

Forum agrees on strategic directions for a national addictions research agenda

More than 70 leading addictions researchers and other specialists from across Canada met in Ottawa in October to draft a set of strategic directions for future research into the causes and consequences of substance use and abuse. The group agreed on nine research themes, which are expected to contribute to a new national addictions research agenda.

The Forum on Alcohol and Illicit Drugs Research (Oct. 2-4) was sponsored by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Health Canada, the Solicitor General of Canada, the Canadian Executive Council on Addictions, and CCSA.

"Developing a national research agenda in partnership with stakeholders is a key component of Canada's renewed Drug Strategy," said federal Health Minister Anne McLellan in a news release. The results of the Forum will be used to inform planning for the first of a series of national, biennial conferences that will bring stakeholders together to set overall priorities for the five-year drug strategy.

Forum participants agreed on a set of nine strategic

(Continued on page 4)



► Clockwise from top left: Dorothy Strachan, Forum facilitator, Michel Perron, CCSA's Chief Executive Officer, and Dr. Rémi Quirion, Scientific Director, CIHR Institute of Neurosciences, Mental Health and Addiction. Patricia Begin, CCSA's Director of Policy and Research, and CCSA Associate and Carleton University Professor Dr. Florence Kellner. Dr. Robin Room, Director, Centre for Research on Alcohol and Drugs, Stockholm University, and Tracy Butler, Program Director, Harbour Light Addiction and Rehabilitation Centre, St. John's. The group of more than 70 addictions researchers and specialists listens to concluding remarks by Rémi Quirion and Michel Perron. Dr. Eric Single (right), CCSA's Scientific Advisor Emeritus and Patricia Begin.

Vol. XIII No. 4 (2003)

Changes at www.ccsa.ca	2
CCSA's new Web site makes its debut in January	
Appreciating Eric Single	2
Recent honours include a studentship in his name	
Sharing Québec data	3
AITQ agrees to share its treatment data with CCSA	
Let them eat cake	3
Friends join CCSA for a 15th anniversary party	
CCENDU report released	3
Data points to rising drug use, reduced treatment	
People and Events	4
CCSA signs agreement with BCCEWH; new from the CCSA Clearinghouse	

Action News is published by the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse, 75 Albert St., Suite 300, Ottawa, ON K1P 5E7 www.ccsa.ca

Editor: Richard Garlick

Contact the Editor if you wish to receive Action News electronically. Tel.: (613) 235-4048, ext. 230; fax: (613) 235-8101; e-mail: rgarlick@ccsa.ca

ISSN 1701-4522

Partner in



CHN RCS
canadian-health-network.ca
reseau-canadien-sante.ca



► **Debbie Ayotte**, Information Specialist, demonstrates CCSA's new Web site to **Eric Le Page** (left) and **Marino Francispillai** of the Canadian Council for Tobacco Control during CCSA's Open House (see page 3).

CCSA launches new and improved Web site in 2004

CCSA was one of the first addictions agencies in Canada to recognize the value of the Internet as a way of disseminating information. CCSA's Web site at www.ccsa.ca has been operating since January 1995.

Starting in January 2004, visitors to the site will notice a new look and dramatic improvements to both content and navigation. A revamped menu system will

make navigation easier and search capabilities have also been upgraded.

As well, the new site offers a number of pre-defined library searches on a broad range of substance abuse issues to ensure that users of the site will have easy access to new information as soon as it is available.

CCSA has assembled a panel of experts to review Web material covering a broad range of addictions

issues. This material will form the core of the Topics section on the new site and the ongoing input of the panel will ensure that it remains credible and relevant.

A new Education and Training section will be devoted to useful tools for the Canadian practitioner community, and a re-organized Statistics section will provide a more thematic approach to major Canadian statistical information. □



► **Eric Single** receives a bronze statue from CCSA Board Chair **Barry King** in recognition of his contributions to CCSA since joining the organization in 1990.

Tributes to Eric Single include a studentship in his name

A new addiction studentship has been established in the name of Eric Single, CCSA's founding Director of Policy and Research. The award, sponsored by the Ontario Problem Gambling Research Centre, the CIHR Institute of Neurosciences, Mental Health and Addiction (INMHA), and CCSA, recognizes Dr. Single's outstanding contribution to Canadian and international research in addictions. It will be offered every three years to a PhD

student whose dissertation deals with the overlap between gambling problems, and problems with alcohol and other drugs. The recipient will receive \$21,000 a year (including \$1,000 in expenses) for three years.

The studentship was announced at INMHA's annual meeting dinner on Nov. 22 in Toronto. Just two days earlier, at a 15th anniversary open house at CCSA (see page 3), Dr. Single was honoured by friends and colleagues for his many contri-

butions to the Centre since 1990. Although no longer involved in day-to-day activities, he maintains his connection with CCSA as Scientific Advisor Emeritus.

