

# Breaking the ICE: Building a collaborative network of tobacco researchers

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# The Team

## Investigators

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Sean Barrett<sup>1,2</sup>

Kim Good<sup>2</sup>

Ron Leslie<sup>2,3</sup>

Heather Milliken<sup>2</sup>

Alissa Pencer<sup>4</sup>

David Whitehorn<sup>5,6</sup>

Ray Klien<sup>1</sup>

## Affiliations

1. Dalhousie Psychology

2. Dalhousie Psychiatry

3. Dalhousie Anatomy &  
Neurobiology

4. IWK Psychology

5. Dalhousie Physiology

6. Dalhousie Nursing

# Tobacco use and Schizophrenia

Although approx 90% of schizophrenia smoke the reasons for these high rates not known

Self medication? Common genetic vulnerability? Substance use history in pathogenesis of psychosis?

Two studies proposed:

1. To examine the interrelationships among genes, smoking and psychotic symptoms in patients and age, gender, SES controls
2. Determine how nicotine/tobacco affects cognitive performance & symptom expression

# Activities

- Weekly meetings for ICE team
- Flesh-out protocols
- Apply for additional funding for Project
  - Awarded grant from Dalhousie Psychiatry research fund
  - Applied to Lynn Bourinot Fund for Schizophrenia
- REB preparation
  - Final approvals granted last week
- Training of new investigators
  - Two graduate students; research assistant
- Journal club
  - Focus on tobacco/nicotine related research interests

# New collaborations within ICE team

Project	Team	Progress
<b>CTCRI Planning Grant</b> How do the acute & chronic effects of smoking contribute to the addictive properties of tobacco?	<u>Barrett, Stewart, Leslie,</u> <b>Steeves, Sibley,</b> <b>Raymond</b>	Two lit reviews, one grant applied for, one grant in progress
<b>Tobacco/nicotine, alcohol &amp; gambling</b>	<u>Barrett, Stewart</u> <b>Girling</b>	Grant application, REB submission & approval, study up and running
<b>Tobacco/nicotine effects on human reinforcement processes</b>	<u>Barrett, Good, Stewart</u> <b>Raymond</b>	Pilot funding, REB submission & approval
<b>Psychiatric/substance use comorbidity in adolescents</b>	<u>Stewart, Pencer,</u> <b>McGonnell, Kukreja</b>	Pilot funding, REB submission & approval