

The Newsletter of the Consumer Health Information Providers Interest Group

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Getting Together for Health Information

hi Collaborative to Develop a Consumer Health Information Network



In 2005, AstraZeneca Canada brought together four community health partners in Mississauga to discuss how they could collaborate to make a meaningful contribution to the health of local residents. The group agreed that the development of an accessible, innovative and sustainable consumer health information delivery network would complement local health services and have a direct impact on achieving targeted health outcomes.

In February 2009, this group became a not-for-profit charitable corporation named *hi* (health information) Collaborative. *hi* is committed to enhancing and integrating current methods of health information delivery so that residents of Mississauga and area have unlimited access to relevant, reliable and accurate health information that meets their needs. *hi*'s current partners are AstraZeneca Canada, City of Mississauga - Library Services, The Credit Valley Hospital, Trillium Health Centre and University of Toronto, Mississauga.

hi has three key objectives. The first objective is to maximize consumers' access to local health information resources. This acknowledges that there are currently many valuable health information resources in our community. However, not everyone is aware they exist, or how to access them. *hi* will promote local resources by developing online search tools that direct consumers to the resources of local health partners, enabling consumers to quickly access the most relevant and up-to-date information resources for their health needs.

hi's second objective is to work collaboratively with community health partners to build a consumer health information delivery network that builds on partners' existing comprehensive and innovative resources. *hi* will work directly with partners to ensure that efforts are not duplicated and that current resources and networks are strengthened and widely promoted.

hi's third objective is to actively participate in the collective efforts of community health partners in planning and implementing a health care system that values public access to health information and education as a means of preventing disease, and improving the overall health and well being of the community. Public education was identified by members of the general public and health care practitioners in a 2006 survey of the top five local health priorities conducted by the Mississauga Halton LHIN.

For more information about *hi* Collaborative, please contact the Executive Director, Cheryl Miller, at hicollaborative@sympatico.ca

Submitted by
Cheryl Miller



Health Science Information Consortium of Toronto Consumer Health Interest Group

Recently the Health Science Information Consortium of Toronto established an Interest Group focused on consumer health issues. The Consortium, according to their website, is a collaborative association between the University of Toronto medical library and the libraries and information centres of over 30 teaching and community hospitals and health care institutions in the Greater Toronto Area. Consortium members cooperate to share resources, information, and expertise in order to facilitate their parent institutions' access to integrated, knowledge-based information services in support of their pursuit of excellence in patient care, research, and education.

The Consumer Health Interest Group met for the first time on March 5, 2009. The purpose of this meeting was to establish the needs of group members and determine what support the Consortium could offer. The mandate of the Consortium does not currently include supporting consumer health needs, but many hospitals are now offering some level of patient information. Many members of the Consortium have long expressed the need for cooperative support in offering these types of resources. Approximately 12 representatives from the Consortium attended the meeting, including Mary Anne Howse, Co-Chair of CHIPIG.

The meeting began with each person describing what is happening at his/her hospital regarding the provision of consumer health which varies widely among Toronto hospitals. In some hospitals it is still in the conception stage, while other hospitals have libraries run by hospital staff or volunteers. There is also variety in the types of resources and services offered by the libraries. It is interesting to note that more and more hospitals are recognizing the value of consumer health libraries for patients and families.

There followed a discussion about what members expect from the Interest Group. Three major ideas came from this:

- * The opportunity to discuss consumer health issues and share ideas
- * The potential for inter-library loan
- * Having the Consortium lobby for lower database costs on behalf of its members

The meeting concluded with the appointment of two co-chairs, Lynn Barber from Humber River Regional Hospital and Fatimah Ahmed from The Scarborough Hospital.

The Consortium Interest Group is still in its infancy, but there is clearly a need for it and for a partnership with CHIPIG. Members of the Interest Group are potential new members and everyone will benefit from shared ideas.

Submitted by

*Mary Anne Howse
Women's College Hospital
Toronto, Ontario*

How to Use Delicious Bookmarks

The tastiest bookmarks on the web. Save your own or see what's fresh now!

