In September 2012, a new class of 45 BHSc (Diagnostic Cytology (DCYT), Diagnostic Medical Ultrasound (DMUT), Nuclear Medicine Technology (NUMT), Radiological Technology (RADT) and Respiratory Therapy (RSPT) students were admitted to the School of Health Sciences (SHS). The School received over 800 applications for these positions.

During the second week of classes, the School held its inaugural Interprofessional Health Education (IPHE) Championships. This event provides an opportunity for new students to meet one another as well as introduce them to the five health disciplines within the School. Teams are composed of students from each of the five professions and the teams work together to complete tasks representative of the different health professions. All done in a fun competition-style event, students learn from, with and about each other right away and soon realize that collaboration as an interprofessional team is the key to success. The School continues to grow their interprofessional learning opportunities both within and outside the School.

Reestablishing the School of Health Sciences Advisory Council was a priority in 2012. Key stakeholders were invited to be members of the Advisory Council and provide ongoing advice to the School. The Council meets at least twice per year and continues to hold ongoing meetings.

An external consultant was hired in December 2012 to conduct a review of the School. From this review, the steering committee recommended a two-year suspension of intake to the Diagnostic Cytology program as this field has been greatly impacted by many changes in practice, including: advances in molecular biology technologies, changing public health recommendations and general practice guidelines, and the implementation of the HPV vaccine for the general public. This has resulted in a reduced demand for cytotechnologists across our region and across the country. In Nova Scotia, the Provincial Diagnostic Imaging and Pathology & Laboratory Medicine Initiative is currently studying opportunities to share/align laboratory functions across the province in order to realize efficiencies of scale. The School continues to consult with stakeholders and is awaiting reports to inform future direction in the Diagnostic Cytology program.

The School of Health Sciences continues its commitment to support and promote research. The 3rd Annual School of Health Sciences Research Half Day was held on Dec. 14, 2012 and featured participants from the Capital Health Point of Care Research Training Program as well as SHS faculty, staff, and students. Participants delivered presentations about their current or recently completed research on a diverse range of health care topics.

The 4th Annual School of Health Sciences Professionalism Workshop was held on March 8, 2013 for first and second year students. This year’s workshop included guest speakers: Alison Shea, Privacy Officer; Carl Quinlan, HR Consultant Respectful Workplace; Tanya Dutton, manager Interprofessional Practice, Capital Health; and Dr. Deborah Kiceniuk, Centre for Learning and Teaching, Dalhousie University.

A facilitator was hired to assist the School in developing a strategic plan. Stakeholders were consulted and faculty participated in a strategic planning day on June 5th, 2013. With a smaller working group, the directions were finalized and a final document produced, the “School of Health Sciences Strategic Plan (2013-2018)”. An implementation plan with targets and actions was developed and a plan was put in place to move the strategic directions forward.

July 2013 was the launch of the Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) program for fourth year BHSc students in the imaging disciplines (DMUT, NUMT and RADT). This program start is timely given the province’s health human resource need in MRI.
Staff and faculty have worked particularly hard over the past year preparing documents for five (DCYT, DMUT, MRIT, NUMT and RADT) accreditation submissions to the CMA Conjoint Accreditation Services. Onsite accreditation visits for DCYT, DMUT, NUMT and RADT are happening this fall with MRIT following in February 2014 and RSPT in November 2014. It is truly an interprofessional team effort in preparing for and participating in the accreditation process with six accreditations in the School.

Thank you to our many clinical partners for your ongoing commitment and dedication to our students. Special welcome to Diagnostic Services of Manitoba, Moose Jaw Union Hospital, and Roseway Hospital, new clinical sites for 2013.

The Student Association of Health Sciences (SAHS ) remains quite active with many activities and events that were scheduled throughout the year.

Work on the new SHS website continued with a new website launch date of fall 2013. Wireless in the School is also expected before the end of the fall term!

**Faculty and Staff:**

**Rob Gilbert** was on a one year sabbatical leave for the 2012/2013 academic year.

Welcome new faculty members and staff:

**Dr. Steven Beyea** joined the School of Health Sciences as an Associate Professor in July 2013 with the launch of the new MRI program. He is cross appointed with the Department of Radiology, Department of Physics and Atmospheric Science and holds an adjunct appointment in the School of Biomechanical Engineering. He currently teaches the online MRI physics courses as part of the MRI Certificate. **Pearl Duffy** also joined the School as adjunct lecturer in August 2013. She is teaching two MRI online courses and is facilitating the specialty practice courses (clinical) as part of the MRI Certificate program. **Kelly Walsh**, is our new faculty support secretary, joining the School in August, 2013.

