

June 2012

Spring Newsletter

Message from the President

Hello and happy (almost) summer! The CSRF Executive is eagerly anticipating our Fall 2012 meeting and we are looking forward to seeing many of you and reconnecting after (for some of us) a year apart. I would like to acknowledge the very hard work of Martin Lalumière and the Program Committee (Elke Reissing, Terry Humphreys, Krystelle Shaughnessy, and Pierre Assalian, with help from Jonathan Huber and Jocelyn Wentland as part of the local team) in putting together a very strong (and very full!) program. I am excited about all of the supplementary activities – the After Dark, the Naughty Walk, and the Group Dinner. This year we have sponsorship from the University of Lethbridge Vice-President Research and Standard Innovation Corp. (the makers of We-Vibe) to help make the dinner more affordable for all.

The Executive has been working hard for the last months on a number of fronts. First, we have been working on a proposed By-Law revision, to bring our By-Laws into alignment with current practice and streamline

some aspects of the running of the organization. In the coming weeks you will be sent a letter and a link to a survey website



Robin Milhausen, PhD
President, CSRF

where you can review the current By-Laws and our proposed changes. Thirty days after this, we will hold an electronic vote on the changes, in which we need 2/3 of the membership to participate in order to have quorum. This means you! Please take an active role in shaping your organization.

One aspect of the By-Law change has to do with our membership categories. Later in the newsletter you will read an article outlining our proposed change and the rationale for this. Specifically, we are proposing the intro-

duction of a new "Associate Member" category for individuals who have graduated and are no longer students, and other new, first-time members. We are hoping this new category will maximize CSRF's accessibility to a new members and new professionals. We welcome feedback on this issue before we will ask you to vote on the new membership category in the By-Laws.

The Executive has also created a new award, the CSRF Service Award, to acknowledge individuals who have made significant contributions to the organization. You will be hearing about this new award at the fall meeting and we will be sharing with you our call for nominations for this award when we send out the call for presentations for our 2013 meeting. At the same time, we have documented the process and criteria for the CSRF Outstanding Contribution Award. This award has typically been awarded for contributions in the field of sexuality research but the Executive has expanded the scope to include contributions to

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The CSRF Executive

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Message from the President, continued

research, education, policy or clinical practice in human sexuality/sexology in Canada. We look forward to sharing more about these awards with you in the fall, and continuing to honor the work of our many passionate and accomplished members.

Also at the Annual Meeting, a vision session will be held, facilitated by Krystelle Shaughnessy and Larry Brockman. This was organized in response to members' feedback at the Business Meeting in 2011. I am

excited to hear from you regarding your hopes for the future of CSRF. Please plan to attend and participate in this event.

Thanks, in advance, for your attention and participation on these matters important to the future of our organization. As CSRF continues to grow and evolve, changes will be called for in the way we do things, and the things we do. I want to be sure CSRF stays *the* professional organization for sexuality

researchers in Canada, and continues to nurture the future generations in the field. Your feedback, participation, and support are integral to the process.

Looking forward to seeing you in the fall!

Robin Milhausen
CSRF President

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.

"The Executive has also created a new award, the CSRF Service Award, to acknowledge individuals who have made significant contributions to the organization."

Recent Member Publications

- Byers, E. S., & Glenn, S. A. (2012). Gender differences in cognitive and affective responses to sexual coercion. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 27(5), 827-845. DOI: 10.1177/0886260511423250
- Brotto, L.A., Erskine, Y., Carey, M., Ehlen, T., Finlayson, S., Heywood, M., Kwon, J., McAlpine, J., Stuart, G., Thomson, S., & Miller, D. (2012). A brief mindfulness-based cognitive behavioral intervention improves sexual functioning versus wait-list control in women treated for gynecologic cancer. *Gynecologic Oncology*, 125, 320-325. DOI:10.1016/j.ygyno.2012.01.035
- Brotto, L.A., Seal, B.N., & Rellini, A.H. (2012). Pilot study of a brief cognitive behavioral versus mindfulness-based intervention for women with sexual distress and a history of childhood sexual abuse. *Journal of Sex and Marital Therapy*, 38, 1-27. DOI: 10.1080/0092623X.2011.569636
- Brotto, L.A., Basson, R., Carlson, M., & Zhu, C. (In Press). Impact of an integrated mindfulness and cognitive behavioural treatment for Provoked Vestibulodynia (IMPROVED): A qualitative study. *Sexual and Relationship Therapy*.
- Maticka-Tyndale, E. (2012). Condoms in subSaharan Africa. *Sexual Health*, 9, 59-72 (in a special issue of *Sexual Health* on condoms)
- Daniluk, J. C., Koert, E., Cheung, A. (2012). Childless women's knowledge of fertility and assisted human reproduction: Identifying the gaps. *Fertility and Sterility*, 97, 420-426.
- Polomeno, V. (2011). Let's talk about sex: Developing a research program in perinatal sexuality. *International Journal of Research in Nursing*, 1(2), 39-56.
- Polomeno, V. (2011). Men's sexuality during the perinatal period: What do perinatal educators need to know? *International Journal in Childbirth Education*, 26(4), 35-39.



