

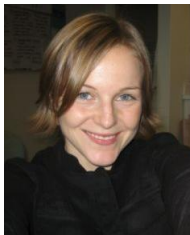
Update

HIGHLIGHTS! New WTT People | Project Progress | CIHR Cafe Scientifique

IMPORTANT NOTE: The date of the 2nd Annual WTT Symposium entitled, “*If we build it, will they walk?*” will be rescheduled for November. Stay tuned for date confirmation.

SAVE THE DATE: On October 6th, as part of the Walk 21 Conference (October 3rd-5th) Dr. Larry Frank and colleagues will be hosting an interactive dialogue on the topic of active transportation, health and the role of municipal and regional transportation planning. Contact Andrea Procyk for more information (andrea.procyk@ubc.ca)

PEOPLE



Sarah Lusina-Furst will be taking the position as Managing Director of the WTT. Sarah was involved in preparing the WTT grant for CIHR last year and is excited to be back on board to support the WTT team’s operations, community engagement and knowledge translation initiatives.



Meghan Winters has been working as a Post-Doctoral Fellow (March until June 2011). Meghan substantial experience in health, urban design, spatial analysis and the built environment have been invaluable to the WTT Team. Meghan was awarded her PhD in Population and Public Health from the University of British Columbia. Her thesis focused on cycling and urban form. Meghan will be assuming her role as Assistant Professor, Simon Fraser University, Faculty of Health Sciences in July 2011. She will continue on in her central role on the WTT team.



Sarah Chiarello will be working with Dr. Frank’s group to develop the walkability maps with Josh Van Loon. Sarah holds an Environmental Studies & Geography degree from the University of Waterloo with a Geomatics Specialization. Sarah is an experienced GIS practitioner with years of experience in project coordination, spatial data analysis and cartography in the private and public sector.

PROJECTS

Cross-sectional Study: The preliminary work for the cross-sectional study is underway. We have met with our community partners to discuss recruitment strategies, and other key experts to refine our overall sampling strategy and analysis plan. Currently, we are finalizing our measurement tools for the cross-sectional study and plan to consult individual team members over the next month.

Systematic Review: We are in the process of carrying out a systematic review to determine the association between individual-level and environment-level (including built and social) variables on the non-motorized outdoor mobility of community-dwelling older-adults aged >65 years, which will be completed by the end of the summer.

The 2011 **Walkability Surface** is being produced by Sarah Chiarello under the direction of Josh van Loon and Dr. Frank. Efforts to-date have focused on data acquisition, exploratory assessment of the available data, and identification of key decision points for subsequent measure creation.

Over the next several weeks, the emphasis of the work will shift towards initial data cleaning and processing as well as measure development for selected municipalities, which will set the stage for the development of walkability component measures for the region as a whole.

PARTNERS

On June 8th, just in time for Seniors' Month, the WTT hosted a **CIHR Café Scientifique** in Toronto entitled, "*Good places to grow old: Does your neighbourhood influence your health?*" The event was hosted in partnership with the CIHR Institute of Aging, the Ontario Seniors Secretariat along with acknowledged support from the Public Health Agency of Canada - Division of Aging and Seniors and the Canadian Urban Institute. Over eighty people attended, most of whom were community dwelling seniors living in the downtown Toronto area.

Sarah Lusina-Furst took the lead on organizing the event and managed to secure a solid line up of speakers including WTT's own **Dr. Philippa Clark** and **Mr. Glenn Miller**, City of Toronto staff, a local physician, and Dr. Norah Keating (University of Alberta). Each presenter provided insights into the many ways healthy aging can be promoted in urban places. Interactive discussion followed, where seniors themselves shared their ideas and expressed their concerns on health aging in urban places. An overarching emerging theme was that there is a need for more integrated, coordinated work among all levels of governments, private industry, health care and caregivers to promote healthy aging at the neighbourhood level. City of Toronto Councillor Josh Matlow, gave the closing remarks and underscored the the important role of municipalities in creating healthy places to grow old. Councillor Matlow highlighted the City of Toronto's commitment to supporting healthy aging, and his backing of the 'Seniors' Strategy,' a policy to be reviewed by Council by the end of the month that, upon approval, will ensure that all planning policies account for the needs of seniors and healthy aging. For more information about the Café, look for the final report which will be circulated to the WTT team as well as to stakeholder groups working to support healthy aging in the Toronto area, across Canada, and internationally.

In early May, Anna Chudyk, Sarah Lusina-Furst, Drs. Joanie Sims-Gould and Maureen Ashe traveled to Toronto for two meetings. At the **Sunnybrook Falls and Mobility Research Network Meeting**, Joanie provided a snapshot of the planned work of the Walk the Talk Team. At the **CIHR Institutes of Aging's Mobility and Aging Research Teams Meeting**, Joanie and Sarah were part of a session where teams shared the innovative ways they are managing and operating their teams. Included in this meeting, the Institute revealed the tools that will be used for team reporting and shared a number of KT opportunities for teams to consider.

PAPERS & POSTINGS

Spotlight your favourite website, journal article or publication in our next WTT Update. Contact Sarah Lusina-Furst for more information (lusina7@interchange.ubc.ca).

