



# Welcome to the RHSRNbc!



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We are very pleased and excited to welcome you to the Rural Health Services Research Network of BC and to have the opportunity to support rural health services researchers in British Columbia. The Rural Health Services Research Network of BC (RHSRNbc) strives to achieve and support excellence in rural health services by, for and with rural communities, clinicians and

researchers. RHSRNbc will focus on rural health services research and will connect rural health care professionals who have a research interest with established rural health service researchers in order to reach our ultimate goal of achieving better research and better health outcomes for rural patients. Our goal at the RHSRNbc is to create a supportive infrastructure with

which to facilitate the investigation of issues relevant to rural health services from the population, health services and clinical perspectives.



## RHSRNbc Background: Who We Are and Where We Came From

The Rural Health Services Research Network has been supported by the *Rural Coordination Centre of British Columbia* with the goal of creating a supportive infrastructure with

which to facilitate the investigation of issues relevant to the health and health services of rural communities. The Rural Health Services Research network is

built upon the foundation of the late BC Rural and Remote Health Research Network (BCRRHRN), which was supported by the Michael Smith Foundation

from the years 2005 – 2010. The RHSRNbc will continue build rural health research capacity as the BCRRHRN did by continuing some of the more popular events and activities developed and used by the BCRRHRN.

## Meet the RHSRNbc Team...



**Stefan Gryzbowski - MD, CCFP, MCISc, FCFP- UBC**  
Network Director

Dr. Grzybowski is a family physician researcher and co-principal investigator of the Rural Maternity Care Research Program, funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. Prior to moving to UBC, he practiced as a family physician for twelve years on the Queen Charlotte Islands/HaidaGwaii. Dr. Grzybowski's focus has been on advancing the rural maternity care research agenda in order to better understand the needs of parturient women and their families, care providers and policy makers. Current funded studies include determining the costs associated with different levels of maternity services in rural BC and comparing selected population-based maternity and newborn outcomes by residence stratified across service levels in 3 Canadian provinces using a parallel research strategy. Dr. Grzybowski is a Senior Scholar with the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research, Professor in the Department of Family Practice at UBC, co-director of the Centre for Rural Health Research, Professor in the Department of Family Practice at UBC, co-director of the Centre for Rural Health Research which, is in part supported by the Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute, and director of the Rural Health Services Research Network of BC.



**Kaitlin Irving – BHSc**  
Network Coordinator

Kaitlin is a graduate of the University of Northern BC where she studied Community and Population Environmental Health. Prior to joining

the team at RHSRNbc, Kaitlin worked for the UBC Faculty of Pharmaceutical Science as part of the Youth Sexual Health team investigating access to sexual health services and contraception for rural and Northern youth. Additionally, Kaitlin has worked with the UNBC Nursing Program investigating

child automobile passenger safety across Canada.



## RHSRNbc Objectives for the 2011 / 2012

The RHSRNbc strives to support and achieve excellence in rural health services research. In order to reach this goal, we have identified three key areas to build and improve upon as our primary objectives in the 2011 / 2012 year :

- 1) Increased rural **re-search capacity**
- 2) Increased **communi-cation** between rural health services re-searchers.
- 3) Increased **collabora-tion** between rural researchers

The RHSRNbc will address each of these primary objectives through a number of activities and initiatives. Rural Research capacity will be

expanded by the hosting of research skill building workshops, grant writing facilitation services, and notification of new and upcoming funding and professional development opportunities. Additionally the RHSRNbc recognizes that communication and collaboration within and between rural health service clinicians, researchers and health authorities is vital to the advancement and maintenance of rural health services research and rural health. Thus, we will facilitate communication and collaboration by providing members with forums for networking via our online discussion forum and membership data-

base, at our workshops and annual conference and by the sharing of information and opportunities through our monthly newsletter. Every member of the network will have access to the RHSRNbc activities and we encourage members to take advantage of our services and to participate in activities offered!



## Membership Benefits

There are many benefits to your RHSRNbc membership including;

- Exclusive invitation and access to our members database, skills workshops and conferences
- Province wide knowledge translation and networking support
- Provincial and regional workshops aimed at enabling research and knowledge translation
- Updates and streamlined access to relevant grant opportunities, information on conferences and workshops.

### Join Us!

Visit our website at [www.rhsrnb.ca](http://www.rhsrnb.ca) and click on Become a Member! Once joining, you will have exclusive access to our discussion forum, conferences, workshops and will receive a copy of our monthly newsletter.

## Our Newest RHSRNbc Member:

### *Dr. Nancy Humber, GP Surgeon , Lillooet, BC*



Dr. Nancy Humber helped design and completed the GP Surgeon training program at UBC in 1997. Since this time, Dr. Humber has been practicing GP Surgery in the community of Lillooet BC where, upon her arrival, she initiated and developed the Lillooet surgical team including; hiring and training OR nurses. Dr. Humber is an active and successful rural health services researcher and a strong advocate for the implementation and sustainability of GP surgery models of care delivery in rural and remote communities in BC.

Much of Dr. Humber's research

work has focused on delivery models and types of rural surgical services in BC and, has garnered considerable attention at both the provincial and national health services levels. Several of Dr. Humber's projects have been published by the Canadian Medical Association in *The Canadian Journal of Surgery*. Her most recent work was published last year and is titled; *Rural Patients Experience Accessing Surgery in British Columbia*.

View Dr. Humber's work in the Canadian Journal of Surgery at:

<http://www.cma.ca/issuesbydate2>

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