

... BEYOND A GRANTING COUNCIL

BUILDING BRIDGES BETWEEN HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCHERS AND HEALTH SERVICES DECISION MAKERS

The Canadian Health Services Research Foundation is a world leader in “linkage and exchange,” the interactive model that brings together those doing research on the health system with those who run it. The foundation helps the health system make better decisions with more relevant research. To do this effectively, it engages the participation of those who generate new knowledge through research and those who apply this knowledge in making decisions. The foundation:

Goes beyond being a granting agency by:

- funding applied health services and nursing research as just one of its many core programs.

Builds bridges between researchers and decision makers across Canada by:

- encouraging and facilitating both communities to learn more about each other and to use each other’s work in what they do.

Makes it easier for health system managers to use research-based evidence by:

- summarizing research results and presenting them in ways that managers and policy makers in the health system can understand and use;
- providing tools, networks, and staff that help health system organizations find and use research results in their decisions; and
- training senior-level executives, physicians, and nurses in the health system to use research and become leaders for evidence-based decision-making.

Creates capacity in the research community to respond to the health system’s needs by:

- supporting a national network of training programs and faculty that graduate specially trained applied researchers each year;
- leading a national consultation every three years on the medium-term research needs of the health system; and
- working with universities to promote an environment that is supportive of applied research including appropriate awards for applied researchers.

Engages in effective partnerships by:

- forming partnerships to increase the scope of its work far beyond its own resources and reduce duplication, complement other organizations’ strengths, and provide the opportunity to reach other audiences; and
- leveraging more than 60 percent of the cost of its program awards through partnerships.

To learn more about the foundation, visit the web site at www.chsrf.ca.

The Foundation

“From the outset (the foundation) has engaged the participation both of those who generate new knowledge and those who apply new knowledge in making decisions... Its novel (and resolute) commitment to engage researchers and decision makers has borne fruit. That fruit is in the form of a growing community of those on both sides of this ‘street’ who are now prepared to walk together down the mid-line rather than remaining on their own sidewalks.”

— Duncan Sinclair, Professor Emeritus and Fellow, School of Policy Studies, Queen’s University

... MAKING RESEARCH WORK

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MAKING IT EASIER FOR HEALTH SYSTEM MANAGERS TO USE RESEARCH-BASED EVIDENCE

Executive Training for Research Application (EXTRA)

Launched in 2004 and enrolling 24 fellows per year for 10 years, the Executive Training for Research Application (EXTRA) program is a challenging and rewarding two-year fellowship designed to develop capacity and leadership to optimize the use of research-based evidence in managing healthcare organizations. The goals of the EXTRA program are to help health system leaders and managers find and apply research in their daily work, facilitate evidence-based decision-making, and provide participants with professional development and experiential learning opportunities. The EXTRA program:

- targets mid-career nurse, physician, and other health service executives in senior management positions who are able to influence change in their organizations;
- combines residency seminars, e-learning, networking components (facilitated by a state-of-the-art Internet-based desktop system), mentoring support, intervention projects undertaken in fellows' home institutions, and post-program support and activities involving program graduates and their organizations. Participants will:
 - acquire and use research-based evidence to assess issues and analyse alternative courses of action;
 - use data and research information in decision-making with greater confidence; and
 - collaborate with colleagues from across the country and across disciplines to acquire skills in evidence-based decision-making in the management of health systems from a broader, comparative perspective;
- encourages the important collaboration between health services executives, nurses, and physicians and shares experiences with top managers from across Canada on complex healthcare management issues through the fellowship experience;
- operates four regional mentoring centres to enlist, match, and train mentors for the fellows who can provide curriculum advice and assist with the design and application of the intervention project; and
- is a partnership with the Canadian College of Health Service Executives, the Canadian Medical Association, the Canadian Nurses Association, and a consortium of Quebec partners (represented by the Agence des technologies et des modes d'interventions en santé (AETMIS) using funds from Health Canada. *

For more information about the EXTRA program, visit the foundation's web site at www.chsrf.ca/extra.

* The EXTRA program was set up with a grant from Health Canada. The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of Health Canada.

Executive Training for Research Application (EXTRA)

"More than 90 percent of fellows surveyed said EXTRA had enhanced their understanding of how research is conceived and conducted, their knowledge of health services research, and their skills to apply it in their home organizations."

— From a survey of the first cohort of fellows.

... MAKING RESEARCH WORK