Telehealth Program News

http://www.ucalgary.ca/telehealth

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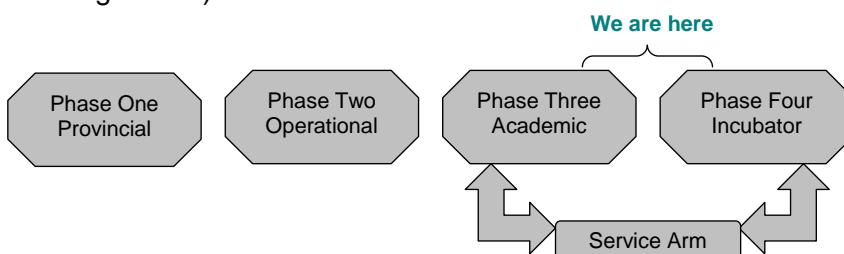
PROGRAM UPDATE

Dr. Penny Jennett - Head, Health Telematics Unit
The HTU is currently in the process of becoming recognized officially as a Centre. Since its inception, the HTU has been developing the scholarly research and training Program for the Unit, and more recently has begun with the development of a service arm. Three Discussion Forums are being held over the next few months specific to the Service Arm: 1) government; 2) faculty and region; and 3) private sector. Our private sector partnerships have continued to grow, and the development of private sector incubator space will move forward in the near future (Phase Four – approved in the New Building Phase).

We are here

| Phase One Provincial | Phase Two Operational | Phase Three Academic | Phase Four Incubator |

Service Arm

The HTU Facility is currently being upgraded to include 50" plasma screens in the Telehealth Boardroom and 42" plasma screens in the Telelearning and Clinical Research Suites. The upgrade is expected to be completed by the end of February. Research initiatives and projects continue to flourish.

TELEHEALTH TEAM UPDATE

Maryann Fraser officially joined the HTU Team February 9, 2004. Maryann will be supporting Drs. Jennett, Hebert, and Scott, as well as the Program in her role as Program Secretary. Maryann can be reached at 220-6845 or htufloat@ucalgary.ca. Dr. Elizabeth Henderson recently completed a 6-month sabbatical with the HTU. Her sabbatical allowed time for developmental work that focused on the design and delivery of education for Infection Control Professionals. Xiaomin Wang finished his one-year Government of China Scholarship in September 2003. Xiaomin presented his year's work with the Health Telematics Unit at a seminar entitled "China and e-Health" on September 18, 2003 (contact Maryann at 220-6845 for a copy of the presentation).

TRAINING PROGRAM

Congratulations to Shariq Khoja who successfully defended his Master's thesis and has been accepted to the PhD Program, and welcome to Isabelle Chouinard who has recently joined the Master's Program. Both Shariq and Isabelle will be supervised by Dr. Richard Scott. They will be joining two Master's Students (Pin Cai; Mone Palacios) and two PhD students (Basia Siedlecki; Andora Jackson), who will be continuing their graduate studies through the Health Services Research Stream in CHS.

The HTU is currently offering an online course on E-Health Sustainability: From Business Case to Policy (Instructor – Dr. Richard Scott). Watch the HTU website for details of an upcoming online course "e-Health Evaluation" being offered later in 2004 (Instructor – Dr. Marilynne Hebert).

GLOBAL OUTREACH

The goals of the Global Outreach Program are to support, on a global basis, capacity building in e-health through sharing and transfer of research and e-learning expertise. This includes the provision of exchange activities, and the development of a lifelong global virtual learning community. Some of the opportunities available are exchange intern; exchange scholar, and seminar exchanges.

CURRENT PROJECTS UPDATE

Seniors and Resilience Study – Dr. P. Jennett
This innovative pilot study sponsored by CIHR engages seniors and emeriti professors as leaders and participants in: 1) setting senior research directions, 2) developing research skills and building senior research capacity, 3) promoting and advocating research about seniors by seniors and 4) translating findings into future related research and policy.

e-Enhanced Long Term Care Project – Dr. P. Jennett
This Project (sponsored by Aventis) provides an environment that empowers staff of all disciplines working together in Long Term Care and Community Care. It enables them to continuously and inherently seek and respond to opportunities that enhance patient centered care, and foster an empowering culture in which the knowledge, skills and abilities of all staff are valued, developed, and deployed in support of patient care.

