



# WHRITE-UP

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## Executive Director's Message

This edition of "WHRITE-UP" couldn't have come at a more opportune time as Saturday, March 8, 2008 is International Women's Day. The first International Women's Day was launched on March 8, 1911 in Copenhagen, Denmark and annually, on this day, thousands of events are held throughout the world. These events are designed to inspire, connect, and celebrate women and all their glorious achievements. As an institute dedicated to improving the health and wellbeing of women, I feel it is important for everyone to recognize this day and celebrate, in your own way, the women in your life. Visit [www.internationalwomensday.com](http://www.internationalwomensday.com) for more information.

## Research

Over the past several months the WHRI has made great strides in supporting women's health research. In December 2007, we presented our first research symposium, which was followed by a seasonal wine & cheese networking reception. The symposium was well attended with over 50 participants. Our next research symposium will be held as part of UBC 8<sup>th</sup> annual "Celebrate Research Week" on March 11<sup>th</sup>.

The WHRI now has over 40 members. In an effort to better communicate and engage with our members, we are in the process of inviting members to become involved in a **Research Advisory Committee**. This group will serve to guide the future direction and actions of the WHRI.

## New Developments

The WHRI is dedicated to enhancing women's health research. The following are examples of initiatives currently underway:

**Participant Recruitment:** In our continuing efforts to facilitate research participant recruitment and acquisition of study samples at BC

Women's, we are in the process of hiring a Research Coordinator. This position will be embedded within the Acute Perinatal Program, an area upon which research demands are high, and be responsible for coordinating, facilitating and tracking research studies within the program.

**Writing Groups:** Through working closely with PHSA Decision Support and the BC Perinatal Health Program, the WHRI is facilitating the formation of cross-themed writing groups. The opportunity to share ideas amongst like-minded researchers and the support provided by a biostatistician and scientific writer will increase manuscript production and ultimately knowledge translation.

**Growth:** The WHRI is growing! We have recently hired Dr. Michael Papsdorf, a Biostatistician with over 12 years of healthcare statistical and methodological consulting experience. He has advised multiple faculty, staff, and students on the planning, execution, and interpretation of statistical aspects of research projects and on research design. Dr. Papsdorf is available to assist members with research analyses and can be reached via the WHRI at 604-875-3459.

## Upcoming Event:

### WHRI Cross-Pillar Research Symposium

Featuring presentations under the following topics:

- Infectious Diseases in Women
- Women's Reproductive Health
- Maturing Women

Topical cross-theme presentations will be followed by a panel discussion with an interactive question and answer session.

#### ALL ARE WELCOME

Date: Tuesday, March 11, 2008  
Time: 7:30 am - 3:30 pm

Location: Life Sciences Centre  
LSC1 - 2350 Health Sciences  
Mall, University of BC

## Featured Members: 2007 Auxiliary to BC Women's Research Award Winners

The Auxiliary to BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre was entrusted with establishing awards to distribute funds donated to the Auxiliary through the estates of Grace Barraclough and Doris Winterbottom. The awards support research in clinical, biomedical or health services delivery at BC Women's. The 2007 competition attracted a number of applications from investigators in various institutions within BC. After a thorough peer review process, the 2007 winners were officially announced at the BC Women's Illuminations Fundraising Luncheon. Each winner receives \$20,000 in support of their research. Congratulations to....



Dr. Nichole Fairbrother, Research Associate, Departments of Psychiatry and Obstetrics and Gynaecology University of British Columbia.

#### High Risk Obstetrical Patients: Stress and Anxiety in a Vulnerable Population

Obstetrically complex pregnancies involve threat to the health and well-being of the mother, her developing infant, or both. While pregnancy can be a source of stress and anxiety for women who are experiencing normal, low risk pregnancy, it is much more stressful and anxiety provoking for women experiencing a medically complex pregnancy. Dr. Fairbrother will investigate the nature, frequency and severity of anxiety and stress among women with high-risk pregnancies versus women with healthy pregnancies.

Dr. Jehannine Austin, Assistant Professor and (Board Certified) Genetic Counselor, Centre for Complex Disorders /UBC Department of Psychiatry, VGH Research Pavilion.

#### Impact of genetic counseling for women who have a family history of a major mental illness

Dr. Austin will investigate the role that genetic counseling plays in helping women who have close blood relatives with mental illnesses such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder or schizoaffective disorder. These women are often concerned that any children they have will become affected with the same illness. Often, because of this fear, these women choose not to have children at all, although the risk of passing on a mental illness is not as great as many perceive. Dr. Austin's team hopes to dispel any unnecessary anxiety and stigma that these women may be experiencing.



