



Greetings from the Canadian Association for Health Services and Policy Research

Registration is now open for the Canadian Association of Health Services and Policy Research (CAHSPR) annual conference, which will be held from **May 26-28, 2008 in Gatineau, Quebec**, just across the river from Ottawa. We have an active group of students working to maximize the value of the conference and are happy to update you on some of the many activities for students which will be running at the conference. Some of these activities will be taking place **pre-conference on May 25**, so be sure to plan your travel accordingly if you're interested in attending.

The Canadian Association for Health Services and Policy Research

CAHSPR is a multidisciplinary organization dedicated to improving the quality, relevance and application of health services and policy research. CAHSPR members are health services and policy researchers and students from a wide range of disciplines, as well as "research users" – policy- and decision-makers from government and non-government organizations and industry. CAHSPR has many active student members, many of whom will be presenting oral presentations and posters at this year's conference.

CAHSPR's Annual Conference

CAHSPR holds an annual scholarly and networking conference. The conference provides an opportunity

- to hear from and engage in discussion with leading thinkers on topics of critical and timely interest
- to showcase emerging health services and policy research

- to encourage networking and linkages between researchers and policy- and decision-makers

Registration for the conference is now open and we encourage all students in health services and policy research programs to attend. Registration is \$270 for student non-members of CAHSPR and \$235 for student members of CAHSPR. Students represent the future of health and healthcare research and leadership and bring new ideas and energy to CAHSPR. We want to encourage you to join the organization and to be part of our conference.

Student Events at the Conference

We have created a special Student Component Subcommittee of the Conference Planning Committee with representation from university health and healthcare programs across the country. The Committee has proposed a number of special student-focused components for this year's conference. These include:

- Joint CHSRF/CIHR-IHSPR-sponsored pre-conference "mix and mingle" reception: Sunday May 25 from 6:30pm-8:30pm
- CIHR Pre-conference Grant Writing Workshop for Students and New Investigators: Sunday, May 25, 2008
- "Lunch With" mentoring program to be held on Tuesday, May 27
- A student-run Conference Newsletter
- Special accommodation rates for students at the University of Ottawa
- Three Student award presentations:
 - CIHR-sponsored Poster Contest, which will be decided and awarded at the conference
 - Hall Foundation Essay Contest, to be awarded at the conference
 - CIHR "Rising Star" Award winners, which will be announced during the CIHR reception to be held the evening of Monday, May 26, from 4:30 – 6:30pm.
- A job/career board to run for the conference duration
- Special concurrent sessions on CHSRF regional training centres
- A forthcoming survey of health services and policy students

Please see below for more details on all of these initiatives!

CHSRF and CIHR-IHSPR Reception – Sunday May 25

"Mix & Mingle: A get-together for students in health and nursing services research" sponsored by the Canadian Health Services Research Foundation and the CIHR Institute of Health Services and Policy Research

This annual event hosted by the CHSRF and the CIHR is, for the first time, open to any and all students attending the 2008 CAHSPR conference. This two hour evening event will be held Sunday, May 25th from 6:30pm – 8:30pm at the Hilton Lac Leamy Hotel. The event will be catered with hot and cold hors d'ouvres, there will be a bar with tickets. The evening will enable students from across the country to 'mix and mingle.

CIHR Pre-conference Grant Writing Workshop for Students and New Investigators: Sunday, May 25, 2008

Good grant writing is formulaic: as a researcher, it's an important skill and one that can be learned with experience and practice. It can be the difference between getting funded and not getting funded! This pre-conference CIHR grant writing workshop is geared towards students and new investigators and will provide tips from successful senior researchers on:

- Applying for a CIHR grant
 - o Time management
 - o Tips for good grant writing (the "top 8" things to do to write great grants, as heard from the experts!)
 - o Writing the application
 - o External reviewers and peer review
 - o Knowledge translation
 - o Budget
- What to do if you don't get funded

While the workshop is geared towards those early on in their health services and policy research career, it is open to everyone. But space is limited so register early! Please send your questions and RSVPs to info.ihspr@utoronto.ca.

"Lunch with"

The CAHSPR will be running a "Lunch with..." program at this year's conference on Tuesday, May 27. We would like to invite all students to participate in this exciting event. The "Lunch with" program will offer an opportunity for students and conference delegates to have lunch with leaders in health policy research in a number of domains, senior decision makers and other senior researchers. Students will be given priority to sign up for a lunch table on a topic of their choice and spend lunch engaging in discussion. This is an opportunity not only to learn from experienced researchers, but also to speak with expert decision-makers in your area of interest. Students who register early will be given the first opportunity to choose their table!

The preliminary topics for which tables will be available are Pharmaceuticals and pharmaceutical policy, Knowledge translation, Public involvement in health care, Electronic Health Records, Primary Care, Health Care disparities, e-Health, Waiting times, Health Information, Quality and Safety, Policy-making, Media and health care, Nursing leadership, Health System Integration, Community Care, Aboriginal Health Policy, and others.