New Proposed Membership Category! Feedback Requested by the Executive Council

Your Executive Council (EC) has been hard at work this year: documenting current practices for future ECs and for transparency with the organization, exploring various ways technology can be used to streamline the organization and communicate with the membership, and revising and bringing the by-laws into line with current practice. You'll be hearing more from us on proposed by-law revisions later in the summer.

However, one issue we would like to bring you into the discussions about at this point, prior to a formal by-law amendment is a proposed is a change to our membership structure.

Currently, we have the following membership structure, outlined in our By-Laws:

- (A) *Members* shall be persons who possess an advanced degree from an accredited university in one of the biological, social sciences, education, or theology/pastoral studies. In addition, an active member is one who by virtue of their research, educational or clinical service activities demonstrates a commitment to the scientific pursuit of knowledge relating to sexuality. Outstanding contributions to the sciences related to sexuality may be considered in lieu of a degree as qualification for membership status.
- (B) *Honorary Members* shall be proposed by the Executive Council on the basis of outstanding achievement in the various areas of sexual research, education, and/or therapy. Honorary members shall not be eligible to vote or to hold elective office. They shall not be required to pay dues.
- (C) *Student Members* shall be individuals enrolled (full or part-time) in an accredited academic or clinical training program of study leading to a bachelor's, graduate, or professional degree who have received or are currently receiving training in sex education, sex research, sexual medicine, or sex therapy.

On the evidence of completion of an advanced degree and on the advice from the immediate advisor, student members will automatically become members. Student members may retain their student status for up to one year after graduation or until appointment to a professional position, whichever comes first.

We would like to propose a new membership category, that of Associate Member. Associate Membership would be available for up to 3 years for recent graduates, post-doctoral fellows, and any new, first-time members who are not students.

This would require a change to Student Membership, such that student members **must be registered students at the time of joining CSRF or renewal**. The "grace period" of up to one year associated with Student status would no longer be available, as recent graduates would move into the Associate Membership Category.

Our rationale for proposing this change includes:

- Making CSRF membership accessible to recent graduates, post-docs, and new members (it is proposed that the cost to join CSRF for Associate Members would lower than for regular members).
- Extending the "grace period" for new professionals and new members (previously one year, Associate Membership could be maintained for three years).
- Streamlined and simplified member tracking (removing the need to track dates of graduation for students, which might occur at various times of the year). This will also bring the student membership category in line with the Student Award presented at the Annual Meeting.

Many other organizations have moved in the direction of having a multi-leveled membership system in order to better accommodate member needs and to draw in new members (The Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality has eight different membership categories!).

Though the By-Laws indicate that the CSRF EC can create new membership categories when they are perceived to be desirable, the EC is seeking feedback from the membership on this important issue, and would like to have the new membership structure voted on by the membership and entered into the By-Laws if the amendment passes.

In advance of proposing a By-Law change, we welcome feedback and/or questions from all members.

Please send any questions or comments directly to Robin Milhausen (rmilhaus@uoguelph.ca) by June 27, 2012.

