Chen is a third year student specializing in Health Studies. After having what she described as an “invaluable experience” working with a researcher at Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care during the summer, Xiao wants to work towards expanding the Health Studies placement program so that other students could get similar experiences. Xiao seized the opportunity to give back to her department when Professor Tepperman, Director of the Health Studies Program, sent out a job request looking for a student to assist him in making external connections with outside organizations, alumni, and researchers to broaden placement opportunities for students. She is very excited about being part of this project and is looking forward to working with the students and staff at CUHI.

Renaud Boulanger is a second year student at UofT. Originally from Montreal, he won a full scholarship to study abroad in Wales, UK, at one of the twelve United World Colleges (UWC). There, for two years, he had the opportunity to meet people from more than 60 different nationalities which was an eye-opening experience on the universal importance of health. Although his original intent was to study International Relations and work in Diplomacy, his passage at UWC directed him to deepen his understanding of the human body, and in particular the brain. He entered University of Toronto determined to study Cognitive Science and Neuroscience, but he soon realised that those programs lacked the social compound he sought. This is why he opted to enrol in a Health Studies major. Now that he volunteers at CUHI, he hopes to make the Health Studies program more accessible and attractive to newcomers and to increase the program’s presence on the Internet. As the Second Year Representative on the Health Studies Student Union, Renaud will act as a link between CUHI’s effort to enhance the current Health Studies placement program and the work of the Student Union. Ultimately, Renaud dreams of founding an Institute à la Patch Adams’ on a sailing boat.

More on Student Engagement...

Farewell to Food

By Joy Harewood

As a Research Assistant for the Food RIG at CUHI, I have worn many hats. My main task has been the development and co-ordination of “Food for Talk” Seminars. This idea was borne out of smaller gatherings that students at York and the University of Toronto used to discuss their research ideas. In the spirit of these meetings, representatives from York, Ryerson, U of T, the Toronto Food Policy Council and I met to plan the inaugural year of the seminar series. This has been a thoroughly enjoyable experience, and has garnered interest from international “foodies” from Denver to Ethiopia! I leave the co-ordination of this successful series to Ryerson student Kim Critchon-Struthers, who already organized our first fall seminar held September 22nd.

I also was given the challenge to find ways to get students more actively involved in the Food RIG by launching (along with my co-editor Tara McMullen) “Tastebuds”. This newsletter profiles graduate students and community and academic research initiatives in the food/agricultural field. With one summer issue under our belt, we are due to put out another edition soon. In addition, I have compiled a list of graduate students in the Toronto area working on food-related issues. This allows community organizations, academics or other students to interact with their peers and offers networking opportunities. Finally I put together a list of food-related courses offered at universities in Southern Ontario. Hopefully this will foster more student-student interaction by showing transfer opportunities as well as bringing to light universities that could be doing more in the field.

I have truly enjoyed my work with CUHI and will miss the all aspects of working with other “foodies”. Do look out for me lurking at “Food for Talk” seminars - I wouldn't miss them for the world!

Kim Critchon-Struthers is a student in the School of Nutrition at Ryerson and currently works as a research assistant for Dr. Fiona Yeudall. She became interested in food security during the summer and is currently helping to organize the Food for Talk seminars. She has a Bachelor of Fine Arts from York University in theatre production and design. Her wide variety of life experiences include teaching snowboarding, theatrical lighting design and selling chocolate. Some current and recent projects include the Food For Talk seminars, Uganda dietary data entry and updating Ryerson's dietetic internship website. She is interested in learning about everything.

Announcing the CUHI Placement Program

In an effort to better serve our growing membership and the academic student bodies with whom we work, CUHI is exploring new ways to actively engage and match students with urban health researchers. We understand that researchers often have time, manpower and budget constraints that can limit their ability to maximize their team's productivity and move along their research agenda. Meanwhile, research experience is an invaluable asset to any student interested in pursuing a career in research or graduate studies. Over the past few months we have been working with researchers from academic institutions and community organizations to generate ideas for the placement of students to participate in urban health research. We have successfully placed several students with researchers both within the University of Toronto and within community and policy organizations. Placements vary in length and number of hours per week, depending on the type of placement (e.g. for course credit or volunteer) and what can be accommodated by the organization. To date, most participants have been undergraduates from Toronto-based academic institutions, though we do occasionally receive inquiries from graduate students who express interest in a research placement.

If you or someone you know is interested in participating in this mutually beneficial research placement program, email us with a brief description of your project with a brief list of tasks that a participating student may be engaged with.

For more information, please call Alexis Kane Speer, the Centre Coordinator at 416-978-7223.

Thank-you to our CUHI Fall 2006 Seed Grant Reviewers –

Brad Bass, Environment Canada
Larry Bourne, University of Toronto
Don Boyes, University of Toronto
Donald Cole, University of Toronto
Ellen Desjardins, University of Guelph
Nancy Doubleday, Carleton University
Diane Dyson, United Way of Greater Toronto
Sarah Flicker, York University
Eric Fong, University of Toronto
Anne Fox, University of Toronto
Deborah Hardwick, Toronto Public Health
Nick Holt, University of Alberta
Winston Husbands, AIDS Committee of Toronto
Shazia Hussain, University of Toronto
Suzanne Jackson, University of Toronto
Leslie Jermy, University of Toronto
Yan Kestens, Montreal Public Health
Erika Khandor, Street Health
Pia Kontos, Toronto Rehabilitation Institute

Margot Lettner, University of Toronto
Dennis Magill, University of Toronto
Mary Jo Makarchuk, Toronto Public Health
Wendy Mendes, Centre for Urban Health Initiatives
John Myles, University of Toronto
Carolyn O'Neill, Environment Canada
Ito Peng, University of Toronto
Blake Poland, University of Toronto
Louise Potvin, University of Montreal
Barbara Rahder, York University
Nancy Ross, McGill University
Wally Secombe, OISE/ University of Toronto
Jean Shoveller, University of British Columbia
Audrey Smargiassi, Montreal Public Health
John Spence, University of Alberta
David Waltner-Tows, University of Guelph
Robb Travers, Ontario HIV Treatment Network
Gerda Wekerle, York University

Community Campus Partnerships for Health Conference Mobilizing Partnerships for Social Change – April 11-14th, 2007 Toronto, Canada

Community Campus Partnerships for Health is convening their 10th Anniversary Conference in Toronto to nurture a network of community-campus partnerships that are striving to achieve the systems and policy changes needed to address the root causes of health, social and economic inequalities. The conference seeks to build new knowledge, skills and actions in areas that are critical to achieving healthy and just societies.

CUHI is assisting with the conference in various ways: recruiting volunteers and engaging students, organizing site visits and promoting sponsorships. In addition, CUHI is offering student scholarships to cover conference registration, presentation or interaction costs for students presenting urban health research topics at the conference.

We encourage you to participate in this exciting event by either attending the conference, hosting a site visit (if you are located in the Toronto area) or by volunteering at the conference. Volunteers are compensated for their time by gaining free entrance into the conference for the day of their service.

For more information, please call Alexis Kane Speer, the Centre Coordinator at 416-978-7223.



Centre for Urban Health Initiatives

University of Toronto
 Rm. 259 University College,
 15 King's College Cir., Toronto, ON, M5S 3H7
www.cuhi.utoronto.ca

Phone:
 416-978-7223

Fax:
 416-946-0669

E-mail:
cuhi.admin@utoronto.ca