Conference Newsletter:

We need your help! We have begun assembling a team of students to participate in the production of a student-run conference newsletter at CAHSPR Conference 2008. The newsletter will report on conference highlights, and will be published on-site at the conference in electronic and print formats, including Web content. We are looking for 1-2 additional volunteers to join our newsletter team. Students at all levels of study are welcome. If you'd like to join, or have particular expertise in writing, photography, Web

production, or official language translation, please contact: Catherine Mah (catherine.mah@utoronto.ca).

Special Accommodation Rates:

To accommodate students, 50 single rooms had been reserved for CAHSPR at University of Ottawa Residences (Marchand Residence, 90 University street, Ottawa). Rooms are only \$30 per night for students (with identification) and you have **until April 10** to book your room. The contact number for reserving rooms is 1-888-564-4545 and the reservation number is 173176. Form more information about de UofO Residences, see <http://www.ottawaresidences.com/english.php>.

Note that you can easily get to Hilton Lac Leamy from the UofO Residence by public transportation (bus route number 21). For more information, visit the web site of STO (Société de transport de l'Outaouais) at: http://www.sto.ca/index_e.asp.

Student Award Presentations

CIHR-IHSPR/CAHSPR Student Poster Contest

The CIHR Institute of Health Services and Policy Research (CIHR-IHSPR) and the Canadian Association for Health Services and Policy Research (CAHSPR) are pleased to host the 2008 Student Poster Contest.

All registered students presenting posters at the conference are eligible for the contest. Judging will take place throughout the day on Monday and Tuesday morning. Winners will be awarded the following:

- First prize: \$1200
- Second prize: \$800
- Third prize: \$500

Awards will be presented for the three best student posters on Tuesday at the end of the luncheon (note: tentative – time slot for award presentation to be confirmed).

Hall Foundation Essay Contest

The Hall Foundation will be awarding student essay prizes at this year's CAHSPR conference in three categories: doctoral, masters and undergraduate. Winning essays will be selected by a panel appointed by the President of the Hall Foundation and announced at the CAHSPR conference. The winning essays will also be displayed at a poster session organized by the Hall Foundation.

“Rising Star” Award Presentation

The CIHR Institute of Health Services and Policy Research (IHSPR) is dedicated to supporting innovative young researchers and to recognizing the research excellence and knowledge translation initiatives of upcoming health services and policy researchers at an early stage in their career. At the CAHSPR conference, IHSPR will be presenting awards to the winners of the Health Services and Policy Research and KT "Rising Star Award". The five (5) CIHR “Rising Star” Award winners will be presenting their research and/or knowledge translation initiatives during concurrent sessions throughout the conference –

check out the conference program to see when the Rising Stars are presenting! The presentation of awards will take place at an IHSPR-sponsored reception at the conference on the evening of Monday, May 26, from 4:30 – 6:30pm. For more information on the Rising Star award and inaugural Rising Star Awardees, please see <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/34949.html>.

Job / Career Board

At the conference, we will have a dedicated poster board for job postings. We encourage you to get your respective organizations to post on this board (it will be free of charge) and to look at the postings!

Special Concurrent Sessions on Student Training

"Building Bridges to Enhance Capacity in Health Services and Nursing Research: The RTC Experience"

The Regional Training Centres (RTCs), funded by the Canadian Health Service Research Foundation (CHSRF) and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), were established to provide applied graduate education. This session is dedicated to exploring the RTC journey and demonstrating the increased regional capacity for applied health and nursing services research. The four RTCs have an unprecedented ten-year funding arrangement and each consists of a university consortium. The training centres have evolved from broad program guidelines, now representing regionally specific programs. They offer a coherent program and exclusive curricula that emphasize decision maker engagement, knowledge translation, and an applied residency with decision makers. RTC graduates say their training gave them a unique set of experiences and an uncommon combination of research skills and a broad perspective on the decision makers' environment that has proven beneficial in their careers. The RTCs strive to exemplify the linkage and exchange model, they are interdisciplinary in nature, and are becoming a community of practice that provides an academic home for students. As the RTCs approach a decade on the graduate training landscape, they are building on their successes to shape the future.

Why attend?

The four CHSRF/CIHR Regional Training Centres (RTCs) are regionally based with mandates to increase capacity for applied health and nursing services research in Canada. The RTCs offer applied training for Master's and PhD students. The RTCs are contributing to the expansion of the health services research community and are dedicated to engaging students in this network. As such, the RTCs provide funding each year to support students to attend the CAHSPR conference in partnership with the CHSRF and the CIHR. This session at the CAHSPR conference will include a panel presentation and highlight the experience of recent RTC graduates who will discuss how the applied training experience has influenced their career trajectory and describe life after graduation. Further, this panel will showcase current student and decision maker perspectives. Students will have an opportunity to pose questions to the panelists. We welcome you to join us for this interactive session.

A Forthcoming Survey of Health Services and Policy Students

CAHSPR is planning a survey of students in health services and policy programs across Canada to identify concerns and how the organization can best act in the interests of students. Keep your eyes on you email for an announcement regarding this survey.

Contact Information

We hope you will consider joining CAHSPR and attending the annual conference on **May 26 to 28, 2008**. We will be sending out more information in mid-January. If you provide us with your e-mail address upon registration we will automatically send relevant conference updates to you directly.

Looking forward to seeing you in May!

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