Mainstreaming Telemedicine in Eyecare - Dr. P. Jennett
The primary benefit of this project, sponsored by Alberta Eye Care, is to review and summarize existing standards, guidelines, and policies regarding e-eye care, as this relates to accurate and timely electronic referrals. The Project also critiques global e-eye care initiatives over the past 3 years. Dr. Ivan Kropyvnytskyy, Community Health Sciences Resident, is assisting with the literature search.

Alberta SuperNet Research Alliance – Health Sector Project – Dr. P. Jennett
The purpose of the Project is to investigate the social and economic impacts of the Alberta SuperNet; communicate the findings to the community, government and public; study network development; and identify, through the results, if there are areas that may have policy implications for broadband on a larger scale. The Project is currently interviewing key stakeholders. (http://supernet.ucalgary.ca)

Telehealth and e-Health Policy Considerations for Alberta – Dr. Richard Scott
The HTU recently completed an e-health policy report for Alberta Health and Wellness. Led by Dr. Scott, the team conducted focused literature searches, and identified 35 policy issues related to e-health, most of which have inter-jurisdictional impact. Addressing these will require seeking common solutions across jurisdictions, rather than each jurisdiction considering and responding to each issue independently. Over time, study in this area is intended to investigate and describe each issue in greater detail.

National Telehealth Outcomes Indicator Project (NTOIP) – Dr. R. Scott
This Canarie and Richard Ivey funded project is currently in the process of a web survey of telehealth/e-health outcome indicators. To participate visit the website at www.ucalgary.ca/ntoip and click on 'consensus process'.

CHR Evaluations – Dr. M. Hebert and Dr. M. Yeo
The HTU is currently in the process of working with CHR to evaluate four telehealth initiatives: emergency medicine, Department of Medicine clinical telehealth project; patient directed ICD management; and pediatric outreach.

CIHR HI PHD/Postdoc Strategic Training Program – Dr. M. Hebert
This health informatics training program has been funded for 6 years by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research Strategic Training Program Initiative, and several provincial health foundations. Eight Canadian university partners jointly offer 4 Research Learning Experiences over a 24-month period to 1-2 cohorts of graduate students as part of their PhD/Postdoc training.
To date, 23 students from across the country are enrolled.

Study of Telehomecare video-visits in Rural Alberta – Dr. M. Hebert

This 36-month multi-method study, funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, is comparing traditional palliative homecare visits with a combination of traditional and telehomecare 'video-visits' in participating Health Authorities (HA) that serve rural areas in Alberta. The Project was rolled out in the Calgary Health Region in early February, and is currently being rolled out in the Chinook Health Region. David Thompson and Capital Health Regions will come on board in March and April.

Health Informatics Collaboratory – Dr. M. Hebert

On-line continuing education courses are gaining popularity among busy professionals. The purpose of the CANARIE Pan-Canadian Health Informatics Collaboratory (HIC) was to develop an experimental, broadband interactive learning environment that included on-line multi-media modules to support health informatics training. Six modules were developed and tested, as well as standards for metatagging and on-line tools by teams at eight post-secondary Institutions. The team from the HTU at the University of Calgary was responsible for both process and outcome evaluation activities of module development. A final evaluation report is now complete and we are currently in the dissemination phase of this project.

Building Capacity in Health Informatics Professionals – Dr. M. Hebert

This 2 year study funded by OLT is a collaborative effort of 4 Universities to develop ten on-line courses which will form the core of an on-line Master's Degree in Health Informatics.

Women's Participation in Domestic Violence Health Policy – Dr. M. Hebert

A multi-national team led by Dr. W. Thurston is studying how women participate in shaping policy that directly affects them. Dr. Hebert's role is to investigate the role of on-line communication and collaboration in this diverse group.

MEMBER UPDATES

The Calgary Health Region Telehealth Program is expanding. An increased emphasis on clinical telehealth, and the expansion of telehealth infrastructure across both urban and rural Calgary Health Region sites, as well as targeted grant funding have been contributing factors to the quality expansion of the service. In October 2003, the CHR received confirmation from the Provincial Telehealth Committee (PTC) of funding for six clinical telehealth grant projects (over $388,000). Project evaluation for all projects has been contracted to the U of C, Health Telematics Unit.

