



Canadian Working Group on HIV and Rehabilitation  
Groupe de travail canadien sur le VIH et la réinsertion sociale

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## News

**Keeping It Together: Mental Health across the Continuum of Care** (2011 Forum on Rehabilitation and CWGHR Annual General Meeting)

When: June 11 and 12, 2011

Where: Courtyard Marriott, downtown Toronto

Thanks to all who joined us for a weekend of learning about mental health issues in the context of HIV and other episodic disabilities.

**Dr. Jane Philpott** presented the keynote session "Principles and Priorities for Mental health in the Continuum of Care."

The weekend included a reception and dinner in honour of **Dr. Mary Petty**, recipient of the 2011 Award of Excellence in HIV and Rehabilitation. The evening was hosted by CBC's Suhana Meharchand. Congratulations to Brent Oliver, who won two WestJet tickets to anywhere they fly!

Slides from all presentations are being posted on CWGHR's website at <http://www.hivandrehab.ca/EN/AGM2011>.

## New CWGHR educational initiatives

### **NEW! E-module for evidence-informed HIV rehabilitation**

This E-module is an update of *A Comprehensive Guide for the Care of Persons with HIV Disease (Module 7)*, originally published in 1998 by Health Canada and the Wellesley Central Hospital, Toronto, Canada. The changing profile, emerging issues, and new evidence related to HIV and rehabilitation prompted us to update this important resource for rehabilitation and other health professionals so that they may better address the current needs of people living with HIV.

This online resource will be updated on a regular basis and is available free of charge at [http://www.hivandrehab.ca/EN/information/care\\_providers/documents/CWGHR\\_E-moduleEvidence-InformedHIVRehabilitationfinal.pdf](http://www.hivandrehab.ca/EN/information/care_providers/documents/CWGHR_E-moduleEvidence-InformedHIVRehabilitationfinal.pdf).

**NEW! Interactive online course *Managing Episodic Disabilities: Accommodation Best Practices***

A new interactive and practical intermediate level course for human resources practitioners is available at CWGHR Campus at [www.cwghrcampus.hivandrehab.ca](http://www.cwghrcampus.hivandrehab.ca). The course is part two of our series on episodic disabilities in the workplace, and will be accredited for continuing education points toward the CHRP designation across Canada. The new online course includes leading practices in the areas of communications, organizational culture and accommodating employees living with episodic disabilities in the workplace.

For additional information, contact Melissa Popiel at [mpopiel@hivandrehab.ca](mailto:mpopiel@hivandrehab.ca) or 416-513-0440, ext. 235.

### **Positive Outlook: upcoming workshops on mental health and HIV**

Jordan Lewis has been busy preparing for the launch of the Positive Outlook: Working with HIV, Depression and Rehabilitation workshop series. Positive Outlook had its debut in mid-June with two workshops in Winnipeg, and is bringing a practical approach to learning about mental health and HIV to front-line workers across the country.

Wendy Porch now works with CWGHR as Disability Specialist and Education Coordinator. In this capacity she joins Jordan in delivering and evaluating the Positive Outlook workshops as they roll out across the country.

If you are currently, or in the future may be working with people with HIV, and if you are a front-line rehabilitation or other health or social service provider, this workshop is for you.

We are currently scheduling upcoming workshops. Check the CWGHR website for dates and locations. For more information on the workshops, please contact Jordan at [jlewis@hivandrehab.ca](mailto:jlewis@hivandrehab.ca) or 416-513-0440, ext. 249.

### **Breaking Down Barriers to Employment project: summary report now available**

The summary report for the Breaking Down Barriers to Employment project is now available on the CWGHR website. The project work included the development of resources to support employers in addressing the needs of employees living with episodic disabilities. To read the report, go to [http://www.hivandrehab.ca/EN/episodic\\_disabilities/documents/Breaking\\_Down\\_Barriers\\_to\\_Employment.pdf](http://www.hivandrehab.ca/EN/episodic_disabilities/documents/Breaking_Down_Barriers_to_Employment.pdf).

### **New CWGHR employment and episodic disabilities project**

CWGHR is undertaking a new research project to examine and address the complex barriers to employment experienced by people living with episodic disabilities. The project will include a needs assessment, key informant interviews, and focus groups aimed at deepening our understanding of the supports needed for people living with episodic disabilities in employment. Results of these investigations will be available in August and will be used to develop new initiatives and resources. This project is funded by Scotiabank Group. For more information about this project please contact Wendy Porch at [wporch@hivandrehab.ca](mailto:wporch@hivandrehab.ca).

