

NAPHRO MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

National Alliance of Provincial Health Research Organizations

The
National
Alliance of
Provincial
Health
Research
Organizations
(NAPHRO)
held a
regularly
scheduled
meeting in
St. John's
NFLD,
October 29
and 30,
2008.

- ✚ At its October 2008 meeting in St. John's, NAPHRO welcomed **two new members**, Bob Simpson, Executive Director of the New Brunswick Health Research Foundation, and John Challis, President and CEO of the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research in BC.
- ✚ There will be a transition is the **NAPHRO co-ordination**, with Deborah Langille of the Nova Scotia Health Research Foundation taking over from Joanne Goldberg of the Fonds de la recherche en santé du Québec. Deb will work closely with Krista Connell and June Bold, who will continue as NAPHRO Co-Chairs for another year.
- ✚ Minor changes to NAPHRO's Terms of Reference were approved, including a decision to **share highlights of NAPHRO meetings** with key stakeholders, such as CIHR and others. This will improve communication with partners and stakeholders both nationally and provincially. The group also established a **five-year meeting schedule**: there will be two in-person meetings a year, spring and fall. The spring meetings will be in Ottawa.
- ✚ NAPHRO's **Impact Analysis Group** will continue its work of developing common performance measures related to health research, turning to economic indicators. It will also consider the findings and recommendations of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences study on Return on Investment in Health Research, expected in January 2009.
- ✚ A new joint contract between NAPHRO and CIHR for a **Bibliometric Study** of Health Research in Canadian Provinces was signed. The study will look at academic publication patterns and productivity for health researchers across the country. The work will be carried out by Science-Metrix.
- ✚ There was a discussion of the new **Federal tax on Postdoctoral awards** and its implications for funding agencies. Further information will be gathered from the group in a survey to determine provincial approaches.
- ✚ NAPHRO members shared their approaches to **supporting health services research**. All are active in this area, which is critical to improved health and health-care. Most fund it through their regular programs and many have specialized initiatives.
- ✚ **Alain Beaudet, CIHR's new President**, joined the meeting to provide his perspective on health research in Canada, based on early meetings with many individuals and organizations to gather insight and views about the future development of CIHR. CIHR's new strategic plan is expected soon.
- ✚ Dr. Beaudet also provided an overview of CIHR's developing Strategy on **Patient-Oriented Research**. This national initiative is intended to improve patient-oriented research and knowledge-based care targeting areas of greatest need.
- ✚ Guest speaker Kevin Keough summarized the **Canadian Research Integrity Committee**, a Health Canada-led initiative to summarize current practices, prevalence of integrity breaches, and best practice. A report is due in 2009.
- ✚ The **next NAPHRO Meeting** will take place April 15, 2009 in Ottawa.