

November 2011

## Fall Newsletter

### Message from the President

As the new year approaches and semesters wind down, I hope you have had an enjoyable and successful fall!

Thanks to those who attended our 2011 meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia! Also thanks to Lori Brotto, our local area Chair, and members of the Program Committee, Laurie Betito and John Sakaluk for their work in organizing the event. There were many highlights... The first ever CSRF poster session was a success and will be a tradition we continue. It was a pleasure to have Rosemary Basson, from UBC, join us and give a plenary address. Ed Herold's "Last Lecture" was informative and inspiring – and choked up many of us in the audience. Thank you, Ed for sharing your reflections on the field. Ed also received an award for his contributions to the field of sexual science and his dedication to CSRF. The group dinner was spectacular, including a great meal AND a belly dancer. Presentations were excellent across the board, but a special congratulations to our Student Paper Award

winners, Kerri Gibson and Samantha Dawson.

I'd also like to thank the outgoing Executive



**Robin Milhausen, PhD**  
President, CSRF

Council for their work over the last three years, Terry Humphreys (President), Laurie Betito (Past-President), Elke Reissing (Secretary), Larry Brockman (Treasurer), and John Sakaluk (Student Representative). It was a pleasure working with these individuals as Program Chair. I now look forward to new challenges as CSRF President.

It is a tremendous honour for me to be President of this organization. I still remember my first CSRF almost 15 years ago,

presenting my undergraduate thesis. The mentoring and encouragement I received from members of this organization have helped me to get where I am today. I've learned so much from the work presented at our Annual Meeting. It really is the fulfilment of a life's ambition (don't know what I'll strive for when my term is up!) and I look forward to serving the organization over the next two years in this capacity.

I'll be working with a wonderful team:

Martin Lalumière (President-Elect and Program Chair), Terry Humphreys (Past-President), Jonathan Huber (Secretary), Ed Herold (Treasurer), Krystelle Shaughnessy and Nathan Lachowsky (Student Representatives). We held our first Executive Council meeting via Skype recently. Some highlights from the Agenda were: the development of the policy and procedures document, the setting of a by-laws committee to review the by-laws, update from the Secretary

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### The CSRF Executive

**President**  
Robin Milhausen

**Past-President**  
Terry Humphreys

**President-Elect**  
Martin Lalumière

**Treasurer**  
Ed Herold

**Secretary**  
Jonathan Huber

**Student Representatives**  
Krystelle Shaughnessy  
Nathan Lachowsky

**Executive Director**  
Pierre Assalian

**Newsletter Editor**  
Heather Armstrong

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## Message from the President, continued

regarding the website and the newsletter (Thanks Terry Humphreys for continuing to be our “Web Manager” and to Heather Armstrong for agreeing to be our Newsletter Editor), update from the Program Chair regarding plans for the 2012 meeting (it’s coming along fabulously!), and more. The Executive Council will continue to meet regularly using Skype in order to move ahead on a number of CSRF projects. Feel free to

contact me if you have suggestions for areas we should address.

You’ll hear from all of us in the Newsletter again before our meeting in September, but until then, block off your calendars to attend CSRF 2012 in Ottawa, September 20-22. The Call for Proposals will be circulated in the new year.

*Dr. Robin Milhausen is the president of CSRF and an Associate Professor of Family Relations and Human Sexuality at the University of Guelph in Guelph, Ontario.*

Robin Milhausen

“The first ever CSRF poster session was a success and will be a tradition we continue.”

## Member Updates

- Dr. Martin Lalumière and members of his group have recently published the following sex-related articles:
  - Suschinsky, K. D., & Lalumière, M. L. (2011). Prepared for anything? An investigation of female genital arousal in response to rape cues. *Psychological Science*, 22, 159-165.
  - Chivers, M. L., Seto, M. C., Lalumière, M. L., Laan, E., & Grimbos, T. (2010). Agreement of self-reported and genital measures of sexual arousal among men and women: A meta-analysis. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, 39, 5-56.
  - Seto, M. C., & Lalumière, M. L. (2010). What is so special about male adolescent sexual offending? A review and test of explanations through meta-analysis. *Psychological Bulletin*, 136, 526-575.
- Dr. Edward Fernandes has recently completed a study titled “An evaluation of the STI profiles and safe sex practices of a sample of swingers.” Contrary to the hypothesis, this study determined that swingers actually report fewer STIs than the general population. This study, along with a second study titled “An Evaluation of the Self-Determination Scores of Swingers and their Relationship with Swinging Satisfaction” have recently been submitted for publication. Dr. Fernandes would also like to mention that he is looking for a new position, fixed-term or otherwise, in Canada so if anyone is aware of any openings, they can contact him directly.



