



Dr. Silvia Guillemi,
BC-CfE Clinical Education and Training Director

BC-CfE strengthens delivery of HIV education to province's health care practitioners

New condensed offering of preceptorship program now extended to family physicians and nurse practitioners in other health authorities

It's lunchtime, but Dr. Silvia Guillemi isn't on break. Instead, she's leading a learning session for a small group of health care providers at St. Paul's Hospital.

It's not unusual for Dr. Guillemi to participate in these types of sessions. In fact, as clinical education and training director for the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS (BC-CfE), her time is often divided between treating patients living with HIV and sharing her experience and expertise with health care practitioners interested in HIV care.

Since its inception over a decade ago, the BC-CfE's Clinical Education and Training Program has played a pivotal role in improving HIV/AIDS clinical care and treatment through personalized learning programs.

"The BC-CfE's educational activities are adapted to the specific needs of HIV patients and their health care providers," explained Dr. Guillemi, who is also the Assistant Medical Director of the John Ruedy Immunodeficiency Clinic (IDC) at St. Paul's Hospital. "We have tailored our programs to educate health care providers towards the goal of increasing awareness of the importance of testing and treatment, in line with the BC-CfE's Treatment as Prevention strategy."

Health care professionals, frontline community workers, and students across B.C. participate in initiatives offered by the Clinical Education and Training Program. Education initiatives include AIDS Care Rounds, Forefront Lectures, HIV Updates, the IDC Journal Club, clinical training, online courses and educational webinars, many of which are accessible on the BC-CfE website.

One of the Clinical Education and Training Program's features is the Preceptorship Program. The program is offered in collaboration with the R3 Enhanced Skills Program in the Department of Family Practice at the University of B.C. Traditionally a three-month program, it is available to primary care physicians and family practice residents who want to enhance their skills in the management and treatment of patients with HIV/AIDS. More recently, the BC-CfE offered a shorter version of the Preceptorship Program, in collaboration with Vancouver Coastal Health as part of the STOP HIV/AIDS initiative, for family physicians and nurse practitioners. This initiative has now been extended to B.C.'s Interior Health and Vancouver Island Health Authorities.

"Some of the primary objectives of this comprehensive program are to give participants knowledge and experience in the diagnosis, management, and treatment of HIV-positive patients," said Helen Kang, BC-CfE clinical educator. "Beyond the immediate training, the

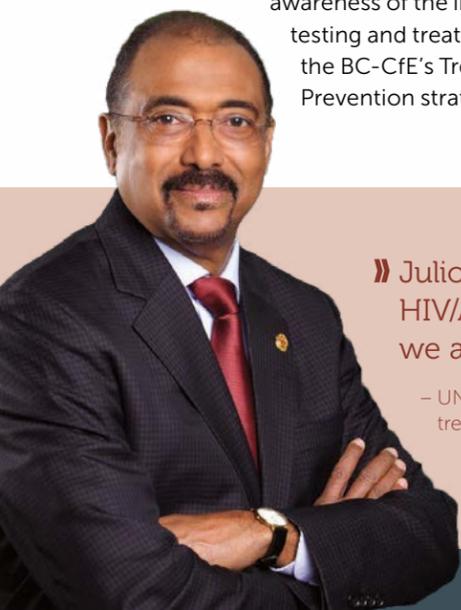
participants establish a working relationship with the BC-CfE for ongoing support and continuing professional development in the HIV field."

Successful applicants attend the IDC under the supervision of an HIV-experienced primary care physician, and take part in elective HIV Specialist Clinics, Outpatient Pharmacy, the AIDS ward, and other specialty clinics. The participants obtain knowledge in the initiation of antiretroviral therapies and assessment of co-morbidities, and the ability to recognize, diagnose and appropriately refer patients with HIV-related treatment failure or other complications.

Mark Schultz, Family Nurse Practitioner at the Comox Valley Nursing Centre in B.C., completed the Intensive Preceptorship Program in the spring of 2013.

"The course was extremely useful and well-organized, providing me with a proper framework for my HIV knowledge base," he said. "I walked away feeling more confident and competent with a stronger understanding of the use of HAART (highly active antiretroviral therapy) and monitoring parameters. More importantly, I feel that it has allowed me to understand and serve my patients better."

For more information about the Intensive Preceptorship Program, contact Helen Kang at (604) 682-2344 ext. 63219, or email hkang@cfenet.ubc.ca.



