



# Canadian Society for International Health

## A Canadian Voice for Global Health

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The **Canadian Society for International Health (CSIH)** is a national non-governmental organization that works domestically and internationally to reduce global health inequities and strengthen health systems.

If you have a story idea or a job or notice that you would like posted in our next edition of Synergy Online, please email us at:

[csih@csih.org](mailto:csih@csih.org)

**Synergy Online** is also available on the web at: <http://www.csih.org>

### Donate Now!

Did you know that you can now donate to CSIH, a registered charity, online?

Visit us on the web at: [www.csih.org](http://www.csih.org)

## May 19 is World Hepatitis Day

May 19 is World Hepatitis Day. On this day, Canada will join with groups around the world to raise public awareness of the life-threatening liver diseases hepatitis B and C. These are chronic, lifelong viral infections that can affect anyone from any walk of life. One in 12 people worldwide is afflicted with one or the other – 600,000 of them in Canada. Many don't even know it. They may have no obvious symptoms until serious liver damage has occurred.

The WHD focus for this year's campaign is to raise public awareness. Hepatitis B is 100 times more infectious than HIV. Both hepatitis B and hepatitis C can be spread by sharing personal hygiene items such as razors and toothbrushes, or by using non-sterile equipment for tattoos, body piercing, injection drugs or medical procedures.

Hepatitis A and B may be prevented by vaccines, but there is no vaccine for hepatitis C. The earlier hepatitis C is detected, the sooner it can be treated and the greater the likelihood of recovery. The most likely outcome without treatment is cirrhosis of the liver, which can be fatal in the absence of a liver transplant.

Hepatitis C is the most common chronic blood-borne virus in North America and the primary reason for liver transplants in Canada and the United States. Two thirds of patients on the transplant waiting list will die before a suitable liver becomes available. The disease is almost five times more prevalent than HIV in North America.

The Canadian Society for International Health (CSIH) has been contracted by the Public Health Agency of Canada to take the lead in organizing WHD activities across the country. We are collaborating with the Canadian Liver Foundation, the Canadian Hemophilia Society, the Canadian Ethnocultural Council, the Canadian AIDS Treatment Information Exchange and other national and local community groups.

As the focus this year is awareness, the activities planned to raise public awareness are varied. We are encouraging groups across Canada to organize events on or around May 19 and will supply them with promotional items (bookmarks, buttons etc.) to hand out to the public. We also are organizing a national poster competition and we have the World Hepatitis Day microsite updated and running at [www.whdcanada.ca](http://www.whdcanada.ca).

In Ottawa, the main event planned is a breakfast for MPs, senators, interested members of the public and the media in the Parliamentary Restaurant. Visit the microsite for Ottawa event dates and details.

We urge everyone to learn about Hepatitis B and C. To find out more, visit: [www.whdcanada.ca](http://www.whdcanada.ca) and [www.aminumber12.org](http://www.aminumber12.org)

# 16th Annual Canadian Conference on International Health

## Letter from the Conference Co-Chair

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to invite you to attend the 16th Canadian Conference on International Health (CCIH) in Ottawa, which will be held on October 25 - 28, 2009. This year's conference theme is "*Health Equity: Our Global Responsibility*".

Canadians, as global citizens, first declared our commitment to health equity and social justice in 1948 with the signing of the Declaration of Human Rights. Canadians continue the commitment through our participation in the implementation of the Global Call to Action: Closing the Gap in One Generation. In spite of significant progress and improved health status over the last 60 years, as global citizens, we continue to be challenged to live up to our promise.

We have a responsibility to work toward health equity, social justice, and universal attainment of human rights. To be effective, communities - with governments, non-government organizations and the private sector - must work in partnership, with a common vision. Addressing the social determinants of health, such as security of food, shelter, safety, education, income, poverty, employment, and access to care, will create the necessary foundations for our solutions.

The 2009 CCIH will examine inequities of health status and the impact on the health of marginalized, vulnerable and indigenous populations of changing environments, whether these changes are due to climate, technology, the economy or threats to human security.

This conference will bring attention to our responsibility as global citizens to take action on progress toward achieving the Millennium Development Goals and ultimately, health equity. The conference will address the evidence and action on the progress of the MDGs, the role of global health diplomacy and the evidence and opportunities for action as we integrate a social determinants of health framework into our policies programs and action at the global, national and local level.

Anticipated outcomes of the conference will be: evidence of improvements in social determinants and their impacts on health and social outcomes, evidence of the impact of environmental technological and economic change on health equity, consideration of the need for a paradigm shift in intersectoral policy and practice locally, nationally and internationally and a summary of the current thought and discourse on Canada's responsibility, domestically and globally, for health equity and social justice (addressing our original 1948 commitment), and proposed ways forward. The 2009 CCIH promises to provide exciting opportunities for learning, networking and sharing projects and proposals.

