

NEWS

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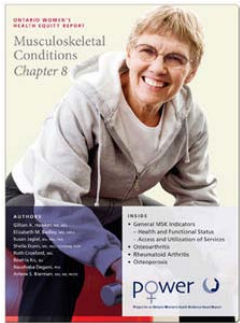
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Echo News - July 2010

POWER Study - Musculoskeletal Chapter released



The latest chapter of the Echo Funded **POWER Study** was just released. Findings of the Musculoskeletal chapter show that nearly 60 per cent of Ontarians with rheumatoid arthritis – an autoimmune disease that causes chronic inflammation of the joints – were not seen by a specialist within a one year period to treat this debilitating disease.

[Read the media release](#)

[Read the highlights](#)

Visit powerstudy.ca to download the chapter

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SUBMIT

Submit your events and articles here

Echo is accepting articles and event submissions. Please contact Julie McFayden for submission requirements at 416.597.9687 ext. 232 or [via email](#).

Women’s College Research Institute and Echo to launch new Researcher’s Directory



We are thrilled to announce a new collaboration between the Women’s College Research Institute (WCRI) and Echo. Our partnership will establish a new provincial directory of women’s health researchers across Ontario, which will be housed on Echo’s website.

The initiative will build on WCRI’s current [University of Toronto - Directory of Women’s Health Researchers](#) , a comprehensive listing of academic researchers working in the women’s health and related fields. Scheduled to launch this fall, the directory will ultimately support a broad community of women’s health scientists and students from across Ontario. Echo will be reaching out to universities across Ontario, seeking support in letting researchers know about this new province-wide resource. For more information about the new directory watch for updates in this newsletter, at www.echo-ontario.ca or contact John Ecker, Echo’s Director of Public Affairs and Community Engagement at jecker@echo-ontario.ca .

Echo welcomes two new Board members

Echo is pleased to introduce our newest Board members, Janet Davidson and Samina Talat. Janet and Samina bring a wealth of experience in health care and a strong commitment to improving women's health and reducing inequities for Ontario women. They are a welcome complement to our Board and we know that their unique perspectives will help us in our mission of greater health for women through leadership, productive partnerships and research-based action.

[Read Janet Davidson's profile](#)

[Read Samina Talat's profile](#)

Echo partners with The Source



Echo is now a partner with the British Columbia Centre of Excellence on a website called *The Source*, an online tool that includes Canadian women's health data sources, reports, and synthesis documents that are interpreted through a sex- and gender-based analysis. Health researchers, policy makers, and health planners can use the website to understand the complexities of women's health outcomes and find links to sex-disaggregated data.

The Source is made up of three related websites. The first component is a data directory that links users to over 200 regional, provincial, Canadian, and international data sources linked to more than 70 women's health indicators. The data sources are introduced with a sex- and gender-based analysis (SGBA) that highlight the most critical aspects of each health issue.

The second component, The Survey, is a repository of over 600 international, national, and provincial grey literature documents related to women's health, including reports from health authorities, government, and those produced by and for community groups.

The third component, The Synthesis, houses over 100 synthesis and position papers on popular health issues linked to the women's health indicators in *The Source*.

The Source and its related sites will soon include data sources and documents from Ontario, including a number of documents produced by Echo.

While *The Source* is currently available in English, development of a French-language site, La Source, is currently under development. Visit and explore *The Source*, at <http://www.womenshealthdata.ca/>.

Echo's work in mental health and addictions



Echo gave a poster presentation at the National Collaborating Centres of Public Health Summer Institute 2010 held in Winnipeg this June. The poster was entitled “Women’s Voices: Informing mental health and addictions policy in Ontario”. In it, we described the Echo Conversations we held across the province in the fall of 2009, enlisting women’s feedback about the Ministry of Health and Long-term Care’s draft mental health and addictions policy “[Every Door is the Right Door](#)”.

In collaboration with local organizations, we organized roundtable consultation sessions with women to learn how the document can and does include women’s voices and perspectives. In the poster, we summarize this process, the overall findings, and lessons learned for policy-makers. Findings of these consultations also helped inform Echo’s submission to the [Select Committee on Mental Health and Addictions](#).

[View poster \(486 KB\)](#) 

Five Questions: Insights from Echo’s Chair in Women’s Health Research



Dr. Arlene Bierman is a highly respected researcher and Echo’s Ontario Women’s Health Council Chair in Women’s Health at the University of Toronto. She shared her insights on her role as Echo Chair in Women’s Health Research, the POWER Study and improving women’s health with us this month.

1. Echo News: What is your role as a Chair in Women’s Health Research?

Dr. Bierman: As the inaugural holder of the Echo’s OWHC Chair at the University of Toronto and St. Michael’s Hospital, I lead a trans-disciplinary research program. Our work is aimed at improving health outcomes and quality of care for socio-economically disadvantaged women. Teaching is also an important part of my work because there is an enormous need to build capacity in the field. I teach graduate courses in research design and gender equity and health and supervise graduate students. Knowledge translation is an important component of my work, bringing evidence to improve women’s health to policy makers and providers.

