



NGDI.ubc.ca

Neglected Global Diseases Initiative



a place of mind
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Newsletter May, 2014

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Please welcome our new Director, Dr. Richard Lester!

VANCOUVER, BC – May 1, 2014: Dr. Richard Lester will take over as Director of UBC's Neglected Global Diseases Initiative (NGDI) on May 15, 2014. Lester is a leader in the field of mHealth in clinical HIV, who in 2012 published the world first SMS texting study in Kenya that showed improved adherence to HIV medications.

Lester is currently Head of the Division of STI/HIV Control as well as Executive Director and Chief Medical and Scientific Advisor of the non-profit WelTel organization. His work in mHealth has led to the first scale-up grant from the Grand Challenges Canada program, the Government of Canada's largest global health funding program.

"My work on the ground in clinics in Kenya gives me a good perspective of delivery issues," says Lester. "The NGDI works with researchers at each end of the spectrum, from bench science to the field and I look forward to leading this excellent group forward in developing successful interventions."

"The board is very grateful for the fantastic leadership of Dr. Kishor Wasan during the first four years of the initiative, we wish him well in his new role in Saskatchewan," said Dr. Robert EW Hancock, Co-Founder of NGDI and member of the Advisory Board and Director, Centre for Microbial Diseases and Immunity Research. "We are also looking forward to Dr. Lester's contributions over the next few years."

The NGDI provides a focus for the UBC research community to harness new inventions and make sure they are delivered to low-resource countries when applicable. Most of the projects licenced using the Universal Access Principles at the University-Industry Liaison Office were created by NGDI members.

"The NGDI helps to increase the impact of our research through the use of important knowledge mobilization tools, thus helping to increase the impact on the people who need it most." says Dr. John Hepburn, Vice President Research and International.



Dr. Lester joined the BCCDC in 2009 as the Lead Physician - Division of STI/HIV Control, BC Centre for Disease Control. He is a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases with the Department of Medicine at UBC where he obtained his Infectious Diseases Clinical Fellowship. He did his medical degree at the University of Alberta, studied internal medicine at the University of Toronto, and did an HIV immunology fellowship with the University of Manitoba / University of Nairobi collaborative projects (WHO Collaborative Centre for HIV/STD Research and Training).

Dr. Lester's clinical research interests include using mobile information technology (cell phones) to improve patient support and health services (mHealth) in resource-limited settings. Dr. Lester's basic research interests include innate immune mechanisms of susceptibility to infectious diseases, the role of innate immunity in vaccine design, and the control of inflammation and its role in HIV pathogenesis. Dr. Lester and colleagues were responsible for some of the first findings for role of innate immunity (Toll-like receptors) in resistance to HIV infection and to HIV pathogenesis in the Pumwani sex-worker cohort in Kenya. Dr. Lester has contributed significantly to the scientific body of knowledge surrounding mechanisms of susceptibility surrounding infectious disease, the role of innate immunity in vaccine design and the control of inflammation and its role in HIV pathogenesis.



To download the report and view on your desktop (cleaner copy), please click [here](#).

To view the report in Issuu (magazine style), please click [here](#).

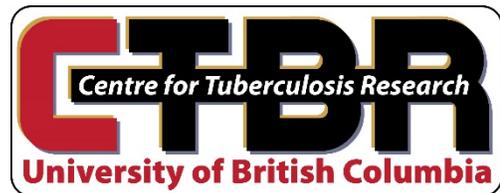
NGDI 2013 Annual Report Released

This annual report focuses on our knowledge mobilization mandate by providing the UBC community with specific disease information, mostly from the WHO and maps from the Global Burden of Diseases, 2010 study. We provide our members work with any updates on each of the neglected tropical diseases; the Big Three (HIV/AIDs, malaria and tuberculosis), the other diseases and conditions of the poor and the platforms of vaccines, diagnostics, mHealth and nanotechnology. As we know the next generation of researchers is always vital to progress and we play such an important part in our role of mentoring and supervising graduate students. This year we have chosen to highlight the contributions from 2012-13 of the post-graduate community in our disease and platform categories—we look forward to hearing more from these talented young people in the years to come. Please be sure to peruse the publication of our members for the year. The total of 178 (not counting duplicates) has increased from about 100 last year and includes 19 reviews and 4 that have become part of ecollections.

First WIPO Re:Search Agreement in place for UBC

The **University of British Columbia** (UBC) will provide **Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute** (Swiss TPH) with a selection of avermectins to screen against *M. ulcerans*, the causative agent of Buruli ulcer. Researchers involved are Dr. Charles Thompson and Dr. Santi Ramón-García of the Centre for Tuberculosis Research. Other agreements will be coming on line soon.

The NGDI hosted BIO Ventures in Global Health (the Secretariat) in February to introduce them to NGDI members who were interested in learning about WIPO Re:Search and potentially developing collaborations with the Consortium.



Vancouver Sun Series on Malaria by Reporter Don Cayo features NGDI members

A CIHR funded series on malaria was run this month in the Vancouver Sun. The articles feature quotes from Rosemin Kassam, Chris Orvig, and Kishor Wasan and mention the NGDI as well. This is nice coverage of the problems associated with malaria. The five-part series is available through the links below.

Part 1: [Malaria's huge human cost](#)

Part 2: [Malaria a moving target](#)

Part 3: [Fight against malaria a regional challenge](#)

Part 4: [Malaria – too far to save a life](#)

Part 5: [Malaria – Grassroots success in small steps](#)



Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's 2014 Global Health Product Development Forum

The invite only forum was held April 22-24 in Seattle and Jocelyn Conway was invited to be part of a new communications social media meetup. "Sitting in the room with Bill and Melinda was definitely a high point", she said. Additionally, the information on their new Malaria strategy and Sleeping Sickness was timely and informative. As it was a social media event, Jocelyn tweeted throughout the 3 days. For those that are interested in looking back, we were using #GatesSocial for the event. There will be follow up with NGDI members who might benefit from the information gathered at the event.

For Trevor Mundel's (Director Global Health at Gates) reflections on the event click <http://t.co/gyCPn9Vn8T>

Jocelyn tweets global health news daily: follow NGDI at: @ngdiubc.

Funding Deadline Reminders:

IDRC: [Health Policy and Research Organizations](#)

Deadline: June 11, 2014

IDRC: [Implementation Research Teams](#) Deadline:

May 20, 2014

The Innovating for Maternal and Child Health in Africa program seeks to improve maternal, newborn, and child health outcomes by strengthening equitable health systems, using primary health care as an entry point. Two inter-related program components, Implementation Research Teams and Health Policy and Research Organizations, have been designed to achieve the goals of the program. The primary goal of the Health Policy and Research Organizations will be to function as catalysts and enablers for moving research evidence generated by the selected teams to policy and practice within the sub-Saharan region, therefore enabling connections between research and decision-making. Two Health Policy and Research Organizations will be selected: one for West Africa and one for East Africa. The Health Policy and Research Organizations will be linked with Implementation Research Teams working within their respective regions.

SSHRC: Insight Grant Notification of Intent Deadline:

August 2014

Be sure to check out the Office of Research Services

[Calendar of Funding Deadlines](#).

Changes to deadlines for PHSI, KAL and KRS competitions

Please note changes to the launch and application deadlines for the upcoming Partnerships for Health System Improvement (PHSI), Knowledge Synthesis (KRS), and Knowledge to Action (KAL) funding opportunities.

These are the **anticipated** timelines. Please consult the relevant funding opportunity on [ResearchNet](#) for the most up to date information on these dates. If you have any questions regarding the timelines, please use the contact information provided in the relevant funding opportunity.

Knowledge Synthesis Grant: Fall 2014 (KRS)

Anticipated Competition Launch: June 25, 2014

Knowledge to Action: 2014-2015 (KAL)

Anticipated Competition Launch: June 25, 2014

Partnerships for Health System Improvement: 2014-2015 (PHSI)

Anticipated Competition Launch: June 25, 2014

Knowledge Synthesis Grant: Spring 2015 (KRS)

Anticipated Competition Launch: Winter 2015

The Partnerships for Health System Improvement (PHSI), Knowledge Synthesis (KRS), and Knowledge to Action (KAL) funding opportunities have been selected to pilot the new Project Scheme design elements and peer review processes that were developed for CIHR's new Open Suite of Programs and peer review process.

For inquiries regarding [CIHR's Reforms of Open Programs and peer review process](#), please visit CIHR's website or contact Roadmap-Plan.Strategique@cihr-irsc.gc.ca

Mitacs Globalink Research Internship

Currently in its sixth year, the [Research Internship](#) is accepting faculty applications for summer 2015. Faculty supervise international senior undergraduates who travel to Canada to undertake research projects of mutual interest.

- 12-week research internship in summer 2015
- Open to professors in all disciplines
- Open to interns from Brazil, China, India, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Vietnam
- Mitacs oversees matching and travel logistics and provides student funding
- Submission deadline for faculty projects is **June 18, 2014**



Globalink Graduate Fellowship

The [Fellowship](#) provides funding for Research Internship alumni to return to Canada for graduate studies.

- \$10,000/year for one to three years of study in a research-based program
- Attractive incentive for those top-ranked students returning to Canada

NEW! Mitacs Globalink Research Award – Help students conduct research outside Canada

Recently launched, the [Research Award](#) helps faculty and students at Canadian universities deepen the research links between Canadian and international educational institutions.

- Up to \$5,000 for student travel expenses from Canada
- 12- to 24-week research projects at accredited universities in Brazil, China, India, Mexico, Turkey or Vietnam
- Open to full-time senior undergraduate & graduate students
- Contact international@mitacs.ca for more information
- Mitacs recommends applicants submit applications by **June 13, 2014**, for projects starting in September 2014



Human African Trypanosomiasis Treatment (Credit: WHO)

Call for Papers and Training

Health Policy Challenges of a Region in Transition

Guest Editors: Professor Tikki Pang & Professor Kelley Lee
Professor Tikki Pang (Pangestu), Visiting Professor,
Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy,
National University of Singapore,
Email: spptep@nus.edu.sg

"The Asia-Pacific is a highly dynamic region where more than half of the world's population lives. The region also bears the greatest burden of disease, both communicable and non-communicable, and is recognized as a major source of emerging diseases. It is also a very diverse region with countries in various stages of development ranging from low-income countries such as Cambodia and Papua New Guinea, to middle-income giants like Indonesia and China, to economic powerhouses like Korea and Japan. Health needs, and health policy challenges to deal with them, are consequently diverse and dynamic. Within this context of transition, there are unprecedented opportunities for innovative thinking, knowledge translation and collective action on health policy. The special issue aims to capture the health policy challenges of a region in transition."

For additional information or contributions please contact Mrs. Eliane P. Santos, Advisor, Library and Information Networks, Knowledge Management, Bioethics and Research (KBR)

Summer Institute in Knowledge Translation for Global Health

The Coalition will be partnering again with Queen's University (an Institutional Member of the CCGHR) to offer a second [Summer Institute in Knowledge Translation \(KT\) for Global Health](#). Taking place in Kingston, Ontario, the Institute will feature a 5 day enhanced program from June 2-6 as well as a 2-day skills development workshop (June 3-4).



- **Two-Day Knowledge Translation Skills Development Workshop (June 3-4):** This workshop will feature the core elements of Knowledge Translation (KT) as an essential competency in global health research. Grounded in philosophy, political science, and health research, the workshop will explore the complex ideas and theories that shape intersections among research, practice and policy processes. [Download a 2 page PDF with more details of this workshop.](#)
- **Five-Day Enhanced Program (June 2-6):** An advanced five day workshop from Monday – Friday that facilitates the application of students' newly acquired skills to real world case studies with mentors who have experience in the field and who will be available to the students on a one-to-one basis throughout the week. [Download a 4 page PDF with more details, including an itinerary for the week.](#)
- **Tuition** for the advanced five day workshop (including daily food and one dinner) is CAD \$1300. The two day workshop is CAD \$600. Accommodations, other meals, and travel to and from event are the responsibility of the participants.

Conferences and Events

The End of AIDS: Reality or Hyperbole?" Spring 2014 Wall Exchange

Date: May 21, 2014

Time: 6:30 pm doors open,
Lecture begins at 7:30 pm.

Location: Vogue Theatre, 918
Granville Street, Vancouver

Tickets are free but **must be reserved** and are in limited supply.

Reserve [here](#).

Find more information [here](#).

The **WALL**
Exchange

PETER WALL DOWNTOWN LECTURE SERIES SPRING 2014

The End of AIDS: Reality or Hyperbole?

The world of infectious diseases is filled with the cries of 'The End of AIDS'. Stephen Lewis explores whether we are really that close to the end of the pandemic or whether enthusiastic exhortations have lulled the donor community into a false sense of expectation. **Wednesday, May 21, 2014 7:30 pm at the Vogue Theatre, 918 Granville Street, Vancouver.** Tickets are free but must be reserved and are in limited supply. Contact pwias.ubc.ca

"It is difficult to see how we can reach the end of AIDS without researching high risk groups and discussing the appalling neglect of women throughout the pandemic."

– Stephen Lewis

Presented by the Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies.
Join the conversation.

photo by: Farhang Ghajar, CBC



The Wall Exchange is a community program created by the Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies at The University of British Columbia to provide a public forum for the discussion of key issues that impact us all.



Last minute travel bug got you?



5th Annual CUGH Global Health Conference

Date: May 10-12, 2014

Location: Washington, DC, USA

For more information click [here](#).

This year's theme, *Universities 2.0 – Advancing the Global Health Agenda in the Post-MDG Era*. It will showcase leading scientific advances in addressing the complex challenges we face. As the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) come to an end in 2015, we will look at the future of the global health enterprise. The program reflects this environment.

Some of the stellar speakers confirmed include President of the World Bank Jim Kim; former Head of UNAIDS and current Director of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine Peter Piot; and Head of the Earth Institute at Columbia University Jeff Sachs. We also will have a special lecture by the winner of the 2014 Gairdner Awards' Global Health Awardee. The 3-day meeting will provide outstanding opportunities to learn about new scientific advances, participate in practical workshops, network, and develop new partnerships with global health leaders across disciplines.

The International Society for Neglected Diseases

Date: May 15, 2014

Location: London England, Wellcome Trust

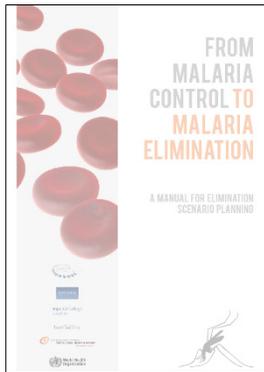
For more information click [here](#).

ISNTD d3 will address the drug discovery & development equation by focusing on four sessions. Presentations & panel discussions will run from 9.00am until 5.30pm, and partnership meetings can be arranged throughout the day. Please contact adamsg@isntd.org for further details including speaking & attending and to become a conference sponsor.

Reports of Interest

From Malaria Control to Malaria Elimination

From the foreward:

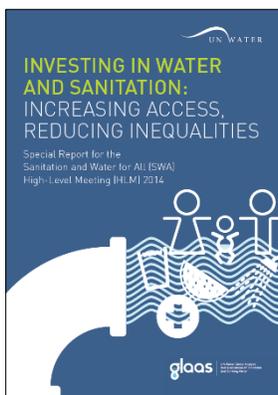


“The Elimination Scenario Planning manual is focused on what is needed to achieve very low levels of malaria transmission, and was designed to integrate with the overall programme planning cycle and complement other programme management and planning tools. The concepts covered in the manual, on the technical, operational, and financial factors affecting malaria control, are applicable to programmes at any point on the path to malaria elimination. As the work to control and eliminate malaria goes forward, and new malaria interventions become available, the need for sound strategic planning by programmes will be increasingly important, so that resources can be directed as effectively, efficiently and equitably as possible.”

Available from: <http://who.int/malaria/publications/atoz/9789241507028/en/>

Investing in Water and Sanitation: Increasing Access, Reducing Inequalities

From the Background:



“Data from 86 countries¹ are presented in this preliminary analysis, along with information provided by 21 external support agencies (ESAs).

The full GLAAS report, scheduled for publication in September 2014, will include an analysis of 90 or more countries and ESA respondents, representing all Millennium Development Goal (MDG) regions and over 90% of official development assistance for sanitation and drinking-water. The GLAAS process enables countries to discuss and identify national water and sanitation priorities and barriers to service provision, along with promoting a culture of accountability, partnership and shared responsibility. This latest GLAAS information is being used to help governments formulate specific, achievable, measurable, and time-bound commitments in preparation for the Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) High-Level Meeting (HLM). GLAAS provides Finance and Water Sector Ministers, along with Ministers of Development Cooperation, with information that allows them to make more informed investment decisions to extend and sustain service provision. It underscores to Ministries of Health that adopting a primary prevention approach to reduce disease is a cost-effective² and equitable approach to improving the lives of millions.”

Available from:

http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/glaas/2013/14063_SWA_GLAAS_Highlights.pdf?ua=1