



Telehealth



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TELEHEALTH PROGRAM

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www.ucalgary.ca/md/TELEHEALTH

Message from Dr. Penny Jennett Professor, Faculty of Medicine; Head, Telehealth Program

Spring is here. With it, we offer an update of our Telehealth Program. We currently have 17 telehealth research projects in progress (10 international/national, 2 provincial, 5 local). We are also pleased to have our training program in place. The past fiscal year resulted in the establishment of our new facility. As monies become available, the research suites are operationalized. I invite you to read further to find out about new members of our collaborative team and to become aware of the many international visitors to our area.



**Best wishes,
Penny Jennett**

TELEHEALTH TEAM UPDATE

Building Human Capacity

- ?? We are pleased to announce that **Dr. Richard Scott** has accepted the offer of a position as researcher in the Health Telematics Unit. Dr. Scott is an established telehealth researcher and clinical/forensic toxicologist. He is currently Interim Executive Director and Senior Research Associate at the Institute for Health Research and is Director of Research Services for the Atlantic Health Sciences Corporation, Saint John, New Brunswick.
- ?? **Dr. Cindy Hardy**, University of Northern British Columbia, joined us in January for a sabbatical (six months).
- ?? **Andora Jackson**, research assistant, has been recommended for acceptance into the Ph.D. program in Telehealth (Community Health Sciences). She will be our second Ph.D. student.
- ?? **Neera Datta** is our newest research assistant.
- ?? **Susan Brownell** will be assisting Dr. Jennett until September. **Greg McDonald** will be assisting Drs. Edworthy and Arbillaga this summer.
- ?? **Luis Pedro Cabarrus**, Eng., has left for New York en route to his home in Guatemala. He was with us for three months while he worked with Drs. Barrios and Arbillaga in narrow bandwidth applications and educational use of the web.

**For more information on the
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TELEHEALTH RESEARCH SUMMER INSTITUTE 2001 (TRSI 2001)

Our second national TRSI will be held **July 3-5, 2001**. It will focus on **research** and **evaluation** of **clinical telehealth programs** and **telelearning** initiatives that have been **implemented** into the health care system. **Dr. John Parboosingh, Dr. Richard Wootton, and Dr. Mo Watanabe** are keynote speakers. Speakers from British Columbia, Nunavut Territory, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Quebec will be discussing telehealth programs implemented in their provinces and territory. Please see our web site for more information.

COLLABORATORY UPDATE

The Collaboratory, the name for our new facility, has been the site for a number of Telehealth Program activities.

Visiting Scholars/Noon Seminar Program

- ?? January -- **Dr. Moorthy Shastry**, Bristol, UK, was sponsored by the Alberta Research Council in January. He has over 25 years of experience in telemedicine, medical imagery, and medical informatics. His presentation focused on his telemedicine applications experience in industry, academia, and healthcare.
- ?? February -- **Dr. Richard Wootton**, Online Health Director of Research, University of Queensland, Australia, presented a seminar on "Low-cost Telemedicine for the Developing World and the Implications for the Industrialized World."
- ?? **March--Dr. Steve Edworthy** provided background information for **Dr. Hector Arbillaga's** and **Luis Pedro Cabarrus's** presentation on their on-going project focusing on the quality of on-line radiography images.

Collaborative Research Forum Room Meetings

Our program has hosted a number of meetings (including those for senior administration in the Faculty of Medicine, CRHA and Faculty of Medicine Telehealth Steering Committee, business/industry representatives, national and provincial dignitaries, Canadian Society of Telehealth Board, etc.) and teleconferences (including GHA Telnet Information

Conferences from Georgia, meeting of members of the Telehospice Project in PEI, etc.)

Visitors

Several groups have toured our collaboratory including participants from the Pallium Project and delegates from the Netherlands, Denmark, and Russia. Dr. Richard Wootton, University of Queensland, Australia; Dr. Bill Koch, Australia; and Ms. Jane Grimson, Ireland, are among the many individuals who have toured our facility.

WEBSITE

The photos, audio clips, and slides for the first Telehealth Research Summer Institute, held August 2000, are up on our web site at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/md/TELEHEALTH> If you have any information to go up on the web site this month, please email to Kay Hunter at khunter@ucalgary.ca

PRESENTATIONS/CONFERENCES/SEMINARS

- ?? A national Telehealth Interoperability Workshop was held Feb. 4-6, 2001, at the Alberta Research Council. Those invited were drawn from the academic, professional, public, and private sectors to discuss guidelines and standards for interoperability at the technological, clinical, and operational levels. The **Telehealth Program** was contracted to write a report on the workshop.
- ?? Members of the Program have presented at the Informatics Journal Club and Seminar Series run by the CRHA. **Dr. Penny Jennett** discussed the activities of the Telehealth Program, **Dr. Marilynne Hebert** focused on

developing an evaluation framework for telehealth, and **Andora Jackson** provided an overview of E-health.