Member Updates

- **Miranda L. Abild** defended her M.Sc. thesis on April 4th on the topic of *Kin Selection and Male Androphilia: Sociocultural Influences on the Expression of Kin-Directed Altruism* with Dr. Paul Vasey. Each empirical chapter for this thesis was accepted for publication in relevant journals. She will be starting the PhD program at Cambridge University (UK) in the Social and Developmental Psychology Department with Dr. Melissa Hines.
- **Judith Daniluk** is delighted to be able to inform CSRF members about her new CIHR-funded web site www.MyFertilityChoices.com. Funding for this web site was based on the results of a Fertility Awareness Survey she conducted in 2010-2011, the findings of which were recently published in *Fertility and Sterility*. The study demonstrated that the large sample of currently childless women between the ages of 20 and 50 lack knowledge in the area of fertility testing and preservation, later childbearing, and the various costs and success rates of the available assisted human reproductive family building options. A similar lack of coherent fertility knowledge was evident when they subsequently conducted the survey with 599 childless men.
[MyFertilityChoices.com](http://www.MyFertilityChoices.com) is a recently launched educational web site focused on providing women and men with the medical and psychosocial information they need to help support informed reproductive decision making. She would be grateful if, after reviewing the site, CSRF members would consider sending the link to the site to anyone they feel might be interested in reproductive decision-making.
- **Samantha Dawson** defended her thesis on June 5th, 2012 on the topic of *The Habituation of Sexual Responses of Men and Women* with Dr. Martin Lalumière. Each empirical chapter for this thesis has been submitted for publication at various prestigious relevant journals. She will be starting the Clinical Psychology program next fall at Queen's University (CAN) with Dr. Meredith Chivers.
- **Peggy J. Kleinplatz, Ph.D.**, Professor, University of Ottawa, recently released the second edition of *New Directions in Sex Therapy: Innovations and Alternatives*, (Routledge, 2012). Part I highlights the major problems and criticisms facing sex therapy and furnishes a rationale for new directions. Included in this new edition are critiques of "sexual addiction" nomenclature, the neglect of the ethical dimension in sex therapy and there is a call to expand our vision of what sex therapy can attain. Part II demonstrates new approaches to dealing with traditional sex therapy concerns, including lack of desire and erectile dysfunction as well as innovative goals, such as integrating sexual medicine with sex therapy; using client feedback to customize therapy; promoting relationship growth and transcending sexual function/dysfunction to optimize erotic intimacy in long-term couples. This 2nd edition of *New Directions in Sex Therapy* is replete with helpful new clinical illustrations across the spectrum of theoretical orientations (e.g., systemic, narrative, Experiential, CBT) to demonstrate these approaches in action.
- **Kristen Mark** graduated with a PhD in Health Behavior from Indiana University and will begin a tenure-track Assistant Professor position at University of Kentucky in Health Promotion in August. There are plenty of options for graduate study at Kentucky, so if any budding sex researchers are looking for a program, send them her way! Despite geographical distance, Kristen plans to remain an active member of CSRF.
- **Eleanor Maticka-Tyndale**, as a Co-Principal investigator with her community partner, Kenny Gbadebo, and 5 co-investigators, received a \$375,000 grant from CIHR for a 3 year community-partnered research project on macro through micro level influences on the resilience and vulnerability of African, Caribbean and Black Windsor youth to HIV infection and other negative sexual health outcomes. Additionally, she will also publish a series of 7 articles in a special issue of *African Journal of Reproductive Health* (to be released June 28, 2012 at a ceremony in Lagos, Nigeria) that describe the Global Health Research Initiative, Teasdale-Corti Team Grant funded programme on HIV risk and the development and evaluation of a school-based and a community-based intervention to reduce risk among rural youth in Nigeria.



Member Updates, Continued

- **Faizal Sahukhan** was recently featured in Alive magazine in an article on expressing emotions and on Ontario Today (CBC Radio) discussing cross-cultural relationships. Please follow these links to learn more.
Alive magazine article: http://www.alive.com/articles/view/23385/express_your_emotions
Radio interview: <http://www.cbc.ca/ontariotoday/columnists/relationships/2012/05/15/tuesday-cross-cultural-romance/>
- **Richard Wassersug** has relocated to the Men's Health Initiative of British Columbia as a Visiting Professor in the University of British Columbia's Department of Urologic Sciences. There he is helping to design a comprehensive program to help prostate cancer patients and their partners maintain a good quality of life when affected by cancer treatments. Richard is delighted with his move to Vancouver, and notes that his office is just six doors down the hall from Dr. Lori Brotto's office. He has a variety of projects underway which deal with helping cancer patients and other males who are androgen-deprived, nevertheless maintain sexual capability. Below is a list of papers that have come out from his lab related to sex and sexuality in the last 6 months.
 - Ogah, I., Stewart, E., Treleaven, M., & Wassersug, R. J. (2012). Hand clasping, arm folding and handedness: Relationships and strengths of preference. *Laterality*, 17, 169-179.
 - Rot, I., Ogah, I., & Wassersug, R. J. (2012). Knowledge of reproductive system cancers, their treatments and side effects. *Journal of Cancer Education*, [Epub ahead of print] April 20, 2012.
 - Rot, I., Ogah, I., & Wassersug, R. J. (2012). The language of prostate cancer treatments and implications for informed decision making by patients and their partners. *European Journal of Cancer Care* [Epub ahead of print] May, 11, 2012.
 - Sutherland, B. M., Langer, B. J., & Wassersug, R. J. (2012). Getting a leg up on the competition: the importance of osteology in elite athletics. *American Journal of Bioethics* (in press, 8 ms. pp.) March, 2012.
 - Walker, L., Tran, S., Wassersug, R. J., Thomas, B., & Robinson, J. (2012). Patients and partners lack knowledge of androgen deprivation therapy side effects. *Urologic Oncology*, [Epub ahead of print] Jan 25, 2012.
 - Wassersug, R. J. (2012). Embracing a eunuch identity. *Tikkun magazine* [Invited essay] Retrieved from <http://www.tikkun.org/nextgen/embracing-a-eunuch-identity>
 - Wassersug, R. J., McKenna, E., & Lieberman, T. (2012). Eunuch as a gender identity after castration. *Journal of Gender Studies*, 21 [Epub ahead of print] May, 13, 2012
 - Wibowo, E., Deurveilher, S., Wassersug, R. J., & Semba, K. (2012). Estradiol treatment modulates spontaneous sleep and sleep recovery after sleep deprivation in castrated male rats. *Behavioural Brain Research*, 226, 456-464.
 - Wibowo, E., Wassersug, R. J., Warkentin, K., Walker, L., Robinson, J., Brotto, L., & Johnson, T. (2012). Impact of androgen deprivation therapy on sexual function: A response. *Asian Journal of Andrology*, (in press, 6 ms. pp.) May, 2012.

