



NEXUS Portal

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Tobacco smoke and the health of hospitality workers

In October 2006, **Dr. Chizimuzo (Zim) Okoli**, NEXUS Postdoctoral Fellow, was awarded a research capacity development grant from the BC Environmental and Occupational Health Research Network. The purpose of this funding was to develop research capacity by forming a team to explore the health effects of outdoor sources of environmental tobacco smoke exposure.

To this end, scholars from the University of Kentucky (Drs. Ellen Hahn & Kiyoun Lee) and the University of Toronto (Drs. Pam Kaufman & Paul Villeneuve) were invited to Vancouver to meet the investigative team at the University of British Columbia and begin work on a grant proposal

entitled "Effects of outdoor pollution from smoking sources at work on the health of hospitality workers."

We took advantage of the presence of the visiting scholars to host a panel discussion featuring the current research of these multi-disciplinary investigators. At this very interesting event we learned about the health effects of indoor air pollution, outdoor air pollution, the built environment and smoke-free laws.

The presentations of the scholars can be found on the "Learning" section of the NEXUS webpage - <http://www.nexus.ubc.ca/opportunities/learning/learning.htm>.



Dr. Paul Villeneuve



Dr. Pam Kaufman



Dr. Ellen Hahn

These photos are also available on our website!



Dr. Chizimuzo Okoli



Dr. Kiyoun Lee

Keep your eye on the NEXUS webpage and the NEXUS Weekly for information about the 2007-2008 Seminar Series.

We have some excellent topics lined up for the fall.



From L-R, Dr. Kiyoun Lee, Dr. Pamela Ratner, Dr. Joy Johnson, Dr. Pam Kaufman, Ariadna Fernandez, Dr. Ellen Hahn, Dr. Chizimuzo Okoli

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Announcements & Awards

Trainee Awards

Shira Goldenberg, NEXUS Trainee, has won a 2007 CPHA Conference Population and Public Health Master's level Student Award. This award recognizes excellence in the next generation of population and public health researchers, policy-makers and practitioners.



Dr. Zim Okoli, NEXUS Postdoctoral Fellow, was awarded an Integrated Mentor Program in Addictions Research Training (IMPART) Postdoctoral Training Fellowship.



Dr. Su-Er Guo, NEXUS Postdoctoral Fellow, received a Fellowship

Award from the Canadian Lung Association for the amount of \$7500. She was also recently appointed as an Assistant Professor at the School of Nursing, University of Victoria.



Dr. Chris Richardson, NEXUS Postdoctoral Fellow, was awarded a MSFHR Scholar

Award. His work will focus on the development of "The British Columbia adolescent substance use survey." He will start a faculty position with the Department of Health Care & Epidemiology at UBC in September 2007.

Investigator Awards

The following NEXUS investigators received MSFHR Senior Scholar Awards:

Dr. Mieke Koehoorn,

Assistant Professor, Dept. of Health Care & Epidemiology, UBC. Dr. Koehoorn's work is related to the surveillance and epidemiology of workplace injury and illness and the evaluation of workplace policies and procedures to protect and advance the health of workers.



Dr. Aleck Ostry, Canada Research Chair & Associate Professor, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Victoria. Some of his research focuses on the social determinants of rural and northern community health.



Dr. Jean Shoveller, Associate Professor, Dept. of Health Care & Epidemiology, UBC. Her work focuses on improving youth sexual health in British Columbia.



New grant:

Experiences of Heart Disease In Immigrant South Asian Populations

Dr. Paul Galdas, NEXUS Co-Investigator, UBC School of Nursing, has been awarded \$4970 by UBC Health Research Resource Office (HeRRO) through Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research to begin a pilot study: "*The experiences and cardiac rehabilitation needs of South Asian myocardial infarction patients.*"



Working with the cardiac rehabilitation program at Surrey Memorial Hospital, Dr. Galdas will seek to understand how South Asian patients relate to and engage with cardiac rehabilitation services in British Columbia. The study plans to uncover the impact of myocardial infarction (MI) on the participants' lifestyles, work, family roles and relationships, as well as their understanding of coronary heart disease (CHD) and perceived rehabilitation and health care needs following their MI.

Results from this pilot study will provide an interpretive understanding of the social processes associated with the patients' experiences of recovering from MI, and this will be used to help develop specific research questions and objectives for a subsequent CIHR operating grant application. Its ultimate aim is to develop a program of research that will inform existing and future culturally-sensitive cardiac aftercare and rehabilitation services that will better meet the needs of BC South Asians with CHD.

New NEXUS Publications

Balneaves LG, Truant TLO, Kelly M, Verhoef MJ & **Davidson BJ**. [Bridging the gap: decision-making processes of women with breast cancer using complementary and alternative medicine \(CAM\).](#) *Supportive Care in Cancer*. On-line. Print Version out August 2007.

Oneschuk D, **Balneaves L**, Verhoef M, Boon H, Demmer C & Chiu L. [The status of complementary therapy services in Canadian palliative care settings.](#) *Supportive Care in Cancer*. On-line. Print Version out August 2007.

Verhoef M, Weeks L, **Brazier A** & Leis A (2007) [Evaluating supportive cancer care: are we missing an opportunity?](#) *Supportive Care in Cancer*. On-line. Print Version out August 2007.

Links to the online articles are under the investigators' profiles at <http://www.nexus.ubc.ca>.



