Very often we hear of how many students at UBC are interested in working in Aboriginal and rural communities when they graduate, but are often unsure where to start. In order to meet the challenges in providing health care to First Nations in this province, we must encourage more students to seek out opportunities to learn about Aboriginal health and work in communities.

The following pages detail some of our work in the past few months. We hope you enjoy!

Huy ch q’u,

Leah May Walker

James Andrew
IHHS 409 Presented at Truth and Reconciliation Commission Dialogue at UBC

On June 11, 2008, Prime Minister Stephen Harper apologized in Parliament for the government policies that resulted for more than a century in the Indian Residential School system. This system had devastating effects on First Nations and Aboriginal people in Canada, which continue to this day. Following the apology, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada was established to provide a framework for acknowledging the experience of survivors and the history of the schools, and to establish a basis for reconciliation. On November 1st 2012, in collaboration with the Indian Residential School Survivors Society and the west coast liaison for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, UBC conducted an exploratory dialogue and strategy session on the history and legacy of the Indian residential schools and the role of UBC and other contemporary educational institutions in addressing them. For those who could not attend in-person, the event was available by webcast. Primarily by invitation only, the event included a range of presentations and discussions between professors, students, elders and community members.

In response to this call, Leah Walker, Associate Director of APH, presented the concepts and outcomes of IHHS 409: “Is the Past Present” at the UBC First Nations Longhouse. “Is the Past Present” is a 3-unit intensive, online, cross-institutional course that provides students the opportunity for comparative inquiry of Indigenous experiences of colonization and the manifestations of that experience in the contemporary socio-cultural environment. Through the use of digital interactive technology, students work together with educators from across the globe.

This course was, and continues to be, a partnership among many individuals, groups and organizations: UBC Division of Aboriginal People’s Health, Arts Instructional Support and Information Technology (ISIT), First Nations Studies, the College of Health Disciplines; Onemda Vi-Health Koori Health Unit, The University of Melbourne; Xay:tem Longhouse Interpretive Centre; and Indian Residential School Survivors Society. We also wish to acknowledge the contributions from faculty members and students at UBC. Most importantly, we honour the contributions of Elders and survivors who willingly told their stories for us to learn, understand, grow and heal.

Educating for Equity

Educating for Equity (E4E) is a collaborative, international research project focused on diabetes among Aboriginal populations. Together with our international partners in Australia and New Zealand, we are working to improve chronic disease outcomes and enhance access to equitable care for Aboriginal peoples.

Here in Canada, the lead investigator is Dr. Lindsay Crowshoe, Director of the Undergraduate Medical Education Aboriginal Health Program at the University Of Calgary. In British Columbia, the Co-Investigators are Leah Walker (Associate Director, UBC Division of Aboriginal People’s Health), Dr. Betty Calam (Director, St. Paul’s site –UBC Family Residency Program) and Dr. Kendall Ho (Director, eHealth Strategy Office). Jo Parker of UBC has been hired to provide research support for the BC site.

We are collecting qualitative data through a series of in-depth focus groups with Aboriginal people living with diabetes, and series of one-on-one interviews with physicians across Canada. A key outcome of this project will be to develop and implement a continuing medical education (CME) intervention for practicing physicians.

We’ve made a lot of progress since our last update in the January 2011 APH Newsletter. Urban, rural and reserve sites were identified for data collection in BC, Alberta and Ontario. In each site, we conducted a series of five in-depth focus groups with diabetes patients. Here in BC, the participating community’s health centre and its staff were a big support, and the participants shared many important stories and insights. In December 2011 we started our one-on-one interviews with physicians. Data analysis and plans for sharing the study’s findings are ongoing.

Also this December, the Canadian E4E researchers had the opportunity to travel to New Zealand and meet with our international partners. They attended the Leaders in Indigenous Medical Education (LIME) Network’s fourth biennial conference in Auckland, NZ. Following the conference, the E for E researchers gathered for an enjoyable and productive international meeting.

For more information or to get involved with E4E, please contact Leah Walker (or Jo Parker (joparker@uvic.ca).
The UBC Learning Circle

The UBC Learning Circle opened its 5th year with a workshop on Lateral Violence in First Nations communities with Chameleon Strategies. Participants discussed the origins and effects of lateral violence in First Nations communities, while drawing upon questions and concerns in their own communities. A big thank you to Chameleon Strategies for leading such a thought-provoking circle!

