

COLLABORATIONS

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HSPnet Partnership Welcomes 6th Province

The launch of HSPnet-NS on September 21st brings the sixth province to the national HSPnet partnership, started in 2004 with the entry of our first partner, Alberta. The national partnership allows the provinces to share a common infrastructure (systems and user support, training, and enhancements) and results in lower operating costs, improved service levels, and sharing of expertise. Each province has funded and led development of one or more priority enhancements for their users, and all provinces then gain access to the new functionality. BC's enhancement contributions this year include three PEIF-funded modules for online Practice Education



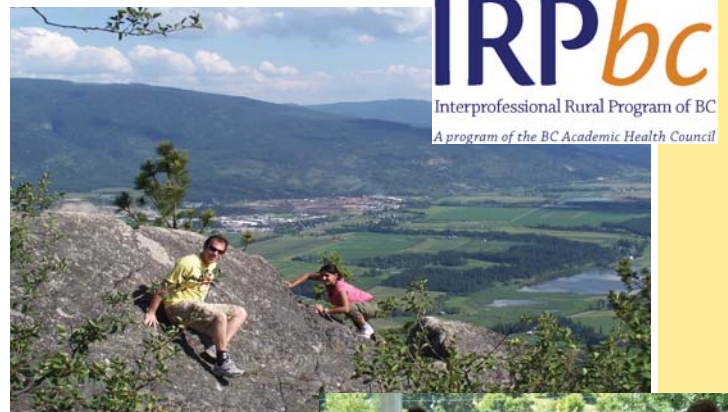
Guidelines, Affiliation Agreement development and tracking, and eOrientation for students (to be piloted with student access to HSPnet this Fall). For more information about the national partnership, upcoming enhancements, or to view placement data highlights for BC, visit our new national website at www.hspscanada.net.

Interprofessional Rural Program of BC

Summer 2006 had over thirty students representing nursing, medicine, pharmacy, social work and physical therapy placed in six communities including the new communities of Powell River and Enderby. We are in the process of receiving and synthesizing feedback from students and rural health practitioners. In addition, an external evaluation of the IRPbc has been commissioned to assess the impact of the program since its inception on emerging health professionals, rural communities and the broader system.

In the coming months, work will be undertaken through a Practice Education Innovation Fund (PEIF) grant to examine current models and recommend a model for *rural academic health* and *expanding student placement capacity in rural communities*. The IRPbc provides a valuable input to this process.

For more information, contact Kathy Copeman-Stewart, program manager at kcopeman@telus.net



Mike Wall (PT) and Sabrina Chahal (Nur) scale Mount Rose-Swanson in Armstrong

Enderby student team – Mike Wall (PT), Sabrina Chahal (Nur), and Jolanta Piszczek (Pharm) – poses with Canada Day volunteers and cake



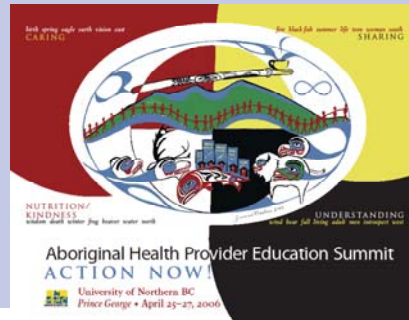
EA Conference '06

The deadline for registration to attend this year's EA Conference is approaching. To secure a spot now, please visit www.eaconference.org to view the program, speaker, travel, and registration details. The conference will be a great opportunity for assistants in the education and health sector to meet their colleagues and to share similar experiences and learn from each other.

Aboriginal Health Provider Education Committee (AHPEC)

After the Summit

Since the Aboriginal Health Provider Education Summit held in April 2006, discussions have begun with senior federal and provincial representatives from Health Canada and Indian and Northern Affairs based on the recognized success of the Summit. Meetings have been successful and with their expressed support, the Summit report is near completion and will be circulated widely. The Summit report captures recommendations for action that were discussed at



the Summit, as well as proposes an overall approach that looks at both the supply and demand sides – drawing on experiences from other provinces, notably Saskatchewan.

