Health research projects receive $2.85 million

Psychology professor Patricia Minnes.

May 25, 2009

Two innovative health research projects have received a total of $2.85 million in Canadian Institute for Health Research (CIHR) funding.

A trans-disciplinary cancer research program offering unique opportunities for investigating factors that affect cancer control in Canada has received $1.95 million.

A separate study to develop educational resources to better integrate preschool children with developmental disabilities into elementary school has received $900,000.

"Past research has focused on children with developmental disabilities in elementary school, but we don't know a lot about preschool aged children," says Psychology professor Patricia Minnes, lead researcher on the project. "If we can gather information early, before these children transition into school, we can promote social inclusion right from the beginning."

HELPs Inc. - a team of parents, researchers, health professionals, teachers and university students in five cities and four universities across Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia - will follow 300 families who have preschoolers with developmental disabilities.

Data on the challenges and successes of these children in social, recreational and educational settings collected over three years will guide the development of educational resources for teachers, parents and professionals. Aimed at improving inter-professional and parent partnerships, the resources will lead to more effective social inclusion for these children.

The study is funded by CIHR and the Bloorview Children's Hospital Foundation.

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