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Echo News - September 2010

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Just released - POWER Study Diabetes Chapter Women with diabetes having more C-sections and fetal complications



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](#).

TORONTO, September 16, 2010 – Nearly half of women with diabetes prior to pregnancy have a potentially-avoidable C-section and their babies are twice as likely to die as those born to women without diabetes, according to the POWER study.

[Read the Toronto media release](#)

[Read the regional release](#)

[Read the highlights](#)

Visit powerstudy.ca to download the chapter

NEW - Echo Advance

**Drug-Facilitated Sexual Assault:
Recommendations for Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Treatment Centres, Local Health Integration Networks and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care**



Drug-facilitated sexual assault is an important issue in Ontario, as front-line sexual assault providers have observed a rise in cases in recent years and the physical and emotional impact on victims/survivors is great. In order to improve care for

victims/survivors of drug-facilitated sexual assault, Echo is supporting recommendations to implement a standardized program of care for persons who suspect they have been drugged and sexually assaulted in all 35 Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Treatment Centres (SA/DVTCs) in Ontario. Please [click here](#) to find out more about the study and the recommended standardized program of care.

Visit our [Health Professionals member section](#) for the full report.

Getting to know Echo's Board of Directors

Drug-facilitated sexual assault is an important issue in Ontario, as front-line sexual assault providers have observed a rise in cases in recent years and the physical and emotional impact on victims/survivors is great. In order to improve care for victims/survivors of drug-facilitated sexual assault, Echo is supporting recommendations to implement a standardized program of care for persons who suspect they have been drugged and sexually assaulted in all 35 Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Treatment Centres (SA/DVTCs) in Ontario. Please click here to find out more about the study and the recommended standardized program of care

Getting to know Echo's Board of Directors



In the last issue of Echo News, we were pleased to introduce our newest Board members, Samina Talat and Janet Davidson. September's issue features three more members, all extremely committed to improving women's health and reducing health inequities for women across Ontario. Meredith Cartwright, Aisha Chaudry and Elizabeth (Libby) Burnham have been serving on our Board since 2007.

[Meredith Cartwright's profile](#)

[Aisha Chaudry's profile](#)

[Elizabeth \(Libby\) Burnham's profile](#)

Echo recently bid farewell to two integral members of its Board of Directors



Caroline Andrew joined Echo as its inaugural chair in 2007 and successfully led the agency through its start-up phase. Her diligent work ethic and dedication to women's health issues have helped provide a solid foundation we will continue to build on. We take this opportunity to convey our heartfelt appreciation to Caroline.

We also say goodbye to Wendy Talbot after six years of dedicated support to improving women's health in Ontario. Wendy's original appointment was to the Ontario Women's Health Council and she has now completed a three-year term for

Echo. Thank you, Wendy.

Five Questions: Interview with Marilyn Ford-Gilboe, an Echo Chair in Women's Health Research



1) First, congratulations on your appointment as Echo's Chair in Rural Women's Health Research. What sparked our interest in this area?

I grew up in a small town in southwestern Ontario where my extended family still lives. I was a public health nurse in a nearby community early in my career and I have helped family members "navigate" local health services. I have learned to appreciate both the benefits and challenges of rural life, particularly when it comes to women's health and their role as caregivers and family health leaders. I in 5 Canadian women live in a rural setting, yet these women have so often been overlooked in health research! An inclusive, evidence-based women's health strategy must address both urban and rural women's issues in a way that accounts for more than "geography".

2) What are the challenges in rural settings when it comes to women's health?

Women's health is shaped by their access to key resources (or determinants of health), such as an adequate living wage, affordable housing, social support, effective health practices, gender role expectations, and access to quality health services. Rates of poverty are higher in rural areas and physical isolation and transportation problems create barriers to accessing health and community services and can lead to social isolation. Rural women have fewer choices when it comes to health care and are more likely to be without access to primary health care services, including mental health care. Like urban women, rural women come from all walks of life, with the most socially marginalized women experiencing the greatest health risks. Reducing health inequities and their root causes, among rural women is as important as addressing inequities between urban and rural women.

3) Any particular issues in rural women's health that concern you?

I am particularly concerned with the effects of interpersonal violence on women's health. I in 4 Canadian women experiences violence from a partner in their lifetime, resulting in poorer mental and physical health for women in general, and eroding economic and social networks. Violence has not been well studied among rural women, but we know that some features of rural life, such as physical and social isolation, concerns about lack of privacy, traditional gender role expectations, and blaming or otherwise unhelpful responses from police and health care providers, work against women's efforts to break free of an abusive partner and make changes to limit the health and social impacts of abuse.

4) Any potential solutions that you see?

Trauma-informed models of health care, which are tailored to women's needs, priorities and strengths, are needed to support women in dealing with the short and long-term health consequences of abuse. Because women's health is intertwined with other challenges, such as concerns about safety, gaining custody of children, and

rebuilding social and community ties, health services need to be part of an integrated system of support. Primary health care approaches, which engage stakeholders from health, domestic violence, social services and other sectors to identify and test solutions that fit with local resources, values and priorities, could be effective in reducing health inequities among abuse survivors, but few tested interventions exist. In studies in Ontario and New Brunswick, we are examining the feasibility and efficacy of one such intervention, called I-HEAL, in improving the health and quality of life of women who have left an abusive partner.

