



## Clinical and Epidemiological Research

### ***Presentation: Canadian Co-Infection Cohort Study***

Dr. Klein, who leads the Canadian Co-infection Cohort study, a prospective study of 1000 co-infected persons followed at 16 centres across Canada, will review initial results of the study and speak about the challenges and opportunities for treatment, disease prevention, and research among HIV-hepatitis C co-infected persons in care in Canada.

**Presenter:** Marina B. Klein M.D., M.Sc., FRCP(C), Associate Professor of Medicine, McGill University, Montreal, Canada

Dr. Marina Klein graduated from McGill Medical School (1991) and received her training in Internal Medicine at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal. She completed a research fellowship in Infectious Diseases at the University of Minnesota in 1998 and then returned to McGill University to join the Division of Infectious Diseases/Immunodeficiency Service at the Royal Victoria Hospital. Her clinical interests focus on the treatment of patients HIV and with chronic hepatitis. She received a Master's degree in Epidemiology and Biostatistics from McGill (2003) and was an Associate of the Canadian HIV Trials Network. She is currently supported by a Chercheur-boursier clinicien senior award from the FRSQ. She focuses her research on clinical and epidemiologic aspects of HIV and Hepatitis C co-infection and leads a CIHR/FRSQ/CTN funded National prospective cohort of HIV-HCV co-infected persons to study the interaction of these chronic viral infections. She is principal investigator of two investigator initiated clinical trials in HIV-HCV co-infection aimed at improving the tolerability and completion of hepatitis C therapy and at slowing progression of liver disease. Additionally, she is involved in a number of observational epidemiologic research collaborations (NA-ACCORD and CANOC) focused on understanding long-term clinical and treatment outcomes in HIV and in co-infection and is co-leader of the CIHR-Canadian HIV Trials Networks Co-infections and Concurrent Diseases Core. Additional research interests include pharmacoepidemiology of antiretrovirals and immunologic outcomes, particularly in non-clade B virus HIV infection.

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### ***Presentation: Lessons from Linking Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Laboratory Test and Health Administrative Data***

This talk will illustrate how laboratory and epidemiological information can be used to help understand the population burden of hepatitis C virus (HCV). An illustrative example will demonstrate how de-identified data linkage between HIV infected persons and individuals who undergo HCV antibody

testing can be used to estimate the amount of HIV/HCV co-infection and the temporal nature of HCV and HIV diagnosis. This information has important implications for HIV and HCV prevention programming. Also illustrated will be an assessment of the net costs of HCV infection and estimates of the mortality related to HCV in British Columbia. These studies illustrate that attributable costs and mortality that are associated with HCV relate to both the risk behaviours that result in HCV acquisition as well as the hepatic and extrahepatic sequelae of chronic HCV infection. Mitigation of HCV related costs and mortality will require comprehensive prevention programming aimed at mental health and additions as well as HCV treatment.

**Presenter:** Mel Krajden, MD, FRCP(C), Medical Director of Hepatitis Services and Associate Medical Director of the BC Centre for Disease Control Public Health Microbiology and Reference Laboratory

Mel Krajden, MD, FRCP(C) is the Medical Director of Hepatitis Services and Associate Medical Director of the BC Centre for Disease Control Public Health Microbiology and Reference Laboratory. He is also a Professor, Dept. of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the Univ. of British Columbia. His clinical research involves integration of hepatitis prevention and care services within a comprehensive framework of consumer and professional education which involves five regional integrated hepatitis prevention and care demonstration projects within each of BC's Health Authorities. His laboratory research involves the application of molecular techniques to: diagnose viruses; assess correlates between infection and clinical disease; monitor antiviral efficacy; and track microbial infections for epidemiological purposes. He has extensive clinical trials expertise and serves as a laboratory coordinator for a number of national industry sponsored clinical trials. He is also a co-applicant on the CIHR funded \$6.8 M HPV Focal Trial, has received funding to develop a HPV neutralization serological assay from the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research and is a co-applicant on the CIHR funded trial to assess the utility of detecting pre-seroconversion HIV infections by pooled nucleic acid testing.



## **Clinical Service Delivery**

### ***Presentation: Ontario Co-Infection Services Survey***

Dr. Cooper will describe and interpret the results of an Ontario-based survey of HIV-HCV co-infection service providers. Information on population demographics, access to HIV and HCV services and research in the field will be considered.

**Presenter:** Curtis Cooper, MD, FRCPC

Dr. Cooper trained at the University of Saskatchewan (MD 1994), University of Manitoba (Internal Medicine 1997 and Infectious Diseases 1999), and University of Ottawa (Canadian HIV Trials Network Research Fellowship 2002, Masters of Epidemiology 2002). He is currently an Associate Professor with the University of Ottawa, Infectious Diseases Consultant with the Ottawa Hospital Division of Infectious Diseases, Clinical Researcher with the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute and Ontario HIV Treatment Network Career Scientist. As a clinical researcher, his research activities encompass HIV, viral hepatitis, and vaccine/vaccine adjuvant development with a focus on influenza and hepatitis B. His work is focused on the development of new therapeutic agents and the delivery of treatment that maximizes safety, adherence and safety. A particular interest is in the development of new HCV therapeutics and the evaluation of immunization in immune compromised populations. Dr. Cooper currently serves as Secretary of the Canadian Association of HIV Researchers in addition to numerous other research groups and committees including the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) and Association of Medical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (AMMI) Guidelines Committee.

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### ***Presentation: Models of Care***

Dr. Corace will discuss barriers to HIV, HCV, and HBV treatment and services, with specific focus on the following barriers: mental health issues, substance use issues, stigma, and unstable housing. She will present a multidisciplinary model of care demonstrated to overcome these barriers, thereby increasing the proportion of individuals who are successfully treated. Research will be presented on the added value of multidisciplinary care for these populations.

**Presenter:** Kimberley Corace, PhD, C. Psych

Dr. Kimberly Corace is an Assistant Professor with the University of Ottawa, a Clinical Health Psychologist at The Ottawa Hospital Division of Infectious Diseases, and a Clinical Investigator with the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute. Dr. Corace provides clinical services to persons living with Hepatitis C

(HCV) as well as those co-infected with HIV and HCV. Dr. Corace's research activities are in the areas of viral hepatitis, HIV, HIV-HCV co-infection, mental health, stigma, and vaccine uptake. Her experience includes: (1) the development and evaluation of multidisciplinary models of care, (2) assessing and addressing stigma to improve and optimize access to community prevention, support, and education services, (3) mental health and substance use issues as barriers to HCV treatment, and prevention and support services, and (4) the development and validation of a HCV clinical decision making tool to assess the likelihood of HCV treatment readiness, initiation, adherence, and treatment success. Her work is focused on improving treatment access and uptake for marginalized and vulnerable populations with multiple mental health and substance use co-morbidities.



## **Socio-behavioural Research**

***Presentation: The East Toronto Hepatitis C Program: An Innovative Model for Treating Hepatitis C, Mental Illness & Addictions***

Dr. Sockalingam will be speaking about the East Toronto Hepatitis C Program, an innovative multidisciplinary program providing education and treatment for marginalized patients with hepatitis C and co-morbid substance use.

**Presenter:** Dr. Sanjeev Sockalingam

Dr. Sanjeev Sockalingam is currently a staff psychiatrist at the University Health Network in the Medical Psychiatry Program and an Assistant Professor at the University of Toronto in the Faculty of Medicine. Dr. Sockalingam is the psychiatrist for the Mental Health and Liver Disease clinic at the Toronto Western Hospital Liver Centre and the Toronto General Hospital Hepatology Program. In addition, he is the psychiatrist for the East Toronto Hepatitis C Program. His research and publications have focused on the prevalence and management of neuropsychiatric disorders and psychological distress in patients with hepatitis C.

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***Presentation: TBA***

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## Support Service Delivery

### ***Presentation: All Nations Hope AIDS Network***

Margaret Akan and Leona Quewezance will share some new and innovative programs and services that will bring life to the people, including life skills, outreach, traditional teachings, ceremonies, and a model for a cycle of care. These are programs that All Nations Hope AIDS Network (ANHAN) is offering in the community. There is need for additional research to bring life to the programs; as Aboriginal people this is a way of life and we live this reality everyday and we know the importance of walking our talk.

**Presenter:** Margaret Akan, CEO of ANHAN

Margaret Akan is currently the CEO of ANHAN and has been in the position of leadership for 12 years. She is of Cree ancestry and is from Muskowekwan First Nation. She has dedicated her career to working in the community for over 20 years, and has been involved in the field of HIV/AIDS since 1988. Past achievements include: Keynote speaker at the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Canadian Conference on HIV/AIDS Research May 2010, Past Founder of the Dream Catchers Girls Softball teams, Past Board Member of the Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network representing Saskatchewan Region 2001 -2006, Co- Principal Applicant on ANHAN Gathering of Support Research Grant 2006-08, Recipient of Certificate of Honor from Art of Living Foundation in 2006, Speaker at the Harm Reduction 2008: International Harm Reduction Association's 19th International Conference in Barcelona Spain. She is currently the First Nation Co-Chair of the National Aboriginal Council on HIV/AIDS, a council to advise Health Canada on HIV/AIDS issues that affect all Canada's Aboriginal peoples.

**Presenter:** Leona Quewezance, Program Director of ANHAN

Leona is from the Saulteaux First Nation. She has worked with All Nations Hope AIDS Network for the past 12 years. Throughout the years her title has changed, but one factor remains the same: conducting frontline workshops and Train the Trainer Sessions has left her grounded and compassionate. Her role as Program Director has proven both challenging and rewarding. Resources created include 'Sharing the Knowledge' manual, a Hepatitis C and HIV Kit, and the only Saskatchewan Harm Reduction Guide, which continues to be a valuable contribution to frontline workers. The time with All Nations Hope AIDS Network has given her the opportunity to grow both personally and professionally. She is humbled to have been given the opportunity to work with people so full of life, Aboriginal people who have been affected by HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C.

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***Presentation: Discussing the challenges and successes of community engagement, the Oasis Peer-to-Peer HCV Program, and research needs***

This workshop will provide an overview of the Oasis program with its “One Stop Shopping” and Harm Reduction model. The presenter will discuss the importance of peer engagement and meaningful involvement, sharing the lessons learned through coordinating the Hepatitis C Train the Trainer Project. Ryta will describe the three sets of peer trainees. All met the original criteria and were successful, yet each group brought their own realities and required distinct types of support from the peer coordinator and agency. Participants in this workshop will also see how the diversity of the peers required shifts in the learning/ teaching materials used.

**Presenter: Ryta Peschka**

Ryta Peschka brings three decades of experience from the community based and non-profit organizational perspective. For the past 20 years, Ryta has worked exclusively in the field of substance use/addictions as counselor, advocate, educator, facilitator and program developer. Currently, she teaches at Algonquin College in the Crisis Management and Human Psychology Programs. In 2005, she developed and began teaching the college's first introductory course on Harm Reduction. Ryta also works in the HIV and Hepatitis C community, with a focus on people whose lives are complicated by addictions, mental illness, poverty, violence, homelessness, and other health issues, and is the Drop In/Volunteer coordinator of the Oasis Program of the Sandy Hill Community Health Centre, which provides opportunities to involve peers in programming, volunteerism, and employment.



## Social Policy Development

### ***Presentation: HIV-HCV Co-infection: Findings and Implications from a Scoping Review***

This session will discuss HIV and Hepatitis C co-infection by providing an overview of the key stages of policy and/or organizational decisions and how research evidence can inform these stages. The results and conclusions of a scoping review of the literature related to HIV and Hepatitis C co-infection will be presented and discussed in the context of how it can be used to inform policy and shape future research.

**Presenter:** Dr. Mike Wilson

Mike is a Research Fellow in the Policy Decision-Making program at *McMaster University* and a Scientist for the Health Policy & Knowledge Transfer and Exchange at the Ontario HIV Treatment Network. Mike's research interests include knowledge transfer and exchange with a focus on health system managers and policymaker as well community-based organizations. He recently completed his PhD in August 2010 from the Health Research Methodology Program at McMaster University and his thesis was entitled 'Supporting the Use of Research Evidence by Community-Based Organizations in the Health Sector'. Mike also completed a diploma in Health Services and Policy Research while completing his PhD.

### ***Presentation: Conceptual Approaches in Framing Social Policy in HIV/HCV***

**Presenter:** Jacqueline Gahagan, PhD

Dr. Jacqueline Gahagan is Professor of Health Promotion in the School of Health and Human Performance at Dalhousie University where she also holds cross appointments in Community Health and Epidemiology, International Development Studies, Gender Studies, and Nursing. Professor Gahagan is a member of the editorial board for several peer-reviewed journals, including *Health Care for Women International* and the *Canadian Journal of Public Health*. Jacqueline has been involved in the field of HIV/AIDS advocacy, activism and research for nearly two decades and her current research interests focus on the social and behavioural aspects of HIV/Hep C and STIs. Jacqueline is also a founding member of the Atlantic Interdisciplinary Research Network (AIRN), a member of the Ministerial Council on HIV/AIDS, and a former member of the board of directors' for the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network, the Canadian Association for HIV Research, the Nova-Scotia Gambia Association, the Interagency Coalition on AIDS and Development, amongst others.