

CIMVHR Newsletter

Date: February 6, 2013

Issue # 4



CIMVHR | ICRSMV

Happy New Year to all the friends and supporters of CIMVHR. We finished 2012 with another exciting MVHR Forum, a resounding success, and a meeting of our first Board of Directors. In this newsletter we will provide you with some of the highlights of the end of 2012. As we look forward, 2013 promises to be an exciting year with new research funding opportunities for our members, a strategic

plan, the publication of our third book; *Beyond the Line: Military and Veteran Health Research*, new partnerships and the MVHR Forum 2013 taking place in Edmonton, AB November 25 -27. We will keep you all posted through our website www.cimvhr.ca and our newsletters.

Alice B. Aiken, CD, PhD, Director and Stéphanie A.H. Bélanger, PhD, Associate Director

CIMVHR Board of Directors

This past November at the 3rd Annual MVHR Forum, we were pleased to announce CIMVHR's first official Board of Directors. Chair: Dr. Richard Reznick – Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences, Queens University; Dr. Jean Fugere – VP, Research and Dean of Graduate Studies, Royal Military College of Canada; Mr. Michael Brennan – Chief Executive Officer, Canadian Physiotherapy Association; Mr. Michael Burns – President, Thornmark Asset Management Inc. / Co-Founder, True Patriot Love Foundation; Hon. Myra Freeman – Former Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia; Cmdre (Ret'd) Hans Jung – Former CF Surgeon General; Gen (Ret'd) Walter Natynczyk – Former Chief of the Defence Staff, Canadian Forces; Mr. Tim Patriquin – Investment Advisor, RBC Dominion Securities Inc. / President the Treble Victor group; Dr. Dennis Fitzpatrick – VP Research, University of Regina (MVHR Network Representative); Dr. William Mon-

telpare – Professor & Margaret and Wallace McCain Chair in Human Development and Health, Applied Human Science, University of Prince Edward Island (MVHR Network Representative); and Dr. Alice Aiken – Director, CIMVHR (ex officio). The Board of Directors held their first meeting on November 29th and have set an ambitious agenda for CIMVHR in the upcoming year. The board is advised by the MVHR University Network, who elect two members to sit on the Board, and a Government Advisory Council consisting of: LGen Walter Semianiw, ADM Policy, Communications and Commemoration, Veterans Affairs Canada; BGen Jean-Robert Bernier, Surgeon General, Canadian Forces; and VAdm (Ret'd) Larry Murray, Grand President, Royal Canadian Legion. We welcome everyone to CIMVHR and look forward to a productive year.

Did you know...



CIMVHR's second book *A New Coalition for a Challenging Battlefield: Military and Veteran Health Research* is now available on the CIMVHR website. www.cimvhr.ca

Dr. Alice Aiken, Director, received the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal for the work she has done with CIMVHR.

On January 17, CIMVHR did a workshop with Western University in London ON. The response from the Western research community was outstanding with over 30 participants interested in military, Veteran and family research.

On November 29, 2012 the first official CIMVHR Board of Directors, MVHR Network University Members and Government Advisors gathered for a meeting. The night before, a mess dinner was hosted by the CFB Kingston Base Commander, Col Steve Cadden, at the Vimy Officer's Mess.



MVHR Forum 2012 Highlights

This past November the Canadian Institute for Military and Veteran Health Research (CIMVHR) hosted its third annual Military and Veteran Health Research (MVHR) Forum in Kingston, Ontario. The event was highly successful with over 450 participants, international delegates, military personnel, exceptional keynote speakers, veterans, industry stakeholders and over 25 universities from across the country.

The event commenced on November 26th with a poster session where the Minister of National Defence, The Honourable Peter MacKay, addressed the attendees with an encouraging message that began with his recognition for all of the hard work and dedication that the researchers of CIMVHR have contributed to the well being of military personnel, Veterans and their families.

"Before I begin, I'd like to take a moment to recognise the efforts of the Canadian Institute for Military and Veteran Health Research – which has brought us all here together today. Your leadership in building a network amongst over 25 Canadian universities, government departments, and international organisations...is addressing some of the most pressing health care issues faced by our military, veterans, and their families today.

It is invaluable work and it is appreciated."

The Honourable Peter MacKay –

MVHR Forum 2012

Later on that evening CIMVHR successfully launched their second book *A New Coalition for a Challenging Battlefield; Military and Veteran Health Research*, a collective that highlights the top research presented at MVHR Forum 2011 and published by the Canadian Defence Academy Press. This book can be found on the CIMVHR website at www.cimvhr.ca.

Some of the highlights that took place throughout the three day event were the Museum of Health Care 1812 Display, the announcement of CIMVHR's first official Board of Directors, and excellent networking. The highly interactive Forum featured 20 breakout sessions, 14 keynote

speakers and top quality research that focused on the areas of Mental health research and rehabilitation in active duty personnel, Veterans or families; Physical health research and rehabilitation in active duty personnel, Veterans or families; Social health and wellbeing of active duty personnel, Veterans or families; Novel health technologies that are relevant to military service; Transition from military to civilian life; Evolving treatment programs and clinical practices; and Occupational health.