Editor's Note

Hello Everyone!

Thank you so much for all the contributions for this issue! There is so much going on in CSRF right now, it's great that we have a venue to share all this exciting information.

The preliminary program for the Annual Meeting has now been released and the registration form is included in this newsletter. New this year, when you register for the con-

ference, you can also renew your CSRF membership for 2013. Please take advantage of this new feature, and remember, you can now make your payments electronically. In addition to the fantastic program the committee has set out for us, September is Ottawa is beautiful. If you haven't visited the capital before, there is no better time.

Finally, if you have any up-

dates which you would like to have mentioned in the Fall Newsletter, please email me at armstrong.heather@gmail.com. I'm happy to take submissions at anytime so if something notable happens for you, please send it my way so we can keep all of our members informed.

Happy summer and hope to see you in September!

Heather



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

Research Feature: The Optimal Sexuality Research Team of the University of Ottawa

Why is it that some people cannot seem to get enough sex while others say they can take it or leave it? For many years, Peggy J. Kleinplatz, Ph.D. has been wondering about why the most common presenting problem in sex therapists' offices is sexual desire discrepancy. Although clients usually describe their difficulty in terms of *frequency* of "sex" – (whatever that means) – Kleinplatz has long focused on the *quality* of their sexual relations. Kleinplatz enquires about what it would take to create sex worth wanting. Even those who say they wouldn't miss it if they never had sex again have answers, although it may take some risky self-exploration before clients can identify what's missing in their erotic lives... and what would be essential to generate erotic desire. It became obvious that nobody declines the opportunity to engage in extraordinary erotic intimacy and that often, low desire is a manifestation of sound judgement.

After exploring these issues for some years with clients, Kleinplatz decided to investigate the characteristics of extraordinary sex more formally and formed the Optimal Sexuality Research Team of the University of Ottawa. Soon Kleinplatz, welcomed interdisciplinary researchers from across the university including undergraduate and doctoral students in psychology, medicine, human kinetics, education as well as individual and couples therapists. from the Ottawa community.

The team uses phenomenological research methods (rather than hypothesis-testing methods) because the goal is discovery-oriented. The objective is to learn from the experts, people with personal experience of the phenomenon in question (known in this paradigm as "key informants") about optimal sexual experiences and what lessons they might have to convey about

magnificent sex. What this means is interviewing extraordinary lovers, transcribing some very long interviews, reading and re-reading transcripts until themes begin to emerge, discussing and analyzing the emerging data and returning to the transcripts to verify if the broad themes do, in fact, represent the data accurately.

The first task of the team was to figure out what made for optimal sexual experience or more colloquially, "great sex". As researcher A. Dana Ménard, M.A. emphasizes in her investigations into depictions of "great sex" in the

The components of their experiences consisted of being present, connection, deep sexual and erotic intimacy, extraordinary communication, interpersonal risk-taking and exploration, authenticity, vulnerability and transcendence.

popular media, we are all bombarded by unrealistic images of the tips, tricks and techniques required for hot sex (see Ménard & Kleinplatz, 2008; Ménard & Cabrera, 2011). The reality is rather different: In the first phase of their research, the team interviewed dozens of individuals and sometimes couples who were experiencing wonderful sex to discover the components of their magnificent encounters. The components of their experiences consisted of being present, connection, deep sexual and erotic intimacy, extraordinary communication, interpersonal risk-taking and exploration, authenticity, vulnerability and transcendence (Kleinplatz, Ménard, Paquet, Paradis, Campbell, Zuccarini, & Mehak, 2009). These elements seemed to

be virtually universal across men and women, despite the fact that participants varied from young, sexual minority group members to old people in life-long, conventional marriages (Kleinplatz, Ménard, Paradis, Campbell, & Dalgleish, 2007).

Indeed, these experts taught that great lovers are made – not born; that attaining magnificent sexual experiences requires first *unlearning* and deconstructing everything one ever learned about sex; that rather than being "natural" and "spontaneous", optimal sexual encounters take *a lot* of time, devotion, cultivation and intentionality; and that aging, chronic illness and disability are not necessarily obstacles to magnificent sex – on the contrary, they can be assets to sexual development (Kleinplatz, 2010; Kleinplatz, Ménard, Paradis, Campbell, Dalgleish, Segovia & Davis, 2009). In other words, the good news is that sexual functioning is not necessary for extraordinary sexual experiences. The bad news is that sexual functioning is hardly sufficient for such experiences.

