

Canadian Sex Research Forum Newsletter

May, 2004 CSRF Newsletter

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By now you should have all received the Call for Papers for the CSRF meeting October 7-10, 2004. Given the number of new people who have applied for membership in CSRF in recent months, I expect that this will be a well-attended meeting. So please get your submissions in (deadline June 30). We'd love to hear about the work that you've been doing. From the personal communications I've had with various new and continuing members, I think that we may have more paper submissions than we've had in a number of years. I know that the two keynote speakers, Dr. Judith Daniluk and Dr. Martine Lalumiere, are both outstanding. Judith is at the University of British Columbia and will be giving a talk entitled "Sex without obligation: Imagining the Possibilities". Judith is well known for her work on female sexuality and on infertility. Martin is at the Ontario Institute Centre for Addiction and Mental Health. The title of his talk is "Why do some males rape? A look at proximal causes". I've heard Martin talk about his work before, so I know his talk will be both informative and stimulating.

The conference will be held at the Lord Beaverbrook Hotel which is located on Queen Street (as do many Maritime cities, we have a Queen Street, a King Street, a Brunswick Street - kind of a theme going there) in downtown Fredericton. Here is the publicity off the hotel website: *Greetin from the four-star Lord Beaverbrook Hotel in downtown Fredericton, New Brunswick on the banks of the majestic St. John River! Our hotel property has developed a strong mandate with an emphasis on quality and we have built a reputation on the excellence of our services.* The Lord Beaverbrook Hotel is located right on the river and there is a walking trail that goes for miles and miles in several directions right below the hotel (good for hiking, biking, jogging, sitting on the river bank, etc.) (We've managed to secure an excellent room rate, just \$89 per night. You'll need to make your reservations before September 2, 2004, on which date the rooms will be released. (More a bout that with the Preliminary Program which should go out to members at the end of July).

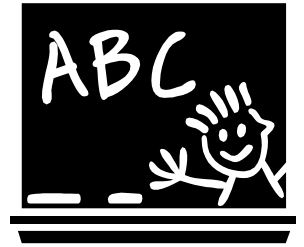
Here are a few more persuasive arguments in case you're still debating whether to come to the meeting. There will not be a separate CSRF meeting in 2005. Rather the CSRF meeting will take place as part of the meeting of the World Association of Sexology in Montreal in July 2005. Second, fall is fabulous in New Brunswick. It's usually sunny and the fall foliage is typically at its peak at the beginning of October. Third, I've heard rumours that Fredericton is a hot bed (pun intended) of sex researchers and would-be sex researchers. We are proud to host our colleagues from across the country.

I hope to see you in Fredericton in October.

Sandi

THE STUDENT SCENE

Hello and bonjour everyone! We are looking forward to seeing as many students as possible at the CSRF conference in Fredericton. In the meantime, we would like to update you on our student membership activities. This fall, we sent out letters to members encouraging them to pass along information about CSRF to any students who might be interested. We also sent letters to various university faculties across Canada. We are pleased to say that we have an expanding student membership and we would like to thank all of you who encouraged students to join CSRF. Also, we would like to warmly welcome all new members! We had been working on developing a CSRF website. Unfortunately, progress on the website was slowed down recently. However, we are to have good news about the website in our next newsletter.



The 2004 CSRF conference is now being organized and we would like to encourage everyone to submit an abstract for a presentation. More specifically, we want students to get involved and present their research. Not only is CSRF a great place to present studies, but the best student presentation also gets an award. The CSRF student award is a great honour that also includes a monetary prize. Even if students choose not to present, we highly recommend attending the CSRF conference to benefit from our colleagues' presentations as well as to participate in the social events. The CSRF conference is a wonderful opportunity to learn about the interesting research being done by dynamic Canadians! Moreover, the social interaction between members is great! It is truly a fun atmosphere.

This year's CSRF conference (as with all our conferences!) will be a great opportunity to visit with colleagues, while also meeting new people who are interested in sex research. We are truly an expanding group! Fredericton is a warm, relaxed city and we plan on taking advantage of what this Maritime city has to offer by inviting everyone to attend a social outing during the conference. Right now, we are looking into several possibilities, and we guarantee that fun will be had by all who attend!

We really recommend you plan to attend the CSRF conference in Fredericton, and to encourage your colleagues and students to attend. It will be worth the trip! As always, if you know of students (graduate or undergraduate) who would be interested in joining CSRF please feel free to contact either one of us (Melanie or Shannon). Also, if you have any questions about student membership or suggestions about how we can better represent student members we'd love to hear from you!

