

Rural Physician Research Support Project grants

Applicant	Project Title	Project Description	Grant
Card, James	Rural Career Propensity in Northern Medical Students	To determine if student involvement in the NMP Rural Medicine Interest Group increases student inclination to rural practice.	\$30,000 (3 year project)
Furstenburg, Dietrich	ER nurse perspectives on their interactions with new to rural practice MDs	Qualitative research study to obtain the perspectives of rural ER nurses on their interactions with new to rural practice MDs. Information will be utilized to improve MD training, improve interdisciplinary team dynamics and support networks and assessments.	\$10,000
Hale, Ilona	A Qualitative Exploration of Rural "Healthy Outlier" Communities	The purpose of this project is to explore the factors contributing to the health of rural BC communities within a "healthy outlier" region through qualitative interviews with key informants from a variety of sectors/community groups. The objectives are to 1) gain a better understanding of the factors contributing to good health of people in the target communities; and 2) to identify ways to further improve the health of the people in the target communities.	\$9,700
Jaworsky, Denise	Understanding what it means to access health care in rural/remote/Northern BC	This study aims to identify barriers and facilitators to chronic disease management in Northwestern BC. In doing so, it will also identify important health outcomes from the perspectives of people living in these communities. Objectives are to 1) develop meaningful research partnerships with communities in Northwestern BC; 2) build research capacity in Northwestern BC; 3) identify barriers and facilitators to chronic disease care for people living in Northwestern BC; 4) to identify important health outcomes to measure when assessing geographic discrepancies in health.	\$10,000
Monro, Ella	Understanding rural health services delivery: Southern Interior British Columbia	The purpose of this research is to understand health service delivery issues and interprofessional collaborative practice in two rural communities in southern interior British Columbia to be able to identify opportunities for potential improvements in primary health care service delivery through future research and initiatives.	\$10,000

Slatnik, Michael	Smoke and heat exposure effects in a small rural hospital	Exposure to forest fire smoke (PM 2.5 concentrations) and extreme heat will be compared to emergency room presentations of chest and psychiatric complaints in a small rural hospital (Grand Forks, BC). This research will aim to define the temporal relationship between exposure to high particulate matter and extreme heat, and ER presentations. This is a current gap in the literature surrounding exposure to forest fire smoke and extreme heat. This could assist other rural areas in BC regarding surge planning in times of forest fire smoke and extreme heat.	\$10,000
Dhillon, Paul	The Organs in the Waiting Room	This study is beginning with a proof of concept trial at the Cowrie Street Medical clinic and involves active promotion of organ donation through a specific poster presentation and involvement of the clinic MOA staff and physicians to ensure that higher numbers of patients are aware of their organ donation status and that it is recorded properly in the provincial registry. The goal is to test, scale to the Sunshine Coast and then provincially through Doctors of BC/Divisions of FP, if successful with a physical package and recognition (Plaque) for family practices that participate. The goal is to inform rural communities of the importance of organ donation and long term that rural lives will be saved through increased organ donation.	\$5,000
Gupta, Rahul	Integrating Health Coaching & Mindfulness into Medical Care: Engaging stakeholders on the Sunshine Coast to explore how and why these publicly-funded programs work	Mindfulness and Health Coaching are two emerging behavioural interventions that support recovery from adverse childhood (and adult) adverse experiences, through harnessing internal resources and mechanisms for healing. Physician-led rural mindfulness and health coaching initiatives have begun on the Sunshine Coast since 2011; how and why these initiatives are working to build capacity is being explored through engaging various stakeholders, including participating patients and their family physicians amongst others. Collected data is now being analyzed for thematic content, and subsequent knowledge translation materials will be developed and disseminated. This study is also being jointly funded by a Michael Smith Foundation Convening and Collaborating (C2) Fund awarded in February 2018.	\$10,000
Wilkinson, Tandi	"How are you?" Physicians Describe Meaningful Peer Support	This work investigates the experience of peer support between physicians, using qualitative methods. Specifically this study explores the experience of rural physicians who have had a positive experience of receiving emotional support from a peer, for work-related stress, that in addition was self-generated (outside of any formal support program.) Common features that lead to a meaningful experience of support will be identified. In addition, the role these experiences play in the overall well being of physicians will be explored.	\$10,000

