

*Increasing Capacity in Tobacco  
Research: The Role of Strategic  
Training Programs:*

*The Strategic Training Program in Tobacco Research*

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# *The Strategic Training Program in Tobacco Research*

- Funded in 2001

## MISSION

- To train the next generation of tobacco research leaders
- Ensure that they can work across disciplines, collaboratively
- Acquire the skills they need to ensure Canadian leadership in population intervention

# *The Strategic Training Program in Tobacco Research*

## GOAL

To engage top researchers and their trainees in a pan Canadian tobacco research training program that

- Is transdisciplinary
- Creates a culture of collaboration
- Attracts additional funds

# *The Strategic Training Program in Tobacco Research*

- Consortium of 3 universities
  - UWaterloo (Roy Cameron, Director)
  - UBC (Chris Lovato, Co-Director)
  - UToronto (Roberta Ferrence, Co-Director)
- Now 242 participating graduate training programs at 11 universities
- Annual competitions

# *The Strategic Training Program in Tobacco Research*

## **Program Elements**

- Personal, cross-disciplinary research mentoring
- Stipend awards
- Video course linking trainees and mentors across participating universities
- Annual meeting (now developed into the annual symposium in collaboration with other programs)

# *IMPACT*

- Awards
  - 48 applications funded 2002-05
- Video Course offered annually
  - 72 students 2002-2006
- Annual meeting
  - Over 40 trainees attend each year

# OUTCOMES

Overall, 102 Trainees in the program

- 3 now independent scientists in tobacco research; others ready to do so
- Trainees have won competitive awards from CIHR (12), SSHRC (2), NSERC (1), NCIC (1), OGF (13) Michael Smith Foundation Doctoral Program (3), OTRU Studentships (3) Canadian Commonwealth School (1)
- Trainees have also won numerous awards and other recognition

# *OUTCOMES*

Through the training program, the videoconference course and the annual meeting, trainees:

- Develop a transdisciplinary perspective on tobacco control research
- Meet, work with, and learn from mentors across many disciplines
- Get to know decisionmakers and practitioners involved in tobacco control

# *Conclusion*

The Strategic Transdisciplinary Program in Tobacco Research provides a combination of mentoring, funding, research knowledge and opportunities for networking that is critical for the development of the next generation of tobacco control researchers

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