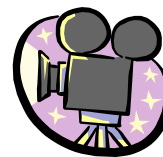
Shannon Archibald (x754n@unb.ca) &
Melanie Brousseau (mmbrousseau@hotmail.com)
CSRF Student Representatives

UPCOMING SEXUALITY CONFERENCES

The 26th Annual Guelph Sexuality Conference: June 12-16 on the campus of the University of Guelph. This year's theme is *Sexual Realities: Working in a Changing Social Context*. In addition to the main 2-day conference (June 15-16), a Sexual Attitudes Re-assessment (SAR) weekend is offered in addition to a day long STI clinical update. Main conference sessions include: Integrating Oral Medications and Counselling for Erectile Dysfunction; Closing the Intimacy Gap Between Couples; An Insider's View of the Erotic Dance Industry; and E-Relationships: The agony and the Ecstasy. For more information, visit the conference website at www.open.uoguelph.ca/sexconf.

1st Annual Ann Arbor Conference on Sexual Health in America: June 24-26. The meeting will feature Carrera, Cole, Coleman, Gordon, Hacker, Haffner, Huberman, Klein and Leight. For information contact Pat Horton at hobay@greatlakes.net

46th Annual Meeting for the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality (SSSS): November 4-7 in Orlando, Florida. For information go to www.sexscience.org.



FEAT NOTES:

Gerry Cohen, M.D.: Since his retirement from McMaster University, Gerry has moved to Toronto and has been doing sexual therapy on a part time basis and is loving it!

Laurie Betito, Ph.D.: Laurie has recently launched her website, www.drlaurie.com, where you can view/hear clips of her television show "*Let's talk sex*" and her nightly radio program *Passion*.

Pierre Assalian, M.D.: Pierre has been traveling the world lately preparing for the WAS conference, scheduled to take place in Montreal in 2005. We're fortunate to have him representing Canadians!

To contribute to the CSRF Newsletter:

Send us your latest accomplishments, new, or anything else you would like us to include in our next newsletter. E-mail Laurie Betito, Ph.D, Vice President and Newsletter Editor, at laurie@drlaurie.com

We look forward to hearing from you!

Sex in the News



A research study conducted by CSRF members Hilary Randall and Sandy Byers titled "What is Sex? Students' Definitions of Having Sex, Sexual Partner, and Unfaithful Behaviour" received considerable attention in the media. Published in *The Canadian Journal of Human Sexuality*, the study was covered on the front page of the Feb. 28th *Globe & Mail* and was featured on the CTV National News.

On the North American front: In his recent *State of the Union* Address, U.S. President George W. Bush pledged to make the control of teen sexual behaviour a national priority by doubling the U.S. federal government's funding for "abstinence-only" sex education programs to \$150,000,000 per year. This funding is clearly needed as a recently released study of 12,000 U.S. citizens showed that 88% of teens who had made a pledge to remain abstinent until marriage (The U.S. government standard), failed to make it to the altar as virgins. Not only that, the kids who had sworn off sex were significantly less likely to use condoms when they did have sex than those who declined to take the pledge. In what perhaps was an oversight, in the recent *Speed From The Throne*, where priorities for the Canadian parliament are laid-out, no mention was made of how much of the national budget the government would be devoting to stopping Canadian teenagers from having sex. Meanwhile, data from Statistics Canada show that Canada's teen pregnancy rate has fallen to an all-time low.

On the international front: It has been well over two decades now since the first case of HIV/AIDS were reported. Although advances in the treatment of HIV have substantially extended the lives of many HIV+ people in the developed world and rates of infection have levelled off in some of these countries, HIV/AIDS continues to wreak havoc in all corners of the world. Here are a few sobering facts and figures. It is estimated that at the end of 2003, about 40 million people were living with HIV/AIDS with up to 1.2 million cases in North America. About 3 million people died of AIDS in 2003 and 5 million new HIV infections occurred. Southern Africa contains 2% of the world's population but is home to about 30% of the world's HIV/AIDS cases. In the United States, about one third of people with HIV do not know they are infected. More than two thirds of new AIDS cases among American women are attributable to heterosexual sex and about half of all new HIV infections occur in people under the age of 25. Few, if any, aspects of sexuality are untouched by the reality of HIV/AIDS. As sexuality researchers and health professionals it will continue to be our responsibility to participate in what ever way we can in the on-going battle against HIV/AIDS.

Europe: Euro MP's have been accused of "bottling out" of a major debate on sex in the run-up to the euro elections. The European Parliament was supposed to be debating calls to crack down on the boom in unsolicited pornography via the Internet, but they voted at the last minute to remove the item-"The Consequences of the Sex Industry in the EU"-from the agenda. Swedish MEP, Marianne Eriksson was dismayed by the decision to ignore a report she compiled warning that globalization has caused an explosion in the sex industry. She was hoping to debate the sex industry's power and influence in Europe. Ms Eriksson said the results of her study would contribute to establishing "an appropriate sexual education programme" in all EU countries.

Sweden: A new Swedish study reveals that nearly 100% of today's seniors would be sexually active if they could. While only 0.8% of 70-year old women polled in 1971 said they were sexually active, 13% of women in the same age group polled in recent years said they were still having sex. The number of 70 year-old men claiming to be sexually active has risen from 50% in the 1970's to 69% today, the study shows.

United Kingdom: A recent survey carried out by Belfast's Queens University found that more than half of the students who took part said that having an affair over the internet is perceived as actual cheating.