

Risk Management on the Internet

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**Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Knowledge Translation Initiative**  
<http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/about/8505.shtml>

*Star rating:* ★ ★ ★

The CIHR Knowledge Translation Initiative has set out to translate knowledge for the improvement of individual health, organisation-specific processes and services, and the healthcare system as a whole. The site demonstrates how the organisation conflates electronic resources with physical programmes and research to generate and improve links with the wider healthcare community. Its value to the non-medical reader is twofold: first, as an example of how public bodies have applied the concepts of knowledge translation to underpin medical risk reduction through learning and the continual improvement of processes, practices and prevailing medical knowledge. A second benefit may be derived from the knowledge management resources presented in the site.

After a very brief introduction, the CIHR Knowledge Translation site presents five internal links, some of which are more useful than others to the non-medical reader. The *Student and Trainee* contains competition announcements, and also award decisions for science writers who, through their research communications, are contributing to the translation of knowledge. The *Researcher* section provides information about how CIHR encourages and supports research through its twice-yearly requests for application process and the creation of a 'Centre for Knowledge Transfer'. Two further areas of the CIHR site include information about *Community Alliances for Health Research and Interdisciplinary Health Research Teams* and *Improving the Quality of Health Care in Canadian Hospitals*. Both of these areas retain a focus on the coupling of knowledge translation with medical research.

The information-rich area of the site is labelled *Knowledge Translation Resource Materials*. Here the visitor will find three sets of materials that will assist both researcher and practitioners. The first of these is an overview of knowledge translation, defined as 'the exchange, synthesis and ethically-sound application of researcher findings within a complex system of relationships among researchers and knowledge users'. This overview develops with an examination of how knowledge management can both improve knowledge cycles (in which knowledge, through research, is developed, synthesised, disseminated, used and evaluated) and generate opportunities in research cycles. The CIHR's strategies and activities for knowledge translation accompany the overview. The second resource is the inclusion of web links that range from Canadian universities and municipal, provincial and national organisations to US and international organisations. Finally, a bibliography of general and methodological references is provided.

Although the amount of content and its orientation to the non-medical risk management practitioner is limited, the CIHR Knowledge Translation site further demonstrates the value and application of the subject that is the focus of this special issue.

**University of Toronto Faculty of Medicine: Knowledge Translation Program**  
**<http://www.ktp.utoronto.ca/>**

*Star rating:* ★ ★

Despite its clear title and purpose, navigation around the Knowledge Translation Program website could be improved by directing visitors to the pages that are not comprised solely of links or blank information. Having loaded the main page of the site (at the URL given above), users most usefully should point their browsers towards the *Newsletter* at the top of the page. There, they will find an archive of the ‘Knowledge in Practice’ newsletter from October 2001 to the present. Offering both a historical and contemporary insight into the programme’s activities and developments, the newsletter includes short reviews of papers, events and resources of relevance to the field of investigation and knowledge translation.

**Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research (MSFHR)**  
**<http://www.msfhr.org/sub-whats-resource.htm>**

*Star rating:* ★ ★

The Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research and the University of British Columbia Division of Continuing Medical Education have published a paper which examines how technology can be used to enhance knowledge translation. This, alongside supplementary materials and a survey, can be found on this small area of the MSFHR website

(Star ratings: ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ exceptional, ★ ★ ★ ★ very good, ★ ★ ★ good, ★ ★ average, ★ bad)

Note: readers are advised that the Queensland Government’s Risk Management site reviewed in Volume 5, No. 4 has now moved to [http://www.riskmanagement.qld.gov.au/info/guide/content/tpg1\\_1.htm](http://www.riskmanagement.qld.gov.au/info/guide/content/tpg1_1.htm).

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