

2nd Meeting of the APOGEE-Net/CanGèneTest Network “Fostering Interdisciplinary Projects”

February 2 and 3, 2010
Le Nouvel Hotel & Spa,
Montreal

WORKBOOK

Use the workbook to:

1. Prepare for the meeting
2. Follow the meeting programme
3. Find out about fellow participants
4. Record your thoughts on questions that will be discussed in each session

The workbook is a means of gaining your input into a proceedings document that will be produced following this meeting.

We will distribute a paper copy of the workbook at the meeting.

- ▶ Please remember to give the completed workbook to meeting organizers before you leave. It can be returned to you at a later date if desired.



Meeting objectives

OBJECTIVES

Overall objective : To foster interdisciplinary projects

Specific objectives:

- Share a common vision of the research continuum between discovery and health outcomes
- Understand the methods, tools and expertise involved at each stage along this continuum
- Map each project along this continuum and identify next steps/projects
- Identify the possible collaborators and expertise needed
- Discuss funding of projects and funding mechanism
- Discuss the network training program
- Discuss new funding opportunities
- Discuss opportunity/mechanism to welcome new members

During the meeting :

We ask you to think about the following questions as the meeting unfolds:

- Where do my projects stand on the research continuum between discovery and health outcomes?
- What are the next steps downstream in my research field ?
- Who has the needed expertise to contribute to this/these next steps ?
- What research component could I add to my current projects ? - With whom ?
- How can I contribute to other ongoing projects ?

Meeting programme

After each session there are a few questions for you to answer

Monday February 1st 2010

20:00 Cash bar

Tuesday February 2nd : Day 1 – All (with students)

7:30-8:30 Continental breakfast (poster set-up)

8:30-8:50 Welcome, meeting objectives, presentation of translation pipeline and structure of this meeting

8:50-10:30 **SESSION 1 : MATERIALS AND METHODS,**
5 speakers approximately 15 minutes each + questions

Session Objectives : For each stage of the pipeline have a good idea of :

- what type of research questions are asked ?
- how they are tackled (experimental designs) ?
- which inputs (or preliminary data) are needed ?
- what expertise and research tools are needed ?
- what would be typical results that can serve as input for the next stage?

Proposed Topics :

From Gene discovery to health application – (analytical and clinical validity, validation of genetic associations, genetic epidemiology) François Rousseau (15 min + 5 for questions)

Health economics methods – (cost/effectiveness and cost/utility of health interventions) Medhi Najafzadeh, for Carlo Marra (UBC) (15 min + 5 for questions) + Daniel Reinharz (Laval) (15 min + 5 for questions)

From health application to evidence-based guideline – (clinical utility, systematic reviews, how to conduct a systematic review, the Cochrane way) (15 min + 5 for questions) – Sylvie St-Jacques for France Légaré

From guideline to health practice – (dissemination research, implementation research, diffusion research) – (methods to study uptake of guidelines and knowledge into practice) (see session 1 extra tomorrow)

From practice to health impact – (measuring the impact on real-world health outcomes) – (studying the public health impact of genetic discoveries) (15 min + 5 for questions) – Anne-Marie Laberge (U Montréal)

Session 1 questions :

Where do I stand, with each of my projects, in the Pipeline?

Is there an interesting add-on project for my current research endeavours ?

10:30-11:00 Health break

11:00-12:15 SESSION 2 : KT SESSION : FORTIFYING THE LINKS BETWEEN DECISION-MAKERS AND RESEARCHERS

Session Objectives :

- What are the characteristics of usable information for a decision maker ?
- what type of questions are asked ?
- what is the typical timeframe to get an answer ?
- how can this Network contribute ?
- how do decision makers want to be involved ?

Proposed speakers:

Health Canada - Narayanan Iyer « Policy considerations in the area of personalized medicine »

MSSS – Denis Ouellet - Ministry of Health, Québec

NovaScotia – David Elliot, Ministry of Health, Nova Scotia (TBC)

Session 2 question:

How can I involve decision-makers/researchers in my current and future projects ?

Open discussion –

12:15-14:15 Lunch (buffet) and poster session

14:15-15:45 **SESSION 3 : FRAMEWORK AND STRATEGY TO FOSTER INTERDISCIPLINARY PROJECTS**

Session Objective : Share an overarching vision of the translation pipeline and of the status of the different projects / themes along the pipeline. (Battista & Rousseau)

Session 3 questions :

What are the next steps downstream for my research program ?

Will I have the necessary data to undertake the next steps ?

