



# TELEHEALTH NEWS

## Telehealth Program



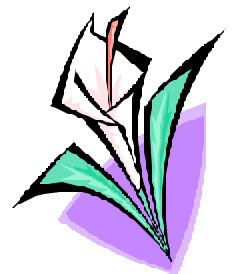
SPRING 2002

[www.ucalgary.ca/telehealth](http://www.ucalgary.ca/telehealth)

### Message from Dr. Penny Jennett

Professor, Faculty of Medicine — Head, Telehealth Program

Over the past year there have been many advancements in the Health Telematics Unit. There has been tremendous growth and lots of activity. The HTU currently has 24 telehealth research projects and telehealth related activities in progress (5 international, 14 national, 3 provincial, and 2 local). On site at the HTU we have developed a Project Board where visitors can view detailed descriptions of the various projects. In addition, this information is also posted to our website. There are also two Secretariats housed at the HTU: CST (Canadian Society of Telehealth) and EU-Canada Health Telematics Initiative. Research being conducted in the Collaboratory is categorized into four areas: Telehealth Policy and Social Benefits Research, Telehealth Outcomes or Health Impact Studies, Telehealth Technology Research, and Test-bed Feasibility Research (see our website for full details [www.fp.ucalgary.ca/telehealth/Research\\_Program.htm](http://www.fp.ucalgary.ca/telehealth/Research_Program.htm)). The Training Program is now in place and our research suites are fully operational. For details of the opportunities available see our website at [http://www.fp.ucalgary.ca/telehealth/Training\\_Program.htm](http://www.fp.ucalgary.ca/telehealth/Training_Program.htm). The Health Telematics Unit is planning an official launch on Thursday, May 23rd, 2002. Please mark your calendars and watch for details on our website. We have lots of news to share with you....*read on!*



*Best wishes, Dr. Penny Jennett*

## TELEHEALTH TEAM UPDATE

As you know, we are a multi-disciplinary team of over 25 clinicians, researchers, educators, learners, students, and partners who foster and encourage innovative quality research, evaluation, consultation, teaching, and service in the area of telehealth. A list of members and their bios is available on the website ([www.fp.ucalgary.ca/telehealth/Team\\_Members.htm](http://www.fp.ucalgary.ca/telehealth/Team_Members.htm)).

**Dr. Maryann Yeo**, PhD, joined the unit to assist Dr. Jennett with 3 national telehealth policy studies. Maryann brings a wealth of expertise in the health, nursing, evaluation, and patient education areas. **Sue Haydt**, Masters in Sociology, recently joined Dr. Penny Jennett and her "Alliance for Building Capacity" team. Sue will be conducting the qualitative data analysis on this project. **Dr. Barbara Young**, McGill University, recently joined Dr. Penny Jennett at the HTU as a visiting student to fulfill the research component of her Internal Medicine Residency. Dr. Young focused her stay on a proposal addressing the Socio-Economic Impact of Telehealth. We also welcome **Dr. Faruq Chowdhury** who recently joined the HTU from Bangladesh to work on Global Telehealth with Dr. Richard Scott. Dr. Chowdhury was also recently admitted into the Master's Program in telehealth with Community Health Sciences. The HTU also welcomes **Dr. Maria Palacios**, a dentist from Chili. Dr. Palacios is working with Dr. Hebert as a research assistant and with Dr. Scott as a project manager. **Pat Engel** has also joined the HTU in the capacity of Program Secretary.

## AWARDS



### Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI)

The Health Telematics Unit, Faculty of Medicine, University of Calgary, was recently awarded \$648,000 from the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI). This federal government funding for the "Telehealth Research and Training Collaboratory" is targeted towards infrastructure costs for the Telehealth Research and Training Program. The awardee, **Dr. Penny Jennett**, heads the Telehealth Program and is a Professor with the Faculty of Medicine.

### AHFMR State of the Science Review

A submission to the "AHFMR State of the Science Review" for a study on "The Socio-Economic Impact of Telehealth: Evidence Now for Health Care in the Future", Principle Investigator – **Dr. Penny Jennett**, was successful. Thank you to all members of the team that participated in this activity.



### Order of Canada

**Dr. Mamoru Watanabe** was named an officer of the Order of Canada, the nation's highest honour for lifetime achievement. He was honoured for his involvement with countless provincial government committees and for his role in shaping national health-care education, research and policy for four decades.



