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Neglected Global Diseases Initiative



a place of mind  
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

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## NGDI Member News

### Two NGDI Members score high on the new HiBAR measure

Congratulations to **Dr. Robert Hancock**, Co-Founder of the NGDI and **Dr. Stephen Withers** NGDI member. Both of these world class scientists were named recently in the Globe and Mail as Canada's top research stars. On Tuesday, March 27, 2012, The Globe and Mail published an article about the first Canadian version of HiBAR – or Hirsch-Index Benchmarking of Academic Research. The system provides a broad measurement of which researchers wield the most influence in their fields. It uses a large database of every Canadian university faculty member, and then creates an H-index score for each using raw data from Google Scholar. Dr. Hancock score of 81 in Biology and Biological Sciences was the highest of his field (and the complete list) and Dr. Withers score of 68 was ranked as first in Chemistry and Biochemistry and second overall. The NGDI congratulates Drs Hancock and Withers for this outstanding achievement. [<Read more.>](#)

### UBC World Tuberculosis Day a Success

The UBC World TB Day Event held by the Centre for Tuberculosis Research on March 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Life Sciences Centre was very well attended and featured Drs. Israel Casabon, Jennifer Gardy, Jan Burian, and Annalee Yassi during the short program. The keynote speaker was Dr. Ted Cohen of Harvard School of Public Health. For a copy of the Program and Abstracts [click here](#).

**NGDI Note:** For those interested in TB research this week, from **April 2-6**, please consider joining a free **online expert panel on “[Implementing Quality Management Systems to Strengthen Laboratory Capacity.](#)”**

Our panelists are: **Christopher Gilpin**, Ph.D., MPH, Scientist in TB Diagnostics and Laboratory Strengthening Unit at the WHO and co-moderator in the MDR-TB Treatment & Prevention Community on [GHDonline.org](http://ghdonline.org); **Thomas M. Shinnick**, Ph.D., Associate Director for Global Laboratory Activities, Division of Tuberculosis Elimination, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); **Paul Klatser**, Ph.D., head of the Biomedical Research department at the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT)

They will notably present the implementation guide, *Stepwise Process towards TB Laboratory Accreditation*, published last October by the Global Laboratory Initiative to assist National TB Reference Laboratories meet the requirements for international standards of accreditation.

We hope this panel will help TB laboratory professionals, national program managers, and anyone involved in building TB Lab capacity to become familiar with the accreditation process, the implementation of quality managements systems, and to engage in a fruitful discuss on challenges for TB diagnostic.

To participate, simply sign in and post a reply here: <http://www.ghdonline.org/drtb/discussion/expert-panel-apr-2-6-implementing-quality-manageme/>

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## First UAEM Neglected Diseases and Innovation Symposium Article

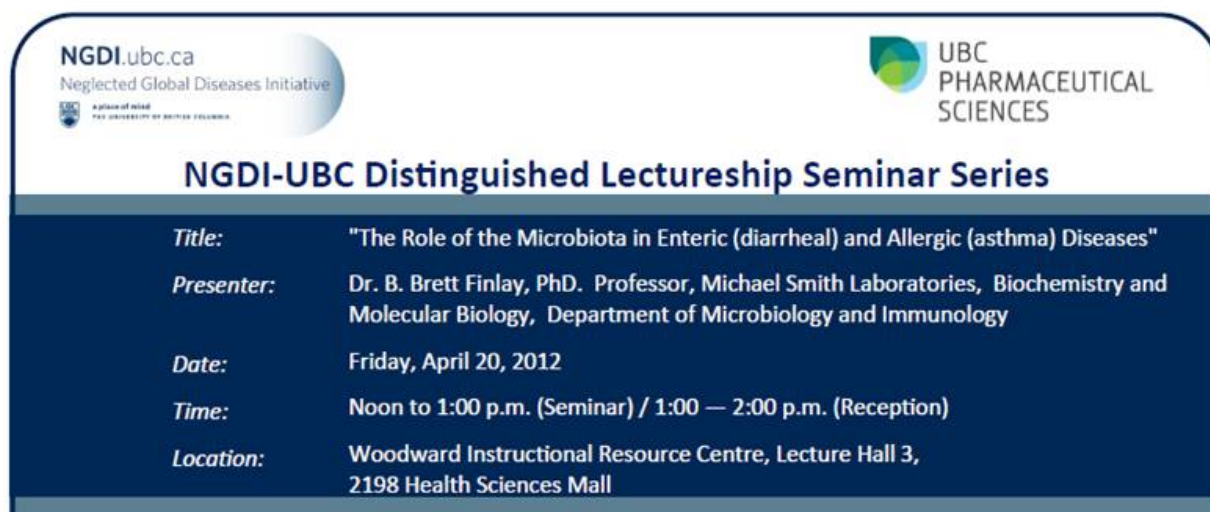
An article was published in January in the American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene on the above conference that Kish Wasan attending in October, 2011. UBC UAEM alumni Rebecca Goulding and Michael Gretes are co-authors of the report.