Our second Learning Circle of the year, “Gathering Wisdom, Now What?”, provided an update on the decisions made and events following the Gathering Wisdom conference in May 2011. Communities heard from Chief Federal Negotiator Ian Potter, Grand Chief Doug Kelly, and Arlene Patton (ADM Population and Public Health). During the two-hour presentation, the speakers discussed the Tripartite framework agreement, evolving relationships between First Nations and the federal government, and the next steps in transition with First Nations health care professionals and community members.

We at the Learning Circle were also excited to re-launch the youth component of the Circle in November 2011. More about the Youth Circle follows below. We will be expanding our offerings in the new year to multiple sessions a month, to increased trainings and courses for health professionals in topic areas such as palliative care and program evaluation. Keep watching the UBC Learning Circle website for more information!

The UBC Learning Circle is a partnership among the UBC Division of Aboriginal People’s Health (DAPH), the First Nations Health Council (FNHC) and First Nations and Inuit Health (FNIH). Our community partnerships and weekly discussions strengthen the Learning Circle and continue to make it a valuable asset to Aboriginal health practices. The Circle currently runs every Wednesday from 10 to 11:30am with a facilitator and invited expert guests to discuss topics relating to health and healing. A full list of our past and upcoming sessions can be found at: http://learn- ingcircle.ubc.ca If you would like to be added to the Learning Circle mailing list or have more information, please contact Jamie Witt at learningcircle@familymed.ubc.ca.

The UBC Youth Sharing Circle is back! The Youth Circle is an extension of the Learning Circle and is geared towards an audience of Aboriginal young people, ages 29 and under. The Youth Circle is a series of interactive videoconference episodes specifically for Aboriginal youth throughout BC. It is available to communities all over the province, thanks to the support of Health Canada who has sent the required equipment to 80 BC communities. For communities that are not able to access the videoconference locations the Youth Circle can also be viewed online through streaming. We have a chat room available for online viewers to communicate directly with the speaker.

The Youth Circle first ran in 2009 with much success (including speakers Gil Lerat and War Party) but at that time we weren’t able to dedicate more time to keeping it going. The revitalized Youth Circle started in November 2011 and there are now two per month. Some of the topics for the 2011-2012 season will be on: sexual health, hip-hop, fashion, self-esteem, sports, gang life, racism, education, youth-elder relations, and traditional teachings.

The Circle is held during school time to encourage teachers to bring their classes to participate and to allow students class credit. We also encourage teachers to create assignments on the Circle topics, which meet BC Prescribed Learning Outcomes.

The Circle gives young Aboriginal people a place to learn from their peers and from individuals who have lived experience with the subjects they are talking about, such as changing one’s life around from gang life. Youth in the Circle have the opportunity to express themselves, to be entertained and to learn and teach their peers all over BC about what’s going on and what they want to do in their communities.

You and groups in your community can also present to the Youth Circle! You are invited to share with the Youth Circle about the events you have going on, the challenges that you’re facing and initiatives that you want to get going. The Circle is an opportunity for you to seek advice from others and to see how we can help each other, be inspired by each other and communicate on a regular basis.

The Youth Circle, like the Learning Circle, has the potential to create change, empower youth and bring dialogue between communities that would otherwise be difficult to maintain on a regular basis.

How to participate in the Youth Circle:
Contact Genevieve at aph assistir@familymed.ubc.ca or call 604-682-2344 extension 63475.
Aboriginal Admissions at UBC Medicine

On October 17, 2011, the Aboriginal admissions subcommittee reviewed applications from 18 Aboriginal students for the MD undergraduate program. Fifteen of the 18 will be interviewed in February 2012.

The Faculty of Medicine hosted its 8th annual Aboriginals into Medicine: Preadmissions Workshop at UBC’s Vancouver campus July 26-28, 2011. Thirteen Aboriginal premed students attended the workshop which included 2 students from the Lower Mainland, and 11 from outside of Vancouver. The 9th annual workshop will be held July 11-12, 2012 at UBC’s Okanagan campus in Kelowna, BC.

For May 2012, the Faculty of Medicine is on track to graduate 12 Aboriginal physicians. Specialties are yet to be determined. This will bring a total of 36 Aboriginal physician graduates.

IHHS 409 begins on February 27th, 2012! Register today as space is limited!

“Is the Past Present” is a 3-unit intensive, online, cross-institutional course which provides students the opportunity for comparative inquiry of Indigenous experiences of colonization and the manifestations of that experience in the contemporary socio-cultural environment. Through the use of digital interactive technology, students will work together with educators from across the globe.