We welcomed back several of our Health Sciences sessionals and welcomed new sessionals Dan Marsh (HSCE 1020, 1030 and 2040), Paul Curry (HSCE 2000 online), and Cathie Watson (HSCE 2000).

**Research:**

**Grants/Contracts Received (Principal Investigator)**

**Capital Health Research Fund**
Title: Creation of a Tool for Assessing Evidence Based Decision-Making Knowledge and Use in Healthcare Professionals
Researcher(s): Kathy Spurr, G. Dechman, R. Gilbert, K. Lackie
2012-2014 $9,879

**NSHRF**
Title: Point of Care Research Pilot Program
Researchers: Janet Gallant, Carol Gillis, Robert Gilbert
2010-2012 $5,000

**Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council – Discovery Grant**
Investigator: Beyea, S.D.
Title: Novel Acquisition Techniques, Contrast Mechanisms & Data Analysis Algorithms for Studying Regional Differences in fMRI Sensitivity
2012-2017 $100,000

Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council – Discovery Grant
Investigator: **Beyea, S.D.**
Title: MRI Characterization of Implantable Drug Delivery Bioceramics
2007-2012 $85,000

**Grants held (Co-Investigator)**

Canadian Institutes for Health Research - China-Canada Joint Health Research Initiative
Principal Investigators: D'Arcy RCN, Zhang Y.
Co-Investigators: **Beyea SD**, Song X.
Title: Functional Neuroimaging of White Matter Integrity in Cognitive Dysfunction: Linking Neuroscience Research with Clinical Evaluation
2010-2013 $149,400

ACOA - Atlantic Innovation Fund
Principal Applicant: McGrath P
Title: Elekta Neuromag Canada: The development of a translational imaging cluster in Halifax
2010-2015 $1,800,000

Nova Scotia Health Research Foundation – Establishment Grant
Principal Investigator: Tibbo P.
Co-Investigators: Aitchison KJ, Bernier D, **Beyea SD**, MacIntyre G, McAllindon D, Purdon SE, Rusak B, Song X., Bartha R.
Title: NPAS3 variants in schizophrenia: a neuroimaging study
2012-2015 $149,836

Canadian Institutes for Health Research - Operating Grant
Principal Investigator: Tibbo, P.
Co-Investigators: Bartha, R., Bernier D., **Beyea, S.D.**, Good, K., H. Milliken, Song, X.
Title: Quantitative Proton Spectroscopy of White Matter at 4 Tesla in First Episode Psychosis Part II: A Clinical Study
2010-2013 $226,620

Nova Scotia Health Research Foundation – Health Research Grant
Principal Investigator: Tibbo, P.
Co-Investigator: Bartha, R., Bernier D., **Beyea, S.D.**, Good, K., Purdon, S., Robertson, H., Song, X.
Title: Quantitative Proton Spectroscopy of White Matter at 4-Tesla in First-Episode Schizophrenia Part I: A Pilot Study
2009-2012 $143,474

Centre for Learning and Teaching, Dalhousie – Student Engagement Grant
Co-investigators: Kiceniuk, D., Hall, C., Davies, H., **Mahalik, A.**, Wainwright, G., Fuller, J.
Title: Fostering student engagement through the development of community preceptor education modules
2011-2013 $46,000

Publications


Abstracts


Invited Presentations/Workshops

Spurr K., Gilbert R. How to Develop and Submit Scholarly Work for Peer-reviewed Journal Publication. Canadian Society of Respiratory Therapists (CSRT) Pre-Conference Workshop, Niagara Falls, ON, May 2013


Noel Pendergast and Kathy Spurr Canadian Association of Critical Care Nurses (CACCN) NS Chapter Education Day, "Union of the patient and the ventilator; something old, something new, Something borrowed, something blew" November 30, 2012
Noel Pendergast  Spirometry training for respiratory healthcare professionals - PEI Department of Health (full day workshop) April 06, 2013, Charlottetown, PEI

Noel Pendergast  College of Registered Nurses of NS (CRNNS), COPD Pathophysiology and management of exacerbations, May 16, 2013 (webinar presentation)

SHS Faculty participated in numerous seminars, workshops and conferences throughout the year, and are actively involved as peer reviewers for several publications. Faculty continue to be quite involved with professional associations/regulatory bodies (both provincially and nationally) and have participated in accreditation of other programs throughout Canada with accrediting agencies, both as surveyors and chairs.

