



CANADIAN FOUNDATION FOR DIETETIC RESEARCH

480 UNIVERSITY AVENUE, SUITE 604, TORONTO, ONTARIO, M5G 1V2 CANADA

T: 416.596.1294 F: 416.596.0603 WWW.CFDR.CA

CHARITABLE REGISTRATION NO. 89270 2150 RR0001

CFDR awards a record number of Morgan Awards

Edmonton AB – June 16, 2011: The Canadian Foundation for Dietetic Research (CFDR) announced today at the Dietitians of Canada national conference the award recipients of the prestigious Morgan awards. This year, a record number of awards were presented: six regional awards and the national Morgan Medal.

“This is the first time in the five years of the Morgan Awards program that we have given out awards in all six of the regions of Dietitians of Canada,” says Cathy Paroschy Harris, RD, President of CFDR. “We are so pleased to recognize the six outstanding dietetic interns and students from coast to coast who exhibited such a strong passion for dietetic research.”

The Morgan Awards were created in honour and in memory of Susan Morgan, a former CFDR manager and dietitian who was an ardent supporter of the dietetic profession, of practice-based research and of mentoring novice researchers. The program recognizes a passion for research and dedication to the profession.

The six award recipients are:

Jennifer Frohlich, University of Alberta, recipient of the Morgan Medal for the Alberta and the Territories Region, and the National Morgan Medal. In addition to recognition in her home region, Jennifer received all expenses to attend the DC national conference, where she was invited to present a poster of her research project. Jennifer’s project looked at flavonoid intake in adults with type II diabetes as part of the Physical Activity and Nutrition for Diabetes in Alberta (PANDA) study. Jennifer says, “My research project was a rewarding, challenging and intriguing learning opportunity. I gained a deeper understanding on how critical evidence based research is to dietetic practice, both in regards to clinical and preventative care. I wish to be involved in research and to contribute to new understandings which guide dietitians’ scope of practice, making them a recognized, reliable and excellent source of information.”

Rose Hsu, UBC Dietetics program, British Columbia Region Morgan Award Recipient. In her research project, Rose investigated the risk of intra-operative aspiration in feeding up to the operative time in intubated tube-fed ICU patients undergoing tracheostomy. Rose says, “As I was completing my final evaluation at the end of internship, I began to reflect on what I have learned during the past year. Most noticeably, I have seen a personal growth in character and I was more confident about my ability to carry out anything I am passionate about. I am beginning to appreciate and understand the essence of research as well as recognizing its importance in dietetic practice.”

Stephanie Kendel, Saskatoon Health Region Professional Practice Program, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Northwestern Ontario Region Morgan Award Recipient. In her research project, Stephanie investigated the prevalence of malnutrition and failure to thrive in children with congenital heart defects. Stephanie says, “My experiences in research have been challenging, inspiring and have encouraged me in so many ways. Research has shown me that it is crucial to providing the best possible care for our clients. The body of knowledge produced by nutrition research is constantly evolving and growing, and continuing education is imperative to staying current in the field of dietetics.”

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Joanna Osborne, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre and the New Women's College, Southern and Central Ontario Region Morgan Award Recipient. Joanna studied the experience of head and neck cancer patients with Percutaneous Endoscopic Gastrostomy (PEG) tube placement. Joanna says, "I believe our research has helped many of those we interviewed in our project by allowing them to express the impact of living with a PEG tube as well as providing them the opportunity to use their experiences to benefit others. It is possible that other physicians, dietitians and most importantly, patients can benefit from our research. If this can calm fears, answer questions, and reduce delays in getting the PEG tube for patients considering it, then the time and energy of myself and my amazing research team, as well as the many people we interviewed, will all be worthwhile."

David Smith, Ottawa Hospital Dietetic Internship Program, Quebec, Northeast and Eastern Ontario Region Morgan Medal Recipient. David's community-based research supported a food security project in Ottawa named Food For All. He created and then analyzed a directory of school nutrition policies in Canada. This directory now supports dietitians and members of the public in creating school nutrition policies in their own local schools. David says, "My internship research project taught me that community-based research means asking community organizations what their needs are and what they want studied locally. By researching their expressed needs we promote nutrition and demonstrate the vital role of the dietitian in building community capacity."

Valerie MacPherson, Acadia University Integrated Dietetic Internship Program, Atlantic Region Morgan Medal Recipient. In her research project, Valerie investigated the impact of Interprofessional Learning on students in the health care professions. Valerie says, "The most rewarding aspect of this research was being able to undertake a study which will have a real and tangible impact on the education of future dietetic interns. The results of this research study will be used to improve the IPL program by enriching the experience of those who participated in this program. As someone who believes passionately in the importance of IPL, I found this outcome most rewarding. I believe that greater use and appreciation of the IPL approach has the potential to improve the overall quality of health care provided to patients."

CFDR is committed to recognizing and encouraging dietitians in their research efforts and congratulates the recipients of the 2011 Morgan Awards. For information on the 2012 program, visit www.cfdr.ca after July 15, 2011.

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For information contact
Isla Horvath
Executive Director, CFDR
519 267 0755
Isla.horvath@cfdr.ca