**If you have any updates which you would like to have mentioned in the Spring Newsletter, please email Heather at [armstrong.heather@gmail.com](mailto:armstrong.heather@gmail.com). No need to wait ‘til Spring!**

## Student Research Feature:

### Turning men and women 'off'

Samantha Dawson, University of Lethbridge

My current research uses evolutionary theory to explain why the sexual arousal patterns of women appear to be distinct from those of men. Of particular interest are the two main sex differences in sexual arousal patterns: *category-specificity* and *sexual concordance*. Men's genital responses exhibit a high degree of discrimination between different sexual stimuli (category-specific) and are concordant with their subjective experience. Women's genital responses, however, show little to no discrimination between different sexual stimuli (category non-specific) and are less concordant with their subjective experience. One possible explanation for these sex differences is the *preparation hypothesis*. Historical evidence suggests that the threat of sexual activity was present in our evolutionary history and as such, women may have developed adaptations in response to this threat. The preparation hypothesis provides a functional explanation for the sex differences in arousal patterns and posits that women's genital responses are not tied to sexual preferences but rather occur automatically in the presence of sexual cues. This automatic response facilitates lubrication protecting the genital tissues from injuries incurred through sexual activity - whether wanted or not. This hypothesis leads to the prediction that if automatic, women's genital responses

might not habituate as quickly or as effectively as men's. Habituation is a process by which the magnitude of a response systematically declines as a result of repeated stimulation.

Men and women came into the lab and had their genital responses measured while they watched a variety of short erotic film clips. Using a habituation paradigm, participants were exposed to multiple presentations of the same film clip and at the end were presented with different film clips as a control for fatigue. After each film clip participants reported their subjective arousal, perceived genital arousal, and attention.

To my surprise, men and women displayed strikingly similar patterns of genital arousal. These patterns revealed habituation and novelty effects (and no fatigue). Similar patterns were found for subjective arousal, perceived genital arousal, and attention. This was the first study to find habituation in men and women using the same experimental design. The significant decline in the genital responses of women suggests that genital responding is not always automatic. It occurred to me, however, that the magnitude of a genital response may be less important and that the mere presence of even a small genital response may

be all that is necessary to be consistent with automaticity and preparation for sexual encounters. Comparing women's habituated genital response to their response to a neutral stimulus revealed no significant difference, providing evidence that repeated exposure leads to the elimination of genital arousal, inconsistent with the prediction from the preparation hypothesis. One interesting finding was that the effects of habituation and novelty were eliminated when statistically controlling for subjective reports of attention. Even though causality cannot be inferred, this finding supports the notion that attention may play an important modulating role in the genital responses of men and women. I am currently collecting data for a follow-up study to determine if habituation occurs when high levels of attention are maintained.

*Samantha Dawson is a member of the Human Sexual Arousal Laboratory at the University of Lethbridge in Lethbridge, Alberta, under the supervision of Dr. Martin Lalumière.*

Dawson, S., Lalumière, M., & Suschinsky, K. (2011). *A real turn off: Habituation of sexual arousal in men and women*. Presented at the annual Canadian Sex Research Forum, Vancouver, British Columbia.



**Samantha Dawson**  
MSc Candidate  
CSRF Student Paper Award  
Winner 2011

**"To my surprise,  
men and women  
displayed  
strikingly  
similar patterns  
of genital  
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## CSRF Award Feature: Ed Herold Receives CSRF Award

At the 2011 CSRF Meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia, Terry Humphreys and Robin Milhausen presented Ed Herold with an award for his dedication and distinguished services to CSRF as an organization. Ed was one of the first sexuality researchers in Canada. Further, he created the Annual Guelph Sexuality

Conference and secured funding for it almost thirty-five years ago. Now the conference is the largest sexual health conference in Canada. As well, Ed developed the Canadian edition for the popular sexuality textbook, *Human Sexuality in a World of Diversity*, currently in its third edition. Ed has been a

long-time member of CSRF and has mentored many of the student and new professional members. Both Terry and Robin were supervised by Ed as students at the University of Guelph. Ed was presented with the award following his plenary address, "The Shifting Sands of Sexual Reality."

*Below Left: Ed Herold presenting his "Last Lecture" and Right: Ed receiving his award with Robin and Terry.*



## Editor's Note



*Heather Armstrong is a PhD Candidate working in the Human Sexuality Research Laboratory at the University of Ottawa.*

Hello Everyone!

