

Research Canada **UPDATE**

September 2017

NEWS FOR PARLIAMENTARIANS ON CANADIAN HEALTH RESEARCH



Building Capacity in Research, Communities and the Health System for Indigenous Peoples

HPV SELF-SAMPLING CAN IMPROVE ACCESS TO CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING IN INDIGENOUS POPULATION

ROCHE DIAGNOSTICS CANADA

Issue

Indigenous women face a greater burden of cervical cancer which is related to low participation in cancer screening. Cervical screening barriers include limited access to culturally sensitive care, mistrust of the health system, colonial legacy, and socioeconomic factors.

Self-Sampling

Human papillomavirus (HPV) testing will soon be integrated into screening programs as the primary cervical cancer screening test. Unlike the Pap test, HPV testing has the option for self-sampling. High quality syntheses show that self-sampled HPV tests produce comparable results to provider-collected tests. The self-sampling option allows women to collect a sample themselves, overcoming some barriers to cervical screening.

Research

In a study with 10 First Nations in Northwestern Ontario, women appreciated the convenience, privacy, comfort, and lack of embarrassment that self-sampling offered. A study with 93 Inuit women in Northern Quebec showed similar findings.

Further work in policy development and on an implementation plan designed for optimal uptake is needed to scale-up and sustain self-sampling strategies.

Next Steps

Screening agencies and industry partners need to work with Indigenous communities to identify a tailored approach to cervical screening. Self-sampling may be an important strategy to increase cervical cancer screening and improve health outcomes for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis women. Self-sampling has the potential to bring women's health to a whole different level; the same way HPV vaccination has a few



HPV self-sampling test-better than pap for assessing cervical cancer risk

Next Event

3:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

October 16, 2017

Health Research Caucus

Biotechnology in Health Research
Reception

Recent Event



Sponsoring participants of the Health Research Caucus event, Indigenous Health Research in Canada included:

Innovative Medicines Canada
Health Sciences North Research Institute
Roche Diagnostics Canada
AstraZeneca Canada
Dalhousie University
Merck Canada
Simon Fraser University
Concordia University
Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital
McMaster University
The Michener Institute of Education at UHN
Thunderbird Partnership Foundation
University of Ontario Institute of Technology
University Health Network

To see all participants and a short video from the event, see the webpage [here](#).

STAY IN TOUCH

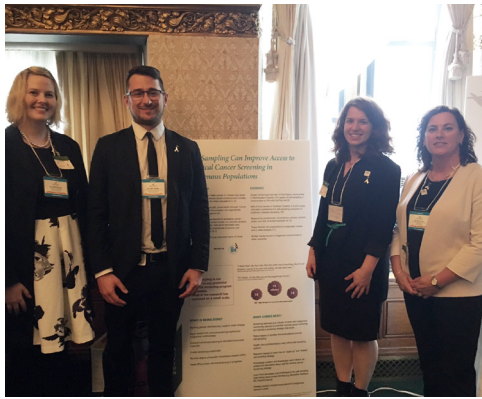
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years ago. It can be an important strategy to increase cervical cancer screening and improve health outcomes for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis women. This represents an opportunity for the Federal Government to demonstrate once more its leadership by providing the required support to establish a new standard of care for Indigenous women.



Indigenous Health Research event Sponsors Roche Diagnostics Canada

WELL LIVING HOUSE

JANET SMYLIE, MD, MPH, FCFP

In a reconciled Canada, every Indigenous infant would be born into a family, community and society where all of their needs and gifts would be met and nurtured. Relationships between adults, children and youth would be strong so that Indigenous knowledge and practice could be passed on.

There would no longer be inequities between Indigenous and non-Indigenous in the distribution of health and social resources – and as a result of the correction

HEALTH SCIENCE NORTH RESEARCH INSTITUTE

CARRIE BOURASSA, PHD

It was an honour to bring greetings on behalf of the Institute of Aboriginal Peoples' Health at the Canadian Institutes of Health Research at the Indigenous Reception on Parliament Hill. What a momentous day it was having so many of the leaders from community and academia in Indigenous health research in one room! We know that while strides are being made we still have much to

accomplish when it comes to Indigenous health. However, I am confident that we can finally achieve equitable, whole health for Indigenous people through strong partnerships, investment in community-based research and capacity building and mentorship. Megweetch/thank you once again for providing this opportunity to showcase the strength of Indigenous communities in Canada.

of these underlying disparities in the social determinants of health we would achieve equity in Indigenous health outcomes.

Land claims would be settled. Since the majority of Indigenous people now live in cities, we would see them reclaiming beautiful Indigenous spaces there too. This would not preclude non-Indigenous people from using them, but these spaces would be self-determined and Indigenous-led. The Toronto Birth Centre is an example. All people in Toronto are welcomed but it was an Indigenous-focused group of midwives who led its development, and it is governed by an Indigenous-majority board.

Universities would partner with Indigenous communities and organizations to help create Indigenous-led centres of learning and training – in health or the arts, for

example – where at least 50 percent of the curriculum is based on Indigenous ways of knowing and doing. Indigenous languages would flourish among our children. Adults would have access to language recovery programs designed for their learning style and busy schedules.

For all this to happen, non-Indigenous Canadians must recognize that they're our kin on this land. Through a transformative and collective rewiring of the individual and collective Canadian psyche, they will realize they are our step-siblings that have arrived from elsewhere and that they haven't treated us so well and realize that we are actually really cool siblings and have a lot to offer.

Every time an Indigenous infant is born we are provided with an opportunity to make all of the necessary changes.

THE THUNDERBIRD PARTNERSHIP FOUNDATION

[The Thunderbird Partnership Foundation](#), a sponsor at the Indigenous Health Research in Canada event, represents some of the most current and promising thinkers in holistic healing and wellness within the First Peoples communities of Canada. They are a member of the First People's First Person Indigenous Hub of the Canadian Depression and Research Intervention Network, an initiative to build a national research and intervention network based on Indigenous intelligence. Thunderbird's

leadership in research and advocacy is further supported by its ground-breaking Native Wellness Assessment™, which is establishing a national evidence-base that demonstrates culture is the key to addressing and promoting Indigenous wellness. Thunderbird and its partners share a vision of the near future in which Indigenous peoples sustain their optimal health and wellbeing and contribute to that vision through strategic use of Indigenous leadership and influence on mental health and addictions systems.



THANK YOU TO THE SPONSORS OF THE HEALTH RESEARCH CAUCUS EVENT *Indigenous Health Research in Canada*



Innovative Medicines Canada is the national voice of Canada's innovative pharmaceutical industry. We advocate for policies that enable the discovery, development and commercialization of innovative medicines and vaccines that improve the lives of all Canadians. We support our members' commitment to being valued partners in the Canadian healthcare system.

Roche Diagnostics Canada is the market leader in its sector and offers a uniquely broad product portfolio and innovative solutions to physicians, patients, laboratories, hospitals and researchers in the fields of molecular biology, point of care, pathology, clinical chemistry, immunology and life science.

The Health Sciences North Research Institute (HSNRI) is the affiliated research institute of Health Sciences North. HSNRI's purpose is to contribute real and sustained solutions for healthcare challenges faced by the people and communities of Northern Ontario. HSNRI's innovative research focuses on Healthy Aging, Personalized Medicine, Cancer Solutions, Infection and Immunity, and Northern and Indigenous Health.



AstraZeneca is a global, innovation-driven biopharmaceutical business with a primary focus on the discovery, development and commercialization of primary and specialty care medicines that transform lives. Our primary focus is on three important areas of healthcare: Cardiovascular and Metabolic disease; Oncology; and Respiratory, Inflammation and Autoimmunity. AstraZeneca Canada headquarters are located in Mississauga, Ontario. For more information: www.astrazeneca.ca.

Founded in 1818, Dalhousie University is one of Canada's oldest universities, attracting more than 18,500 students from around the world. Located in the heart of Halifax, NS with an agricultural campus in Truro, NS, the university blends world-class academic programs with leading-edge research. For more information: www.dal.ca.

For over a century, Merck, a leading global biopharmaceutical company, has been inventing for life, bringing forward medicines and vaccines for many of the world's most challenging diseases. Through our prescription medicines, vaccines, biologic therapies and animal health products, we work with customers to deliver innovative health solutions. For more information: www.merck.ca.

At SFU, we live and work on the unceded traditional territories of the Coast Salish peoples of the x m kw y m (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and S l l w ta (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. SFU is committed to becoming a world leader in knowledge mobilization, building on a strong foundation of fundamental and applied research. SFU is proud to have strong partnerships with aboriginal communities and remains committed to strengthening its commitment to reconciliation. For more information: www.sfu.ca.