Universities Allied for Essential Medicines organized its first Neglected Diseases and Innovation Symposium to address expanding roles of public sector research institutions in innovation in research and development of biomedical technologies for treatment of diseases, particularly neglected tropical diseases. Universities and other public research institutions are increasingly integrated into the pharmaceutical innovation system. Academic entities now routinely undertake robust high-throughput screening and medicinal chemistry research programs to identify lead compounds for small molecule drugs and novel drug targets. Furthermore, product development partnerships are emerging between academic institutions, non-profit entities, and biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies to create diagnostics, therapies, and vaccines for diseases of the poor. With not for profit mission statements, open access publishing standards, open source platforms for data sharing and collaboration, and a shift in focus to more translational research, universities and other public research institutions are well-placed to accelerate development of medical technologies, particularly for neglected tropical diseases. [<read the article here>](#)

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## NGDI News

### Distinguished Lectureship Seminar Series featuring Dr. Brett Finlay on April 20th



The banner features the NGDI logo (NGDI.ubc.ca, Neglected Global Diseases Initiative, a place of mind, THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA) on the left and the UBC PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES logo on the right. The central text reads "NGDI-UBC Distinguished Lectureship Seminar Series". Below this, the following details are listed:

<b>Title:</b>	"The Role of the Microbiota in Enteric (diarrheal) and Allergic (asthma) Diseases"
<b>Presenter:</b>	Dr. B. Brett Finlay, PhD. Professor, Michael Smith Laboratories, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Department of Microbiology and Immunology
<b>Date:</b>	Friday, April 20, 2012
<b>Time:</b>	Noon to 1:00 p.m. (Seminar) / 1:00 — 2:00 p.m. (Reception)
<b>Location:</b>	Woodward Instructional Resource Centre, Lecture Hall 3, 2198 Health Sciences Mall

Please note that the location is different than normal for this event: Woodward IRC #3.

Dr. Finlay's work addresses the interplay between the resident host microbiota and bacterial pathogens such as *Salmonella enterica* and *Escherichia coli* during enteric infection, and the impact of their interactions on host immune response, including inflammation. This work will translate into improvements in the management and prevention of enteric infections.

He is well recognized internationally for his work, and has won several prestigious awards including the E.W.R. Steacie Prize, the CSM Fisher Scientific Award, CSM Roche Award, a MRC Scientist, five Howard Hughes International Research Scholar Awards, a CIHR Distinguished Investigator, BC Biotech Innovation Award, the Michael Smith Health Research Prize, the IDSA Squibb award, the Jacob Biely Prize, the prestigious Canadian Killam Health Sciences Prize, and the Flavelle Medal of the Royal Society.

A lunch reception will follow immediately after Dr. Finlay's seminar. Download and distribute the poster [here](#).