2. Echo News: How does Echo’s funding of women’s health chairs help improve women’s health?

Dr. Bierman: Echo's Chairs in Women's Health fill an important need. Women and men have different patterns of illness, important biological differences, social contexts and experiences with the health system. A woman's health is influenced by her socio-economic position, ethnicity and culture, and the community she lives in. As women age they are more likely to have multiple chronic illnesses and disability than men. Their role as caregivers is often a barrier to getting needed care for themselves. There is a pressing need for research to provide the evidence for how to optimize health outcomes for women and limited resources for this work.

3. Echo News: Why should the POWER Study be important to healthcare stakeholders?

Dr. Bierman: The POWER Study is designed to serve as an evidence-based tool for policy-makers, providers, and consumers in their efforts to improve health and reduce health inequities in Ontario. We assessed gender, socioeconomic, ethnic, and regional differences in access, quality and outcomes across the continuum of care for the leading causes of morbidity and mortality. Our findings are being used to inform priority setting and improvement interventions. They also provide a baseline from which to measure progress. We are pleased by the wide uptake of our work by diverse users and its global reach. Our website (www.powerstudy.ca) has had 15,000 visits from over 100 countries and more than 10,000 downloads of our reports in the last year.

4. Echo News: Aside from the POWER Study, what else are you doing in the women's health field?

Dr. Bierman: I am involved in a number of other related research projects focusing on improving access, quality, and outcomes of care for older adults with chronic illness, with a special focus on socioeconomically disadvantaged populations, inequities in health and health care, and the unique needs of older women. Through a project funded by Health Canada, I developed a model of determinants of health in immigrant women, "Gender, Migration, and Health." I also collaborate on several CIHR funded interdisciplinary teams. I recently published a paper in *Medical Care* finding improved performance on quality indicators for diabetes resulted in improved functional health outcomes among older adults. I engage in knowledge translation activities through my work as a member of the Ontario Health Quality Council, and the Geriatric Measurement Advisory Panel of the US National Committee for Quality Assurance.

5. Echo News: What are the three most important things that could be done to improve women's health in Ontario?

Dr. Bierman: There is so much we could be doing now to improve the health of women in Ontario while reducing health inequities. First, as women are more likely to be poor and poverty is the most important predictor of poor health we need cross-sectoral partnerships to reduce poverty and expand opportunities for all women. Second, we need to redesign the health system to optimize health outcomes among women. This can be done by wide implementation of a patient-centred chronic disease prevention and management model with strong community linkages. Finally, we need to set goals and use evidence-based indicators to monitor our progress in achieving them. We can accelerate progress by integrating population, public health, and health system approaches.

Developing an Ontario Women's Health Strategy



Together with partners and stakeholders from across the province, Echo is currently developing a women's health strategy to target priority actions directed at inequities in women's health.

[Read more...](#)

POWER Study Summit



The POWER Study Summit will bring together women's health stakeholders from across Ontario to engage in a series of discussions and presentations aimed at improving women's health and achieving health equity in the province. Co-hosted by The POWER Study and Echo: Improving Women's Health in Ontario, the day will be focused on three key areas:

1. Identifying cross cutting themes and actionable learnings across all POWER Study chapters
 2. Identifying a leading set of women's health indicators to monitor progress in improving women's health and reduce health inequities in Ontario
 3. Discussing implementation of the Ontario Women's Health Strategy and identify opportunities for interventions to improve women's health and reduce health inequities among women in the province.
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Women's Health Survey



We are thrilled to report that since the release of the Women's Health Survey in May, more than 3,000 responses have been received to date. Thanks to all of you who completed the survey and circulated it through your networks. The survey is

now available in French.

The Women's Health Survey is part of a project called Health Research Knowledge Translation: Including the Voices of Ontario Women. A collaborative partnership, including the Ontario Women's Health Network, and under the guidance of an Advisory Committee, funded by Echo: Improving Women's Health in Ontario.

[French Survey...](#)

Interesting Resources:

[Engaging Seldom or Never Screened Women in Cancer Screening: A Compendium of Pan-Canadian Best and Promising Practices](#)

Event Calendar



September 9 - 10
Aboriginal Health Forum - Toronto
The Ontario Coalition of Aboriginal People
Addressing Mental Illnesses and the Criminal Justice System
Venue: Days Hotel & Conference Centre, Toronto Airport
East, 1677 Wilson Ave., Toronto
Contact: Mr. W.W. (Bill) Zarchikoff
Tel: 604-530-3840 email: wzarchikoff@yahoo.com



September 10
Perinatal Depression - Toronto
Women's Mental Health Program Grand Rounds presents
Sophie Grigoriadis, academic lead for the Women's
Reproductive Life Stages Program.
Time and location: 12 noon - 1 p.m., Women's College
Hospital, 76 Grenville St., Room W640



September 28 - 30
Ontario Public Health Association 2010 Annual Conference - Toronto
Taking Action on the Built Environment - Building
Healthy Public Policy
Venue: Courtyard by Marriott Downtown Toronto

[Read more...](#)

October 1
Women's Mental Health Conference: Building Networks and Research Capacity
The Women's Mental Health Program, Department of



Psychiatry, University of Toronto and affiliated teaching hospitals
Time and location: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, 250 College Street, Toronto

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