## Our Recent Successes:

To date, the WHRI, with help from the Research and Development Office, has facilitated a number of grant applications and has been successful in acquiring over \$4.7 Million in funding. **The spring competitions for funding are fast approaching!** If you are planning to submit a proposal, and would like to benefit from the WHRI services, please contact our Research Program Manager Dr. Zoë Hodgson at 604-875-3459.

### The WHRI would like to congratulate...

WHRI Members Dr. Ruth Marlin and Dr. Patricia Janssen, who were awarded a 3-year CIHR Operating Grant (\$372,069) for their study "Doing Time: A Time for Incarcerated Women to Develop an Action Health Strategy."

WHRI Member Ms. Lisa Venables, who was awarded a BC Medical Services Foundation Grant (\$43,478) for her study "Chatter around the HPV vaccine: Update on BC women's knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs regarding the human papillomavirus."

WHRI Executive Director Dr. Deborah Money, who was awarded a 5-year CIHR Operating Grant (\$1,389,045) for her study "A Study of an HPV VLP Vaccine in a Cohort of HIV Positive Girls and Women."

### Studies Actively Recruiting:

**Vestibulodynia Research Project** Have you been diagnosed with vestibulodynia? Contact Yvonne Erskine at the UBC Sexual Health Laboratory in Vancouver General Hospital, at 604-875-4111 ext. 68901 or by email at [ubcwomenshealth@vch.ca](mailto:ubcwomenshealth@vch.ca).

**Chemicals, Health & Pregnancy (CHiP) Study** Are you pregnant, and interested in learning about how common household chemicals might affect the health of your baby? If so, contact Glenys Webster, Study Coordinator, at 604-827-5454 or by e-mail at [chirp.study@ubc.ca](mailto:chirp.study@ubc.ca). More information about the study is available online at: [www.cher.ubc.ca/chirp](http://www.cher.ubc.ca/chirp).

**Smooth Talking** Are you a woman aged 15-50? We are interested in your opinion on hair removal. Contact Lenore Riddell at the Women's Health Research Institute, at 604-875-2424 ext. 2869 or by email at [lridell@cw.bc.ca](mailto:lridell@cw.bc.ca). To complete the survey or for more information about this study please see our web-site: [www.whri.org/smoothtalking.htm](http://www.whri.org/smoothtalking.htm)

**Perinatal Anxiety Screening Study** Are you pregnant? We would appreciate your help in learning more about mental health and motherhood! If you are interesting in participating or learning more, please visit [www.motherinfantwellness.ca](http://www.motherinfantwellness.ca) or phone 604-875-2424, extension 4990 or email [info@motherinfantwellness.ca](mailto:info@motherinfantwellness.ca).

### Upcoming Funding Opportunities:

Funding Opportunity	Competition	Deadline
UBC <a href="http://www.research.ubc.ca">www.research.ubc.ca</a>	Martha Piper Research Fund	Submission: <b>Mar 15/08</b>
National Science & Engineering Research Centre <a href="http://www.NSERC.ca">www.NSERC.ca</a>	Collaborative Health Research Grant	Letter of Intent: <b>May 1/08</b> Full Application: <b>Oct 1/08</b>
Canadian Institutes of Health Research <a href="http://www.cihr-isc.gc.ca">www.cihr-isc.gc.ca</a>	Other: Gender, Mental Health & Addictions	Letter of Intent: <b>Jun 2/08</b> Full Application: <b>Mar 16/09</b>
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada <a href="http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca">www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca</a>	Standard Research Grants	Letter of Intent: <b>Aug 15/08</b> Full Application: <b>Oct 15/08</b>
Vancouver Foundation <a href="http://www.vancouverfoundation.bc.ca">www.vancouverfoundation.bc.ca</a>	BC Medical Services Foundation	Letter of Intent: <b>Aug 7/08</b> Full Application: <b>Oct 2/08</b>
Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research <a href="http://www.msfr.org">www.msfr.org</a>	Infrastructure Grants & Career Investigator Programs	Next Competitions: <b>Fall '08</b>

- Please see our web-site ([www.whri.org](http://www.whri.org)) for additional funding opportunities. If you would like more information or assistance with any of these competitions, please contact our Research Program Manager, Dr. Zoë Hodgson at (604) 875-3459 or [zhodgson@cw.bc.ca](mailto:zhodgson@cw.bc.ca).

## Upcoming Events

Mar 4/08	UBC Department of OB/GYN Annual Academic Day
Mar 6/08	BC Women's International Women's Day Presentations
Mar 8/08	International Women's Day
Mar 11/08	WHRI Cross-Pillar Research Symposium
Apr 3/08	Translational Research in Infectious Diseases Symposium
Apr 24-27/08	Canadian Association for HIV Research Annual Conference
Jun 25-29/08	SOGC Annual Clinical Meeting
Aug 14-16/08	Infectious Diseases Society for OB/GYN 35 <sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting



For more information please contact:

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