

Telehealth Program News



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December 2004

In this Issue:

Program Update

Service Arm

Infrastructure, Upgrades,
& Future Funding Base

HTU Highlights

Special Honors

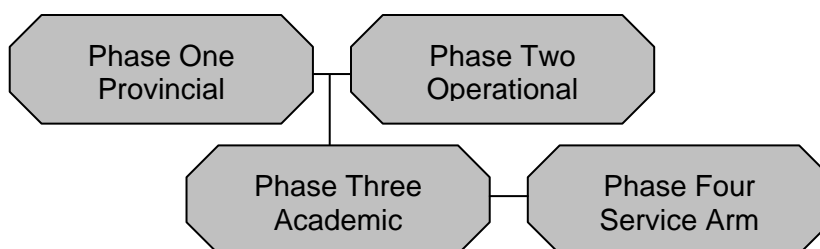


PROGRAM UPDATE

This will be my last Newsletter as Head, Health Telematics Unit. A Search is being conducted and the New Director is expected to be in place July 1, 2005.

It has been an exciting journey, starting seven years ago, that can now boast a flourishing Provincial Telehealth Network, a State-of-the-art Telehealth Facility, as well as an internationally recognized Telehealth Program. I have been very privileged to work with such a fantastic team of colleagues and wish all of you the very best as we continue on the path towards "e-health for all".

This has been an exciting year for the Health Telematics Unit, Telehealth Program at the local, National, and International levels. After the initial focus on provincial, operational, and academic areas, this year we have advanced the Service Arm. We therefore, dedicate this Newsletter to highlighting details regarding the Service Arm, as well as reviewing the future Program funding base, and celebrating the first Graduate in Health Research – Telehealth.



Dr. Penny Jennett - Head, Health Telematics Unit

SERVICE ARM

There are three components to the Telehealth Service Arm: 1) Industry; 2) Clinical; and 3) e-Learning. Discussion Forums and information gathering sessions (informal and formal) have been held with Government, Private Sector, Calgary Health Region, the Faculty, and various Institute's and Centres around the Service Arm. As a result of these discussions, we are moving forward with the Service Arm and look forward to continued feedback and participation from our members and stakeholders.

Industry Service Arm

A Proposal was submitted to the Western Economic Partnership Agreement (WEPA) entitled, "Enabling e-Health Industry Development". This Proposal is for funding to initiate the e-Health Private Sector/Industry Component of the Service Arm. The request includes support for the development of the Showcase/Display Area, Incubator Space, Information and Networking Services, and e-Health Product Impact Contracts.



Dynastream

*Showcase Device
Example:
Wireless, wearable
tracking device*

Clinical Service Arm

Various discussions around the development of the Clinical Service Arm have taken place over the last year with key stakeholders, Todd Herron, an Assistant Deputy Minister of Health and Wellness, and Family Medicine. Next steps include writing a business plan and implementation plan. Monies associated with this Initiative will likely be Project oriented. In addition, upgrades to the Clinical Suite are taking place. These upgrades include consideration of such applications as: POSP, Family Medicine Residency Teaching, Primary Care Initiatives, Physician/Provider training, and Clinical Demonstrations.



e-Learning Service Arm

Ongoing discussions and interactions have taken place with Dr. Toews, CADE, CIS, Med IT, and with the e-Learning in the Health Professions Steering Committee. An initial "draft" document has been developed around the concept of an e-Learning Service Arm within the Health Telematics Unit. This document includes products such as e-learning repositories, online courses, e-learning user training, e-learning tool kit, evidence-based reports & models, and an e-health certification program. In addition, recent interest from Industry and Surgery in the area of telementoring has occurred.

INFRASTRUCTURE, UPGRADES, & FUTURE FUNDING BASE

Infrastructure & Upgrades

The final CFI Upgrades are underway. These include the Clinical Suite, Collaboratory, Telelearning Suite, Reception Area, and the Next Generation Internet Room. These rooms will showcase the e-Clinical (e.g. software – EMR, HER; hardware – peripheral devices; digital cameras etc.), and e-Learning environments of the future, as well as current and up and coming e-health devices.