» Julio Montaner and his colleagues at the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS are globally recognized for their work on HIV treatment and we are happy to continue this long partnership."

– UNAIDS Executive Director Michel Sidibé announces partnership with BC-CfE that will accelerate HIV treatment access globally



Dr. Wood recognized for education initiatives on addiction and harm reduction

Dr. Evan Wood is being recognized for his efforts to educate the public and share research expertise through news media.

Dr. Wood, co-director of the BC-CfE's Urban Health Research Initiative, has been named recipient of the University of British Columbia's President's Award for Public Education through Media. The award is presented annually to a UBC faculty member. Dr. Wood is a professor of medicine at UBC, where he also holds the Canada Research Chair in Inner City Medicine.

In an effort to support the development of a more evidence-based public discourse, Dr. Wood has led and participated in a range of activities to make relevant scientific research more accessible to the media, particularly in terms of improving addiction care.

In 2013 he led public education efforts on the harms associated with untreated addiction, highlighting research that underscored the urgent need for evidence-based interventions and expansion of evidence-based addiction treatment services for high-risk youth.

He contributed expert commentary to *The Globe & Mail* on the need to train addiction medicine physicians. And, in conjunction with the launch of a new Goldcorp Fellowship in Addiction Medicine at St. Paul's Hospital, Dr. Wood co-authored a commentary with former Vancouver mayor Philip Owen.

As founder of the International Centre for Science in Drug Policy at the BC-CfE, Dr. Wood was widely quoted

in Canadian and international media following the publication of research in *British Medical Journal Open*, which found the international war on drugs has failed to reduce supply and access to illegal drugs. Stories appeared on BBC, CNN, and CBC, as well *TIME*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Forbes*, *Esquire*, and Al Jazeera.

Dr. Wood is also co-founder of Stop the Violence BC, a coalition of law enforcement officials, legal experts, medical and public health officials and academic experts. He has led the educational campaign to inform the public about the links between cannabis prohibition in B.C. and the growth of organized crime and related violence in the province.

In addition to these initiatives, Dr. Wood is regularly quoted by the media on matters such as evidence-based addiction treatment, supervised injection, and HIV treatment as prevention among people who inject drugs.

In addition to his work in the media, Dr. Wood has recently been appointed Medical Director for Addictions Services at Vancouver Coastal Health and is involved in various addiction program redesigns including the recently launched new academic addiction medicine service at St. Paul's Hospital.

Faculty researchers are nominated by their peers for the President's Award for Public Education through Media, and winners are selected by UBC's Faculty Research Award Committee, which spans arts and humanities, business, education, applied science, science, and medicine.

TREATMENT AS PREVENTION

Global cosmetic brand supports strategy

The BC-CfE has been awarded a \$200,000 grant from the M·A·C AIDS Fund to support the innovative Treatment as Prevention strategy.

The grant will aid research, treatment, and education at the BC-CfE, as well as support the International HIV Treatment as Prevention Workshop to be held in Vancouver, Canada from April 1-4, 2014.

Pioneered by the BC-CfE, the Treatment as Prevention strategy involves widespread HIV testing and immediate provision of anti-HIV drugs, known as highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART), to medically-eligible HIV-positive individuals. Treatment has been shown to virtually eliminate progression of the disease to AIDS and

premature death, and simultaneously stop transmission of the virus.

"Momentum continues to build to implement this strategy proven to save lives and prevent HIV transmission," said Dr. Julio Montaner, director of the BC-CfE. "We are grateful to receive the support from the M·A·C AIDS Fund, whose generosity will help us bring this epidemic to its knees."

The M·A·C AIDS Fund is supported by the sale of VIVA GLAM Lipstick and Lipgloss. Each VIVA GLAM sells for \$16.50 and 100% of the cost goes to the M·A·C AIDS Fund to support HIV/AIDS programs. The M·A·C AIDS Fund has raised more than \$315 million US over the past 20 years to help men, women, and children living with and affected by HIV and AIDS.

COMMUNITY PARTNER

HIV-positive female numbers underline importance of Positive Women's Network

BC-CfE's long collaboration with the Positive Women's Network (PWN) is even more important today as rates of HIV-positive women are shown to be increasing.

Developing meaningful collaborative partnerships with community organizations such as PWN is critical to the BC-CfE's goal of improving the health of British Columbians living with HIV and AIDS.

