Surfacing UBC Scholarship through Knowledge Translation & Exchange

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About CHER

• Multidisciplinary research centre founded in 2003: medicine, applied science, interdisciplinary studies

• Our mission: to research and prevent diseases caused by hazards in outdoor and indoor environments
  – Most research questions are highly relevant to applied environmental health problems (air pollution, occupational injuries, environmental carcinogens, etc)

• One of CHER’s main goals is to increase knowledge translation and exchange activities
So, what is knowledge translation and exchange (KTE)?

KTE activities at CHER:
• Media relations
• Websites
• Lay summaries
• Community outreach
• Continuing education
• Building capacity for KTE

Researchers

Research Agenda

Research findings

Research users (managers, workers, policy-makers)

Health Issues

Environmental health interventions
How have we been using the web to surface environmental health research?

**KTE AT CHER . . .**
Open Access Publishing

• Making journal articles and reports available on cIRcle
• Creating open access policy to inform and support researchers
Research Project Websites

- Provide support to research teams creating their own websites

Plus more than 25 others ...
Website statistics

- Monitoring web statistics and responding to demand
Interactive research results

- Responds to survey data indicating that a web-based route planner would encourage more people to cycle for transportation, and that cyclists are concerned about air pollution
- Integrates research data on air pollution in Metro Vancouver
- Receives ~20,000 visits/month
- Will be updated for 2010 Olympics to reflect road closures etc.
Interactive research results

- Provides residents, health-care providers and public health authorities with easy-to-access, near-real-time information about fires, smoke and air-quality-related weather trends in British Columbia.

www.firesmoke.ubc.ca
Interactive research results

• Developing a public service announcement *with the community*

• Designed to raise awareness around BC guidelines for laundering pesticide-contaminated clothing

• Will be disseminated using Web 2.0 as well as traditional media channels
RSS as a tool to monitor research issues

From research results to policy change... in five months!
Communicating with study participants – when the web doesn’t work

• Research shows that some groups don’t use (or trust) the Internet
• Lay summaries of research results
  – Gives participants some insight into the research process
  – Provides information “you need to know”
• Face-to-face meetings still have their place!

Pregnancy, Health and Air Pollution: What You Should Know
Poor air quality can harm your health, and if you’re pregnant, it may affect the health of your baby. All people living in the Vancouver area are exposed to some level of polluted air in their daily lives, whether it is commuting to work, exercising outside, or even carrying out common household tasks.

Vancouver Area
Air quality in our region is good and usually falls within acceptable levels. However, factors like traffic, industrial and commercial activity, as well as our region’s geography and weather conditions can contribute to the difficulties we face in ensuring clean air.

Hospital Cleaning Products & Asthma
What You Should Know

What do we know about air pollution and pregnancy?
Recent research studies suggest that babies who are exposed to higher levels of urban air pollution when they are in the womb are more likely to have health problems. The health problems that have been linked to air pollution include:

- Pre-term birth: A baby born more than three weeks before his or her due date.
- Low birth weight: This results from either a baby born too early (see above) or due to poor growth of the baby during the pregnancy.

Both of these conditions are more likely to have health problems.
Funding to help surface scholarship?

• Most requests for funding in the health sciences require a KTE component

• Sustained funding to support trained KTE staff is hard to come by (especially in times of budget cuts)
Web-based continuing education

- Free, web-based continuing education for physicians and other health professionals
- Trying to create open access materials using proprietary software 😞
QUESTIONS?

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