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## 2012 AAPS Pharmaceuticals in Global Health Student Travelships

Sponsored by The Neglected Global Diseases Initiative at the University of British Columbia (NGDI-UBC)  
Application Deadline: **July 27, 2012**

NGDI-UBC is pleased to offer travelships for eligible students presenting papers at the 2012 AAPS Annual Meeting and Exposition to be held in Chicago, October 14–18.

- 4 travelships for graduate/undergraduate students presenting papers pertaining to Pharmaceuticals in Global Health.
- The award consists of: \$750 for all students.

### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Recipients will be selected from all applicants that meet the following eligibility requirements:

1. Currently enrolled as a full-time student.
2. Member of AAPS since March 2012 or earlier.
3. First author of an accepted abstract pertaining to Pharmaceuticals in Global Health.
4. Have the paper accepted by one of the nine AAPS sections for presentation at the 2012 AAPS Annual Meeting and Exposition to be held in Chicago (October 14–18) where the student will be presenting.
5. Have no other means of supplemental support to attend the meeting.  
*There will be no way to prove the applicant has supplemental support to attend the meeting; therefore, this sentence will be on no other awards or travelships received from AAPS.*
6. Be present at the Pharmaceuticals in Global Health focus group annual business meeting (date to be announced) in Chicago to the award.

### SELECTION CRITERIA

Applicants whose submitted papers are not accepted by the Paper Screening committee will be removed from the eligible pool before the award selections are made.

An award sub-committee assigned by Pharmaceuticals for Global Health focus group chair will perform the selection as follows:

- Pre-selection of abstracts already accepted by the AAPS screening committees for relevance to Pharmaceuticals in Global Health.
- Make final selection from the short list.
- Only papers pertaining to Global Health will be considered.

### HOW TO APPLY

An online travelship application form must be submitted to AAPS at the following link:

<http://pages.aaps.org/travelships/index.asp?eventid=GlobalH12> no later than **July 27, 2012**.

### REIMBURSEMENT

The reimbursement will be issued to the selected individuals following the meeting upon receipt of documented meeting expenses (e.g., copy of airline ticket, hotel and meal receipts, etc.).

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### NGDI Talks by Kish Wasan in March

Dr. Wasan was a guest speaker at two student run conferences in March. On March 17<sup>th</sup> he spoke to students at the UBC Amnesty International Annual Conference 2012: The International Abuse of Power. He also spoke at the Destination South Asia event held by the Pakistan Students' Association and Center for India and South Asia Research on March 24<sup>th</sup>. Another NGDI member, **Dr. Jerry Spiegel** also spoke at the conference.

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### Celebrate Research Week Event

On March 2, 2012 the NGDI and SBN (Student Biotechnology Network) co-sponsored a Celebrate Research Week Event titled: Discovering Drugs for Developing Countries. The event took place at the Michael Smith Laboratories Auditorium and featured four speakers: Dr. Kishor Wasan, NGDI, Mr. Andrew Rae, CEO, iCo Therapeutics, Sonya Ziesche, Gowlings, Lafleur, Henders (IP law firm), and Carol Leacy, Director, Entrepreneurship UBC. There was a good turnout for the event and audience members mingled with speakers at the reception.

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## Funding Opportunities

### Deadline Reminder

**Grand Challenges Explorations Program** Initial grants will be US \$100,000 each, and projects showing promise will have the opportunity to receive additional funding of up to US \$1 million. Full descriptions of the new topics and application instructions are available at: [www.grandchallenges.org/explorations](http://www.grandchallenges.org/explorations), Deadline is **May 15, 2012**

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### Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE)

The Government of Canada, through the Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE) is seeking applications from Canadian publicly funded institutions for the 2011-2012 Students' Exchange Program:

- Canada-CARICOM Leadership Scholarships [**Caribbean**]
- Canadian Commonwealth Scholarships [**Asia-Pacific, Africa**]
- Emerging Leaders in the Americas [**South & Central America, Mexico, Caribbean**]
- Canada-Chile Leadership Scholarships [**Chile**]

*\*for full list of countries, see [website](#)*

#### General Eligibility Criteria:

- These awards are available to international students to undertake research or study at UBC for a period of 4 to 6 months.
- Students must be citizens of eligible countries.
- All Awards are available to graduate and undergraduate students for study or research activity

except the Canadian Commonwealth Scholarships, which are available only to graduate students.