This year's conference will be hosted in Ottawa, Canada's capital and the country's fourth largest centre. Ottawa is a unique site for this important international event. It is a multicultural city that is sensitive to the challenges facing its population and is well recognized for its openness to innovation and design. Ottawa is located in eastern Ontario at the junction of three majestic waterways and just across the Ottawa River from Gatineau, Quebec. Ottawa offers an open and wel-

coming environment to cultures from around the world, providing service in English, French and a host of other languages. Ottawa is also home to a large number of foreign embassies and is a recognized centre for both academics and professional training. The city's residents enjoy an enviable quality of life that is recognized around the world.

In order to ensure that you do not miss out on this important event, be sure to register at [www.csih.org](http://www.csih.org). Last year's conference sold out quickly.

We look forward to hosting you in October.

Anne Fanning, CM, MD, FRCP(C)  
CCIH Chair  
Professor Emeritus &  
Past Co-ordinator Global Health Initiative  
Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry  
University of Alberta

Virginia Fobert  
Manager of Conferences and  
Special Events  
Canadian Society for International  
Health

To register or for more information visit [www.csih.org](http://www.csih.org) or contact [2009ccih@csih.org](mailto:2009ccih@csih.org)



# Global Health Diplomacy Course

The Canadian Society for International Health in collaboration with the Global Health Programme, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva and the University of Ottawa Centre for Global Health; Centre for Globalization and Health Equity; and the WHO Collaborating Centre for Knowledge Translation and Health Technology Assessment in Health Equity, Ottawa is organizing and hosting a three-day course on Global Health Diplomacy: The Role of Civil Society.

This course will be held in Ottawa from April 15-18, 2009 and will focus on building capacity in Global Health Diplomacy for civil society diplomats.

Course directors include: Professor Dr. Ilona Kickbusch and Professor Janet Hatcher Roberts. The faculty includes: Dr. Nick Drager, Ted Schrecker, Katherine MacDonald, Neil Collishaw and Dr. Jon Andrus. The course was developed in close cooperation with the University of

Ottawa Centre for Global Health, and PAHO.

Global Health Diplomacy (GHD) may be thought of as a political awareness activity that meets the dual goals of improving health and maintaining and strengthening international relations. Diplomacy is frequently referred to as the art and practice of conducting negotiations. Thus, the term "Global Health Diplomacy" aims to capture the multi-level and multi-actor negotiation processes that shape the global policy environment for health.

The goal of the GHD course is to engage the participating countries on global health issues and to highlight the role of civil society in tobacco control, sexual and reproductive health and rights and immunization policy development. The course will build capacity among government, civil society and diplomatic actors from the participating countries to engage in the multi-actor and multi-level negotiation processes that shape the global policy environment for health.

This course will mark the beginning of a cyclical process of capacity building and dissemination and evaluation to be continued at the Canadian Conference on International Health in October. The goal is to hold annual courses that will expand to regions beyond Latin America and the Caribbean, to utilize previous course attendants as mentors at subsequent courses and training workshops and to provide ongoing and interactive web-based case studies that will form the basis for an ever-growing Knowledge Bank.

For more information on activities in which CSIH is involved, visit [www.csih.org](http://www.csih.org) or contact [csih@csih.org](mailto:csih@csih.org)

## CSIH Remembers Dr Alan Meltzer

It is with great sadness that we announce the loss of Dr. Alan S. Meltzer on Friday, March 20th, 2009. Dr. Meltzer was the beloved father of Simon and Judy and father-in-law of Cathy and Ken. Adored Grandfather of Tristan. Dearly remembered by his former spouse of 25 years, Ann Meltzer, his extended family (the Adlers, the O'Briens and the Richardsons), and his many friends. -Courtesy of Kelly Funeral Homes

CSIH's wishes to recognize the great work done by Dr. Meltzer and contributions he made. He will be deeply missed.

# Workshops / Symposia

## Spring Global Health Knowledge Series

The Canadian Nurses Association, The Canadian Society for International Health, and the Center for Global Health Research are participating in a joint venture to host the "Spring Knowledge Series—Coming together to share our knowledge, experience and vision to build strong global health systems".

There is still one more session in the series:

May 14, 2009—Integrating Target Disease Initiatives with Health Delivery Systems

- Global Alliance for Vaccines & Immunization
- Bed Nets: the Role of the Volunteer Health Worker
- Immunization Programming

Discussion Questions:

Targeted funds for diseases such as HIV, tuberculosis and malaria are strengthening population health. Efforts are also underway to strengthen health service delivery by national health departments systems. How do we integrate or link these initiatives? What have we learned from our experiences?

