



The Division of Aboriginal People's Health, within the Faculty of Medicine at UBC, exists to support and develop Aboriginal health programs, curriculum, research and advocacy with Aboriginal communities and partners on local, national and international levels.

Inside this issue:

Welcomes & Good-byes 2

Medicine 2

The UBC Learning Circle 3

International Gathering on Cultural Safety 4

IHHS 409 5

Acknowledgements 6

Aboriginal People's Health

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Directors' Message

Now that the school year has come to a close, we take some time to reflect upon the successes and challenges of the past semester. We saw great growth and success of our education and research initiatives, such as the UBC Learning Circle, (Find out more on page 3). We are also thrilled to welcome a new site director for the Aboriginal residency program, Dr. Daniele Behn-Smith.

At the beginning of this month, we sent twelve health science students to the communities of Cowichan, Mount Currie, Seabird Island and Esketemc for IHHS 411, an inter-professional health course aimed at giving students first hand experi-

ence in Aboriginal health and culture. Following a two day orientation to the course at the UBC First Nations Longhouse, the student departed for their month long experience. We wish them the best of luck!

We have exciting events and course coming up, such as a new session of IHHS 409 in September, the re-launch of the UBC Learning Circle in September, and an upcoming Cultural safety conference in 2012. (Read more on Page 4)

As we plan for the coming school year, we would also like to congratulate all students who have graduated this past

month, and wish them the best in their future endeavors. Wishing you all a safe and joyful summer,

Huy ch q'u,

Leah May Walker

James Andrew

Dr. Daniele Behn-Smith appointed Director, Aboriginal Site, Postgraduate Residency Program

The Division of Aboriginal People's Health, (APH), and the Department of Family Practice (DFP), is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Danièle Behn-Smith as Director, Aboriginal residency training site. She will assume leadership of the site beginning June 20, 2011.

Dr. Behn-Smith is currently the Director of Education for

the University of Alberta's Indigenous Health Initiatives Program and is a member of the board for the Indigenous Physicians Association of Canada. She previously served as the Director for the Northeast Community Health Clinic training site in Edmonton and is a co-principal investigator with the Alberta Network Environments for Aboriginal Health Research. Dr. Behn-

Smith is known for her hosting role on "Medicine Woman," a 13 episode television series exploring traditional healing practices from around the world.

Welcome Daniele, we know our students will greatly benefit from your guidance and teaching.

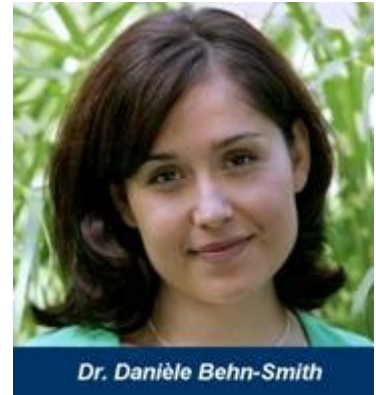
Welcomes & Goodbyes

The Division of Aboriginal People's Health is pleased to welcome Dr. Daniele Behn-Smith to the University of British Columbia's Aboriginal Residency Program. With her vast knowledge and experience, we know she will provide the residents with superb teaching and leadership. Welcome Daniele!

At the end of August, we will be saying goodbye to our Education Coordinator, Ly-

ana Patrick. Lyana will be leaving us to pursue her Phd in the School of Regional and Community Planning at UBC, focusing on mental health and addiction services in Vancouver for Aboriginal people. We wish Lyana the best of luck in her studies!

(Photo courtesy of Tribune Media Services, Inc.)



Medicine

Eleven students were interviewed in February 2011. On May 13, 2011, 8 were given offers, and 6 have accepted. An Aboriginal orientation days will be provided for the students in August 23-26, 2011. The purpose of the orientation is to give the students the opportunity to get acquainted with each other through cultural workshops like drum making workshop, how to take multiple choice exams, studying medicine and a mock Problem Based Learning session. The orientation days will end with a trip to Whistler's Lil'Wat and Squamish Nations' cultural centre.

The 9th annual Aboriginals in Medicine: Preadmissions workshop will be held in Vancouver, UBC campus July 27-28, 2011. The purpose of the workshop is to provide Aboriginal students with the necessary tools to be successful in their application process into and completing the undergraduate MD program. The presentations for the workshop will be given by university staff and faculty members as well as elders. The workshops are open to Aboriginal post-secondary and high school students interested in a career in medicine.

medical students graduated with their doctors of medicine. Our students will be going on to:

Family Practice, Edmonton, Alberta

Orthopedics Surgery, Halifax, Nova Scotia

Family Medicine, Ottawa, Ontario

Radiation Oncology, London, Ontario

Congratulations to all of our students!

On May 25, 2011, four Aboriginal



The UBC Learning Circle

The UBC Learning Circle drew to a close on April 27th, 2011 with a well-attended presentation and discussion led by Bill Mussel on "Moving Towards Increasing Humanization and Self-Determination". A huge thank-you to all of the communities who have participated in the past year of Learning Circle sessions. Your sharing of your stories, knowledge and enthusiasm continue to make the Learning Circle a valuable

The Learning Circle saw a year of great success with increased sessions, increased participation, a new website, and a new program assistant, Jamie Witt.