In parallel, the planning committee has been looking at an approach to identify all relevant stakeholders and their responsibilities relative to the outcomes of the Summit. Building on these stakeholder discussions and the findings from the Summit report, the committee will work towards an action plan over the fall.

Practice Education Innovation Fund (PEIF)



As reported in previous issues of AH Collaborations, in April 2005, the BCAHC received \$3 million from the ministries of Advanced Education and Health to advance practice education initiatives in community, clinical and simulated settings. The monies were dispersed among 32 projects. As of August 2006, three projects have been completed, 15 are in the final phase, and 14 are at, or close to, their interim point.

In spring 2006, an additional \$3 million was provided by the two ministries, and in July, the PEIF Adjudication Committee, made up of senior representatives from the healthcare and education sectors, reviewed 48 applications (amounting to over \$6 million) and approved 26. A complete list of approved projects can found on the BCAHC website (www.bcahc.ca) under PEIF.

An in-depth evaluation of the impact of PEIF and related initiatives on the BC practice education environment is in progress for reporting out early 2007.

INTERNATIONAL
Conference
2007

Practice
Makes
PERFECT

Education of Health Professionals in Community, Clinical and Simulated Settings

This international conference on practice education is set to take place November 4-7, 2007 at the Sheraton Wall Centre in Vancouver. The conference will feature international panels, interactive sessions, practical strategies and tools, and plenty of networking opportunities.

The conference theme, “Practice Makes Perfect” acknowledges the importance and unique contribution of practical experience. The theme also calls for “sharing of best practices” in providing adequate and appropriate learning experiences for the practice component of health provider education programs.

Conference topics include:

- » Practice simulation
- » Pedagogical strategies for practice education
- » Interprofessional education strategies
- » Student placement logistics and management
- » Building practice education cultures and capacity
- » Preceptor development and support
- » Enhancing partnerships

A committee, co-chaired by Grant Charles (UBC) and Grace Mickelson (PHSA), is actively planning for this conference. The committee is supported by Reboot Canada, an experienced conference organizing company.

For more information on the call for papers, agenda, or registration, please visit www.rebootconference.com/practicemakesperfect2007



e-HLbc – Electronic Health Library Access

The e-Health Library of British Columbia (e-HLbc) project was launched April 1, 2006, providing access to a shared suite of core health databases for the libraries and users at BC's health authorities and public post-secondary institutions. An e-HLbc Steering Committee with representatives from all partner libraries will oversee the project. A small management committee



comprised of representatives from the steering committee and BCAHC is responsible for the implementation of the project. A contract for services is currently being

negotiated with the BC Electronic Library Network to assist the project with technical issues, training, vendor relations, and marketing. This fall, the management committee will draft terms of reference for the steering committee and key sub-committees. The consortium members will also discuss expanding the membership, and future directions for products and services.

For more information about e-HLbc, please contact management committee co-chairs:

Nancy Levesque at nlevesque@tru.ca and Greg Rowell at greg.rowell@fraserhealth.ca

The BCAHC Secretariat

Our core team has changed since the last publication of Collaborations. In September, *Breann Specht* returned to school part-time to begin her Masters of Science in Population and Public Health. She continues to work with us on Mondays and Wednesdays supporting and coordinating a number of initiatives. *Edward Chang* joined us as Bookkeeper in late September. He will be working with us Tuesday-Thursday and can be reached at ext. 233 and echang@bcahc.ca. At the beginning of October, *Melissa Butler* started full-time as Receptionist/Administrative Assistant. She can be contacted at ext. 226 and mbutler@bcahc.ca. *Andrea Mitchell-Rozario* completed her one-year contract for general operations and assistance to PEIF at the end of September.

There have also been changes to our extended team of contractors and consultants: *Elaine Butler* has joined us for a one-year term as Nurse Coordinator for Nurse Practitioner Student Placements. Reach her at ebutler@bcahc.ca and ext. 227. *Louisa Marziali* is working with us on PEIF, simulation initiatives and is facilitating a cooperative effort in preceptorships. To contact Louisa, e-mail her at lmarziali@bcahc.ca.

