

Momentum Newsletter

Issue 2, March 2012



Study Launch!

The Momentum Health Study began enrolling participants on February 25, 2012. We have enrolled 11 participants to date and have issued 27 outstanding study vouchers. Recruitment so far has been generated from five seeds, with another five currently being approached. Feedback from participants so far has been positive and most participants have left with excitement to recruit their friends. We have been offering all participants the option of recruitment using business card sized study vouchers or an electronic voucher program set up on our website. All participants so far have opted for the laminated card vouchers, but we have created a new visual guide that may help participants understand better the electronic voucher system.

RDS Training

The Momentum Health Study is thankful for our partnership with the San Francisco Department of Public Health for operational training and guidance on Respondent Driven Sampling. Henry Fisher Raymond spent five days with our study team immediately before our launch to train study staff and assist with the implementation of our study procedures.



Momentum-VCH Partnership

By Dawn Turner, RN

The Momentum Health Study brings the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS into partnership with nurses from Vancouver Coastal Health and the STOP HIV/AIDS team. The STOP HIV/AIDS team is a multi-disciplinary clinical outreach team working to increase access to sexual health screening and to reduce barrier to treatment and care. As nurses with the study we provide clinical assessments, screening for HIV and other STI's, sexual health information and education and safer sex supplies. In addition to assessment, testing, result follow up, and treatment, we provide participants with referrals to community support and onward connections to care.

In adopting a client centred approach to our nursing care and referrals, we aim to provide holistic support for the needs of the study participants both during and beyond their experience with the Momentum Health Study.

The Momentum Health Study Nurses are:

Dawn Turner, RN
Geoff Reiher, RN
Cailey Lynch, RN

Momentum nurses can be reached at momentum@cfenet.ubc.ca



Vancouver
Coastal Health



Continuing Our Research Program

In addition to enrolling participants into the cross-section and longitudinal components of the Momentum Health Study, we are beginning a qualitative sub-study to investigate gay men's sense of community and belonging and how this may impact their access to sexual health knowledge.

Dr. Eric Roth, a Momentum investigator, will be taking the lead on this research and we are pleased to welcome Ashleigh Rich to the team for a summer practicum from the Masters of Public Health program at UBC. Ashleigh and Eric will work on developing a research protocol for this qualitative sub-study and participants will be recruited from those already enrolled in the main study.

Momentum Community Advisory Board

The Momentum Health Study Community Advisory Board (CAB) will hold its first meeting on Tuesday, March 20, 2012. The Momentum CAB will be chaired by Terry Howard, CIHR Community-based Research Facilitator. The CAB will also be composed of a representative from each of the community organizations that have offered their formal support for Momentum: Health Initiative for Men, YouthCO, and Positive Living. The group will also nominate and elect three additional community members at-large to help support. The CAB will be responsible for offering input on study procedures and helping communicate research findings once data is available for analyses.

Formative Research Communication

We are proud to announce that two abstracts written for the Canadian Association of HIV Research (CAHR) were accepted to the upcoming conference in Montreal from April 19-22, 2012. An abstract entitled, "Substance use and sexual preference structure social networks for MSM in Vancouver, BC: implications for Respondent Driven Sampling (RDS)" will be presented as a poster and another entitled, "The nature of MSM connectivity in Vancouver, BC and the importance of formative research for highlighting potential 'bottlenecks' among sub-networks when selecting optimal seeds for Respondent Driven Sampling (RDS)", will be presented as an oral.

An additional abstract based on formative research has also been submitted to the 2012 International AIDS Conference in Washington, DC.

Contact Us!

If you have any further questions about the Momentum Health Study, please feel free to contact us.

The Momentum Health Study team:
Jamie Forrest, Project Coordinator
jforrest@cfenet.ubc.ca
Jay Pai, Research Assistant
jpai@cfenet.ubc.ca
Allan Lal, Research Assistant
alal@cfenet.ubc.ca