From there the team decided to study what led to or facilitated extraordinary sex. A whole series of elements over time, from childhood to the recent past, to *during* sexual relations per se helped to optimize sexual experience. Some elements were related to the individual, from developmental events to skills. Other contributors were based in the relationship, such as heightened empathy and communication excellence. Some facilitators were related to the nature of sexual intimacy itself, including erotic intentionality and intensity. More importantly, the team has been tracking the pathways and inter-relations between individual and relational factors (Kleinplatz, Ménard, Campbell, Paradis, Lawless, Wannamaker & Rosen, 2012).

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Research Feature Continued:

The Optimal Sexuality Research Team of the University of Ottawa

Their latest project is intended to answer three questions: Can anybody have magnificent sex? Can even people with dysfunctional sex lives or people who previously reported low desire experience extraordinary sex? And can sex therapists figure out how to help any old lover attain such an experience? In other words, their current research is focused on applying their findings to date towards helping couples so inclined to optimize their sexual experiences.

The 4 stalwarts of the research team, Kleinplatz, Ménard, Campbell and Paradis have been working together from the outset. Dana Ménard, M.A. is about to complete her Ph.D. dissertation in Clinical Psychology on the facilitating factors and leave on internship to London, Ontario. Meghan Campbell, Psy.D. is an individual and couples therapist and Nicolas Paradis, M.Ed. is a counsellor with the University of Ottawa Student Academic Success Services. In addition, Shannon Lawless, M.Sc. joined the team almost 7 years ago, left to do graduate work at the University of Guelph and has since returned to establish a psychotherapy practice in Ottawa and to the team. Another current member, Christopher Wannamaker, B.A. remains on the team although his day job is now with the Privy Council of Canada.

Our former members who

worked on the components, (the lack of) group differences and the facilitating factors include Marie-Pierre Paquette, B.Sc. who completed her Honours Thesis on the components and is now in the third year of the Ph.D. Program in Clinical Psychology at l'Université du Québec en Outaouais. Kellie Davis received her M.D. and is now doing her residency in Calgary. Lisa Mehak, B.A. has become involved with the childcare advocacy movement in BC and is now Director of ECE and Childcare Services with the South Vancouver Neighbourhood House. Lianne Rosen, B.A., wrote her Honours Thesis on the relational factors and is now working on her Doctorate at the University of Victoria. Tracy Dalglish, B.A. is currently completing a PhD in Clinical Psychology and will be doing her residency at the Ottawa Hospital in September 2012 in Health Psychology. Dino Zuccarini, Ph.D. is now a psychologist with the Centre for Interpersonal Relationships.

They have enjoyed their evening meetings and the process of actually arguing aloud about what makes for good, very good, hot and passionate sex versus the stuff worth remembering even after you die. They have presented their research widely, including at the Annual Guelph Conference on Sexuality, the Society for Sex Therapy and Research, the International Academy of Sex Research

and of course the Canadian Sex Research Forum. A selection of their publications is listed below. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Peggy Kleinplatz any afternoon at (613) 563-0846 (no email, please).

"Their latest project is intended to answer... Can anybody have magnificent sex?"

- Kleinplatz, P.J. (2010). Lessons from great lovers. In Levine, S., Althof, S., & Risen, C. (Eds.) *Handbook of Clinical Sexuality for Mental Health Professionals* (2nd Ed)(pp 57-72). New York: Brunner-Routledge.
- Kleinplatz, P.J., Ménard, A.D., Paquet, M.-P., Paradis, N., Campbell, M., Zuccarini, D., & Mehak, L. (2009). The components of optimal sexuality: A portrait of "great sex". *Canadian Journal of Human Sexuality*, 18(1-2), 1-13.
- Kleinplatz, P.J., Ménard, A.D., Paradis, N., Campbell, M., Dalglish, T., Segovia, A., & Davis, K. (2009). From closet to reality: Optimal sexuality among the elderly. *The Irish Psychiatrist*, 10(1), 15-18.
- Kleinplatz, P.J. & Ménard, A.D. (2007). Building blocks towards optimal sexuality: Constructing a conceptual model. *The Family Journal: Counseling and Therapy for Couples and Families*, 15 (1), 72-78.
- Ménard, A.D., & Cabrera, C. (2011). 'Whatever the approach, Tab B still fits into Slot A': Twenty years of sex scripts in romance novels. *Sexuality & Culture*, 15(3), 240-255.
- Ménard, A.D., & Kleinplatz, P.J. (2008). Twenty-One moves guaranteed to make his thighs go up in flames: Depictions of "Great Sex" in popular magazines. *Sexuality and Culture*, 12(1), 1-20.



In the News: Sex Ed Exhibit too Controversial for Ottawa

Written by Jocelyn Wentland



This past May, the Canada Science and Technology Museum opened an educational and highly controversial exhibit: **Sex: A Tell-all Exhibit** (<http://www.sciencetech.technomuses.ca/english/whatson/2012-sex-a-tell-all-exhibition.cfm>). It wasn't controversial when it was on display at the Montreal Science Centre or in Regina but it was a very different story in Ottawa.