PWN was established in 1991, at a time when gay men were leading the way in HIV/AIDS advocacy and education. It was formed by a partnership of women living with and affected by HIV, in order to address their unique needs. Since its inception, PWN has partnered with the BC-CfE to address those needs, which can include social inequities such as poverty, violence, and racial marginalization.

"The experiences of women living with HIV are not well recognized or understood, which is why PWN's on-the-ground work with their membership is so valuable," said Surita Parashar, a research assistant at the BC-CfE and a PWN board member.

Twenty-three years after its creation, PWN has more than 800 members across British Columbia. Women continue to turn to PWN for non-judgmental, safe access to information and support programs that help to enhance their wellbeing.

And the need for its programs is growing. Women represent an increasing proportion of Canadians living with HIV. Of the estimated 71,300 Canadians living with HIV, approximately

16,600 are women. In 2011, women accounted for 23% of positive HIV test reports in Canada, nearly double the proportion observed in 1999 (12%). Collaborations between BC-CfE and PWN focus on understanding the unique perspectives of women and how HIV affects them.

"Collaborating with the BC-CfE over the years has been a wonderful experience," said Marcie Summers, PWN's executive director. "We truly appreciate and respect the BC-CfE's cutting-edge research and commitment to people living with HIV/AIDS which, in turn, helps us to enhance our work and provide the most up-to-date information to PWN members."

Collaborations include helping recruit participants for research examining the health care needs of women living with HIV, then sharing those findings with the community.

"Working with PWN has been invaluable in helping researchers engage harder-to-reach women and tailor their research to women's diverse needs and priorities," said Allison Carter, a research coordinator at the BC-CfE with the community-based research study Canadian HIV Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health Cohort Study (CHIWOS).

The keys to PWN's success – aside from having a deeply caring and knowledgeable staff – is its focus on peer support, social action, and partnerships with organizations that support its mission of fighting HIV and changing women's lives.

SHAWNA to study gaps in women's sexual health and HIV care

The BC-CfE's Gender and Sexual Health Initiative (GSHI) has received a 5-year grant from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) to launch the SHAWNA Project (Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS: Women's Longitudinal Needs Assessment).

Recent evidence suggests there are an increasing number of new HIV infections among women in B.C. and across Canada. The SHAWNA Project will focus on the social, policy, and gender gaps in women's sexual health and HIV care across Metro Vancouver.

SHAWNA aims to interview and follow 500 women living with HIV in Metro Vancouver over the next five years. Researchers hope to create an evidence base to inform improved women-centred sexual health and HIV care. Knowledge translation and exchange will be conducted throughout the study, which will play a key role in informing policy and programs that best promote women-centred sexual health and HIV care in B.C., and can be replicated across Canada.

SHAWNA is a collaboration of the BC-CfE, Positive Women's Network, B.C. Women's Hospital/Oak Tree Clinic, B.C. Centre for Disease Control (CDC), Aboriginal Health Research Program at the University of Victoria, YouthCo, AIDS Society, Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network, Pivot Legal Society, and WISH Drop-In Centre Society.

WHAT'S NEW

What's New in Addiction Medicine? Vol. 6

Thursday, March 13

12–1 pm

Hurlburt Auditorium, St. Paul's Hospital

Guest Speaker: Dr. Keith Ahamad

What's New in Addiction Medicine? Vol. 7

Thursday, March 27

12–1 pm

Hurlburt Auditorium, St. Paul's Hospital

Guest Speaker: Dr. Pouya Azar

Both of these lectures are open to the public. More details are available at www.cfenet.ubc.ca.

4th International Treatment as Prevention Workshop

April 1-4

Vancouver Sheraton Wall Centre

The International HIV Treatment as Prevention (TasP) Workshop brings academic, policy, industry, and community representatives together to review and discuss research and policy progress in the field of HIV Treatment as Prevention. Presentations are live streamed online via www.treatmentaspreventionworkshop.org.

BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS

- > Improve the health of British Columbians with HIV through comprehensive research and treatment programs;
- > Develop cost-effective research and therapeutic protocols;
- > Provide educational support programs to health-care professionals;
- > Monitor the impact of HIV/AIDS on B.C. and conduct analyses of the effectiveness of HIV-related programs.

Physician Drug Hotline

1.800.665.7677

St. Paul's Hospital Pharmacy Hotline

1.888.511.6222

Website

www.cfenet.ubc.ca

E-mail

info@cfenet.ubc.ca

Funding for the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS is provided by the BC Ministry of Health through PharmaCare and the Provincial Health Services Authority.