- Students coming to undertake course work must be from UBC student mobility partner institutions. For a list of UBC mobility partners, please consult the Go Global [partner university search tool](#).
- Students coming to undertake research must be from institutions with which UBC has established research activity.

Application Process: All applications must be submitted by UBC directly on behalf of the student. Go Global plays a coordinating role on all applications submitted on behalf of the University.

**Deadline** to nominate and submit all application documentation for a student to Go Global is **April 5<sup>th</sup>**, 2012. Application in full must be submitted to Go Global by this date in order to ensure that it can be considered.

Please refer to the Go Global [website](#) / [Graduate Research](#) for further eligibility and application details. [\[Top\]](#)

## Faculty Leadership Pilot Program (FLPP)

[FLPP offers scholarships](#) for **incoming faculty** from CARICOM countries to Canadian postsecondary institutions for short-term research, and for international directors/ managers responsible for student mobility.

Eligible countries: Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Kitts, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, or Turks and Caicos.

**Application deadline: April 22, 2012 (or 12 pm EST, April 23rd)**

**Internal deadline: April 16, 2012** (see details below)

This scholarship is tenable between September 2012 and March 2013. The scholarship value varies depending on the length of stay in Canada:

- \$10,000 CAN for faculty members for 5-6 months of research\* at the graduate level;
- \$3,000 CAN for faculty members for 2-3 weeks of course work or research; or
- \$3,000 CAN for international directors/managers for 2-3 weeks of course work, or relevant practicum in the area of internationalization or student mobility.

*\* scholarships are also available for coursework, but UBC does not have student exchange agreements with any institutions in these countries.*

Candidates:

- Must be citizens of one of the following eligible countries:
- Must be employed full-time as faculty or as international managers/administrators at a recognized higher education institution in an eligible country for the full duration of the exchange.
- Must be proficient in either English or French.
- Preference will be given to faculty members registered in a program at the graduate level in their home institution who wish to undertake study or research for 5-6 months.

For full details, please visit: <http://www.scholarships-bourses.gc.ca/scholarships-bourses/can/institutions/flpp-pplpe.aspx?lang=eng&view=d>

Applications must be submitted by the Canadian institution; therefore the following internal process has been developed.

**UBC Internal Deadline: April 16, 2012**

The UBC faculty host must submit the following to Jacqueline Smit; [jacqueline.smit@ubc.ca](mailto:jacqueline.smit@ubc.ca)

- Name of candidate
- Candidates institution, position, department
- Name of UBC faculty host
- Host department
- A **summary paragraph** from the candidate describing the nature and objectives of their research, studies or practicum to be undertaken and explaining the rationale for study in Canada and for the choice of institution, program or practicum, and supervisor.

Upon receipt of internal applications, our office will provide you with the application details re: Contact person responsible for scholarship program; and History of collaboration.

The UBC faculty host (or designate) will be required to complete the online application form on behalf of the candidate, and ensure all documents are submitted prior to the deadline. The candidate needs to provide a one-page letter of intent and additional documents (citizenship, proof of employment, support letter from home institution). The host supervisor must provide a one-page letter of support.

Upon application submission, the UBC faculty host must submit to our office a final copy of the candidate's letter of intent and their host faculty letter of invitation.

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## Go Global Opportunities for Students:

2012—2013 Term One placements (Sept—Dec, 2012) Application Deadline: **May 13, 2012**

[Ecological Sustainability: Costa Rica](#) Open to all students. Length: 12 weeks (September—December), Hostel accommodation. \$3,300 program fee may be offset by \$1,500 ISL award.

[Literacy, community libraries & universal primary education: Uganda](#) Open to all students - length 12 weeks (September-December). Rural location. Homestay accommodation. \$2,850 program fee may be offset by \$1,500 ISL award.