The exhibit includes a comprehensive overview of sexuality: from conception to puberty and how the body changes, masturbation, relationships and dating, sexuality and the media, contraception...this exhibit covers it all. Included in the display are various question and answer displays, which are addressed by the original team (sexologists, psychologists, educators) that developed the display in Montreal.

Even before the exhibit was open to the public, the exhibit got a lot of attention in Ottawa. A letter-writing campaign by exhibit opposition was directed at James Moore, Heritage Minister. Pro-life demonstrators set up camp outside the museum during opening week. The exhibit was splashed all over the national news. Headings like "Sex exhibit at sci-tech museum causes furor" "Should a sex exhibit be pulled from Ottawa's science museum?" and my personal favourite "Porn exhibit is titillation, not education."

Museum officials made two important changes to the exhibit following the public's negative reaction. They raised the age limit from 12yrs to 16yrs (unless accompanied by a parent) even though the 12yr old age limit was previously fine in both Montreal and Regina. They also removed an animated video showing masturbation patterns in male and females.

What has been missing in this conversation about the appropriateness of this exhibit is largely feedback from adolescents – for whom the exhibit was created.

I was teaching a week-long course titled Relationships & Sexuality 101 course as part of the University of Ottawa's Enrichment Mini Course program (<http://www.emcp-pmce.ca/about.php>) and was able to take my high school students to the exhibit. What was their reaction? Here is a sampling of the tweets that they came up with in reaction to the exhibit:

- *I can truly say that this exhibit was incredibly informative and a brilliant way to display important things about sexuality. Love!*
- *Wonderfully narrated video on what the brain does while having an orgasm. Not so similar to sneezing after all.*
- *The exhibit was very interesting! It is full of cool things to learn about. If you want to learn about sexuality – this is the exhibit for you!*

I was interviewed on CBC's All in a Day in Ottawa on the day the exhibit opened. Click here <http://soundcloud.com/jocelynwentland/cbc-sex-exhibit-discussion> for a link to the 8 minute interview regarding the controversy.

The exhibit is open in Ottawa until January 2013 (adult entrance fee is \$12). Consider checking it out while you are in town for CSRF!

Student Update

Firstly, congratulations to all of our student members who recently finished their programs and graduated this summer! Further congratulations to other student members who have successfully secured internships, externships, practicum placements or admission into graduate or professional programs. As Student Representatives, we are always here to support you through these transition periods as your place, interaction, and involvement with CSRF develops.

We have been busy working with colleagues on the Executive Council (EC) on several different projects pertinent to student members:

1.) Student Award Eligibility: This fall a subcommittee was struck to address lacking eligibility criteria for the award; the following has been approved:

"To be eligible for the Student Award, individuals must be a student at the time of submission or at the time of presentation at the Annual Conference. Individuals are ineligible for the Student Award if they graduate from a doctoral program before their presentation at the Annual Conference."

Importantly, winning previously does not disqualify someone from winning again.

2.) Student Award Evaluation Criteria: Based on feedback from past award judges, the student award evaluation form has been reviewed and upgraded; this evaluation is for Student Presentation Awards and thus includes presentation skills adjudication. The form that will be adopted at the 2012 meeting can be found on the website.

3.) Student Poster Award: The Executive voted unanimously in favour of creating a Student Poster Award, with an inaugural presentation at this fall's Annual Conference.

4.) Student Award Prize: In consultation with both student reps, it was proposed that the student award prizes be changed from a monetary award to a voucher for free CSRF Student Conference Registration. This voucher will be redeemable for any future conference for the equivalence of the student member registration fee set for that particular conference.

5.) Annual Conference Student Activities: We will have a student social over dinner on Thursday following the Poster Session, followed by an exciting CSRF After Dark and CSRF social on Thursday night. Our student meeting, including election of a new Junior Student Representative, will take place after the conference on Friday followed by a subsidized CSRF Dinner at Stella Osterio. Following up from the 2011 Annual Meeting discussions, we will also have a visioning session booked over one of the lunchtimes!

We look forward to seeing everyone out at the Annual Conference and Meeting in Ottawa this fall. If you ever have any questions or comments you would like to share with us as Student Representatives, do not hesitate to email!

