

For Immediate Release

1st Patients' Den: Patients Setting Research Priorities in Primary and Integrated Health Care Innovations a Success

Saint John, NB (May 30, 2018) – On May 10, 2018 the New Brunswick Network in Primary and Integrated Health Care Innovations (NB PIHCI) hosted the 1st Patients' Den. This was an evening event where ten New Brunswick research teams presented research projects that responded to the NB PIHCI priorities.

“The New Brunswick health care system encounters unique challenges, such as having the fastest growing elderly population in the country, a large rural population, and a high percentage of individuals suffering from chronic disease,” said Dr. Shelley Doucet, NB PIHCI Scientific Lead. “The New Brunswick Network in Primary and Integrated Health Care Innovations sets priorities that bring together primary health care providers, policy makers, advocacy groups, researchers, and patients to improve patient outcomes and to create a sustainable health care system.”

Upon completion of their presentations, research teams answered questions from a panel of judges. The judges included patients who determined how well the proposed ideas address the NB PIHCI priorities. A research panel evaluated the scientific merit of the study prior to the event.

Based on the assessments, three research projects were awarded \$5,000 each. Dr. Rose McCloskey of the University of New Brunswick received an award for her research project titled “Giving Voice to the Hidden Patient”.

“Family caregivers play a critical role in society but they often disregard their own health while caring for a loved one,” said McCloskey. “Our research team is exploring the feasibility of using mobile technological devices in helping to support caregivers and promote their health and well-being. In a pilot study of our work, we identified that caregivers of individuals living with dementia reported a number of social and personal benefits of using mobile devices. We now hope to extend this research to include caregivers of individuals with other conditions and determine whether the same or similar benefits of using technology are found.”

Tracy Ferguson of the Stan Cassidy Centre for Rehabilitation received an award for her research project titled “Investigating the impact of adapted bikes or trikes on the quality of life of children and youth with neuromotor disabilities”. And Dr. Tracey Rickards of the University of New Brunswick and the Fredericton Downtown Community Health Centre received an award for her research project titled “PROGRESS: Patient-centered, upstream interventions to improve COPD care”.

Funding for Patients' Den was provided by the New Brunswick Health Research Foundation and Sandra Irving.

“On behalf of the New Brunswick Health Research Foundation, I would like to congratulate the first Patients' Den award recipients,” said Dr. Bruno Battistini, President, CEO and Scientific Director of

NBHRF. “These projects help to align health research funding with the populations needs of the province by having patients and researchers work collaboratively.”

The NB PIHCI Network engages and connects citizens, clinicians, policy makers, social and medical organizations, and researchers to facilitate the advancement of evidence-based primary health care in New Brunswick and across Canada. The NB PIHCI Network hosted this event in partnership with the Maritime SPOR Support Unit (MSSU).

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Additional Quote:

“The Bikes N’ Trikes program at the Stan Cassidy Centre for Rehabilitation allows us an exceptional opportunity to investigate the impact this program may have on the quality of life of children and youth with neuromotor disabilities and their families. As well as, add to the very sparse research that has been conducted regarding leisure and quality of life in this patient population.” -- Tracy Ferguson, Physiotherapist, Horizon Health Network

About the New Brunswick Health Research Foundation:

The NBHRF (nbhrf.com / @NBHRF) is an independent organization governed by a board of directors comprised of key stakeholders from the health research community in New Brunswick. Provincial funding is provided by the Regional Development Corporation – Total Development Fund, the Department of Health - Medical Research Fund (MRF) and the Department of Social Development - Wellness Research Fund (WRF) for NBHRF health research programs (HRP), health strategic initiatives (HRI) with federal tri-councils, national health charities and private sector, and the Strategic Investment in Health Research Innovations (SIHRI). The foundation’s mission is to provide leadership and support building health research capacity, improve the health of New Brunswickers and advance the knowledge economy.

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