### Fulbright Scholarship



**Dr. Richard Scott** was recently selected as a recipient of the Fulbright New Century Scholarship from the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the US Department of State and the Council for International Exchange of Scholars. He is developing a collaborative relationship with Dr. Andrew Balas and his team at the Center for Health care Quality at the University of Missouri. Because of the unique similarities and complimentary expertise within the Center for Health Care Quality, the University of Missouri, and the HTU, collaborative exchanges between the two research centers will provide invaluable research opportunities to carry out groundbreaking work in the area of telehealth.

### CST Poster Award

The Canadian Society of Telehealth initiated the first run of the CST Poster and Presentation Awards at the 4th Annual Meeting of the Society of Telehealth. E-volving Telehealth: The Next Level held in Toronto, Ontario, October 20-21, 2001. A poster submitted by **Penny Jennett and Andora Jackson**, Health Telematics Unit, University of Calgary entitled "A Collaboratory Model for Telehealth Research" was a recipient of an award for best poster.

## ON-LINE TELEHEALTH COURSE

### Introduction to Telehealth & Telehealth Research MDSC 755.33



**Dr. Marilynne Hebert** held another successful on-line telehealth course in the fall of 2001 with students located throughout Canada. Participants logged on to the Centra website and, using headsets and microphones, were able to communicate with each other.

This course will be offered again in September 2003.

## COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH FORUM ROOM MEETINGS



The boardrooms at the Telehealth Unit have been host to a number of meetings over the past year: Alberta Cancer Board, Telehealth Steering Committee, Bone & Joint team, Provincial Labs, residency interviews, Alberta Cancer Society, Institute of Health Economics, theses defenses, Faculty of Medicine Research Chairs, Community Med. Rounds, and the University of Alberta.

The Health Informatics group has hosted seven sessions during 2001 and has planned approximately one per month during 2002. During the September 11th New York tragedy, we were also able to provide videoconference capabilities to a private company for three days.

## HTU SEMINARS

The HTU seminars over the past year have been very successful. The knowledge and expertise shared by the presenters has been invaluable to telehealth researchers. Sites from around the world have been able to connect with the HTU with audio and visual clarity, with up to 10 sites connected. We are currently scheduling the 2002 seminars.

### VISITORS' PRESENTATIONS *since the last newsletter...*

<b>Anthony Smith</b> Telehealth Coordinator/Project Officer Telepaediatric Research Project Royal Children's Hospital, Brisbane, and the University of Queensland, Australia	Telepaediatric in Queensland — An Overview
<b>Cindy Hardy</b> Registered Psychologist and Teacher at University of Northern British Columbia	Parent Training in Rural & Remote Communities — Potential Roles for Telehealth?
<b>Faruq Chowdhury</b> HTU Member on leave from position as Deputy Program Manager of Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of Bangladesh.	Health Care Reform in Bangladesh
<b>Karl Stroetmann</b> Empirica GmbH, a private Institute for Communications and Technology Research in Bonn, Germany	The Social and Economic Benefits of Telehealth — Current Status & Future Direction
<b>Kevin Smith</b> Senior Principal Research Scientist with CSIRO Mathematical and Information Sciences and a Visiting Scientist at the NRC Institute for Information Technology	Australian Advanced Networks — Virtual Environments and Health Applications
<b>Leila-Mari Ryyanen</b> ProWellness, Finland	ProWellness Demonstration
<b>Nadine Wielgopolski</b> Neptec Networks, Houston, Texas	Telehomecare equipment demonstration



Susan Brownell, Health Telematics Unit, during a demo of Neptec's telehomecare technology

(photo by Marcel Hebert)

<b>Peter Sargious</b> Alberta Research Council, Calgary, Alberta	Diabetes and Telehealth
<b>Russell D'Souza</b> Director, Centre of Excellence in Remote Psychological Medicine, University of Sydney, Australia	Rural and Indigenous Psychiatry
<b>Sopporo University</b> Sopporo, Japan  Pilot project exploring use of tele-medicine videoconferencing for educational and research exchanges  <i>*next date: June 2002</i>	Nov 2001: Pediatrics and Infectious Diseases  Feb 2002: Telomerase Function in Cancer and Escape from Cell Aging in the Genesis of Cancer
<b>Stephane Bouchard</b> Professor, University of Quebec, Hull, Quebec	Effectiveness of Telepsychotherapy of Panic Disorder with Agoraphobia

### SEMINARS BY ADJUNCT PROFESSORS

<b>Roger Girard</b> Independent Consultant in Healthcare Informatics and Assistant Adjunct Professor at the University of Calgary	Ontario Smart Systems Approach
<b>David Hailey</b> Professor in Public Health Sciences at the University of Alberta, a Senior Advisor to the Health Technology Assessment program operated by AHFMR, and a Fellow at the Institute of Health Economics	Telehealth Outcomes: What is Available & Who Wants to Know?