Achievements:
On September 18th, Noel Pendergast was presented with the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal at the AGM of the Nova Scotia Lung Association for his volunteer work in the community promoting lung health. Congratulations Noel.

Julie Avery graduated from Dalhousie (May 2013) with her Masters in Health Administration degree. Julie received the following Awards: KP Richard Law Award, Edward L. Roach Award, Dr. Alan D. Thomson Award and the Dr. A. Peter Ruderman Award. Congratulations Julie.

Congratulations to Leslie Hill who was the winner of the 2012 Urram Award (Sept. 2012) presented by the Nova Scotia College of Medical Laboratory Technologists (NSCMLT). Urram is Gaelic for “high respect that has been earned,” and the award is in recognition of excellence through outstanding contributions to the field of Medical Laboratory Technology.

Stephanie Lea was selected by the CAMRT to participate in the ASRT Leadership Academy for Educators (July 2013) in Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA

Students/Alumni:
Jennifer Lynn Taylor (year 3 NUMT student) received the CAMRT Dr. Petrie Memorial Award — May, 2013
Essay Title: The Diagnostic Application of Radiolabelled Folate in the Detection of Folate-Receptor Positive Tumors.

Radiopharmacy Module Development Project (with funds from Covidien, Radiology Research Fund and Dalhousie University)
Best Project: Sarah Bowman (year 4 NUMT student), Radioisotope Production
Honourable Mention: Matthew Burke (year 4 NUMT student), FDG Production and Quality Control

Matthew Burke NSAMRT (May, 2013) Student Technical Essay Award - The Known and Potential Benefits of SPECT/CT For Brain Scintigraphy

Anna Matheson (year 3 RADT student) – presentation “IPHE: A Student’s Experience of the Health Mentors Program” on June 6, 2013 at the Atlantic Radiography Faculty Liaison Conference
The W. Andrew MacKay Alumni Scholarship – 2012 Ollie Poole (year 3 RSPT student)

The 2013 Canadian Society of Respiratory Therapists Conference Best Student Poster – Ollie Poole. Ollie’s poster, “Initial Ventilation Settings After Emergent Endotracheal Intubation: A Retrospective Analysis” won the Best Student Poster Award for research he’s done with Dr. Dietrich Henzler’s group investigating initial mechanical ventilation settings after emergency intubation and their relationship with post intubation hemodynamic instability.

CSRT Airway Olympics – Best Student Team – Brandon D’Souza and Ollie Poole (year 3 RSPT students) competed in the Airway Olympics, an airway management skills competition. They were one of over 40 student and therapist teams who faced a number of challenges while attempting to intubate neonatal and adult manikins, including intubating while lying on the floor, blindfolded and without a laryngoscope! After six rounds of elimination, they lost in a close final to a team of anesthesia supervisors from Ontario. For finishing as the top student team, they won all expense paid trips and registration to next year’s CSRT Conference in Montreal.

Canadian Respiratory Health Professionals (CRHP) Student Excellence Award in Respiratory Health – Laura Harvie (year 3 RSPT student)
This award is granted to five students in Canada who have demonstrated academic excellence, academic activity related to respiratory health and volunteerism with a lung related health organization.

In Memoriam:

Sadly this past year we lost Ali Cameron, a respiratory therapy student in the School of Health Sciences. With the School from 2011, Ali lost her battle with leukemia in 2013. The Dalhousie Student Association of Health Sciences has created an award in her memory. This is awarded to a full-time respiratory therapy student who has entered clinical practicum II (RSPT 2500). This new award will be presented by the Ali’s family at the annual SHS Recognition Reception being held Nov 25, 2013 2:30-4:00 in the Bethune Building Ballroom.

Appreciation and thanks:

Thank you to everyone who assisted me in my role as Acting Director (August 2012-present). I have many people to thank including Dean Webster, Kathy MacNeil and Mary Ellen Gurnham for their leadership, guidance and support. To my colleagues both at Dalhousie and Capital Health, and especially the faculty and staff at the School of Health Sciences, I want to express my sincere thank you to all of you for your collegiality and dedication to excellence.

Carol Gillis, RTR, CRGS, CRVS, CRCS, BHSc, MAEd