Sincerely,
Krystelle (shaugh@unb.ca) & Nathan (nlachows@uoguelph.ca)



Krystelle Shaughnessy
PhD Candidate
Senior Student Representative

"Congratulations to all of our student members who recently finished their programs and graduated this summer! "



Nathan Lachowsky
PhD Candidate
Junior Student Representative



Where Are They Now? An Interview with Tuuli Kukkonen, CSRF Student Award Alumnus 2006

The CSRF Student Award is first mentioned in the Canadian Journal of Human Sexuality in 1997. According to archived documents reviewed by full member Michael Barrett, the award origins can be traced back to the 1996 meeting in Montreal when a group of full members including Sandra Byers, Ed Herold, Ann Barrett, Michael Barrett, and Gisele Bourgeois-Law produced the first rough outline of an award description. This first award was for research proposals not limited to thesis research. As our organization has grown, CSRF presentation formats have changed and the style and number of awards has also been adjusted. Between one and four students have been awarded this distinction in any given year since its inception. The 2011/2012 CSRF Student Reps initiated this first story of a "Where are they now?" series to explore how CSRF has contributed to the careers and professional development of past

Tuuli Kukkonen, interviewed by Krystelle Shaunesshy

Presentation Title: *Thermal imaging of sexual arousal in women and men.*

Current Position/Location: *Tenure-track assistant professor at the University of Guelph in the Department of Family Relations and Applied Nutrition.*

Krystelle - What degree were you working towards, and who was your research supervisor when you were awarded the student award?

Tuuli - I was working towards my PhD in Clinical Psychology at McGill University with Dr. Irv Binik.

K - What led you to study sexuality in grad school?

T - While I had always known that I wanted to go into Clinical Psychology, and had spent years volunteering in crisis intervention at a sexual assault centre, it was during my year as a research assistant for the Binik lab that I realized how much I loved research, and how I wanted to pursue studies in sexual psychophysiology.

K - In what ways is sexuality involved in what you do now?

T - In every possible way! My research continues to focus on human sexuality. I have recently received a CFI grant to build a thermography lab at Guelph and will hopefully have my research up and running in the next

year. I teach courses on human sexuality. It is my plan to resume clinical working in the coming year with a focus on sex, couple, and family therapy.

K - Do you have any memories of CSRF as a student that stand out? Or that you would like to share? Are there any ways that participating in CSRF influenced you or your career?

T - CSRF is an absolutely wonderful organization! In particular, I remember being struck by the sense of community and support at CSRF meetings, and can recall how members were always very helpful in their comments and suggestions towards me as a student. CSRF directly influenced my career as it was at a CSRF meeting that I first got to learn more about the wonderful program we have at Guelph, and heard of the upcoming job opening that I would eventually fill at the university!

K - Are you still a CSRF member? Why or why not?

T - Absolutely! I think it's very important to promote and support sex research in Canada. We have such a strong representation of world class researchers across the country and CSRF is a great way to stay in touch with each other and keep up to date on what's happening within our community.

K - Any additional information that you would like to say to the CSRF student members/full members?

T - I'm actively looking for graduate students for Fall 2013!



Tuuli Kukkonen, PhD
CSRF Student Award Winner,
Ottawa 2006

"I remember being struck by the sense of community and support at CSRF meetings, and can recall how members were always very helpful in their comments and suggestions towards me as a student"

2012 Annual Meeting Update

Hello CSRF members and conference participants! Here is the Conference Registration Form for the Ottawa conference. Please register early. If you want, you can also renew your membership (for 2013) at the same time (form next page).

The Conference Planning Committee and the local hosts are quite excited about this year's program.

We are very much looking forward to meeting you or seeing you at the conference.

Martin Lalumière, Chair, Programming Committee

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM canadian sex research forum Ottawa, Ontario September 20-22, 2012



Name for Badge:

Affiliation:

Address:

City:

Province:

Postal Code:

Country:

Telephone:

Fax:

Email:

Take advantage of a reduced registration rate by registering early! Students, join CSRF and pay reduced student member rates! Go to www.csrf.ca for details on becoming a member.

Registration fees can be sent by check in Canadian funds or by electronic payment.

All attendees, including presenters, must register and pay all applicable fees. Registration fees includes poster reception, breakfast and lunch on Friday and Saturday, and snacks breaks each day.

Join us on Friday evening for a **Group Dinner** at Stella Osteria (partially subsidized by CSRF).
<http://www.stellaosteria.com/site/HTML/groupsweddings.html>

The **Naughty Walk** is a 60 m guided walking tour of interesting features of the Ottawa ByWard Market.
<http://www.hauntedwalk.com/ottawatours.php>

Make your check payable to CSRF and send to:
Dr. Pierre Assalian, Executive Director, CSRF
Department of Psychiatry, B6-124,
Montreal General Hospital,
1650 Cedar Avenue, Montreal H3G 1A4

Electronic payment can be made by Interac money transfer to payment@csrf.ca
(Recipient: Pierre Assalian; Security question – Where is the 2012 meeting? Answer – Ottawa).
Your bank may apply additional fees. Make sure to email this form to the same address.