15:45-16:15 Health break

16:15-17:15 **KEYNOTE SPEAKER DR FIONA MILLER : THE ROLE OF EVIDENCE IN NEWBORN SCREENING POLICY : THE CASE OF SICKLE CELL SCREENING IN ONTARIO.**

17:15-17:30 **Wrap up of day 1**

18:00 Cocktails and interactive poster session

19:30 Dinner (Principal investigators, decision makers and collaborators)

Wednesday February 3rd: Day 2 - Without students

7:30-8:30 Continental breakfast

8:30-8:45 **Objectives of day 2**

8:45-9:05 **Session 1 (extra) - From evidence to health practice : Shared decision making as the optimal KT strategy at the practitioner and patient interface - France Légaré (Laval) (15 min + 5 min for questions)**

9:05-10:45 SESSION 4 : FOSTERING INTERDISCIPLINARY PROJECTS

Session Objective : Using the framework described on Day 1, identify the next steps forward for each project/theme, the expertise and data needed, and the PIs and decision makers to involve (Battista & Rousseau)

Session 4 questions :

Who in the Network has the expertise to collaborate with me on current or future projects ?

How can I contribute to the other research projects going on within the Network ?

10:15-10:45 Health break

10:45-11:15 Using Web 2.0 Tools for scientific networking (Rémy Gauthier)

Question:

Am I interested in learning more about the use of Web 2.0 tools for scientific collaboration ?

Would I like the Network to assist me setting up and using such tools ?

11:15-12:30 SESSION 5 : KT SESSION #2

Summary of the e-bulletin statistics

Open discussion with decision makers

Open discussion on how the Network can best help maintain active communication/ collaboration channels between Meetings

12:30-14:00 Lunch (buffet)

14:00-14:30 SESSION 6: FUNDING PILOT PROJECTS: CONDITIONS AND MECHANISMS (François Rousseau)

14:30-15:45 SESSION 7 : OPEN DISCUSSION ON A VARIETY OF ISSUES : FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES, TRAINING, PLANNING FOR THE NEXT MEETING (Rousseau)

15:45-16:30 **Closing remarks**

16:30-17:00 Departure and informal steering committee meeting

State of the network

FIRST MEETING - Our first meeting took place just under a year ago, and at the time we asked participants to give us their impressions of the meeting. Our survey indicate that :

- ▶ approximately 80% of participants thought that there was a good balance between presentations and discussions
- ▶ 90% thought the presentations were sufficiently detailed and pertinent
- ▶ 90% thought the discussions were informative and pertinent
- ▶ 80% gained some knowledge from the sessions

We will therefore attempt to achieve the same equilibrium in terms of content for the present meeting.

NEWSLETTER - Approximately 650 individuals are registered to receive our newsletter. There are around 1,250 visits per month on our website. The top ten countries from which the visits originate are Canada, USA, China, Spain, UK, Germany, Russia, Sweden, Netherlands and Australia. The top three countries are constant, while the others vary month by month.

TRAINING GRANT IN GENETIC EPIDEMIOLOGY - On September 15 2009, we collaborated on a training grant application to the CIHR submitted by a team led by Julian Little, from the University of Ottawa Department of Epidemiology and Community Medicine. We have recently received the news that the application was unsuccessful; however it gave us the opportunity to forge links with their team.

OPENING THE NETWORK - During the year several investigators have expressed their interest in joining the Network. At the first meeting last year, it was argued that the Network should concentrate on gaining strength from the inside before opening up to forge broader links with the outside. However it may be to the Network's advantage to accept new members depending on the context. A procedure for reviewing each individual case could be put in place.

STEERING COMMITTEE TELECONFERENCE CALL - On November 23 2009, a teleconference call of the Steering Committee took place. The meeting began with a summary of the Network budget. Relatively few expenses were made so that a significant amount of money (around \$610,000) is available until March 31st 2011. Three main types of expenses are planned : fellowships, projects, and meetings. Details of the discussions about the first two items are given below.