I am thrilled to be stepping in as Newsletter Editor. I joined CSRF four years ago and have found it to be a wonderful, supportive environment, especially for student members. It is because of this that I am happy to have the opportunity to contribute to the CSRF community as the newsletter editor.

I've had lots of fun putting

together my first edition and getting to know a few of our contributors a little better. The next edition will be published in the Spring and I encourage everyone to send something in. I'll happily take contributions throughout the year so if something comes up that you would like to share, no need to wait, just send it my way. Submissions can be anything—a short sentence for the Member Update or

Members in the Media sections, or something longer—maybe you'd like to see your lab highlighted in a Research Feature... Nothing is too big or too small! Any feedback, suggestions, or new ideas are also always welcome.

Looking forward to a great year.

Cheers,  
Heather



## Members in the Media

- The “Everything to Do With Sex Show” is coming to Montreal in January, and Dr. Laurie Betito will have a booth there and will be broadcasting her radio show live from the event. For information about the show go to [www.everythingtodowithsex.com](http://www.everythingtodowithsex.com).
- Nathan Lachowsky has been recently featured in several outlets regarding his work in New Zealand. Check out these media links to read more about Nathan’s research:  
Young MSM have fewer partners, lower condom use rates  
<http://www.gayexpress.co.nz/2011/10/young-msm-have-fewer-partners-lower-condom-use-rates/>  
Social trends undermining HIV awareness progress  
[http://www.gaynz.com/articles/publish/2/article\\_10966.php](http://www.gaynz.com/articles/publish/2/article_10966.php)  
Trusting young men at risk of contracting HIV  
[http://www.gaynz.com/articles/publish/2/article\\_10964.php](http://www.gaynz.com/articles/publish/2/article_10964.php)
- Kristen Mark actively contributes to Kinsey Confidential and Good in Bed. To access these websites and read what Kristen is writing visit <http://kinseyconfidential.org/author/kpmark/> and <http://www.goodinbed.com/discuss/profile/?id=40> or <http://www.goodinbed.com/research/>.
- Amy Muise has a column on the Science of Relationships site called Sex Musings. Read it at <http://www.scienceofrelationships.com/sex-musings/>. She was also recently on the Morning Show in Toronto to discuss social media and relationships. You can watch the segment at <http://www.globaltoronto.com/Pages/MorningSegment.aspx?id=6442510083>.
- Bianca Rucker was interviewed recently and quoted in *Now Toronto* online magazine, discussing how much sex is enough. See <http://www.nowtoronto.com/lifestyle/althealth.cfm?content=183472> for the article.
- Jocelyn Wentland discusses interesting sex research with Live 88.5FM Ottawa every other Tuesday. Tune in yourself to listen to the discussion [www.live885.com](http://www.live885.com) or check [www.sexresearchandthecity.com](http://www.sexresearchandthecity.com) for links to podcasts.

If you would like to have your work mentioned in the Spring “Members in the Media” Section, please send a brief description and any links to Heather at [armstrong.heather@gmail.com](mailto:armstrong.heather@gmail.com).

## 2012 Annual Meeting Update

*An update from the planning committee:*

The location for the 2012 CSRF Meeting in Ottawa has been determined. We’ll be meeting at the Marriott Courtyard Hotel in the Byward Market. <http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/yowcy-courtyard-ottawa-downtown/>

For those who attended in 2006, you’ll remember this venue was very well liked so we have decided to return for what we expect to be another fantastic conference.

Hotel rooms have also been set aside and the rate per night is only \$149. When booking,

you must provide the booking code SFA in order to get the discounted rate. Please call 1-800-341-2210 to make your reservation.

So mark off the dates in your calendars. We hope everyone is able to join us September 20-22, 2012.

Please stay tuned for a Call for Oral and Poster Presentations in January.

Elke Reissing, Local Host  
Martin Lalumière, Chair  
Krystelle Shaughnessy, Student Rep.  
Terry Humphreys, Past President



Join us in Ottawa  
September 20-22, 2012!

## Student Update

Vancouver 2011 was an incredible conference with excellent student attendance and participation. Thank you to all students for their oral and poster presentations. However, special accolades to the student award winners Kerri Gibson and Samantha Dawson for their incredible presentations!