5) What are your priorities as Chair?

In my role as Chair, I will lead and collaborate on cutting edge research important for rural women's health, with a particular focus on better understanding health inequities among rural women who have histories of intimate partner violence and testing context-sensitive health interventions and models of care aimed at improving their health and quality of life. Beyond my personal research interests, a key priority is helping to build capacity in rural women's health research by bringing researchers and trainees together for dialogue, learning and exchange, and supporting the development of new teams which will study the many important health issues which rural women face. Perhaps most importantly, I will draw on existing and cultivate new partnerships with policy makers, service providers and women, so that they have the "evidence" they need to inform their decisions, while ensuring that the research we do is relevant and important in the "real world".

New - Echo Requests for Application



The following Request for Application (RFA) has just been posted:

Developing a Framework to Measure Echo's Outcomes and Impacts

Requests for Application are still open for the following projects:

Incontinence in mid-life women: Tools to aid in communication and decision-making

Evaluating Smoking Cessation During Pregnancy Demonstration Projects

[View RFAs](#)

The Cochrane Library



The Cochrane Collaboration is a worldwide organization whose contributors work together to produce systematic reviews of healthcare interventions. These are

known as Cochrane Reviews and they are published online in the Cochrane Library.

To operate, the collaboration relies on funding from national governments, international governmental and non-governmental organizations, universities, hospitals, private foundations, and personal donations. Commercial organizations such as pharmaceutical companies are not allowed to contribute, thereby insuring that the conclusions of Cochrane Reviews are not influenced by commercial interests.

In Canada, the Cochrane Collaboration is supported by organizations including The Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Health Canada, and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). The Cochrane Library is an excellent resource for women's health professionals and researchers.

[Please click here to learn more](#) 

Echo at CIHR conference this fall



Registration is now open for the Canadian Institute of Health Research conference - ***Innovations in Gender, Sex, and Health Research Every Cell is Sexed, Every Person is Gendered*** which takes place on November 22-23, 2010 in Toronto.

We are thrilled that a number of our abstracts have been accepted. One of our panel presentations will showcase three Echo-funded research projects which seek to inform the development of women's health research, policy, service, and knowledge translation.

The three projects to be featured are as follows:

1. Through characterizing women's involvement in the health sector, Echo has funded a project which will make recommendations for strengthening women's voices and gender-based perspectives;
2. The second project identifies health issues of most interest to Ontario women to ensure women's diverse voices inform women's health research and knowledge translation agendas; and
3. The third presents the state of current knowledge in peri to postmenopausal health and makes recommendations for research and knowledge translation activities. The panellists will present highlights of their studies and discuss benefits and challenges of engaging and empowering women in research and how this articulates with the policy process.

Our CEO, Pat Campbell will moderate.

Call for Reviewers



Echo: Improving Women's Health in Ontario is now accepting applications from individuals with diverse areas of expertise to serve as peer reviewers. Echo's peer reviewers can be based in academic settings such as colleges and universities and/or affiliated with community organizations, professional associations, non-governmental organizations, and international, national, provincial, and local agencies.

Peer reviewer's contributions of time and expertise will be compensated. If you are interested in participating in a scientific, systematic process to further research in women's health, submit an **application** to become a peer reviewer today! The application will ask about your position and organizational affiliation, areas of special interest or expertise, and experience as a reviewer (e.g., of publications, grant proposals, conference abstracts).

For applications, [contact Daniella Costanzo](#) .

Interesting Resources:

[The Care to Know Centre](#)

Event Calendar



October 5 - 6
Skills for Health Promotion: Introductory-Level Workshop - Thunder Bay
The Health Communication Unit (THCU) at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto

[Read more...](#)



October 6
The 5th Annual Building Healthier Workplaces Conference - Ottawa
Manulife Financial, Mercer, The Royal Ottawa Health Care Group and Shepell-FGI

[Read more...](#)



October 6 - 7
Make It Work! 2010 Conference on Mental Health and the Workplace - Windsor
Canadian Mental Health Association, Windsor-Essex County Branch

[Read more...](#)

October 28 - 29
3rd Conference on Recent Advances in the Prevention and Treatment of Childhood &



Adolescent Obesity - Hamilton

Interprofessional Continuing Education, The University of British Columbia in collaboration with McMaster University

[Read more...](#)



October 28

Workplace Violence & Safety - Toronto

Metropolital Action Committee on Violence Against Women and Children

[Read more...](#)



November 6 - 7

Ontario Health Coalition - Health Action Assembly & Conference on Health Funding & Sustainability - Toronto
Ontario Health Coalition

[Read more...](#)



November 18

Understanding Access to Justice - Toronto

Metropolitan Action Committee on Violence Against Women and Children

[Read more...](#)

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