[Community development through HIV/AIDS programs and services: Swaziland](#) Open to all students – length: 12 weeks (September—December) Rural location. Homestay accommodation \$2,850 program fee may be offset by \$1,500 ISL award.

[Ecological Education and Sustainability: Mexico](#) Open to all students, length: 12 weeks (September-December) Rural location. Hostel accommodation. \$3,200 program fee may be offset by \$1,500 ISL award.

[Community-based food security interventions: Rwanda](#) Open to all students who have completed *FNH 355* or have achieved third-year status 14 weeks (September-December); Rural location. Hostel accommodation. \$2,000 program fee may be offset by \$1,500 ISL award and project funding.

[Understanding Immigration, demographics & development: Mexico](#) Open to all students, length 12 weeks (September-December) Rural location. Hostel/homestay accommodation. \$3,200 program fee may be offset by \$1,500 ISL award

Please contact Go Global directly at [go.global@ubc.ca](mailto:go.global@ubc.ca) should you have any questions.

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## SSHRC Connection Grants

SSHRC continues implementation of its [renewed program architecture](#) with the launch of the Connection Grants funding opportunity. The description is now available on the SSHRC website at the following link: [http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/programs-programmes/connection\\_grants-subventions\\_connexion-eng.aspx](http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/programs-programmes/connection_grants-subventions_connexion-eng.aspx)? The application form and instructions will be available at the beginning of April.

The Connection Grants support events and outreach activities geared toward short-term, targeted knowledge mobilization initiatives. These events and outreach activities represent opportunities to exchange knowledge and to engage on research issues of value to those participating.

SSHRC invites applicants who wish to conduct workshops, colloquiums, conferences, forums, summer institutes or other events or outreach activities that facilitate:

- disciplinary and/or interdisciplinary exchanges in the humanities and social sciences;
- scholarly exchanges between those working in the social sciences and humanities and those working in other research fields;
- intersectoral exchanges between academic researchers in the humanities and social sciences and researchers and practitioners from the public, private and/or not-for-profit sectors; and/or
- international research collaboration and scholarly exchanges between researchers, students and non-academic partners from other countries.

These grants are valued at \$7,000 to \$50,000, with higher amounts considered on an exceptional basis, over one year. **Starting in April 2012**, SSHRC will accept applications on a continuous basis and will announce results normally within eight weeks from the date that SSHRC confirms receipt of the application.

Over the past three years, SSHRC has awarded an average of \$6 million per year to support the types of events and outreach activities expected to be proposed and funded through the Connection funding opportunity. The approximate budget available for new awards in 2012-13 will be announced in spring 2012 under the [Connection Program on SSHRC's website](#).

For more information, please contact us by telephone at 613-943-1007 or email at: [connection@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca](mailto:connection@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca).

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## Graduate Student Training Opportunity



**Registration is now open.**

**What is Mitacs Step?**

- Program provides graduate students and postdocs with opportunities to build on their professional and transferrable skill sets.
- Opportunities are open to all past, present and prospective graduate students and postdocs.

**Why should you attend?**



- Strengthen your working relationships, increase your ability to connect with industry, improve research results and impact.
- Access to industry recognized expertise.

***Foundations of Project Management I – Vancouver, BC***

When: Monday, April 16, 2012 and Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Time: 8:30am - 4:30pm (Registration 8:00am SHARP)

Where: UBC Robson Square, 800 Robson Street

Room: C400

*Materials, Breakfast basics, and Lunch provided!* [REGISTER HERE!](#)

***Proactive and Practical Communications & Teamwork – Vancouver, BC***

When: Monday, April 16, 2012

Time: 9:00am - 4:00pm (Registration 830am SHARP)

Where: UBC Robson Square, 800 Robson Street

Room: C225

*Materials, Breakfast basics, and Lunch provided!* [REGISTER HERE!](#)

***Foundations of Project Management II – Vancouver, BC***

When: Wednesday, April 18, 2012 and Thursday, April 19, 2012

Time: 8:30am - 4:30pm (Registration 8:00am SHARP)

