

INCLLEN Has Two New CERTCs from CanUSACLEN

CanUSACLEN welcomes two new CERTCs into its fold, the University of Ottawa in Canada and the Harvard University in the United States.

University of Ottawa CERTC

In Ottawa, our colleagues feel privileged regarding this development on its 10th year of existence. This CERTC started as a Clinical Epidemiology Unit (CEU) in 1991. Currently, there are 15 principal investigators and a support team of approximately 45 research and technical staff. Among its faculty members are George Wells, Joe Losos, Peter Tugwell, Jan Hatcher-Roberts, Annette O'Connor, Graham Nichol, Liz Hillman and Donald Hillman. These faculty members are especially interested in collaborating with other INCLLEN groups.

The Ottawa CERTC focuses on various areas of investigation, including the design and execution of clinical trials, development and testing of decision aids, studies of quality of life, evaluation of social and economic impact of new technologies, systematic reviews, development of practice guidelines for the utilization of high volume low technology tests in emergency services, health economics, and health policy.

In terms of training, the graduate program in epidemiology is being offered by The Department of Epidemiology and Community Medicine. This Master's program in Epidemiology is suited for both clinicians and non-clinicians; and it has enrolled students from nine of the member countries of INCLLEN.

Recently, the University of Ottawa established a new Institute of Population Health within which a Centre for Global Health is being established. The CERTC will play an important role in this new endeavor through Dr. Peter Tugwell. Dr. Tugwell will be responsible for the coordination of the programs of the Institute. The focus of the Institute is on inequalities and inequities from the following three perspectives: [1] conceptualization, [2] measurement and monitoring, and [3] intervention and implementation of policies to reduce the "Inequity Gap". A PhD Program in population in health is being established with its first intake of students this coming September.

Our colleagues in the University of Ottawa are keen to develop further collaborative initiatives with other CEUs and CERTCs in INCLLEN interested in any of the above areas. They can be contacted at the Clinical Epidemiology Research Training Center Ottawa Hospital-General Campus at 501 Smyth Rd., Ottawa, Ontario K1H 8L6 Canada. E-mail: ptugwell@compuserve.com

Harvard University CERTC

At Harvard, our colleagues look at this development as an opportunity for Harvard faculty with longstanding commitments to INCLLEN like Suzanne and Bob Fletcher, Dennis Ross-Degnan and Richard Cash to continue to have an official place in the new INCLLEN Trust. They can continue their working relationships, in both teaching and research, with their INCLLEN friends.

The Harvard CERTC is a joint venture of the Harvard Medical School and the Harvard School of Public Health. It will be administratively located in the Department of Ambulatory Care and Prevention, where many of interested faculty have primary appointments. Several members of the Department who have international experience and interests, but have not been part of INCLLEN before, want to participate in INCLLEN activities. In addition, we expect that Doctors Richard Cash and Peter Berman, who are primarily in the School of Public Health, will become involved in CERTC activities.

Research in clinical epidemiology and related disciplines at Harvard is widely dispersed in the Medical School, School of Public Health, and several major teaching hospitals. As regards training, an educational program for clinicians, called the "Clinical Effectiveness" program, is a special track within the School of Public Health, leading to a Master's degree. This program attracts over 100 physicians each year from all over the world.

With a very strong expression of support from both the deans of the Medical School and the School of Public Health, this new CERTC will surely be a valuable member not only of the CanUSACLEN but of the whole INCLEN. For further information, contact Dr. Robert Fletcher at the Clinical Epidemiology Resource and Training Center 126 Brookline Avenue Boston, MA 02215, USA. E-mail address: Robert_Fletcher@hms.harvard.edu

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