Dr Cheri Nijssen-Jordan has been appointed as the Calgary Health Region Telehealth Medical Advisor. Cheri is also the Director of Emergency at Alberta Children's Hospital. Some of her initial priorities, among other things, will be to build relationships with Calgary Health Region clinicians, reform the Regional Telehealth Advisory Board, and represent the Region at the Provincial Telehealth Committee. For more information contact: Catherine.Keenan@CalgaryHealthRegion.Ca.

Southern Alberta Child & Youth Health Network *Enhancing paediatric care across Southern Alberta using telehealth* is one of the projects recently funded by the Provinical Telehealth Committee. This project uses telehealth to connect the many professional staff required to care for children across the health care continuum. Since the funding was released in November/03 – discharge sessions have been held with many communities across Southern Alberta in the areas of Mental Health, Eating Disorders, Developmental Clinic, Palliative Care, GI, Neurology, ICU, and Oncology. Contact: Sybil Young at 943.7585

The Centre for Distance Learning in Palliative Care is busy preparing for a number of course offerings this spring. An online facilitators course is being offered in the Spring with palliative care physicians from Wales, South Africa and Canada participating. The goal is to begin building sustainable capacity for distance education by training educators on how to facilitate online discussions. There will also be a third iteration of PallCare RurNet, a distance palliative care course for the Rural Family Medicine program in Alberta. In May, the Centre will be represented in Adelaide, Australia at the Second National Palliative Care Education Conference. Contact: Jaci Lyndon at jlyndon@ucalgary.ca

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

HTU Seminars

We are currently building the calendar of seminars for 2004. The focus of this year's seminars will be in the four HTU research domains: 1) e-Health Policy and Social Benefits; 2) e-Health Impact and Outcomes; 3) e-Health Technology Applications; and 4) e-Health Technology Innovation.

Seminars are held the first and third Thursday of the month at 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. in the Telehealth Boardroom B200 Health Sciences Centre. *Most seminars are offered by videoconference.*

Our Fall seminar series began with a presentation by Isabelle Chouinard, one of our Master's Students, on Promoting Best Practices in Northern Contaminants Education, Communication, and Coordination Utilizing e-Health Networks.

Upcoming Seminars:
March 11th: Dr. Steve Edworthy – Developing a Guidebook to Telerheumatology – Lessons Learned
March 25th: Drs. Toews, Parboosingh, Jennett – e-Learning in the Health Professions conference (Tentative)
April 8th: Pin Cai - Can Home Telehealth Technology Support Disease Management in Teens with Asthma?
April 29th: Drs. Parboosingh, Jennett, Hogan – Learning through team centered reflection: a pilot study to be conducted at the Canmore General Hospital

VISITING SCHOLARS

Dr. Alejandro R. Jadad, Director, Centre for Global eHealth Innovation, Professor, Departments of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation, and Anesthesia, University Health Network, University of Toronto, Toronto Canada, will be presenting a seminar - *'To e or not to e: how come we can communicate with Mars but cannot use the Internet to communicate with the health system?'*
Date: Friday, June 4th, 2004
Time: 2:00pm – 3:00pm
Location: Telehealth Boardroom B200, HSC

TRSI 2004

The 5th Telehealth Research Summer Institute will be held June 24-26, 2004. The TRSI 2004 will focus on "Evaluating Large-Scale Strategic e-Health Initiatives in Canada". The proposed objectives of the Institute are:
➢ To describe and discuss each initiative, including challenges overcome in their implementation
➢ To compare and contrast how each demonstrates value through evaluation
➢ To examine how collective 'value' might be demonstrated or evaluated
➢ To explore how they are being integrated into the healthcare continuum
➢ To understand related policy implications, and how research findings are being transferred to policy

To be added to the information list for the TRSI, please send an email to htufloat@ucalgary.ca.

NEW HTU RESOURCES

State of the Science Review
http://www.fp.ucalgary.ca/telehealth/AHFMR_State_of_the_Science_Review.htm

Alliance for Building Capacity (ABC) – Framework for Remote and Rural Readiness in Telehealth
http://www.fp.ucalgary.ca/telehealth/Projects.htm

Outcome Indicators Report
http://www.ucalgary.ca/ntoip

CIHR Health Informatics Collaboratory Report
Contact Dr. Marilynne Hebert for a copy.