CIMVHR is extremely proud to have hosted the 3rd Annual MVHR Forum, but could not have made it the success that it was without the support of our sponsors. A special thank you goes out to all of the Forum sponsors; Queen's University, Royal Military College of Canada, Canadian Forces Health Services Group, Veterans Affairs Canada, Defence Research and Development Canada, True Patriot Love, miHealth, Calian Health, The Royal Canadian Legion, Canadian Defence Academy Press, CFB Kingston, the Canadian Medical Association, the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists, the Canadian Physiotherapy Association, the University of Alberta Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine, the University of Manitoba, Le Centre interdisciplinaire de recherche en réadaptation et intégration sociale at Laval University, Bellwood Health Services, the Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation, NeuroSolutions, The War Amps, Sunshine Coast Health Centre, Homewood Health Centre, the Kingston Economic Development Corporation, the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Concordia University Perform Centre, Chiropractic Canada, and McGill University. Thanks to your generous donations and support, CIMVHR was able to host another successful MVHR Forum.

CIMVHR is pleased to announce that the 4th Annual Forum will be held in Edmonton, Alberta November 25-27, 2013. Further details on the abstract submission process will be made available in the near future.

MVHR²⁰ FORUM¹²



Pictures displayed on this page were taken by Brad Lowe, CFB Kingston:

1) Dr. Stephanie Bélanger - Associate Director CIMVHR, The Honourable Peter McKay - Minister of National Defence, and Dr. Alice Aiken - Director CIMVHR. 2) The Honourable Steven Blaney - Minister of Veterans Affairs Canada. 3) Dr. Robert Tate, University of Manitoba, Director of the Manitoba Veterans Follow-up study with two of the Veterans who have participated for the last 60 years. 4) LGen Honourable Roméo A. Dallaire, (Ret'd), Senator

Major Sir Frederick Banting MC, RCAMC Award for Military Health Research

The award is presented to the Canadian (civilian or military) whose research paper presented at the MVHR Forum is deemed to be of the greatest overall value to military health. Factors such as scientific quality, military relevance and impact on the health of Canadian Forces members are taken into account by an expert committee chaired by the Surgeon General of the Canadian Forces.

The winner of the 2012 Major Sir Frederick Banting award was Dr. Jacqueline Hebert, MD, from the University of Alberta. Dr. Jacqueline Hebert is Associate Professor in the Division of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry at the University of Alberta, and Associate Research Chair in Clinical Rehabilitation with the Faculty of Rehabilitation

Medicine. Dr. Hebert is the Medical Advisor for the Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital's Computer Assisted Rehabilitation Environment (CAREN) that provides advanced rehabilitation technology for CF members and civilians. As Medical Lead of the Amputee Rehabilitation Program at the Glenrose Hospital, she leads the interdisciplinary team that performs upper limb Targeted Reinnervation surgery, and studies advanced motor control and sensory systems for upper limb myoelectric devices.

At the 2012 MVHR Forum, Dr. Hebert presented a paper entitled "A Novel Method to Provide Sensory Feedback and Improve Function of Myoelectric Prostheses after Upper Limb Amputation". In addition to winning the award at the 2012 MVHR Forum, Dr. Hebert will be a keynote speaker at the MVHR Forum 2013.

CIMVHR Webinar Series

This past fall, CIMVHR, held the first graduate level course, a webinar, that looked at focusing on the health related issues associated with active military personal, veterans and their families. This course was offered through RMCC as MPA583 and through Queen's University as EPID 833 and was made available as an elective to all graduate students from CIMVHR's 26 university partners across Canada. The webinar was a success during its first offering in Fall 2012 and it will be offered every Fall semester.

CIMVHR designed this course as part of an ongoing program to capitalize on the knowledge of accomplished researchers and to develop a new generation of graduate students who will further research in the field of veteran and military health in a wide variety of topics that range from the effects of chemical contaminant exposure on soldiers, to the diagnosis and treatment of mental illness, to the unique social needs of the family.

CIMVHR Provides A Learning Opportunity

CIMVHR arranged a summer placement for me at Veterans Affairs Canada's Research Directorate in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. This was the practicum portion of my Master of Public Health degree at Queen's, funded by the CIMVHR through a generous bursary to make it possible for me to participate. This opportunity not only allowed me to work with leading researchers who are experts in Veteran health, but also opened my eyes to the complex world of military and Veteran health research. Members of the Research Directorate involved me in all sorts of projects, and provided a welcoming atmosphere to learn about Veteran health research. It is a privilege to have worked with them this summer, something I would not have been able to do without CIMVHR's support. The institute has been a constant support throughout the process, including arranging a tour of the CFB Kingston health care system and facilities for Master of Public Health students before the practicum even began, and continuing its support after my practicum by sponsoring me to attend and present at the MVHR Forum 2012 this fall. I am delighted to have the opportunity to present a poster of what I worked on this summer, and to learn about what experts in the field have been researching. This experience has been truly wonderful, and very influential in my formation as a public health practitioner. The CIMVHR and Veterans Affairs Canada have both given me one of the best learning experiences of my life; one from which I hope other students can benefit in the future.

Debra Kriger MPH (Candidate)

MVHR
FORUM



Dr. Jacqueline Hebert, MD, from the University of Alberta and this year's winner of the Major Sir Frederick Banting MC, RCAMC Award for Military Health Research.



Brigadier-General Bernier, Surgeon General for the Canadian Forces, and the Banting family present Dr. Hebert with the Banting Award for Military Health Research.

MVHR 2013
FORUM
Edmonton Alberta
25 - 27 November

For suggestions and announcements you wish to recommend for the CIMVHR e-newsletter please e-mail cimvhr@queensu.ca