

# HEALTH AND WORK PRODUCTIVITY



A project of the Disability Prevention and Management Collaborative



**The following academic centres have agreed to participate in the Health & Work Productivity Web-Portal project to-date:**

## Health and Work Productivity Update

Since the Best Practices Leadership Summit on Disability Prevention, there has been a tremendous amount of work on the creation of a comprehensive web-portal to assist stakeholders to identify and utilize credible resources to facilitate safe, healthy and productive workplaces. The Web-Portal will provide practical implementation tools and resources, including toolkits, e-learning opportunities, and multimedia resources in order to offer one-stop practical guidance for organizational implementation. In addition, case studies of organizations that are exemplars of best practice of safe, healthy, and productive workplaces will focus on the processes, tools and metrics used to offer guidance to users.

We are excited about the progress made to date and upcoming new developments. Much of the work during the past 9 months has been directed towards actualizing the road map articulated in the report of the first Leadership Summit. Technical

specifications have been prepared for building the basic infrastructure, programmers identified, academic collaborative centre partnerships created and an information resource officer hired for June 2008. Meetings are currently being held with federal and provincial stakeholders to create opportunities for matched seed funding.

### ACADEMIC COLLABORATIVE CENTRES

The project will build research capacity by bringing together academics and community-based researchers, who will classify the latest systematic reviews using transparent evaluation tools (in process) with end-users. A unique feature of the initiative is to bring together faculties of business with faculties of health and social sciences. In turn the partnership will interpret and highlight this information to create the most useable information possible for implementation purposes. The information will be classified on a sliding scale of scientific validity so users can rely on the information in relation to the scale.

### ADDITIONAL PARTNERS

The Health and Work Productivity Web-Portal initiative has created working relationships with Health-Evidence.ca, Canadian Cochrane Network and Centre, College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia Medical Library, UBC School of Library, Archival and Information Studies, PubMed-National Library of Medicine (US) and the College of Family Physicians of Canada.

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*Simon Fraser University Centre for Applied Research in Mental Health & Addiction is pleased to be an academic collaborative partner in the Health and Work Productivity web-portal as an innovative collaborative project bringing together a broad base of stakeholders concerned with creating and sustaining healthy workplaces.*

**DR. JOTI SAMRA, R. PSYCH**

Research Scientist, Simon Fraser University Centre for Applied Research in Mental Health & Addiction

*UVic Business is delighted to support this innovative project which is not simply a means of dissemination but establishes a collaborative environment to build research capacity within and across academic centres.*

**DR. ALI DASTMALCHIAN**

Dean, University of Victoria Faculty of Business

*The proposed Health and Work Productivity web-portal will create important linkages between researchers; such links are vital to knowledge development and translation across the health disciplines and will contribute to the creation and implementation of best practices for nurses in ensuring safe, healthy and productive work environments.*

**CAROL JILLINGS PHD, RN**

Acting Director, University of British Columbia School of Nursing

*The creation of evidence-informed knowledge, tools and resources on best practices in disability prevention and management will be a useful resource for family physicians in training and practice. The Department of Family Practice is pleased to be a founding academic member of CIRPD's Disability Prevention and Management Collaborative and the Health and Work Productivity Web-Portal project.*

**ROBERT F WOOLLARD, MD, CCFP, FCFP**

Royal Canadian Legion Professor and Head UBC Department of Family Practice

## NEXT STEPS

We are currently seeking matched funding support

- To build the web-portal infrastructure
- To sponsor a consensus conference with academic collaborative centres and end users, in order to address rating criteria and refine workflow/production components.
- To host four focus groups with end users to design relevant front pages
- To support consumer/worker public access to Health & Work Productivity resources

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To facilitate the population of the web-portal production area, highly refined search strategies (using keywords related to identified topics and subtopics) across various databases/ indices, with an emphasis on systematic reviews and high quality large population randomized controlled trials, will be created first.

Secondly, the data retrieved needs to be converted into standardized metadata fields (mapping of various database fields to common taxonomy), with efficient mechanisms developed to upload data systematically, in order to avoid possible duplication of resources across different databases. Initial work has focused on PubMed – National Library of Medicine which allows direct web-services communication and has yielded promising results.

Other knowledge brokers are offering their databases, providing common reference management software, which allow for easy manual conversion. With over 150 topics and sub-topics the project has partnered with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia Medical Library and UBC School of Library, Archival and Information Studies to provide mentoring opportunities for librarian students in training. An Information Resource Officer has been sought and found, who has had extensive experience with the Canadian Cochrane Network and Centre, and will commence working on the project in June 2008. The College of Family Physicians of Canada has designated an official representative on the Disability Prevention and Management Collaborative.

Thanks to the donation of Sharepoint Portal from Microsoft the web-portal has the capability to be bilingual/multilingual using mirrored pages. ●

## The BC Summit to Prevent Work Disability

**November 25, 2008**

An initiative to reduce needless disability in the British Columbia Workforce

Researchers and clinicians with the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM) have created a state-of-the-art evidence-informed guideline titled, 'Preventing Needless Work Disability by Helping People Stay Employed'. This report contains 16 key recommendations to improve the process and practice of the disability system, in order to prevent needless work disability and associated financial and productivity losses. The 60 Summits Project was conceived as a strategy to disseminate the ACOEM Guideline and catalyze on the implementation of evidence-based disability-prevention practices across North America.

The BC Summit to Prevent Work Disability Project will be the first of the 60 summits, to be held in Canada. An enthusiastic, BC-based multi-stakeholder Steering Committee has formed to work with the 60 Summits organization to plan this inaugural Canadian event. The BC Summit will take place in Vancouver on November 25, 2008 and will focus on the prevention of both work related and non-work related disability, in the private and public sectors of our province. This effort is in alignment with the philosophy of the provincial 'Legacies 2010 Now' strategy to engage BC organizations and other key stakeholders, in the adoption and application of healthy workplace strategies.

The purpose of the summit is to create an opportunity for key stakeholders to:

- Participate in a needs assessment
- Discuss the Guideline's 16 recommendations;
- Identify priorities for change
- Develop concrete action plans to affect those changes
- Encourage collaborative approaches to put the plans into action.

For more information about the BC Summit or to discuss opportunities to host the Summit in your Province/Territory please contact Dr. Marc White at [marc.white@cirpd.org](mailto:marc.white@cirpd.org)

Attn: Dr. Marc White  
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### Continued

*Work is one of three identified priority areas within our training program, reflecting the string commitment to work disability research in our faculty and a strong complement of mentors we have for graduate students...I believe that McMaster is exceptionally well positioned to be a strong academic partner for this project and it's overall mission.*

**JOY MACDERMID, PT, PHD**

Associate Professor, School of Rehabilitation Science, Faculty of Health Science  
McMaster University

*The proposed Health and Work Productivity web-portal is an excellent vehicle for cross-disciplinary collaboration between medical and business researchers, students and practitioners. By promoting good workplace health practices the project will increase productivity directly while bringing us further down the learning curve towards even better practices and outcomes.*

**ALLAN CONWAY**

Dean, Odette School of Business  
University of Windsor

*It is essential that current research is made available to health and safety activists in a practical and usable format. The interaction of all users in the translation process moving research into practice provides opportunities for consensus building among all stakeholders.*

**SHEILA MOIR**

Director of Occupational Health and Safety  
BC Federation of Labour

*The web-portal project is not simply a website; it is a strategic approach to bringing stakeholders together to effectively and efficiently translate current research into best practices.*

**GERRY SMITH, CEBS**

Staff Representative, Research and Negotiation Support, United Steelworkers