



Momentum Health Study Newsletter

December 2014

Farewells & Welcomes



In 2014, Momentum has said farewell to team members Jamie Forrest and Jonathan Postnikoff.



We have welcomed Post-Doctoral Fellow Dr. Nathan Lachowsky and Ashleigh Rich as Research Coordinator.

Recruitment Update

Momentum closed our first initial cross section on February 28, 2014. As of the close date the sample consisted of 719 people: 199 HIV-positive and 520 HIV-negative men.

Currently, our cohort is comprised of 692 people: 198 HIV-positive and 494 HIV-negative men. We are still recruiting new HIV-positive seeds, primarily through online platforms such as Grindr, Squirt, and Facebook.

Follow-up visits have been running smoothly with our first set of guys just completing their 6th visits and the bulk of guys distributed between 3rd and 4th visits. On average, we have nearly 1.5 years of follow-up per cohort participant.

Publications

As recruitment is coming to a close and the early data are being analyzed, we are pleased to report that we have several papers that are currently or soon to be considered for publication. Our initial papers are as follows:

1. "Awareness and Knowledge of Treatment as Prevention (TasP) among HIV-Negative and HIV-Positive Gay, Bisexual, and Other Men who have Sex with Men in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada"
2. "Anal Sex Roles Explain Substance Use Patterns Among a Sample of "Awareness and Knowledge of Treatment as Prevention (TasP) among HIV-positive and HIV-negative men who have sex with men in Vancouver, Canada"
3. "Substance Use, Sexual Behaviour, and Sero-Adaptive Strategies of Vancouver Gay and Bisexual "Group Sex Event (GSE)" Attendees"
4. "Making sense of the inclusion of transgender men and their HIV risk profile within a bio-behavioural population study of men who have sex with men in Vancouver, British Columbia"

This represents our first batch of publications with many more planned in the near future. As well, our study team will be hiring additional research assistants to work on additional planned papers to help in the dissemination of our analyses.



Conferences

GMHS 2014

The Momentum team gave an oral presentation and led a workshop in October at the recent 10th annual BC Gay Men's Health Summit (GMHS) hosted by the Community Based Research Centre (CBRC). Our presentations included:

1. "Advancing Gay men's Health Literacy: Awareness and Knowledge of Treatment as Prevention (TasP) among HIV-positive and HIV-negative gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men in British Columbia, Canada" led by Allison Carter
2. "Party, Play and Protection within the context of Group Sex Events (GSE)" led by Robert Birch

CROI 2015

Momentum has three abstracts that were accepted for presentation as posters at the upcoming Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI) being held in Seattle February 23rd – 26th:

1. "HIV positive MSM with unsuppressed viral load are more likely to engage in risky sex in Vancouver, Canada" led by Dr. Moore
2. "Substance Use, Mental Health, and HIV Risk Behavior Among MSM in Vancouver, Canada" led by Dr. Lachowsky
3. "Electronic and Online Innovations in Respondent-Driven Sampling Methodology" also led by Dr. Lachowsky

IAS & CAHR 2015

The Momentum team looks forward to participating in the upcoming Canadian Association of HIV Research (CAHR) conference to be held in Toronto March 30- April 3 and the International AIDS Society (IAS) conference to be held in Vancouver July 19-22. We will be submitting abstracts from our completed and ongoing work.

Trans MSM

Interviews have concluded for a qualitative study among transgender men in the Momentum cohort; analysis is ongoing. This project explores inclusion of and HIV/STI risk for transgender men in HIV MSM research, and is led by Ashleigh Rich.

Community Advisory Board

The Momentum Community Advisory Board met in December at the office of our community partner Health Initiative for Men (HIM) to advise the continuation of the study and provide feedback on our current and planned work.

Other Research News

Drs. Moore, Hogg and Lachowsky and Mr. Jollimore are involved in a recently funded \$1.5-million CIHR Team Grant in Boys' and Men's Health led by Dr. Trevor Hart (Ryerson University), which aims to conduct a bio-behavioural cross-sectional study in Toronto and Montreal similar to the one conducted for our Momentum Health Study. The main research objectives of this Team Grant include 1) documenting prevalent and recent HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, 2) documenting the exposure and uptake of sociobehavioural and biomedical HIV and STI prevention programs, and 3) examining associations between specific prevention initiatives (e.g., TAsP) and the occurrence of recent HIV/STI infections and unprotected anal intercourse. This Team Grant will also build research capacity for a pan-Canadian research network on HIV prevention research for MSM across Canada, including communities outside of the three major city sites, and also inform and affect stakeholders and decision-makers to reinvigorate HIV prevention and to promote the sexual health for MSM across Canada.