For course inquiries, please contact: Jamie Witt (aph.assistant2@familymed.ubc.ca), and cc Leah Walker (leah.walker@ubc.ca).
IHHS 408: Topics in Aboriginal Health - A Community Based Experience

Deadline to apply:
Friday, February 3rd, 2012

The UBC College of Health Disciplines and Division of Aboriginal People’s Health offers a practice-based Aboriginal health elective open to health science students. This 4-week course provides students with a unique opportunity to live and work with students from other health disciplines within an Aboriginal community in BC. IHHS 408 will be offered from May 31-June 30, 2012, including a two-day orientation at the First Nations House of Learning on the UBC campus. For further details, please go to: http://aboriginalhealth.med.ubc.ca/education/ihhs-408

Preference will be given to health science students, but students with relevant experience are encouraged to apply. To submit an application consisting of a one-page letter and CV, contact Genevieve Leis at aph.assist@familymed.ubc.ca and cc: leah.walker@ubc.ca or phone 604-682-2344 ext. 63475.
The School of Population and Public Health and the Division of Aboriginal People’s Health present:

Developing and sustaining the indigenous health agenda at the University of Otago

Speaker: Dr. Peter Crampton
University of Otago, New Zealand

Dr. Peter Crampton is Pro-Vice Chancellor of the Division of Health Sciences, and Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, for the University of Otago, New Zealand. He is a public health medicine physician. His research is focused on social indicators, social epidemiology and health care policy.

Date: February 7, 2012
Time: 10:30 am - 12 noon
Location: Room 491,
2206 East Mall (School of Population Public Health)
Acknowledgements

Aboriginal People’s Health would like to recognize all of our staff, partners, and wonderful people that make our work possible. Thank You!

Division Staff
Dr. Evan Adams
Director (On leave)
Leah May Walker
Associate Director
James Andrew
Associate Director
Bertie Glusman
Program Assistant
Jamie Witt
Program Assistant
Genevieve Leis
Program Assistant
Tanu Gamble
Research Assistant
Jo Parker
Research Assistant

Aboriginal Residency Program
Dr. Daniele Behn-Smith
Carlea Remodo

Adjunct Professor
Dr. Dennis A. Wardman

Clinical Associate Professors
Dr. Veronica McKinney
Dr. David Tu

Clinical Assistant Professors
Dr. Evan Adams
Dr. Laurel Shugarman

Dr. Jay Wortman
Leah May Walker

Clinical Instructors
James Andrew
Dr. Gary Bauman
Shaunee Casavant
Judith Gohn
David Henderson
Leanne Kelly
Dr. Rose Lenser
Dr. Payam Sazegar
Dr. Krista M. Stogryn
Maureen Tommy

Honorary Instructors
Gerry Oleman

Other Instructors
Dr. Rif Kamil
Doreen Littlejohn
Dr. Betty Calam

Institute for Aboriginal Health
Dr. Lee Brown
Kerrie Charnley

UBC
Dr. Linc Kesler
Rick Ouellet

School of Population & Public Health
Dr. Patti Spittal
Dr. Nadine Caron

Health Canada
Al Wiebe
Jennifer Rapp
Stephen Prevost
Jeffrey Yu
Dr. Shannon Waters

Community Members
Rose Point, Elder
Shane Point
Greg Sam, Elder
Jewel Thomas, Elder

PHSA
Leslie Varley
Cheryl Ward

IHHS 408 Communities
The staff of the Mt. Currie Health Center
Cedric Jones
Vickie Louis

The staff of the Cowichan Health Center
Judith Gohn, Health Director
Leanne Kelly
Charlotte Williams

The staff of the Esketemc Health Center
Joyce Johnson
Irene Johnson
Stella Nilsson

The staff of the Seabird Island Health Center
Carolyne Neufeld

IHHS 409 Contributors
Lyana Patrick
Gerry Oleman, Elder
Chief Robert Joseph, Elder
Charon Spinks, Elder
William Blackwater, Elder
Archie Patrick, Elder
Linea Battel, Elder
Lauren Mclennan
Negin Mirriahi
Shaun Ewen

ABORIGINAL PEOPLE’S HEALTH

Location:
#201– 1190 Hornby Street
Vancouver, BC
V6Z 1Y6

Mailing Address:
1081 Burrard Street
Vancouver, BC
V6Z 1Y6

Phone: 604-682-2344 x62242
Fax: 604-806-8499

http://aboriginalhealth.med.ubc.ca

Email:
aph.assistant2@familymed.ubc.ca