This year's Annual General Meeting was also an official 'changing of the guard' as many Executive members moved up and out, leaving their paved way for new full CSRF members to assume roles in Executive positions. Many thanks and praises to John Sakaluk for his two years of service representing students and working on the CSRF Executive Council. Krystelle Shaughnessy now succeeds him as the Senior Student Representative and the student membership voted in Nathan Lachowsky as their Junior Student Representative. Nathan Lachowsky is a PhD candidate of epidemiology at the University of Guelph focusing his research on gay, bisexual, two-spirit, and other men who have sex with men with interests in HIV prevention and sexual scripting. Thank you for the great student turnout at both the Annual Meeting and the Student Meeting this year.

Our goals for the year continue on the same strong foundation that has been laid by Student Representatives of the past. We want to ensure the presence of a strong and student-centred voice in CSRF Executive decision-making. Improving the online and electronic nature and function of CSRF will continue to be a main focus (i.e., online registration,

student member networking, improvements to CSRF's website, improving our Facebook page's usability and traffic). We will also continue to foster and improve student involvement in CSRF activities and governance.

With these goals in mind, we have made a few adjustments to our Facebook group. If you are not already a member of the group, please note that to join you will now need to provide a brief reason for your interest in the group. This is meant to keep out spammers, not to deter interested students, researchers, academics, etc. Please do not hesitate to join us: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/2453762346/> or search Canadian Sex Research Forum.

One last message to our student members, current and future: if you have not paid your membership dues, or have yet to become a member, please consider doing so asap and before the end of the year. Not only will you benefit from a reduced membership rate if your renew before 2012 is upon us; BUT, your email address will be added to the student listserve ensuring that you have the opportunity to be involved in our new initiatives and updated on conference planning! Don't hesitate, the benefits of a student membership are vast!

If you ever have any questions or comments you would like to share with us as Student Representatives, do not hesitate to email us (Krystelle: [shaugh@unb.ca](mailto:shaugh@unb.ca) or Nathan: [nlachows@uoguelph.ca](mailto:nlachows@uoguelph.ca)).



**Krystelle Shaughnessy**  
PhD Candidate  
Senior Student Representative

**"We want to ensure the presence of a strong and student-centred voice in CSRF Executive decision-making."**



**Nathan Lachowsky**  
PhD Candidate  
Junior Student Representative



## Mark Your Calendars!

### Upcoming Conferences

- February 19-22, 2012: ISSWSH Annual Meeting, Jerusalem, Israel
- March 29-31, 2012: SSTAR Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois
- April 19-22, 2012: SSSS Western Region, Los Angeles, California
- May 17-20, 2012: SSSS Eastern and Midcontinent Regions, Bloomington, Indiana
- May 31– June 1, 2012: Guelph Sexuality Conference, Guelph, Ontario
- June 6-10, 2012: AASECT Annual Conference, Austin, Texas
- July 8-12, 2012: IASR Annual Meeting, Lisbon, Portugal



## Sex in 3D:

Dialogue, Diversity, and  
Determinants of Sexual Health

**Request for Proposals**  
**Present your Latest and Best**  
at the 34th Annual Guelph Sexuality Conference

**Thursday, May 31 and**  
**Friday, June 1, 2012**

Submission Deadline Date: January 6, 2012

Visit [www.GuelphSexualityConference.ca](http://www.GuelphSexualityConference.ca) for  
submission forms and conference information.

Concurrent Sessions • Workshops • Research Presentations • Posters  
[www.GuelphSexualityConference.ca](http://www.GuelphSexualityConference.ca)



## Renew Your Membership!

### Members!

If you would like to continue your CSRF membership for 2012—and we certainly hope you do—now is the time to renew!

If you renew now, before the new year, you'll be eligible for the low 2011 rate. That means only \$25 for students and \$50 for faculty. Come January 1, 2012, rates are increasing to \$40 for students and \$65 for faculty.

Additionally, this year you have two payment options. You can send your membership form along with a cheque payable to CSRF to:

Ms. Megan Hayes, CSRF  
Department of Psychiatry,  
Montreal General Hospital - MUHC  
1650 Cedar Avenue, Rm B6-237  
Montreal, PQ, Canada  
H3G 1A4

Or, you can pay by Interac Money Transfer using the following information:

Name of Recipient – Pierre Assalian

Email address – [payment@csrf.ca](mailto:payment@csrf.ca)

Amount – \$25 students, \$50 faculty

BEFORE January 1st!

Security question – Where is 2012 meeting?

Answer – Ottawa

**If you pay online, don't forget to email  
your membership form to  
[payment@csrf.ca](mailto:payment@csrf.ca)**

New members are always welcome so if you know of someone in the field who would be interested in joining our organization, please let them know.

**Submit by  
December 31,  
2011  
to renew at  
2011's low rates!**