- ?? **Dr. Penny Jennett** presented at the E-health Conference in Edmonton, the conference of the American Association of Medical Colleges, and the conference of the Association of Canadian Medical Colleges.
- ?? The videoconference of **Dr. Penny Jennett, Dr. Doug Urness, and Ms. Sharlene Stayberg** at the Telehealth Connection held in Vancouver was titled "Making the Right Choice: Lessons Learned and Best Practices for Decision Makers."
- ?? **Dr. Marilynne Hebert** presented at E-HEALTH 2001, Sydney, Australia; The Telehealth Connection, Vancouver; and the Pallium Project Launch, Calgary.
- ?? **Drs. Jennett and Hebert** presented at the Community Health Sciences Seminar Series.

PROGRAM REPORTS

A five year business plan and an implementation plan for the Telehealth Program are being presented to the Priorities and Planning Committee of the Faculty of Education in May.

PROJECTS AND PROPOSALS

Projects

- ?? An AHIRN project focusing on the use of palm pilots with seniors is in the early development stage. This is the second phase of a collaborative Alberta we//net research project with the University of Alberta and the Alberta Research Council.
- ?? The CANARIE-funded Alliance for Building Capacity project "Framework for Remote and Rural Readiness in Telehealth" is a study of community readiness being done by the University of British Columbia, the University of Northern British Columbia, and the Telehealth Program at U of C.
- ?? The Telehealth Program will be doing the evaluation of Dr. Karlinsky's UBC project focusing on tele-mental health. The project is funded by the Canada Health Infostructure Partnerships Program.

- ?? The Health/Education Cluster (a collaboration of the Faculties of Education, Kinesiology, Medicine, and Nursing) was successful in securing funding for Phase II of their anatomy repository project.
- ?? The CA*Net 3 project, part of BELLE and funded by CANARIE, focuses on broadband applications. A pilot project workshop to demonstrate the Client Learning Environment housed in our CA*Net 3 room in the Collaboratory was held May 3.

PROPOSALS

- ?? Proposals for infrastructure funding for the Collaboratory are being submitted to the Canadian Foundation of Innovation and to Innovation & Science Research Investments Program this month.
- ?? A proposal to fund a telelearning portion of the ABC community readiness project and to fund speakers for the Telehealth Research Summer Institute are being submitted to the Faculty of Medicine Endowment Fund this month.
- ?? The Telehealth Program is part of a proposal to develop telehealth accreditation standards. This proposal for the Richard Ivey Foundation is in its early discussion stage.
- ?? The Telehealth Program and the Atlantic Health Services initiated a national initiative entitled "Canadian Consensus Approach to Identification and Definition of Outcome Indicators for Evaluation of Telehealth."
- ?? Carewave has developed a pilot project with the Southern Alberta Clinic of the CRHA to study the application of wireless devices to the a) management of adherence to treatment regimens, b) tracking of side effects, c) community interaction and continuum of care extension, and d) assessment of the effect on outcomes and costs. The pilot has passed a first approval from FOIPP and is set to go through ethics shortly. Dr. Marilynne Hebert will be providing consultation guidance from the HTU for this project.

ON-LINE TELEHEALTH COURSE
MDSC 755.33 -- Introduction to Telehealth
and Telehealth Research
by Dr. Marilynne Hebert

A grant from the Office of Learning Technologies (OLT) supported the delivery of our first on-line telehealth course. Nine of our ten students were people in the field interested in telehealth and one was a graduate student. We had the opportunity to evaluate the use of two technologies: WebCT and Centra.

WebCT Students were located in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and NWT. They were able to access the course content on-line when it was convenient for them (*asynchronous delivery--not time dependent*). Resources were provided through websites as well as the textbook *Telemedicine: A Guide to Assessing Telecommunications in Health Care* (1996, MJ Field, ed.) and journal articles. The students were divided into small groups, and a group leader was responsible for leading an on-line discussion each week. These contributions to the discussions became part of an overall course assignment that focused on personal insights.

Centra We also took advantage of software used in Continuing Education that allowed us to have teleconferences over the Internet at pre-determined times (*synchronous delivery – at the same time*). Students and the instructor

logged on to the Centra website at the lecture time. We each had a headset and microphone so we could verbally communicate with each other as well as see the Power Point presentation. We held four sessions this way including an introduction to the class, a course evaluation, and two guest speakers -- Mr. Dale Bergman from the Alberta Research Council in Calgary and Dr. Jocelyne Picot from Infotelmed in Montreal. This software also has many other features that we did not explore on this first venture, such as actively sharing PC applications and websites.

These new technologies require that the user understand how to use the technology for more effective teaching and learning. Overall, the course was considered a success; however, valuable feedback from the students will help improve it for the next round. Course evaluation is also an important part of the overall OLT feedback. The course will be offered again in September, 2001.

Future Telehealth Meetings
May 28, 2001
June 25, 2001