State of the network



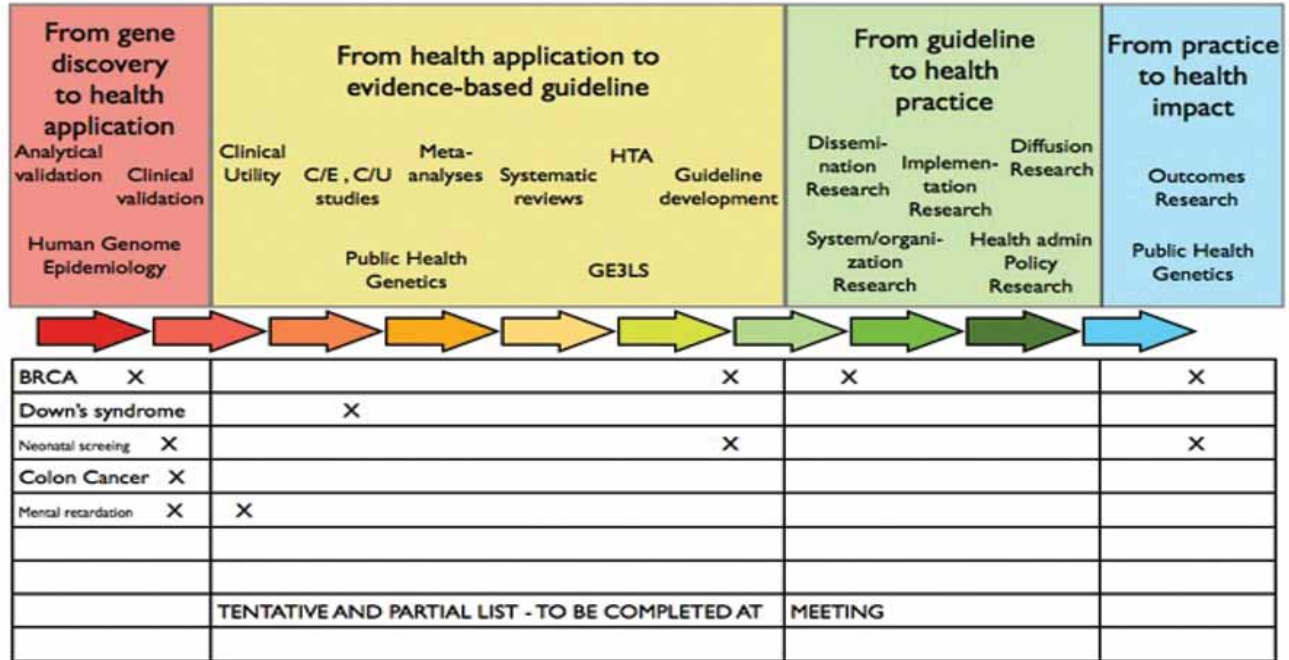
FELLOWSHIPS - We have received four applications for our One Year Training Fellowships Program, and one candidate was recently recruited. Our MSc/PhD Training Program did not receive any applications, one possible reason being the requirement to have two co-directors from the Network. For the next round of call for applications we may loosen this restriction by requiring only one co-director to be a member of the Network. Other approaches to stimulate interest in this program that have been discussed by the steering committee are :

- ▶ having two rounds of call for applications per year, one in spring and one in autumn
- ▶ synchronizing the application deadline with those of CIHR/SSHRC/NSERC for similar programs
- ▶ describing the research interests of the PIs on the website and add PubMed links
- ▶ diffusing call for applications nationally and targeting specific faculties (such as law faculties)

PILOT PROJECTS - Since only one fellowship has been awarded in 2010, there is the possibility of significantly increasing the budget allocated to pilot projects for this year. It was generally considered a good option considering that we are at the beginning of the funding period of the Network and that it may take several years before the actual benefits of these investments are realized (publications and securing grant support). The following points were generally agreed upon by the steering committee concerning the projects :

- ▶ up to \$400,000 could be invested in research projects from the Network budget
- ▶ in principle, the maximum amount granted would be \$25,000 per project per year, however exceptions could be made with justification
- ▶ projects must involve at least two PIs from different domains, or one PI and one decision-maker, however the deliverables in the latter case would have to be evaluated by the project selection committee
- ▶ the steering committee would act as the project selection committee
- ▶ deadline for submission of projects could be end of April 2010, 3 months after the present meeting
- ▶ a project application form and a project evaluation form will be circulated among members of the steering committee for input and approval

Pipeline between gene discovery and health outcomes



Keynote speaker

Dr. Fiona Miller

Fiona A. Miller (PhD) is an Associate Professor in the Department of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation and a member of the Joint Centre for Bioethics at the University of Toronto. She holds a New Investigator Award from the Institute of Health Services and Policy Research of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). Fiona leads a research program centred on health technology policy, especially for diagnostic and screening technologies. Fiona is also involved in policy development in these areas, through the Ontario Advisory Committee on Newborn and Childhood Screening, the Institute Advisory Board of the CIHR Institute of Genetics and related consultations.

Questionnaire

- Which session did you prefer and why ?

- Was the balance between scientific and KT sessions appropriate ? If not why ?

- Was the session on web tools informative ?

- Do you use internet tools besides emails to contact colleagues ?

- Were the sessions on interdisciplinary projects an effective way to stimulate such interactions?
If not what else could be done to facilitate collaborative projects ?

Directory of Network members

Please review the contact information we have for you and make any necessary corrections or complete any missing information. Your changes will be reflected in the final document and will help facilitate communication between network members.

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