Delicious is an online tool that lets you “bookmark” a site in a way that is very similar to adding it to your browser’s “favourites”. Delicious has this advantage, however: you can use your Delicious bookmarks from any computer and you can share your bookmarks with your co-workers or friends.

To start, just sign up for a free account at <http://delicious.com>. You can easily export bookmarks from all the computers that you use and import them automatically into Delicious.



If your library wants to use Delicious, you can set up individual accounts for each person, or you can set up a single account for your group. If you set up a single account, everybody in the library can add bookmarks to that account (using the same username and password)

If each person in the group chooses to set up an individual account, your group has two options:

- Decide on a common tag to add to all records—always search with that tag
- Add all group members to each person’s “network” i.e. other people who use Delicious. A search displays your bookmarks first, then the bookmarks of all people in your network, then those of every user of Delicious who has used that tag. You can also mail bookmarks to people in your network. They arrive in their inbox.

Submitted by:

*Donna MacLeod
Toronto Reference Library
Ontario*

Open House at Women’s College Hospital

The Marian Powell Women’s Health Information Centre had an Open House on May 6th in honour of our 5th Anniversary in our present location and with our present name. Up until 2004, we were located at 790 Bay St. and we were called the Women’s Health Resource Centre.

The Open House was a great success, with over 50 people visiting the Centre. Activities included self-guided tours, Health Information Bingo game with a draw, and light refreshments. The Hospital’s archivist also did a display on Dr. Marion Powell, after whom we are now named.



Submitted by:

*Mary Anne Howse
Women’s College Hospital
Toronto, Ontario*

CHIPIG MEMBER NEWS!

Closure of CHIS, Toronto - Susan Murray's Announcement

With the loss of operating funding from the Ontario Ministry of Health Promotion, the Consumer Health Information Service (CHIS) located at the Toronto Public Library closed on May 8, 2009.

The MHP decision was not a reflection on the value of the service. It was the result both of the government's current budget pressures and the Ministry's review of the OHPRS (funding program for CHIS) to realign that service to focus on a core mandate to build the capacity of health promoters.

CHIS began as an 18-month pilot project funded by the Premier's Council on Health, Well-Being and Social Justice in 1991. The service opened to the public in February 1992. It included a walk-in service, phone line assistance, as well as the provision of information packages to help consumers make informed decisions about their health. In 1993, the Ministry of Health began funding CHIS.

Since CHIS opened in 1992, approximately 115,000 people have consulted it for health information, and 350,000 users have accessed the CHIS website since it became available in November 1999.

The Toronto Public Library will continue to provide health information. Please visit the Business and Health Sciences centre at the Toronto Reference Library, call 416-393-7131, or visit the wiki at <http://chis.wikidot.com/>

News from the CHIPIG Executive

New Financial Policy

This will be voted on by the membership at the September 2009 meeting. Please see it on the main page of the website, www.chipig.ca

Membership

Consumer health librarians and information specialists are encouraged to become members of CHIPIG. To join CHIPIG, please complete the [membership form](#) at our website

Welcome

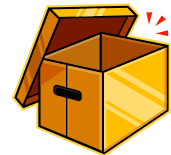
HELLOS

We are delighted welcome the following new Members to CHIPIG

Cheryl Miller
hi collaborative
Mississauga, ON

Mark Mueller
Toronto, ON
(no institutional affiliation mentioned)

Lavern Gravis
Toronto General Hospital Patient and
Family Library
Toronto General Hospital, University
Health Network
Toronto, ON



MOVES AND CHANGES

Changes at the Health Information Network, Calgary, AB

Taryn Lenders has moved from the Peter Lougheed Knowledge Centre and is now the Librarian at the Alberta Children's Hospital Knowledge Centre, part of the Health Information Network, Calgary Region.

For more information about the CHIPIG newsletter contact the

Newsletter Committee members:

Liz Gibbon at egibbon@thc.on.ca,
Judith Purdell-Lewis at judithpl56@gmail.com