We would like to welcome you to the 7th in a series of Global Risk Factor Surveillance conferences now officially titled as the World Alliance for Risk Factor Surveillance (WARFS) Conference, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, 16-19 October 2011. This conference follows a series of key surveillance conferences beginning in USA (Atlanta), 1999; and then continuing in Finland (Tuusula), 2001; Australia (Noosaville), 2003; Uruguay (Montevideo), 2005; Italy (Rome), 2007; and Italy (Venice), 2009.

The theme of this year’s conference is the Role of Surveillance in Health Promotion.

WARFS is the Global Working Group on Surveillance of the International Union for Health Promotion and Education (IUHPE). It supports the development of behavioral risk factor surveillance (BRFS) as a tool for evidence-based public health, acknowledging the importance of this information source to inform, monitor and evaluate disease prevention and health promotion policies, services and interventions. WARFS aims to (1) integrate social and behavioral risk factor surveillance as a tool into the mainstream of health promotion work, (2) finalise the definition and conceptual framework of BRFS that can be shared and discussed globally, (3) serve as a reference for researchers, BRFS practitioners, and countries that are developing BRFS, and (4) share findings, results and experiences with the IUHPE community and the general public health field to facilitate the discussion regarding the role of BRFS.

The success of the conference is a result of multiple efforts, including those of the IUHPE, WARFS, the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) which hosts this year’s conference, the International Scientific Committee (ISC) which developed the scientific program, the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) which organized the activities of the conference, and all of us – the participants.

Kind regards,

Dr. David McQueen, Co-chair, WARFS; Co-chair, ISC
Dr. Stefano Campostrini, Co-chair, WARFS; Co-chair, ISC
Dr. Bernard Choi, Chair, LOC

Call for Abstracts

Call for abstract submissions is now closed. Thank-You to everyone for providing your submissions.
Confirmed Keynote Speakers

Dr. David McQueen, Co-chair, WARFS; Immediate Past President, International Union for Health Promotion and Education (IUHPE), USA
• Where do we come from? (Oct 17)

Dr. Stefano Campostrini, Co-chair, WARFS; Professor, University Ca’ Foscari of Venice, Italy
• Where do we go from here? (Oct 19)

Dr. Bernard Choi, Chair, Local Organizing Committee; Senior Research Scientist, Public Health Agency of Canada, Canada
• Building local, national, regional and global multidisciplinary networks and teamwork (Oct 18)

Keynote speakers will be updated on the website as they are confirmed. Watch for updates.

Topics of Sessions

• Linking Surveillance with Health Promotion
• Enhancing Capacity in Low- and Middle-Income Countries and Areas with Low-resource Settings
• Linking WARFS to 2011 UN NCD Summit
• Topics and sessions will be updated on the website as they become available. Watch for updates.

Conference Highlights

• Advance the theory, method and use of risk factor surveillance.
• Examine ways to translate surveillance information into action.
• Expand the scope of risk factor surveillance beyond behavioral lifestyles.
• Explore ways to enhance global capacity in risk factor surveillance.
• Identify best practices to link risk factor surveillance to health promotion.

Special Events

• The Conference will be another opportunity to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Ottawa Charter for Health promotion.

Registration and Conference Updates

For further information on registration, and updates regarding the conference, please visit our website at: www.warfs2011.org.

Conference and network activities have been supported by:

International Union for Health Promotion & Education
Public Health Agency of Canada
Public Health Ontario
Toronto Public Health, Canada
Health Canada
Association of Public Health Epidemiologists in Ontario, Canada
Cancer Care Ontario, Canada
CancerCare Manitoba, Canada
Government of Nunavut, Canada
University of Toronto, Canada
Members of the International Scientific Committee

David McQueen (Co-Chair) - International Union for Health Promotion and Education, USA
Stefano Campostrini (Co-Chair) - University Ca’ Foscari of Venice, Italy
Vivian Lin - International Union for Health Promotion and Education, Australia
Sara Debenedetti - International Union for Health Promotion and Education, France
Lina Balluz - US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, USA
Juan Zevallos - Americas’ Network for Chronic Disease Surveillance, USA
Anne Taylor - University of Adelaide, Australia
Thomas Abel - University of Bern, Switzerland
Chee Yeong Chng - Health Promotion Board, Singapore
Sylvie Stachenko - University of Alberta, Canada
Bernard Choi - Public Health Agency of Canada, Canada
Louise Pelletier - Public Health Agency of Canada, Canada
Kim Elmslie - Public Health Agency of Canada, Canada
Deborah Baldwin - Public Health Agency of Canada, Canada
Ahalya Mahendra - Public Health Agency of Canada, Canada
Ali Artaman - Association of Public Health Epidemiologists in Ontario, Canada
Susan Bondy - University of Toronto Dalla Lana School of Public Health, Canada
Laura Rosella - Public Health Ontario, Canada
Gamil Shahein - Canadian Alliance for Regional Risk Factor Surveillance, Canada
Dan Otchere - Canadian Alliance for Regional Risk Factor Surveillance, Canada
Mary Lou Decou - Canadian Alliance for Regional Risk Factor Surveillance, Canada

Members of the Local Organizing Committee

Bernard Choi, Chair (Public Health Agency of Canada - Chronic Disease, Canada)
Ruth Sanderson, Co-Chair (Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion, Canada)
Paul Fleiszer, Co-Chair (Toronto Public Health, Canada)
Emma Moore (Public Health Agency of Canada - International Affairs, Canada)
Deborah Baldwin (Public Health Agency of Canada - Chronic Disease, Canada)
David Wilkinson (Public Health Agency of Canada - Infectious Disease, Canada)
Ahalya Mahendra (Public Health Agency of Canada - Ontario-Nunavut Region, Canada)
Kate Zhang (Public Health Agency of Canada - Aberta-Northwest Territories Region, Canada)
Randy Adams (Public Health Agency of Canada - Health Promotion, Canada)
Gregory Butler (Public Health Agency of Canada - Health Promotion, Canada)
Michelle Hooper (Health Canada - Nutrition, Canada)
Joëlle Zeitouny (Health Canada - Nutrition, Canada)
Adam Probert (Health Canada - Tobacco, Canada)
Marcel Dubois (Health Canada - First Nations and Inuit Health, Canada)
Corey Green (Health Canada - First Nations and Inuit Health, Canada)
Michael A. Ruta (Nunavut Department of Health and Social Services, Canada)
Michelle Policarpio (Public Health Ontario, Canada)
Beth Theis (Cancer Care Ontario, Canada)
Carly Leggett (CancerCare Manitoba, Canada)
Denise Canso (Association of Public Health Epidemiologists in Ontario, Canada)
Ali Artaman (Association of Public Health Epidemiologists in Ontario, Canada)
Susan Bondy - (University of Toronto Dalla Lana School of Public Health, Canada)
Judith Lapierre (Public Health Agency of Canada – Centre for Health Promotion)