One of the first CFI upgrades you will notice is the completion of the entrance door to the Telehealth Program.



In keeping with the Faculty's examination of future space, a "functional program" document to house the planned "Private Sector Incubator Space" was submitted to the Faculty at their request.

Funding Base

Academic Arm

A Proposal was submitted to the Calgary Health Region/Faculty of Medicine Fundraising Initiative. This Proposal was for an "e-Health Chair". If selected, next step in this competition is a presentation to the Initiative Volunteer Board.

Service Arm – Industry Component

A \$1.2 M Proposal was submitted to the WEPA (Western Economic Diversification and Alberta Innovation & Science funded). Results are pending.



HTU HIGHLIGHTS

First Graduate

Congratulations to Basia Siedlecki, our first Telehealth PhD Graduate.

Basia successfully defended her thesis on September 8th, 2004 entitled "Telehealth in Rural/Remote Yukon Communities: Five Case Studies". The dissertation is the culmination of case study research on generic telehealth applications in five remote Yukon Communities. The communities were diverse in location, accessibility, medical services available locally, and composition. Qualitative and quantitative data were collected in all communities regarding telehealth use, adoption, and adaptation. Basia will continue her studies in the MD Program at the University of Calgary.



Faculty Outreach

Internal

The Telehealth Program was invited to participate in two events at the Faculty of Medicine: 1) Arthritis Awareness Day; and 2) Core Facilities Open House. We had many visitors to our booths during these events, which provided an awareness around the Telehealth Program Research, Training, and Service opportunities.



Core Facilities Open House

External

The HTU hosted approximately 15 international/national missions and academic team visits over the last year. Examples of countries that these visitors represented are:

Russia, Japan, Pakistan, Korea, Thailand, UK, Mexico, Australia, and Mongolia.

Thank you to our Members who met with these teams to share their research and educational activities, and to identify future collaborative opportunities.



Samsung Visitors from Korea

Seminars & Visiting Scholars

There have been eight ongoing and four visiting seminars since our last Newsletter:

- March 11th: Dr. Steve Edworthy – Developing a Guidebook to Telerheumatology – Lessons Learned;
- March 25th: Drs. Toews, Parboosingh, Jennett – e-Learning in the Health Professions;
- 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.
- May 27th: Dr. Edworthy – The Realities of Going Paperless.
- September 9th: Basia Siedlecki – Rural and Remote Telehealth: Yukon Case Studies.
- September 28th: Elizabeth Henderson – A Proposal for a Collaborative Training Program for Infection Control Professionals.
- November 25th: Janet Tworek – Throwing the dog a bone: How education research can inform e-learning.
- Dr. Alex Jadad – To e or not to e: how come we can communicate with Mars, but cannot use the Internet to communicate with the health system?
- Dr. John Finley – Telemedicine in Pediatric Cardiology
- Dr. Tony Norris – Privacy and Security in e-health
- Dr. Wayne Evans – Design of a learning object to facilitate provider training in the measurement of dermal perfusion.

Seminars include video linkages to Regions and other national, international centres.

SPECIAL HONORS

Written by Judy Hunter

At the Telehealth Program Holiday Open House on December 2, 2004, Dr. Eldon Smith presented Dr. Penny Jennett, Head, Health Telematics Unit, on behalf of her many telehealth colleagues, an Inukshuk sculpture in recognition of her “tireless efforts, mentorship, and most of all sharing her dream with others, building a foundation, and leaving a legacy for future telehealth colleagues”.

In addition, Dr. Jennett was presented with a plaque that will hang in the Health Telematics Unit. The inscription on the plaque reads, “Dr. Penny Jennett, a local, provincial, national, and international telehealth pioneer and champion whose vision, dedication, and commitment built this Health Telematics Unit in the Faculty of Medicine, University of Calgary.”

Thank you to all who came to this event, and shared in honoring Dr. Jennett for her many outstanding contributions to telehealth.



Inukshuk Sculpture



HTU Holiday Open House



Recognition Plaque