Location: Boardroom of the Canadian Nurses Association, 50 Driveway

Time: 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM May 14, 2009

RSVP: [dbettencourt@cna-aiic.ca](mailto:dbettencourt@cna-aiic.ca)

## 1st Annual Symposium on HIV, Law and Human Rights

The Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network is hosting its 1st Annual Symposium on HIV, Law and Human Rights: "From Evidence and Principle to Policy and Practice" and 2009 Annual General Meeting from June 12-13, 2009.

On the second weekend in June, over a hundred experts in the fields of HIV and the law will gather in Toronto to tackle these questions:

- What is the one thing that Canada's politicians could do to save thousands of lives across the world without costing a penny?
- Should HIV-positive people go to jail if they don't tell their potential sexual partners about their status?
- Shouldn't people in prison still enjoy the same level of healthcare as the rest of society?

But the one question you can answer RIGHT NOW is: Will YOU be one of the people tackling these questions?

Events include:

- A Public Lecture: "The Criminalization of HIV Transmission" by Justice Edwin Cameron, Constitutional Court of South Africa;
- 1st Annual Symposium on HIV, Law and Human Rights: "From Evidence and Principle to Policy and Practice";
- Annual General Meeting

For more information: [www.aidslaw.ca/symposium](http://www.aidslaw.ca/symposium)

## 14th Year of International Workshops 2009 Summer Workshops held at University of Ottawa

Organized by Mosaic.net International three Summer Workshops are being held at the University of Ottawa:

1. Stakeholder participation in: Needs Assessment, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Using PRA/PLA Methods: July 13-18, 2009
2. Results-based Management, Appreciative Inquiry and Open Space technology: July 20-24, 2009
3. Participatory Monitoring & Evaluation: July 27-August 1, 2009

For more information visit <http://www.mosaic-net-intl.ca/>  
Call now to reserve your seat at (613) 728-1439 or email [wkshop05@mosaic-net-intl.ca](mailto:wkshop05@mosaic-net-intl.ca)

## Conferences

### **Canadian Public Health Association 2009 Annual Conference**

Public Health in Canada: Strengthening Connections  
June 7-10, 2009

Winnipeg Convention Centre, Winnipeg, Manitoba  
<http://www.cpha.ca/en/conferences/conf2009.aspx>

Registrations is now open! Deadline for preregistration  
is May 22, 2009

### **The 5th International Conference of the International Society for Equity in Health**

June 9-11, 2009

Crete, Greece

[www.iseqh-conference2009.com](http://www.iseqh-conference2009.com)

### **19th World Conference on Disaster Management**

Emergency Management and Business Continuity

Working Together

June 21 to 24, 2009

Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Toronto, Ontario

<http://www.wcdm.org/>

Registrations is now open! Special Discounted Rate  
Savings of \$100: March 14 - April 21, 2009, Full  
Conference Rate from April 22 - June 2009

### **16th Annual Canadian Conference on International Health (CCIH)**

Health Equity: Our Global Responsibility

October 25 to 28, 2009

Crowne Plaza Ottawa Hotel, Ottawa, Ontario

<http://www.csih.org>

The deadline for the Call for Abstracts is *Monday, May 11, 2009* and we encourage all those who would like to present a paper or poster to submit their abstract as soon as possible. Late submissions will not be accepted. Abstracts can be submitted in English or French.

Registrations is now open! The deadline for the early registration is September 10 and we encourage you to register as soon as possible.

## Synergy Job Board

The **Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Western Ontario** is accepting applications and/or nominations for the position of Director, Bachelor of Health Sciences Program (BHSc) in the Faculty of Health Sciences. The unit is considering a name change to the School of Health Studies.

An appointment period of normally five years (renewable) will afford the successful candidate both the time and the flexibility required to make a mark as an academic leader. The effective date of the appointment is July 1, 2009. Nominations and applications (including names of three references) should be sent to:

Dr. W. James Weese, Professor and Dean  
Faculty of Health Sciences  
200 J – Arthur & Sonia Labatt Health  
Sciences Building  
University of Western Ontario  
London, Ontario N6A 5B9  
<http://www.uwo.ca/fhs/>

The deadline for receipt of applications  
is May 6, 2009.

Please quote number HS 106 on all correspondence.

To view the complete job posting visit:  
<http://www.uwo.ca/pvp/facultyrelations/faculty/job-postings.html>

## Become a CSH Member!

Interested in the important role health plays in society's development?

Consider membership in CSH. We link individuals and organizations from all health sectors, help develop professional skills at home and abroad, advocate for health policy development and promote awareness of health issues.

For more information,  
visit us on the web at: [www.csih.org](http://www.csih.org)