More information can be found on the BCAHC website at www.bcahc.ca/BCAHC_page.asp?pageid=714

International Student Placements

Early in the summer, the first exploratory meeting on international student placements took place. There has since been a lot of interest in further discussions on a collaboration/resource forum around the issue of international student practicums. We would like to invite all those interested in the next round of discussions. If you are interested in attending the next meeting or would like more information, please contact Breann at bspecht@bcahc.ca.

CEO's Corner

BCAHC's fourth Annual Report will reflect a very significant increase in the volume of activities carried out under its umbrella or closely related to BCAHC. This is due to the ease of communication and tremendous spirit of collaboration among many staff of member organizations in healthcare and advanced education. They have been supported by the small but mighty staff of the BCAHC Secretariat who carry many balls in the process, put in long hours when required and aim to support the various working and governance committees; they do that successfully by all accounts.

Projects such as eHLbc, HSPnet, IRPbc, the 'Practice Makes Perfect' International Conference, the Aboriginal Health Provider Education Summit, and PEIF also depend on the work of talented consultants for their success. These consultants coordinate and help manage these initiatives on short and long term contracts.

The unique collaboration and consensus building forum established by the leaders in healthcare and education allows expert staff, consultants, and champions to affect change at the systems level. At its recent meeting, those leaders reaffirmed the current strategic directions and endorsed the following priority areas:

- » enhancement of the practice education environment for students enrolled in health provider education programs (from medicine to care aids)
- » increasing the number of aboriginal health providers
- » health provider workforce development and education action planning to support visions for healthcare
- » supporting development of HSPnet as a national backbone for communication and management of the student placement and practice education environment



George

Interprofessional Network of BC (In-BC)

The In-BC June 2006 Forum brought together over 120 people – front-line professionals, policy-makers, managers, educators, students and more - from across the province and beyond to:

- » Profile and celebrate progress being made relating to interprofessional education and collaborative practice;
- » Foster a shared understanding of key concepts relating interprofessional collaboration and
- » Make recommendations regarding next steps and ongoing sustainability.

With Lillian Bayne as facilitator, we had a powerful two days together of networking, hearing presentations from a range of experts in BC, other parts of Canada and US and dialoguing in small groups.

Meanwhile, regional projects designed to promote interprofessional education and collaborative practice, both for students and front-line health professionals are moving



forward. Led by the respective health authorities, they focus on a number of healthcare priorities including primary healthcare, rural and Aboriginal health, healthy workplaces and more.

The Canadian Interprofessional Health Collaborative, funded by Health Canada, has now been launched with Dr. John Gilbert as the lead. Check out its website at www.cihc.ca

in·BC
Interprofessional
Network of BC


cihc
Canadian Interprofessional Health Collaborative

Upcoming Meetings

- e-HLbc Management Committee* - October 13
- HSPnet National Steering Committee* - October 20
- e-HLbc Steering Committee* - October 30
- Aboriginal Health Provider Education Committee* - November 6
- In-BC Steering Committee* - November 12
- Operating Committee* - November 23
- Practice Education Committee* - November 24
- Joint Medical Laboratory Advisory Committee* - December 6

Practice Education Knowledge Broker/Liaison/Coordinator

BCAHC is inviting applications for a new position of knowledge broker/liaison/ coordinator for practice education in BC.

One of BCAHC's major focus areas is the practical experience component of health provider education. This is an area of intense interface activities between healthcare and advanced education. There is a critical need for sufficient high-quality practice education opportunities in clinical, community, and simulated settings.

With the need for even more healthcare service providers in future, very significant financial and human resource investments over the past two years have resulted in many practice education innovations and initiatives. BCAHC's Practice Education Committee has identified the need for an individual to facilitate sharing of experiences, knowledge, communication and approaches among the many stakeholders.

Interested individuals with training or a strong interest in communication and knowledge brokering using modern tools and techniques are asked to submit their letter of application and résumé electronically to Joan Gray, Executive Assistant, BCAHC (jgray@bcahc.ca).

AH Collaborations is a quarterly publication from the BC Academic Health Council highlighting the collaboration activities within the academic health community of BC. For story ideas or feedback, please email newsletter@bcahc.ca

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