"Eric is a great Canadian and has been a wonderful ambassador for his field and his country," said Michel Perron, CCSA's Chief Executive Officer, speaking at the INMHA dinner.

For more information on the Eric Single Studentship Award, contact Mr. Perron at mperron@ccsa.ca □



► **Carmen Trotter** (centre), AITQ, with CCSA's **Susan Rosidi** and **Pat McKenna**

Québec agrees to help with treatment data collection

Efforts to standardize the collection of addictions treatment data across Canada got a boost recently when the Association des intervenants en toxicomanie du Québec (AITQ) agreed to contribute data to CCSA's national treatment database. AITQ's executive

director Carmen Trotter made the offer in return for some technical advice from CCSA that will allow AITQ to share its treatment data electronically with CCSA. AITQ also agreed to work with CCSA and other organizations such as DART (Ontario) and the Kaiser Foundation (British Colum-

bia) on a standardized treatment survey instrument. The three provinces are home to 75% of the treatment programs in Canada and all three—in addition to CCSA—collect comprehensive treatment data.

For more information, contact Susan Rosidi at srosidi@ccsa.ca □

Friends of CCSA gather for 15th anniversary celebration

Bill C-143, an Act to establish the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse, was passed by the House of Commons with all-party consent on August 31, 1988. The rest, as the saying goes, is history. That eventful 15-year history was celebrated during an Open House at CCSA on Nov. 20—fittingly timed to coincide with National Drug and Addictions Awareness Week.

About 60 guests dropped by to enjoy a 15th anniversary video retrospective, a tour of CCSA's newly renovated offices, and a demonstration of the Centre's new Web site (see page 2 story). The event was highlighted by a special ceremony honouring CCSA's founding Director of Policy and Research Eric Single (see picture on page 2). Dr. Single joined the Centre in 1990. □



►Clockwise from top left: CCSA Scientific Advisor Emeritus **Eric Single** and **Eugene Oscapella**, Canadian Drug Policy Foundation. *Left to right:* CCENDU National Research Advisor **Colleen Dell**, Eric, CCSA Database Coordinator **Susan Rosidi** and **Virginia Carver**, Consultant. CCSA Director of Best Practices **Gary Roberts** with **Robert Walsh**, Executive Director, Canadian Council for Tobacco Control. *Left to right:* **Michel Vallée**, Associate Professor, Carleton University; **Colleen Ryan**, Manager, Evaluation and Reporting, Office of Canada's Drug Strategy Secretariat; **Cynthia Benjamin**, Senior Evaluation Analyst, Health Canada, Office of Canada's Drug Strategy Secretariat; and CCSA Director of Policy and Research **Patricia Begin**. Susan Rosidi and cake. Eric and **Jim Anderson**, CCENDU Steering Committee member.

Report points to more drug use, fewer treatment beds

The 2002 National Report of the Canadian Community Epidemiology Network (CCENDU) is now available. The report points to evidence of increased alcohol and other drug use in Canada. At the same time, it records a decrease in treatment availability.

Highlights of the 110-page report include:

►Past-year drinking increased between 1994–95 and 1998–99, but women's drinking during pregnancy

appears to have decreased.

►Use of non-prescription and prescription drugs increased in this period—more significantly for females than for males.

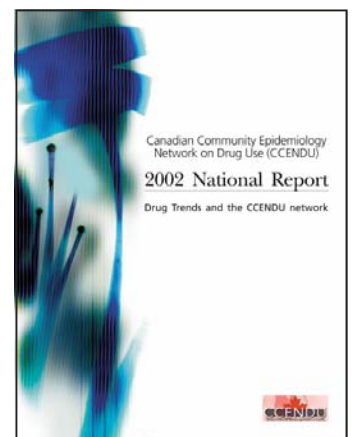
►From 1998–2001, the number of adults and youth charged with a drug offence (per 10,000 population) increased, with the vast majority of charges against males. The greatest number of charges were for cannabis.

►Between 1993–94 and 1998–99, the number of alcohol and drug residential

care facilities, and the total number of licensed or authorized beds, decreased.

►There were 4,502 deaths in 1999 with alcohol or drugs as the primary cause—a slight decrease from 4,576 in 1998. Overall, there was a decrease in alcohol-related deaths for both males and females and an increase in drug deaths.

For more information, please contact Dr. Colleen Dell, CCENDU National Research Advisor, at CCSA (cdell@ccsa.ca) □



► 2002 CCENDU National Report is available in print or as a PDF at www.ccsa.ca/ccendu A related story appeared in Vol. XIII No. 3.

