



# A M H B

ALBERTA MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

... *Advancing Mental Health*

# Mental Health Research Program Progress Update

May/June 2007

## Research Partnership Program launched

On June 13, 2007, the Alberta Mental Health Board hosted the launch of the Alberta Mental Health Research Partnership Program. Highlights of the celebration will be featured in a special Progress Update edition to be released in July. For more information on the Research Program, please visit our new website at [www.mentalhealthresearch.ca](http://www.mentalhealthresearch.ca)



## Centennial chair candidates to visit

Numerous Chair applications for the Alberta Centennial Mental Health Research Chairs Program have been reviewed by the Recruitment Steering Committee (RSC) and the Expert Advisory Panel. A short list of candidates was developed by RSC in May 2007 and these candidates will visit Alberta's universities and Regional Health Authorities in September and October 2007.

## Research Showcase update

The 3rd annual Mental Health Research Showcase will be held **November 21-23, 2007**, at the Rimrock Resort Hotel in Banff, Alberta. This year's Showcase will focus on the following themes:

- Effectiveness of Mental Health Service Delivery in Primary Healthcare;
- Mental Health and the Aging Population;
- Mental Health and Addictions in the Workplace;
- Wellness, Promotion, and Prevention

The Call for Abstracts has been announced with a submission deadline of August 20, 2007. Two formats for abstracts are invited: abstracts that focus on innovations in practice and those that report on academic research in mental health. This is to encourage both "evidence-based practice" and "practice-based evidence" with the ultimate goal of optimizing the mental health of Albertans.

Abstract submission forms are available at [www.buksa.com/showcase/](http://www.buksa.com/showcase/)

## Contact information

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## Priority setting roundtable a success

Experts in the area of child and adolescent mental health came together on June 1, 2007, in a priority-setting roundtable discussion to further define the research agenda for child and adolescent mental health in Alberta. The day was well attended by local and national participants from government, research and service settings, all of whom share a strong interest in child and adolescent mental health.

The Roundtable was planned by the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Research Working Group of the provincial Research Partnership Committee, and supported by the Alberta Mental Health Board.

By identifying key areas to focus child and adolescent mental health services and population health research over the next three to five years, the research agenda will influence the further implementation of the Research Program as well as the work of multiple stakeholder organizations.

Priorities emerging from the day's discussion will be compiled in a summary report that will be used in an upcoming web-based consultation. This consultation will give stakeholders and the public the opportunity to provide input into the developing research agenda.

## Mental health studentships awarded

In 2006 the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research (AHFMR) and the Alberta Mental Health Board formed a partnership to increase the number of studentships, enabling more students to undertake mental health research. For the March 2007 competition, five mental health research studentships were awarded.

We extend congratulations to:

- **Kathleen H. Chaput, University of Calgary**  
Examining the Relationship between Breastfeeding Difficulties and Postpartum Depression: A Step Toward Prevention
- **Jenny D. Horch, University of Calgary**  
Stigma and Self-stigma as Barriers to Treatment in Problem Gamblers
- **Terri-Lynn MacKay, University of Calgary**  
Risk and Resiliency Factors in Gambling Behaviour
- **David P. McAllindon, University of Alberta**  
Investigation of Functional and Structural Abnormalities in the Anterior Cingulate Cortex in Recent-Onset and Chronic Schizophrenia
- **Erin L. Moss, University of Calgary**  
Adding Motivational Interviewing to a Behavioural Weight Loss Treatment for Obesity: A Randomized Controlled Trial