## HTU WEBSITE — [www.ucalgary.ca/telehealth](http://www.ucalgary.ca/telehealth)

Major modifications have been made to the HTU website over the past few months and are continuing. For the researchers, we have developed an extensive glossary and a very helpful links page.

### GLOBAL CONFERENCES

We are now posting a listing of various upcoming conferences directly onto our website. Each listing is also linked to the corresponding website. See the web link for an event that may interest you!

[www.fp.ucalgary.ca/telehealth/Global\\_Conferences.htm](http://www.fp.ucalgary.ca/telehealth/Global_Conferences.htm)

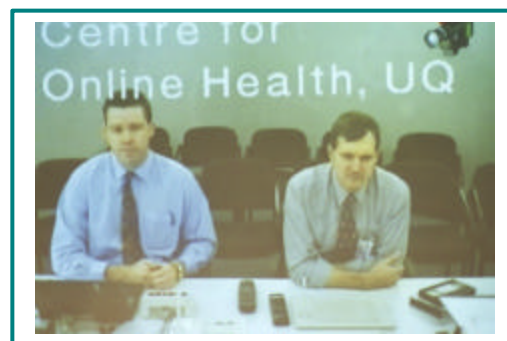
## FOR YOUR CALENDAR

### TRSI 2002

The 3rd Telehealth Research Summer Institute will be held **July 21 to 23, 2002**. The theme for this year's event is: *Socio-economic, Policy and Technical Issues in Telehealth Research and Evaluation*. Visit the web site for more detailed information:

[www.fp.ucalgary.ca/telehealth/TRSI\\_2002.htm](http://www.fp.ucalgary.ca/telehealth/TRSI_2002.htm)

Linking with colleagues in Queensland, Australia, for live presentations and discussion at TRSI 2001.  
(image taken directly from videoscreen)



## SCHEDULE FOR 2002 HTU MEMBERS MEETINGS

8:30-10:00 am — HTU Boardroom

Thursday, February 28th  
Thursday, April 25th  
Thursday, June 27th

Thursday, September 26th  
Thursday, November 28th

## BONE & JOINT TELEMATICS TELEHEALTH UNIT

The Bone and Joint Telematics group set up an office at the HTU location in the fall of 2001. The Telehealth Program is collaborating with the Bone and Joint Research Group in developing this research facility. Their current focus is on two projects. View the project descriptions on the website at:

[www.fp.ucalgary.ca/telehealth/Bone\\_Joint.htm](http://www.fp.ucalgary.ca/telehealth/Bone_Joint.htm)

- Meeting the Challenge: Implementing Information Technology to Enhance Care in Bone & Joint Health (A Physicians' Partnership Steering Committee (PPSC) project)
- Interactive Learning on the Internet for Community Rheumatologists (A CAN Project)

## ITEMS TO NOTE....

### National Initiative for Telehealth Guidelines

In 2001, the need for a focus on key overlapping issues related to telehealth and telehealth standards was recognized. The National Initiative for Telehealth (NIFTE) Guidelines, a multi-stakeholder interdisciplinary project was approved and funded by The Richard Ivey Foundation. The primary outcome of the initiative is the development of a framework of national guidelines for telehealth to be used by regulated health professionals, telehealth provider organizations, and the Canadian Council on Health Services Accreditation. The project commenced in January 2002, will take 20 months to complete, and will involve the undertaking of 6 key activities. For further info, or to be included in the Stakeholder Database, contact Dianne Parker-Taillon, Executive Director, or Rita Sherman, Project Coordinator, 613-235-7219 ext. 29, 800-363-9056 or email [rsherman@cchse.org](mailto:rsherman@cchse.org).

### Call for Papers — Successes in Telemedicine

Telemedicine Journal and e-Health plans to publish a special issue dedicated to the successful implementation of telemedicine. Authors are invited to submit manuscripts that demonstrate successes in various aspects of telemedicine. The deadline is July 1, 2002. For details, contact Rashid L. Bashshur, University of Michigan Health System ([bashshur@umich.edu](mailto:bashshur@umich.edu)).

### European IST Programme Calls for Proposals

Researchers have been called upon to help shape future European research programmes — an opportunity for Europe's research community to help prepare for the first calls of the EU 6th Framework Programme 2002-2006. All information relevant to this call for EOI's will be available at the following website:  
[www.cordis.lu/fp6/eoi-instruments](http://www.cordis.lu/fp6/eoi-instruments)

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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....next Newsletter...July 2002