(Continued from page 1)

themes or directions that alcohol and illicit drug research should take over the next five years. These were:

- ▶ Aboriginal peoples
- ▶ Biology of substance use and addiction
- ▶ Epidemiology
- ▶ Health promotion, prevention, and healthy public policy
- ▶ Populations/resiliency
- ▶ Research into knowledge exchange and dissemination
- ▶ Sex differences and gender influences
- ▶ System design and evaluation, and public policy
- ▶ Treatment and relapse prevention

Participants agreed that

research should be interdisciplinary and should cut across basic and clinical science, and social, cultural and environmental issues.

Planning for the Forum started with recommendations from several previous workshops, notably a December 2001 event co-sponsored by CCSA, CIHR and Carleton University (see *Action News* Vol. XII No. 1).

For a copy of a report on the 2003 Forum or for more information, please contact Dr. Colleen Dell at cdell@ccsa.ca. A copy of the report is also available at www.ccsa.ca/pdf/extl-009442-2003.pdf □

Agreement with BC Centre focuses on women, girls and substance use

CCSA has signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the BC Centre of Excellence for Women's Health (BCCEWH) aimed at promoting excellence in the field of substance use, addictions, gender and women.

Together, CCSA and the BCCEWH will explore ways to link policy with research conducted in hospital, community, and university settings. The agreement will promote opportunities for innovation among those interested in issues of substance use among girls and women. It will also facilitate the sharing of data, information, networks and resources, as well as exchanges of professional staff, and research and policy associates between the two partners.



▶ **Lorraine Greaves**, Executive Director, BCCEWH, and CCSA Chief Executive Officer **Michel Perron** signed a two-year renewable Memorandum of Agreement in September.

Hosted by the BC Women's Hospital and Health Centre, the BCCEWH was established in 1996 as part of Health Canada's Centres of Excellence for Women's Health Program. □

Events

Feb. 7, 2004—Professional development workshop in addictions studies: Concurrent Disorders, Hamilton, Ontario. Web site: www.mcmaster.ca/conted/addictions%20workshops.pdf. E-mail: mcgagh@mcmaster.ca

March 4–5—5th Annual Alberta Harm Reduction Conference, Edmonton, Alberta. Web site: www.albertaharmreduction.com. E-mail: info@albertaharmreduction.com

March 4–5—2nd UK National Drug Treatment Conference, London, UK. Web site: www.exchangesupplies.org/conferences/conferences.html. E-mail: monique@exchangeconferences.org

March 5–7—Let's Talk: A National Capacity Building Conference on Children, Youth and Families Affected by HIV/AIDS, Toronto, ON. Web site: www.kidstalkaids.org/conference/index.html. E-mail: info@teresagroup.ca

March 9–10—FAS Summit 2004: Sustaining Hope, Building Capacity, Anchorage Egan Center, Alaska. Web site: health.hss.state.ak.us/fas/summit/default.htm. E-mail: fas@health.state.ak.us

March 9–10—Fundamental Concepts in Addiction, Toronto, ON. Web site: www.ontario.cmha.ca/content/events/events.asp?fn=view&id=647. E-mail: ets@camh.net

March 25–27—Adults with FASD: Swimming Upstream, A Reality Check, Vancouver, BC. Web site: www.interprofessional.ubc.ca/Brochure%20-%20Adults%20with%20FASD.pdf. E-mail: interprof@cehs.ubc.ca

March 27–30—New Knowledge, New Hope, 2nd Canadian Conference on Hepatitis C, Vancouver, BC. Web site: www.cvh.ca/hepc2004/. E-mail: hepc2004@malachite-mgmt.com

April 22–23—VI European Opiate Addiction Treatment Association Conference. Paris, France. Web site: www.europad.org E-mail: maremman@med.unipi.it

June 3–5—13th International Symposium on HIV and Emerging Infectious Diseases: A World in Motion. International Congress Center Toulon, France. Web site: www.avps.org/2003/hiv.htm

Literature review examines factors linked to adolescent use of tobacco and marijuana

A timely thesis literature review prepared by an MA student in the psychology department at Carleton University is now available through CCSA. With permission of the author, Amy Jo Porath, the 58-page document, "Adolescents' Initiation and Cessation of Cigarette Smoking and Marijuana Use: The Influence of Their Attitudes, Peers, and Prenatal Exposure to Nicotine and Marijuana" is now online at www.ccsa.ca/pdf/extl-009917-2003.pdf

Besides exploring the impact of attitudes and

peers, the literature review also looks at the evidence for youth drug involvement as a progression of substance use. Drug use is found to generally follow a sequential pattern, with the majority of adolescents first using alcohol and/or tobacco before progressing to the use of marijuana and other illicit drugs. However, use of these drugs of initiation is not a sufficient condition for entry into the next higher phase of use. Many young people stop at one phase without progressing further. Most eventually stop using most drugs. □