### **Other CWGHR resources and educational initiatives**

#### **Interactive online course *Rehabilitation in the Context of HIV***

Brought to you by CWGHR and supported by the Canadian Physiotherapy Association (CPA), the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists (CAOT) and the Canadian Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists (CASLPA), this self-directed online course increases the capacity of rehabilitation and other professionals to respond interprofessionally to people living with HIV and other episodic disabilities.

Check with your professional association or college as continuing education hours or credits for this course may be available!

To register online and find out more, visit [cwghrcampus.hivandrehab.ca](http://cwghrcampus.hivandrehab.ca). For additional information, contact Le-Ann Dolan at [ldolan@hivandrehab.ca](mailto:ldolan@hivandrehab.ca) or 416-513-0440, ext. 224.

### **CWGHR's online interactive course for human resources practitioners**

Need certified continuing education hours? Interested in the needs of people living with episodic disabilities? The course is part one of our series on episodic disabilities in the workplace. Register online at [cwghrcampus.hivandrehab.ca](http://cwghrcampus.hivandrehab.ca) for CWGHR's professionally-recognized, self-directed online course, Managing Episodic Disabilities: An Introduction, or contact Melissa Popiel at [mpopiel@hivandrehab.ca](mailto:mpopiel@hivandrehab.ca) or 416-513-0440, ext. 235.

### **Coming up: Episodic Disabilities Employment Network (EDEN) new, updated website and forum**

If you're living with HIV or another episodic disability and are looking to connect with others living with episodic disabilities to discuss overcoming workplace challenges, join the conversation at EDEN. We are updating our website and creating an interactive online forum for the group.

Visit [www.edencanada.ca](http://www.edencanada.ca) or contact Melissa Popiel at [mpopiel@hivandrehab.ca](mailto:mpopiel@hivandrehab.ca) or 416-513-0440, ext. 235.

### **Increasing capacity of rehabilitation professionals: expanding our mentorship program**

CWGHR is adapting our successfully piloted mentorship programs to assist communities to build an interdisciplinary HIV and rehabilitation mentorship program in their area. If you are interested in learning more about putting together a mentorship program focused on care, treatment and support of people living with HIV/AIDS and working collaboratively with an interprofessional team of clinicians people who are living with HIV/AIDS as mentors, this is for you.

If you would like to receive more information about developing a mentorship program in your area, please contact Le-Ann Dolan at [ldolan@hivandrehab.ca](mailto:ldolan@hivandrehab.ca) or 416-513-0440, ext. 224.

### **New working groups on HIV and aging**

The new national working groups on **research**, **clinical practice**, and **programs and services** in the area of HIV and aging have begun to meet. If you are interested in joining one of these diverse groups of people from HIV and aging communities, including people living with HIV and related disabilities, HIV care providers, aging experts, researchers and other health clinicians, please contact visit the CWGHR website at [www.hivandrehab.ca/EN/agingforum](http://www.hivandrehab.ca/EN/agingforum) or contact Le-Ann Dolan at [ldolan@hivandrehab.ca](mailto:ldolan@hivandrehab.ca) or 416-513-0440, ext. 224.

### **New report on intermittent work commissioned by Human Resources and Skills Development Canada**

CWGHR participated as a community partner in the Social Research and Demonstration Corporation (SRDC)'s recent report *Employees' Perspectives on Intermittent Work Capacity: What Can Qualitative Research Tell Us in Ontario?* Human Resources and Skills Development Canada commissioned this research to better understand why some people in Ontario with disabilities who have intermittent work capacity remain working, while others with similar disabilities become discouraged and drop out of the labour force. The report and its summary can be downloaded here: [http://www.srdc.org/en\\_news\\_details.asp?id=28526](http://www.srdc.org/en_news_details.asp?id=28526).

## **Canada-UK HIV and Rehabilitation Research Collaborative (CUHRC) update**

CUHRC is an international research collaborative that includes people living with HIV, researchers, clinicians, representatives from AIDS service organizations and policy stakeholders with an interest in HIV and rehabilitation research.

The CUHRC membership recently met by teleconference with guest speaker Dr. Sean Rourke who described his program of research in HIV related neurocognitive disorders.

CUHRC initiatives currently include two funded research projects:

- 1) A policy scoping review of HIV rehabilitation policies in Canada and the UK funded by the Centre for REACH in HIV/AIDS (Research Evidence in Action for Community Health).
- 2) Developing a survey to describe the types of health challenges experienced by people living with HIV, the rehabilitation services they use, and individual strategies people living with HIV use to face health challenges. This work is funded by a CIHR Catalyst Grant.

For more information on CUHRC, please contact Marilyn Swinton at [swinton@mcmaster.ca](mailto:swinton@mcmaster.ca).

## **CWGHR participation at meetings and conferences**

### **AIDS and Disability at the 2011 UN General Assembly High Level Meeting on AIDS in New York**

On June 9, 2011 Martine Mangion, Manager of Episodic Disability Initiatives attended the AIDS and Disability Partners Forum that took place at the UN High Level Meeting on AIDS in New York to advocate for national integration of the needs of persons with disabilities into all aspects of the AIDS response. To read more about the Forum and for more information please click here: <http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/featurestories/2011/june/20110609gdisability/> or contact Martine Mangion at [mmangion@hivandrehab.ca](mailto:mmangion@hivandrehab.ca).

### **Ontario Episodic Disabilities Network (OEDN) meets with Ontario government**

The OEDN advocates on behalf of people living with episodic disabilities in Ontario. In March, members of the OEDN, including Martine Mangion from CWGHR, met with Erin Hannah, Director of the Ontario Works Branch. The main focus of the meeting was how we can work with employers to accommodate individuals with episodic disabilities. The OEDN also met with Assistant Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Labour, Mr. Kevin Wilson, to discuss accommodation strategies for employers.

If you have experience working with episodic disabilities and you are interested in joining the OEDN, please contact Martine at [mmangion@hivandrehab.ca](mailto:mmangion@hivandrehab.ca) or 416-513-0440, ext. 244.

### **Educating insurance representatives on episodic disabilities and employment**

CWGHR staff Martine Mangion, Melissa Popiel, and Wendy Porch presented at three workshops held in Vancouver, Calgary, and Toronto in May 2011. The presentations were part of a series of full day educational workshops for insurance professionals hosted by Arete Human Resources Inc. All three presentations included topics such as the impact of an episodic disability on the workplace, effective communication practices, and leading practices in accommodating employees with episodic disabilities. The presentations were very well received.

For more information on a CWGHR presentation on episodic disability and employment, please contact Martine Mangion, Manager of Episodic Disability Initiatives at [mmangion@hivandrehab.ca](mailto:mmangion@hivandrehab.ca).

## **Links and resources from CWGHR partners**

May 25 was World MS Day. In honour of the day, the [Multiple Sclerosis International Federation](#) (MSIF) issued a report entitled "*Multiple Sclerosis at Work: an Employer's Perspective*." This report looks at results from a global survey completed by employers last year and considers work-based policies that could enable those living with MS to stay in the work force.

*What stops us from working?* is a new report on possible improvements to the Ontario Disability Support Program and how it deals with employment earnings. By John Stapleton and Stephanie Procyk (Open Policy), and Lindsay Kochen for the Dream Team:  
[www.camh.net/Public\\_policy/Public.../ODSP%20Report%20final.pdf](http://www.camh.net/Public_policy/Public.../ODSP%20Report%20final.pdf)

*"Zero Dollar Linda": A Meditation on Malcolm Gladwell's "Million Dollar Murray," the Linda Chamberlain Rule, and the Auditor General of Ontario* is a sharply-written piece about the entanglements of the Ontario welfare system. By John Stapleton:  
<http://www.openpolicyontario.com/ZeroDollarLindaf.pdf>.

The DisAbled Women's Network Canada (DAWN-RAFH Canada) is intervening in a Supreme Court in a case involving a woman with MS from Quebec. The file is available at: <http://leaf.ca/legal-issues-cases-and-law-reform/active-cases/>

## **Next issue**

***Introduction to Rehabilitation in the Context of HIV: a resource for family physicians***

**Exploring barriers and facilitators to accessing rehabilitation programs and services: CWGHR's Research, Education and Practice think tank session**