Feedback from participating communities has been unanimous, and comments from past surveys have illustrated the positive impacts of the Learning Circle:

"I love the Learning Circle, it is great education and all the ones the school kids and elders have attended have been the talk for days later." (December 2010)

"It is awesome to be able to listen to different speakers, the UBC Learning Circle is doing a great service for different communities." (January 2011)

In May, we attended **Gathering Wisdom**, the First Nation's Health Council's annual gathering of Health Directors, Community En-

agement Hub Coordinators, and key stakeholders in BC's Aboriginal Health. We very much enjoyed finally meeting many of our colleagues (and some new friends!) face to face, and were thrilled with the feedback we did receive. A huge thank-you to those who helped organ-

ize the conference and make it such an enjoyable two days!

The Learning Circle is scheduled to begin again in September 2011, with plans for expansion to extra days a week, growth of audience, web access, increasing topic areas, and offering multiple session trainings. A full

list of our past and upcoming sessions can be found at: <http://learningcircle.ubc.ca>

The UBC Learning Circle currently runs every Wednesday from 10 to 11:30am with a facilitator and invited expert guests to discuss topics relating to health and healing. If you would like to be added to the Learning Circle mailing list or have more information, please contact **Jamie Witt** at learningcircle@familymed.ubc.ca.



UBC Learning Circle at Gathering Wisdom 2011 in Richmond, BC; Photo Credit: Jamie Witt



HOLD THE DATE!



Credit: A Web Atlas of Landscape Architecture in British Columbia

International Gathering on Cultural Safety: Social and Health Equity for Indigenous Peoples

June 11-14, 2012

First Nations Longhouse
University of British Columbia
Vancouver, Canada

Stay tuned for more details



a place of mind



Sharing our best practices and lessons learned in educating health professionals

The Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA) and the University of British Columbia (UBC) will co-host an indigenous cultural competency conference in the spring of 2012. The conference will showcase progress made in British Columbia towards development of cultural competency training for health care professionals, and increasing cultural safety for Aboriginal people in BC.

NATURE AND SCOPE OF GATHERING: It is well recognized that Indigenous people experience significant and wide ranging health disparities. The sources of these disparities are complex and rooted in historic and contemporary inequities and involve many participants at several levels, including health systems, administrative and bureaucratic processes, healthcare professionals, and patients. As a result, providing leadership in this field can be challenging. Leadership in cultural competency education is vital and is aimed at improving the health knowledge and behaviour of health and other professionals working with Indigenous clients in Canada and abroad. Cultural safety addresses the need for systemic change within the health care field and in intersecting areas such as justice, education, social work and housing.



IHHS 409

IS THE PAST PRESENT?

International Indigenous Experiences of Colonization

IHHS 409 begins on February 27th, 2012! Register today as space is limited!

"Is the Past Present" is a 3-unit intensive, online, cross-institutional course which provides students the opportunity for comparative inquiry of Indigenous experiences of colonization and the manifestations of that experience in the contemporary socio-cultural environment. Through the use of digital interactive technology, students will work together with educators from across the globe. The course will be informed and guided by Indigenous knowledge and will draw upon a range of disciplines such as public health, history, sociology and public policy.

Please send us your name, student number, and a short letter of intent outlining your reasons for applying to the course to Jamie Witt

(aph.assistant2@familymed.ubc.ca),

and cc Leah Walker

(leah.walker@ubc.ca).



Gerry Oleman, IHHS 409 Online Elder

...This has been an honour for me to see the growth that has happened, we have all learned more about what happened in history and see its impacts, so the past is still present. (Gerry Oleman, Posted November 4, 2010)

Thank you so much to Gerry for sharing his experiences! The discussion topics were excellent! This is one of the most valuable courses I have taken.

Overall, this course had a profound effect on restructuring my perspective on the repercussion of colonization in indigenous peoples. I appreciate the opportunity to be a part of such a wonderful learning community. (IHHS 409 Student, course evaluation comments)



ABORIGINAL PEOPLE'S HEALTH

Acknowledgements

Aboriginal People's Health would like to recognize all of our staff, partners, and wonderful people that make our work possible. Thank You!

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Honorary Instructors

Gerry Oleman

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Rick Ouellet, Aboriginal Student and Community Development Officer

Health Canada

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Jennifer Rapp
Stephen Prevost
Jeffrey Yu, First Nations eHealth & Telehealth
Dr. Shannon Waters, Director of Health Surveillance

Community Members

Rose Point, Elder
Shane Point
Greg Sam, Elder
Jewel Thomas, Elder

IHHS 408 Communities

The staff of the Mt. Currie Health Center

Allison Twiss, Health Director
Cedric Jones
Fiona Milton

The staff of the

Cowichan Health Center

Judith Gohn, Health Director
Maureen Tommy
Charlotte Williams
Leanne Kelly

The staff of the Esketemoc Health Center

Joyce Johnson, Health Director
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The staff of the Seabird Island Health Center

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