



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

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News

2011 Forum on Rehabilitation and CWGHR Annual General Meeting

Save the date! This year's Forum takes place on Saturday, June 11 and Sunday, June 12, 2011 in Toronto. The Forum's theme *Keeping It Together: Mental Health across the Continuum of Care* will be explored through interdisciplinary panels and interactive story sessions.

There are exclusive discounts and some subsidies available for CWGHR members! Register now at www.hivandrehab.ca.

NEW! 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.

For additional information, contact Le-Ann Dolan at ldolan@hivandrehab.ca or 416-513-0440, ext. 224.

Welcome to Manna Tang, new Finance Manager and Rusty Souleymanov, CWGHR intern

We are very happy to announce that Manna Tang has joined the CWGHR team as our new Finance Manager. Manna comes to CWGHR with extensive experience in the area of non-profit financial management, and we very much look forward to working with her.

Rusty is an MSW (Master in Social Work) student from the University of Toronto who is working with CWGHR on our episodic disabilities initiatives until May 2011.

A sincere welcome to both!

CWGHR mental health workshops: coming soon to a city near you

Jordan Lewis has been busy preparing for the launch of the CWGHR HIV and mental health workshop series. The workshop is bringing a practical approach to learning about mental health and HIV to front-line workers across the country.

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

We will be updating our website in the future to provide information about these workshops. Please check out www.hivandrehab.ca.

For more information on the workshops, please contact Jordan at jlewis@hivandrehab.ca or 416-513-0440, ext. 249.

CWGHR's presentations a hit with human resources professionals

Martine and Melissa have been hard at work sharing information on episodic disabilities and employment issues. They presented at the Human Resources Professionals Association's [2011 conference and trade show](#) and the Conference Board of Canada's 2011 "[NATCON](#)" in February, as well as at the Quality Worklife Quality Healthcare collaborative [2011 summit](#) and the GTA Rehab Network's [Best Practices Day 2011](#) in early March.

If you are interested in a CWGHR presentation on episodic disabilities and employment for your workplace, please contact Martine at mmangion@hivandrehab.ca or 416-513-0440, ext. 244.

Presenting at the 2011 Canadian Association of Nurses in AIDS Care (CANAC) conference

Le-Ann Dolan attended CANAC's 2011 conference in Montreal at the end of March on behalf of CWGHR. She presented on three topics: HIV and aging, Interprofessional Approaches to HIV and Concurrent Health Conditions: Connecting Interprofessional Education and Practice, and HIV in the Workplace. For copies of the slides from her presentations, please see:

<http://www.hivandrehab.ca/EN/resources/documents/CANAC2011ConferenceWorkplace.ppt>

http://www.hivandrehab.ca/EN/resources/documents/CWGHR_HIVandAging_presentation_CANACMarch19.ppt

http://www.hivandrehab.ca/EN/resources/documents/CWGHR_IPE_presentation_CANACMarch19.ppt

Training in Toronto: human rights in the workplace

On March 22 and 23, CWGHR hosted a training session for members of the Episodic Disabilities Network (EDN) so that organizations from across the country can better advocate for the needs of people living with episodic disabilities. Sessions focused on the rights and responsibilities of employees and employers, barriers to employment, and accommodations strategies for the workplaces of people living with episodic disabilities.

For more information on the training, please contact Wendy Porch at wporch@hivandrehab.ca or 416-513-0440, ext. 240.

Health Compass, your guide to living well with chronic conditions and disabilities: developments

We are excitedly preparing for the unveiling of Health Compass, a website to meet the health information and support needs of people living with complex chronic illnesses and episodic disabilities, and their loved ones. Health Compass is a collaboration between CWGHR and Bridgepoint Health.

Whether newly diagnosed and/or living in the community Health Compass is a resource 'gateway' to guide individuals and families through the maze. Users will be able to access information ranging from hospital and health services to community programs in their area.

Workplace accommodation best practices for people living with episodic disabilities: stay tuned for new online course!

A new interactive and practical intermediate level course for human resources practitioners will be available at CWGHR Campus at www.cwghrcampus.hivandrehab.ca in spring 2011. The course will be accredited for continuing education points toward the CHRP designation across Canada.

For additional information, contact Melissa Popiel at mpopiel@hivandrehab.ca or 416-513-0440, ext. 235.

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

It is often difficult for many people with HIV to access important rehabilitation programs and services (e.g. physiotherapy, occupational therapy, complementary and alternative therapies, vocational counseling, etc.), because of costs or long wait lists, restrictions in eligibility criteria or other barriers. Rehabilitation professionals, people living with HIV and/or other episodic conditions, researchers and policy specialists came together in Toronto on March 29, 2011 to discuss equitable access to rehabilitation in Canada. This event explored the current challenges from both individual and systemic perspectives, and informed the next steps needed to address those challenges. A paper based on the day's discussions will be available on our website and we will keep you posted on developments in this important area.

Speaking Out on Labour Force Inclusion: Submission to the Government of Ontario

The CWGHR-led Ontario Episodic Disabilities Network (OEDN) made an official submission to the Government of Ontario during the Government's pre-budget consultations. The OEDN made a number of specific recommendations to the Government about what it needs to do to support people living with episodic disabilities and their role in the labour force, emphasizing that the "province urgently requires a more effective system of income security programs that meet the needs of Ontarians with episodic disabilities in a rapidly shifting economy."

For the full submission, please see http://www.hivandrehab.ca/EN/episodic_disabilities/index.php.

Reminders and updates

CWGHR's online interactive course for human resources practitioners

Need certified continuing education hours? Interested in the needs of people living with episodic disabilities? Register online at 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 or 416-513-0440, ext. 235.

Visit the Episodic Disabilities Employment Network (EDEN) website!

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, visit www.edencanada.ca or contact Melissa Popiel at mpopiel@hivandrehab.ca or 416-513-0440, ext. 235.

Increasing capacity of rehabilitation professionals: mentorship program

CWGHR is using successfully piloted 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 and mentors who are living with HIV/AIDS, this is for you.

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

New working groups on HIV and aging

The national Partners in Aging coordinating group is now developing three new working groups. These working groups will focus on three specific areas: **research, clinical practice, and programs and services**. The new working groups will meet for the first time in spring 2011.

The national coordinating body brings together a diverse group 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.

If you would like further information on HIV and Aging or the working groups please visit CWGHR website at www.hivandrehab.ca/EN/agingforum or contact Le-Ann Dolan at ldolan@hivandrehab.ca or 416-513-0440, ext. 224.

Ongoing work by the Canada UK HIV Research Rehabilitation Collaborative (CUHRRC)

The Canada-UK HIV and Rehabilitation Research Collaborative (CUHRRC) is an international research collaborative that includes people living with HIV, researchers, clinicians, representatives from AIDS service organizations and policy stakeholders in Canada and the United Kingdom (UK) with an interest in HIV and rehabilitation research.

Current CUHRRC research initiatives include:

- 1) A policy scoping study of existing HIV rehabilitation policies in Canada and the UK, led by Jacqueline Gahagan (Dalhousie University); and
- 2) A catalyst project developing a plan for 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.

For more information on CUHRRC, please contact Marilyn Swinton at swinton@mcmaster.ca.

And stay tuned for CUHRRC updates on www.hivandrehab.ca.

Links from the community

The **ARCH Disability Law Centre** has made available an article for lawyers representing clients with disabilities: <http://bit.ly/gl7h0L>.

An important **report on Canada's disability and employment support programs** has recently been released by the international Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (**OECD**). In the words of the report, "how is it possible for average health status of the population to improve while many workers continue to leave the labour market permanently due to health problems or disability, forced to rely on welfare to survive? At the same time, many working-age adults with reduced work capacity are denied the opportunity to work. This social and economic tragedy is common to virtually all OECD countries, including Canada. It is a paradox that warrants explaining as well as innovative action." The report is available for download here: <http://bit.ly/fp1SDu>.

The Canadian Breast Cancer Network's report **Breast Cancer: Economic Impact and Labour Force Re-Entry**, released in May 2010, is "the first comprehensive review of labour force re-entry following a breast cancer diagnosis and treatment". Breast cancer is an economic issue as well as a health issue. The report is available for download here: <http://bit.ly/e000rY>.

If you no longer wish to receive these updates, please reply with the subject heading "unsubscribe".