Book your room now at the conference hotel, the Courtyard by Marriott Ottawa. Rate for a standard room is \$149 when you reserve by August 20, 2012 (mention that you are with the CSRF conference). Book soon to get your choice of room by calling 1-800-341-2210. <http://www.marriottcourtyardottawa.com/>

Courtyard by Marriot Ottawa, 350 Dalhousie Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1N 7E9

Registration Fees	Until August 20	After August 20	Your registration subtotals
Member	\$350	\$400	\$
Student Member	\$185	\$235	\$
Non-Member	\$400	\$450	\$
Student Non-Member	\$240	\$290	\$
Group Dinner*	\$25	\$25	\$
Additional tickets for Group Dinner	\$40	\$40	\$
Naughty Walk	\$13	\$13	\$
TOTAL			\$

2013 Membership Renewal

2013 CSRF Membership Renewal



Fees:	Member: \$65.00	Student Member: \$40.00
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Note: If you are a new member to CSRF, please send your current CV to CSRF and arrange for one reference letter from a current CSRF member or two reference letters from non-members to be sent to CSRF on your behalf.

NAME & MAILING ADDRESS:

Name:

Address:

City:

Province:

Country:

Postal Code:

Phone:

Fax:

E-mail:

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY:

Payment Amount:

Payment Method:

Payment Date:

TWO WAYS TO PAY:

Make cheque payable to CSRF and mail to:

Pierre Assalian, CSRF Executive Director
Department of Psychiatry,
Montreal General Hospital - MUHC
1650 Cedar Avenue, Rm B6-237
Montreal, PQ, Canada
H3G 1A4

* Print and mail this form with your cheque

Pay by Interac Money Transfer from your online banking site.

Complete the form online:

Name of Recipient – Pierre Assalian

Email address – payment@csrf.ca

Amount – from this form

Security question – Where is the 2012 meeting?

Answer – Ottawa

Print and/or save a copy of your confirmation for your records

* Email this form to payment@csrf.ca

AFFILIATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS (UNIVERSITY, HOSPITAL, AGENCY, ETC.):

SEXOLOGICAL ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIPS:

CURRENT SEXOLOGICAL INTERESTS/ACTIVITIES (CLINICAL, EDUCATIONAL, RESEARCH):

Note: The membership year is from January 01st to Dec 31st. New members who sign up 6 months, less a day, from the beginning of the membership year are paying for the current membership year and will be asked to renew again in January. New members who sign up 6 months, plus a day, from the beginning of the membership year are paying for the following year, but are entitled to all the benefits of the CSRF from the date fees are paid. This only applies to new memberships, all other renewals occur in January.

Call for Contributions

Special Mindfulness Issue of *Sexual and Relationship Therapy*

Editors: Meg Barker & Lori Brotto

In the last decade there has been an explosion of interest in mindfulness and its implications for therapy. However, there has been relatively little explicitly addressing the possibilities of mindfulness practice for sexual and relationship therapy, or the ways in which mindfulness theories make sense of sexual difficulties and relationship problems. This special issue looks to bring together those currently writing on mindfulness as it relates to sex and sexuality, and to intimate relationships, in a therapeutic context.

Meg Barker and Lori Brotto invite empirical or review papers (maximum 6000 words) and commentaries, clinical case reports, and opinion pieces (maximum 1200 words) on mindfulness. Commentaries and opinion pieces will only be reviewed by the Editors, papers will also be sent for external peer review. The deadline for papers is October 2012.

Appropriate topics include:

- Overviews of the literature on different mindfulness therapies which might be relevant to sexual and/or relationship therapy
- Reviews of the research on mindfulness therapies for sexual and/or relationship therapy
- Buddhist and mindfulness theories of sex and sexuality, bodies and embodiment
- Mindfulness therapies for sexual difficulties
- Mindfulness and (sexual) pain
- Mindfulness and desire
- Mindful couple therapy
- Outcome or process research on mindfulness therapies for various sexual and/or relationship issues
- Mindfulness relationship practices, such as insight dialogue
- Mindfulness and relationship conflict
- Meditation practices in sexual and/or relationship therapy
- Bringing mindfulness therapies together with other approaches in sexual and/or relationship therapy
- Various relationship possibilities opened up by a mindfulness approach

Informal enquiries and abstract submissions should be directed to: Dr Meg Barker (m.j.barker@open.ac.uk) and Dr. Lori Brotto (Lori.Brotto@vch.ca).

Instructions for authors available on: <http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/journal.asp?issn=1468-1994&linktype=44>

Final manuscripts to be submitted via journal website and marked 'for mindfulness special issue'.

Upcoming Conferences

- July 8-12, 2012: IASR Annual Meeting, Lisbon, Portugal
- July 12-16, 2012: IARR Conference, Chicago, Illinois
- **September 20-22, 2012: CSRF Annual Meeting, Ottawa, Ontario**
- October 26-28, 2012: ISSWSH Fall Course, Scottsdale, Arizona
- November 8-11, 2012: SSSS Annual Meeting, Tampa, Florida
- February 28-March 3, 2013: ISSWSH Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana