APHEO: Monthly Updates
February 2020

Message from the President

Hello APHEO members,

This month proved a busy one as the current and past executive worked to finalize and submit the **APHEO modernization response** on February 10, 2020 to the Public Health Modernization team. **Thank so much to EVERYONE involved** - writers, editors, reviewers and formatters! Our end product looks great and highlights several key recommendations for public health modernization from APHEO's perspective:

1. **Retain sufficient epidemiological capacity** in local public health agencies, to keep the vital data-community knowledge connection.
2. **Strengthen provincial data infrastructure and centrally organize certain activities** to improve overall coordination of efforts across the public health sector.
3. **Ensure centralized functions involve active engagement** and are responsive to the needs of the local entities they are intended to support.

On Feb. 20, 2020, APHEO was invited to meet with the Public Health Modernization team consisting of Jim Pine, Allison Blair and Colleen Kiel. I attended via teleconference and Sarah Collier, our alPHa representative attended in person in Toronto. Representatives from ten alPHa affiliate organizations were present. Sarah and I were able to communicate three overarching recommendations for public health modernization.

Overall, the meeting went well, APHEO had several opportunities to provide answers and feedback. Jim Pine also requested a copy of the APHEO report (when finished): **Epidemiology Capacity Assessment: Enumeration of the Applied Public Health Epidemiology Workforce in Ontario, 2019.** Thanks to everyone involved in that project as it's been a substantial amount of work in a short time period. It's very rewarding to be able to share it with the Public Health modernization team.

Thank you everyone for your continued support and contributions to APHEO. Please feel free to reach out with any comments, concerns or ideas that you may have.

This monthly update includes:

- Featured APHEO member
- Updates from the Executive Committee

Sincerely,
Suzanne Fegan, APHEO President

Featured APHEO Member

Trevor van Ingen

Epidemiologist Lead, Analytic Services,
Informatics Department,
Public Health Ontario

How long have you been an APHEO member?
I joined APHEO in 2012 as an MPH Epi student at the University of Toronto.

What has been your most memorable APHEO moment?

It has to be when Michael King brought the game *Ultimate Werewolf* to the 2015 APHEO conference in London. The game was centred on deceiving the other players and trying to figure out who wasn't telling the truth. Maybe accusing each other of being liars wasn't the best way to meet people you knew only from the listserv, but it was definitely fun!

How has being a part of APHEO helped you in the work that you do or in your career development?

APHEO has been an amazing resource. It's extremely helpful to know that you don't always have to reinvent the wheel each time you want to do something new. The indicator library, methods guidance for tasks like calculating life expectancy and age standardize rates, and advice from the listserv have all been tools that have helped me to become a better analyst. Additionally, connecting with APHEO members at conferences and through the listserv has been a valuable and helpful way to stay engaged with the public health field in Ontario.

What is your favourite SAS command?

Learning PROC SQL has been the single most useful thing I've learnt to do in SAS since learning how to pull in data back in grad school. I try to imagine how I got anything done before it, and just cringe at all my meandering workarounds!

Updates from the Executive Meeting January 31, 2020

- The approved minutes from the December 2019 Executive Committee meeting are located HERE
- APHEO modernization team continued to work on the APHEO modernization response
- APHEO was invited to attend an in-person consultation with the Public Health Modernization team on Feb. 20, 2020
- APHEO and OPHEN have entered into a three-year contract with Bond Executive Offices Inc. as our new conference planners
- The Epidemiology Capacity Assessment team has been working diligently to analyze and write a report of the survey results
- APHEO has written the MOHLTC for a formal response/update with regards to continued access to CCHS. No response has been received to date.