

DOCTORS RECEIVE MENTAL HEALTH GRANT OF \$236,000

(THUNDER BAY, ON, October 8th, 2004) St. Joseph's Care Group is pleased to announce the award of \$236,000 in research funds to Dr. Jack Haggarty, Medical Director, Community Mental Health Services, St. Joseph's Care Group, Thunder Bay, Dr. David Haslam, St. Joseph's Health Care, London, Ontario and their associates.

Previously, the Government of Canada announced the establishment of the "Primary Health Care Transition Fund", totaling \$800 million dollars. The fund was established to encourage the development of innovative approaches to the reform of the health care system.

Drs. Haggarty and Haslam received this funding from the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care under the Primary Health Care Transition Fund to support a research project called "**Transition Into Primary-Care Psychiatry**" (TIPP).

Within the TIPP project, psychiatric nurses and psychiatrists support some clients with chronic mental illness discharged from outpatient mental health services and their family physicians in the physician's office. The information gathered will help to determine if follow-up by mental health staff of the client after discharge in the environment of the family physician's office affects the overall health of clients. Recruitment of Thunder Bay family physicians and Community Mental Health Services clients to be involved in this project has begun.

Thunder Bay physician, Dr. James Goertzen stated, "We are excited to be a part of this important research. As a family physician, I look forward to the support from psychiatrists and psychiatric nurses in the care of my clients with mental illness."

TIPP will be funded for approximately 15 months and will help guide a larger evaluation across Canada of this shared care clinical model.

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For more information on the TIPP program contact:

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