Sparrow, Nicholas	Geomapping Unintentional Injury-related Deaths in the Kootenays	The purpose of this study is to describe the pattern of unintentional injury-related deaths in the Kootenay Boundary in order to guide further interventions. Specifically, we will answer the following research questions: 1. Where are people dying as a result of unintentional injury-related deaths in the Kootenays?; 2. Why are people dying as a result of unintentional injury-related deaths in the Kootenays?; 3. Are there any factors that could have prevented these deaths in order to delineate potential interventions to reduce mortality in the Kootenay Boundary?	\$10,000
Meyer, Anthon	Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Diseases: Telling the Story of COPD in Fort St. James	A care model and approach to treating patients with COPD has emerged from work being done in Ft. St. James. This project will evaluate the approach, methodology, strategies employed and the patient, provider and community based outcomes to determine if the patient centered model being used in Fort St. James is extensible and applicable in other rural community care settings to reduce chronic exacerbations, hospitalizations and re-admissions, and improve patient outcomes and quality of life for these patients	\$10,000
Besserer, Floyd	Exploring the implementation of the Rural Advanced Care Community Paramedics (RACCP) in rural and remote BC: A qualitative research approach	This project is guided by the question: 'Does the implementation of Rural Advanced Care Community Paramedics (RACCPs) enhance healthcare access and delivery in six rural and remote communities in BC? The objectives of this work are: 1) To examine the implementation of the RACCP role in six rural and remote communities of BC; and 2) To understand the barriers and facilitators impacting the integration of RACCPs in rural and remote communities in BC.	\$20,000 (2 year project)
Meyer, Ulrike	The human health effects of exposure to unconventional natural gas development: a systematic review	Our primary goal is to undertake a systematic review of the research on unconventional natural gas development (UNGD, often referred to as "fracking") and its impacts on human health. We aim to review the published human epidemiological and toxicological literature related to health effects of UNGD. We hope to publish these results and more importantly that the results will provide our team with a strong foundation for doing primary research into the health effects of UNGD in Northeastern British Columbia.	\$10,000

Watchorn, Adam	Does the lack of a CT scanner in a BC rural community increase inter-facility transfers and delay patient access to emergent imaging?	Our goal is to assess the impact of not having access to a local CT scanner in Golden and District Hospital. We will collect data prospectively on all inter-facility transfers over a 1 year period and assess how many patients are sent for CT scans and how many could have been avoided with a local CT scanner. Secondly, we will calculate the time frame between requesting a CT scan at Golden and District Hospital to image interpretation at the receiving site for critical life or limb (ie.red) and urgent (ie. yellow) patients. A subset of patients with acute strokes will be analyzed as part of this data set.	\$10,000
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Rural Global Health Partnership Initiative grants

Applicant	Project Title	Project Description	Grant
Furk, Kelsey	Community delivery and uptake of contraception among young women at Pamoja Community Based Organization, Seme Sub County, Kenya	This is an exploratory study to understand the lived experiences of young women currently receiving reproductive health services through Pamoja, a community based organization in rural western Kenya. Specifically, we will explore how young women receive information on contraception, how they initiate contraceptive methods, and how they live with, change and/or maintain being on these contraceptive methods. We will also explore the understanding of and social norms related to gender based violence as well as delivery of post violence care services. This project is a partnership between the UBC Medicine Global Health Initiative and Kenya Pamoja, a not for profit and non-governmental organization.	\$4,825
Khosla, Rahul	Long-term Rural Global Health Partnership: Nelson & Sister Community	This project will establish a long-term sustainable partnership with a sister community that shares similar rural resource and geographic constraints as Nelson in order to exchange skills and knowledge and form a broad professional relationship with the ultimate goal of improving health indicators and professional satisfaction and retention in both regions. Project goals will be set by the partnership to meet respective strengths and needs. Though a broad interchange is envisioned, the initial focus will be narrow and will be in the realm of women and child health. A local steering committee including outside advisors has been formed. The first phase of this project will take six months and will involve developing a list of potential global partner communities, establishing contacts, evaluating potential sites, and ultimately visiting two and making a decision on one.	\$2,500

Meyer, Anthon	Development of a Rural Global Health Partnership Between UBC and the University of Namibia - Providing a Rural Medical Outreach Program	The project will operate as a collaboration between UBC and the University of Namibia. Residents and senior medical students will go out annually for 4-6 weeks to various rural Northern Namibian and British Columbia medical training sites to deliver medical services to remote rural people where they reside. Teams will be composed of a rural family physician mentor, a resident, medical students, pharmacy students, and nurses and will grow over time. The ultimate aim will be to develop a post graduate MMed in Family Medicine at the UNAM and the expectation is that creating such a model of Family Physician training, education and exposure to rural populations will improve rural health in Namibia. We also plan to utilize innovative models of care employing telemedicine and other virtual health modalities in subsequent years.	\$10,000
Creelman, Brianna	Nutritional Assessment in Rural Kenya for a Community Organization	This is a nutrition and household food security assessment in collaboration with a community-based organization called Pamoja located in Kisumu, Kenya. The purpose of the project is to identify malnourished and/or food insecure households in order to better connect them with Pamoja programs or resources. The study will assess nutritional status in households with children under 5 through questionnaires to caregivers and growth monitoring of children.	\$7,770
Loy, Emma	Finding Sustainable Solutions for Menstrual Hygiene Management in Spiti Valley, India	This project aims to develop a sustainable menstrual hygiene management (MHM) program for adolescent girls at Munsel'ling Boarding School in Rangrik, India. The need for a sustainable MHM program was identified by community leaders, and in 2017, the UBC GHI Spiti Team developed a pilot study to determine adolescent girls' preferences for reusable MHM options. The data gathered from this preliminary study indicate that girls are willing to use reusable MHM products. However, there remains a gap in knowledge regarding perceptions and experiences related to menstrual health among adolescent girls in this rural village, as well as community-level challenges around MHM supplies, sanitation and disposal. This year, we will continue gathering data about preferences for reusable MHM products, and will explore perceptions and experiences of MHM in Spiti. Our team will also identify next steps to support the community in achieving self-sufficiency in this MHM program.	\$5,000