



CREIDO

Centre of Research Expertise in Improved Disability Outcomes

August 27, 2009

Volume 1, Issue 1

CREIDO Examines Supervisors' Perspectives on Accommodating Back-Injured Workers

CREIDO researchers, Drs. Vicki Kristman, Patrick Loisel, and Sophie Soklaridis are collaborating with Dr. William Shaw of the Liberty Mutual Research Institute for Safety to conduct this study. Dr. Kelly Williams-Whitt of the University of Lethbridge is also collaborating on this project designed to determine which factors supervisors consider when faced with the possibility of accommodating a back-injured worker. The project involves

workplaces from Canada and the US. In Ontario, workplace partners include Teva Novopharm, XStrata Nickel, the University Health Network, and the City of Toronto. This research will help employers identify opportunities to support supervisors and develop enhancements for disability management processes, improving successful return to work.



Dr. Vicki Kristman



Dr. William Shaw

Inside this issue:

- CREIDO Examines Supervisors' Perspectives 1
- CREIDO Investigates Workplace Relationships 1
- Patrick Loisel joins CREIDO 2
- CREIDO Maps Return To Work Coordination 2
- Spotlight on Research Student Dora Yuen 3

CREIDO Investigates Relationships As Indicator For Workplace Injury

CREIDO researchers believe the social environment plays a large role in the return to work and stay at work processes. Hence, CREIDO researchers are examining the role workplace relationships

have on the development of workplace injury and disability. Preliminary results from an analysis of the Canadian Community Health Survey conducted by Research Associate Afshin Vafaei suggest that

positive workplace relationships may decrease the risk of workplace repetitive strain injury (RSI), such as carpal tunnel syndrome. This finding was relevant for females, but not males, potentially



(Cont'd from Page 1) CREIDO Investigates Relationships...

related to typing work. This analysis compared those reporting RSI occurring at work to those reporting RSI elsewhere. Women reporting RSI at work were more likely to report poor workplace relationships.

CREIDO researchers are now comparing those reporting RSI at work to a non-injured control group.



Afshin Vafaei

This research will help to target existing workplace interventions to have the largest impact in preventing work-related injury and disability.

Contact the project lead, Dr. Vicki Kristman at

Vicki.kristman@uhnresearch.ca for more information.

Dr. Patrick Loisel Joins CREIDO

One of the top researchers in the world in the field of workplace disability prevention has joined CREIDO. Dr. Patrick Loisel who has been located at the University of Sherbrooke since 1985, joined CREIDO this spring and brings with him decades of research experience and expertise. In addition, he is the director of the CIHR Strategic Training Program in Work Disability

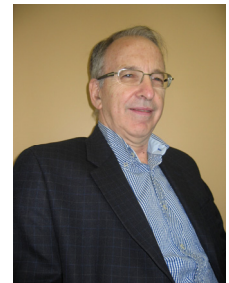
Prevention that will now move from Sherbrooke University to the University of Toronto. Dr. Loisel can be contacted at:

CREIDO
Toronto Western Hospital
Med West Building
750 Dundas Street West
2nd Floor, Room 333
Toronto, Ontario
CANADA M6J 3S3

E-mail:

patrickloisel@uhnresearch.ca

Tel: 416-860-0420 ext 2010



Patrick Loisel

CREIDO Quarterly Newsletter

Toronto Western Hospital
Med West Building
750 Dundas St. West
2nd Floor RM 320
Toronto, Ontario M6J 3S3

Phone: 416-860-0420
Fax: 416-860-0634
E-mail: info@creido.com



Spotlight on Research Student: Dora Yuen

Dora Yuen completed her Honours Bachelor of Science degree at the University of Toronto in 2007, majoring in neuroscience, psychology and health studies. She began her Masters degree in Public Health at Lakehead University immediately after graduation, and she is now in her final year of the graduate program. Coming from a psychology background, CREIDO has introduced Dora to a whole new world of possibilities in occupational health and injury epidemiology re-

search. “The supportive environment at CREIDO has enabled me to learn from a dedicated group of scientists and share experiences with graduate students from different institutions.” During a practicum conducted at CREIDO, she participated in a project aiming to define return-to-work from existing literature and publications. “My current thesis project involves a systematic review that examines the role of primary care physicians in the return-to-work process

following an occupational injury or illness. I hope to pursue a research career in the field of occupational health sciences”.



Dora Yuen

CREIDO Maps Return To Work Coordination

CREIDO researchers (Drs. David Cassidy, Carlo Ammendolia, Sophie Soklaridis, Eleanor Boyle and Pierre Côté), along with the Institute for Work & Health (Dr. Ivan Steenstra), and UHN-Rehabilitation Solutions’ clinicians (Dr. Howard Hamer, Stephanie Eng and Bhupinder Bains), used an intervention mapping technique to design a best evidence return to work program for occupational low back pain. The best evidence collated from systematic reviews, practice guidelines, and key articles

on the prognosis and management of low back pain was combined with theoretical models for managing low back pain and changing behaviour. Experts and stakeholders met at CREIDO on numerous occasions to develop a return to work program, which was further refined with feedback from nine focus groups of various stakeholders. The results of this research were recently published in the international journal BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders and are available online at

<http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2474/10/65>.

This research will help workers with low back pain return to safe and sustainable work in Ontario.

About CREIDO



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Med West Building
750 Dundas St. West
2nd Floor RM 320
Toronto, Ontario M6J 3S3

Phone: 416-860-0420

Fax: 416-860-0634

E-mail: info@creido.com

Our Mission

To reduce the burden of chronic musculoskeletal pain and disability through collaborative research and the development and implementation of effective prevention, rehabilitation and sustainable RTW programs

WWW.CREIDO.CA

The Centre of Research Expertise in Improved Disability Outcomes (CREIDO) was created and is supported by an Ontario Workplace Safety and Insurance Board Centre of Expertise grant. CREIDO is located at the Toronto Western Hospital, University Health Network and is affiliated with Rehabilitation Solutions in the Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis Program. Rehabilitation Solutions provides care for injured workers and includes several WSIB specialty programs.

The vision of CREIDO is to develop “an integrated network of collaborating researchers, clinicians, workers, employers, unions and other stakeholders committed to preventing work-related disability, attaining safe and sustainable (RTW) and improving the health-related quality of life for injured workers.” CREIDO currently has several scientists on site, two postdoctoral fellows and graduate students in master’s and doctoral training programs. In addition, we have a network of scientific collaborators, both internal to and external to the University Health Network. Our mandate is to improve occupational health and safety and to collaborate with workplaces to prevent musculoskeletal disability.

CREIDO Has New Space!

On June 26th, CREIDO moved from the Fell Pavilion at the Toronto Western Hospital to the MED-West Building on Dundas Street. “For the first time, all CREIDO scientists, staff and students are located together” says Dr. David Cassidy, the Director of CREIDO. “It’s great to see everyone together and interacting in the hallways,” he adds. The new space includes meeting rooms, offices, and student space. Our new address is..

CREIDO

Toronto Western Hospital Med West Building

750 Dundas Street West

2nd Floor, Room 320

Toronto, Ontario CANADA M6J 3S3

Tel: 416-860-0420

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