New grant: Socio-cultural and Structural Forces Affecting Contraception among Youth



Dr. Judith Soon, NEXUS Lead Investigator, UBC Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, has been awarded a BC Medical Services Foundation Operating Grant for the study *"Perspectives on Contraception Among Youth: Exploring the Impact of Socio-Cultural and Structural Forces in Fort St.*

James, BC."

Dr. Soon will be working with NEXUS investigators, **Drs. Jean Shoveller** and **Joy Johnson**, among others, on this one-year exploratory qualitative study to: (1) Describe youth's perspectives and experiences with accessing and using contraception, as well as perspectives of service providers; (2) Investigate the ways in which socio-cultural factors and structural forces affect local contraception services; and (3) Develop recommendations to tailor and target contraception interventions intended for youth in northern British Columbia.



The research team will work closely with an Advisory Committee, First Nations members, clinicians and participants to improve ongoing service provision and to develop new and targeted, locally generated interventions to address the needs of youth for contraception services.

For more information about these and other NEXUS studies visit the "Active Projects" page of our website: <http://www.nexus.ubc.ca/research/ActiveProjects.aspx>

NEXUS TRAINEES:

POST DOCTORAL: 9

DOCTORAL: 24

MASTER'S: 6

AFFILIATES: 3

ALUMNI: 11

New to NEXUS

We welcome the most recent NEXUS members

TRAINEES

Dr. Sue Mills

(Supervisor: Lorraine Greaves) joined NEXUS as a Postdoctoral Fellow in May 2007. She is also a Post-doctoral Researcher at ICEBERGS and the BC Centre for Excellence in Women's Health. Her research focus is on the gender-related aspects of self-management policies and programs for persons living with lung diseases.

Nancy Poole

(Supervisor: Lorraine Greaves) joined NEXUS as PhD Trainee in July 2007. She is also a Trainee with IMPART, A Strategic Training Program on Gender, Women and Addictions, funded by CIHR. Her PhD research is: "Coalescing on Women and Substance Use: Linking Research Policy and Practice through Virtual Learning Communities."



More details about our new members can be found on the "People" section of the NEXUS webpage (www.nexus.ubc.ca)

To supplement this quarterly publication, the new
NEXUS Weekly E-Newsletter
features more frequent announcements
about NEXUS accomplishments,
events, and funding opportunities.
Be sure to have a look!

Profile: Dr. Lorraine Greaves, Recent Honorary Doctorate

Dr. Lorraine Greaves, NEXUS Lead Investigator, received an honorary doctorate from the University of Ottawa in June 2007 in recognition of her contribution to women's health research and her leadership in integrating sex and gender analysis into Canadian health research. To listen the speech or read the citation, please visit the University of Ottawa webpage:

www.president.uottawa.ca/doctorate-details_740.html

Apart from her affiliation with NEXUS, Dr. Greaves is also the Director of the BC Centre for Excellence in



Women's Health, the President of the International Network of Women Against Tobacco (INWAT) and is part of a pan-Canadian network of women's

health researchers involved in the Centres of Excellence for Women's Health Program, funded by Health Canada. She also is on the MSFHR Board of Directors and co-leads the Women's Health Research Network.

Dr. Greaves has a diverse and productive research career. Her research interests include:

- Women's health and gender based research
- Translation of women's health research into enhanced policies, programs and clinical practices
- Tobacco use and other addictions among girls and women
- Better practices development in substance use and tobacco treatment and policy
- Gender, equity and women's health

Currently she collaborates with

NEXUS on the following studies:

- “The Media Discourse Related to Marijuana Use”
- “Aboriginal Adolescent Girls and Smoking: A Qualitative Study (Phase 1)”
- “A gender analysis of tobacco use in families during pregnancy, postpartum and early childhood (FACET 2)”
- “Sex, gender & place: an analysis of youth's experiences with STI testing”
- “IMPART – Training Centre on Gender, Women, Addictions”



To learn more about Dr. Lorraine Greaves or her current research, please visit the NEXUS webpage – www.nexus.ubc.ca

Visit our webpage for up-dates and detailed information about our current and past projects!

www.nexus.ubc.ca

NEXUS Lead Investigators

Dr. Lynda Balneaves
Dr. Joan Bottorff
Dr. Jane Buxton
Dr. Lorraine Greaves
Dr. Joy Johnson
Dr. Bonita Long
Dr. John Oliffe
Dr. Aleck Ostry
Dr. Pamela Ratner
Dr. Jean Shoveller
Dr. Judith Soon

NEXUS Co-Investigators

Dr. Annette Browne
Dr. Susan Dahinten
Dr. Joyce Davison
Dr. Paul Galdas
Ms. Sukhdev Grewal
Dr. T. Gregory Hislop
Dr. Mieke Koehoorn
Ms. Martha Mackay
Ms. Mary McCullum
Dr. Ric Procyshyn
Dr. Birgit Reime
Dr. Carole Robinson
Dr. Helen Ward
Dr. Sabrina Wong

NEXUS is a community of academic and clinical researchers and graduate students pursuing health behaviour research from a variety of perspectives including Nursing, Public Health, Epidemiology, Health Promotion, Sociology, Pharmaceutical Sciences, and Geography. Its mission is to develop knowledge, interventions, and policy recommendations based on a critical analysis of the social contexts that 1) create barriers to health, 2) affect health seeking, and 3) influence system responses. NEXUS is building expanded research programs related to these three themes in health behaviour using the analytical lenses of gender, diversity, and place.



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