Where: UBC Robson Square, 800 Robson Street

Room: C225

*Materials, Breakfast basics, and Lunch provided!* [REGISTER HERE!](#)

***The Art, Science, and Practice of Positive Networking – Vancouver, BC***

When: Wednesday, April 18, 2012

Time: 9:00am - 4:00pm (Registration 8:30am SHARP)

Where: UBC Robson Square, 800 Robson Street

Room: HSBC Hall

*Materials, Breakfast basics, and Lunch provided!* [REGISTER HERE!](#)

***Practice Your Presentation Skills I – Vancouver, BC***

When: Friday, April 20, 2012

Time: 9:00am - 4:00pm (Registration 830am SHARP)

Where: UBC Robson Square, 800 Robson Street

Room: C225

*Materials, Breakfast basics, and Lunch provided!* [REGISTER HERE!](#)

**\*Please note:**

- A valid credit card is REQUIRED to complete and secure your registration
- The workshops are *free* to attend however there is a \$50.00 charge for no-shows and late cancellations
- You have 5 calendar days prior to the scheduled workshop to modify or cancel your registration at no penalty
- Certificates of participation are issued to those who complete the full workshop, please ensure you can stay for the full session when organizing transport to and from the workshop venue

- Pending availability and the discretion of the coordinator, limited funding is available for travel and accommodation for participants coming from universities outside of the region where the workshop is being held. You MUST first register, then request travel funding, only those registered for a workshop are eligible for travel funding!

If you have any questions regarding the upcoming Mitacs Step workshops or would like more information on the program in general, please do not hesitate to contact us.

For more information on Mitacs please visit <http://www.mitacs.ca>

## Upcoming Conferences

### Global Health Challenges & the Role of Law

#### 2012 National Health Law Conference, May 4 & 5, 2012 Toronto, Canada

Website: <http://bit.ly/xH5IXv>

Participants will discuss and seek solutions to these global health challenges:

- How can we improve global access to care and essential medicines on the part of the most vulnerable – can law make a substantive change?
- Can we regulate to ensure fair access to health and health care given the global rise of medical tourism, global trade and assisted reproductive technologies?
- What impact can law make in addressing the global spread of chronic diseases and the rise, for example, of the obesity epidemic?
- In the legal world we think we can meet global health challenges through law and litigation, but to what extent is that true and what are the context and circumstances where law/litigation can really make a positive difference in improving global welfare?

The 2012 conference will feature a keynote panel debate on:

#### "Can Law Meet Global Health Challenges? Perspectives from Medicine and Politics"

Abdallah S. Daar, Senior Scientist and Director of Ethics and Commercialization, Sandra Rotman Centre; Professor, Dalla Lana School of Public Health, UoT

Theodore R. Marmor, Health Care Policy, Politics and Law Expert, Yale University

Michael Ignatieff, Former leader of the Liberal Party of Canada; Senior Fellow of Massey College, University of Toronto

James Orbinski, Chair and Professor in Global Health, Dalla Lana School of Public Health; Co-Director, Global Health Diplomacy Program, Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto.

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### Clinical Research Professional Development (CRPD) program presents: Privacy in Health Research

**Date:** Wednesday, April 11th, 2012  
**Time:** 9:30am to 11:30am  
**Location:** Chan Centre for Family Health Education  
 Child & Family Research Institute

938 West 28th Ave, Vancouver, BC

**Registration**      April 10th, 2012  
**Deadline:**

This workshop will discuss the recent changes to BC's Freedom of Information & Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA) and highlight how these changes may impact health research. Hear from the perspectives of Population Data BC (a population health data resource), a Research Ethics Board and a local Health Authority on permanent issues related to privacy protection and compliance.

For more information, please click [here](#). To register, please email [reseduc@cfri.ca](mailto:reseduc@cfri.ca), include your full name, departmental affiliation, and contact email.

Attendees will receive a certificate of attendance for continuing education/professional development purposes.

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