

Centre for Health and Culture 2008-09 Annual Report

(Executive Edition)

The Centre continued in 2007 to develop its mandate to research and examine the relationship between culture and health. This year we have completed our Pallium-financed research project on “Towards Culturally Responsive Care in the Community: End-of-Life and Dementia Care in five Ethnic Communities” in which five ethnically-distinctive communities in Northern Alberta were studied for their views on end-of-life and dementia care. At the same time, we took our findings back to the communities and held workshops for the health care professionals, the results of which provided us with important perspectives on cultural competence among professionals.

Some of this material will be published in a book which we have edited and offered to the University of Alberta Press. The book, entitled *At the Interface of Culture and Medicine: Contemporary Canadian Studies* is currently being peer-evaluated and we anticipate its publication in 2008 or early 2009. It is edited by Earle Waugh, Olga Szafran and Rod Crutcher, and features articles from scholars at both the University of Alberta and the University of Calgary.

Much of 2007 has been taken up with the proposal for the Canadian Centre for Traditional Medical Knowledge. This initiative is a sister organization for CHC and is designed to gather, edit and store traditional medical knowledge of Canada’s aboriginal healers. The proposal as currently written will be funded at the level of 3.5 million over three years, and is already under consideration in Ottawa. We anticipate that it will be funded sometime in 2008. The Canadian Centre will develop protocols for maintaining and developing traditional knowledge for young Aboriginal physicians, as well as undertaking research on the various herbal medicines used traditionally. Aboriginal healers will establish the protocols for all research and development done with these medicines.

CHC continues to finish the videos being developed for the educational part of the Pallium project. So far we have four videos completed, with two on Francophone perceptions and one each on Chinese and Aboriginal (Cree) to be completed in the spring of 2008. When completed, a text will be finished that provides cultural competence teaching material that can be sent across the country to the Faculties of Medicine.

Some dozen of lectures, powerpoint and research symposia based on Centre research have been carried out in 2007, for example, the Western Canadian Family Physicians Conference in March, 2007, The National Young Pharmacist’s Association and the Research Forum of the Dept. of Family Medicine, in October 2007.

Projects

The following are projects that are underway in the Centre:

- Co-Director Jean Triscott: Distribution Grant, Dementia Workshop: Pfizer, \$3500.00
- Article on implications of Pallium Research for Geriatrics, with E. Waugh and O. Szafran. Underway
- Associate Director Jonathan Hart: Collection of articles on Creativity and Aging with various well-known writers across Canada-underway.
- Research Associate Svetlana Pavlenko: Comparison of Russian/Canadian Medical Curriculum for IMG Evaluation-Funded \$1,000.00 by Dept. of Family Medicine
- Jewish-Russian Immigrant Problems in the Edmonton-\$25,000.00 Grant awarded in December.
- Team participation: Canadian Ethnic youth and religious views-headed by Dr. Peter Beyer, Carlton, SSHRC, \$250,000.00. Under consideration.
- Team participation: Religious End-of-Life Views and Health- headed by Dr. Harold Coward, U. Victoria, CIHR , \$75,000.00. Under consideration.
- The Centre has proposed developing a website for the AlbertaSource, Edmonton Community Foundation, Nature's Law Project. The Alberta Government has set aside \$250,000.00 for housing the Foundation's websites, and our application is to develop this material.

Publications

At the Interface of Culture and Medicine: Contemporary Canadian Studies. Edited by Earle Waugh, Ph.D., Rod Crutcher, M.D., Olga Szafran, MHSA. Edmonton: University of Alberta Press, 2008, including the following articles:

Towards Culturally Responsive Care in the Community: Ethnicity and Early Intervention in Dementia-Related Decline. E Waugh, J Triscott, O Szafran pp.26-36.

Cultural and Language Implications in the Practice of Medicine, with Special Attention to Dementia. J Triscott pp. 133-144.