

## 2006 Canadian Health Research Awards

**The Peter Lougheed / CIHR New Investigator Award:  
*Canada's Premier Young Researcher***

*has been awarded to*

**DR. NICOLE LETOURNEAU**



Nicole Letourneau, PhD, MN, BN, RN  
Associate Professor & Research Fellow  
University of New Brunswick, Fredericton

*The Peter Lougheed/CIHR New Investigator Award: Canada's Premier Young Researcher is CIHR's most important career development award, given to Canada's brightest young researchers at the beginning of their careers. This five-year award represents an important incentive for young researchers to pursue their work in Canada. Through this award, which is co-funded by the Peter Lougheed Medical Research Foundation, former Alberta Premier Peter Lougheed continues his legacy of championing health research in Canada.*

Every child deserves the best start in life — but not all children get it. Dr. Nicole Letourneau wants to change that. She designs and tests interventions to promote the healthy development of vulnerable children, particularly those who are exposed to domestic violence or whose mothers suffer from depression.

As part of her research, Dr. Letourneau has led a clinical trial to evaluate the effect of home-based peer support on mothers' interactions with their infant children, the children's health outcomes, and postpartum

depression. Her application, titled “Supporting Mother-Infant Relationships Affected by Intimate Partner Violence,” was the highest-rated application in CIHR’s 2005 New Investigator competition.

Dr. Letourneau’s research makes clear the link between early caregiving and children’s development. It will help policy-makers and social program delivery organizations to implement effective interventions that allow children to overcome a poor start in life and help to create healthy adults.

Dr. Letourneau received her bachelor’s degree in nursing from the University of New Brunswick in 1991, followed by her master’s degree (1994) and PhD (1998), both in nursing, from the University of Alberta. After completing postdoctoral studies in 2003, she was presented with the Outstanding New Investigator in Research Award by the Canadian Association for Nursing Research and the Alumni Horizon Award for early achievement by the University of Alberta. In 2004, she received a CIHR Regional Partnerships Program New Investigator Award. Dr. Letourneau is also a Canada Research Chair (elect) in Healthy Child Development and a member of the Advisory Board of CIHR’s Institute of Gender and Health.

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*Source:* The Peter Lougheed / CIHR New Investigator Award: Canada’s Premier Young Researcher, pg 10-11, Canadian Health Research Awards Program 2006. Ottawa: Canadian Institutes of Health Research, 2006. Reproduced with the permission of the Minister of Public Works and Government Services Canada 2006.

## 2006 Canadian Health Research Awards

### CIHR Partnership Award

*has been awarded to*

**DR. ANNE SNOWDON**



Anne W. Snowdon, RN, BScN, MSc, PhD  
Coordinator, Health, Safety and Injury Prevention Theme – AUTO21 NCE  
Associate Professor, Faculty of Nursing, University of Windsor  
Director, Centre for Religion, Culture and Health, Assumption University, Windsor

*The CIHR Partnership Award recognizes partnerships with one or more external partners from the private, voluntary, or public sectors which exemplify excellence by bringing health research communities together to create innovative approaches to research questions; to develop research agendas that are responsive to the health needs, concerns, and priorities of Canadians; and to accelerate the translation of knowledge for the benefit of Canadians.*

Each year, about three classrooms worth of elementary school children die in road crashes in Canada. DaimlerChrysler Canada Inc. has entered into a unique and innovative partnership to increase knowledge among Canadians of effective child safety system use in vehicles.

DaimlerChrysler Canada provides funding and a team with expertise in safety system design, crash avoidance strategies, and government regulations. Health researchers on the team, led by Dr. Anne Snowdon of the University of Windsor, brought their expertise in family research and population health. Their combined efforts resulted in “Bobby Shooster

Rides Safely in His Booster,” a multimedia education program for families.

The education program, when tested in Ontario, led to a significant increase in parents’ knowledge of accurate use of safety seats for children. The program is now being tested in six Canadian provinces, again with support from DaimlerChrysler Canada.

DaimlerChrysler Canada’s support has also contributed to the transfer of knowledge from this research. The Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police has endorsed the research program. The program has also stimulated a partnership with Magna International to develop a prototype booster seat for school-aged children. The recent launch of the seat at the Ontario Science Centre was a resounding success.

DaimlerChrysler Canada’s commitment of company time, personnel, and resources is a clear indication of the company’s commitment to the safety of Canadian families and children.

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*Source:* CIHR Partnership Award, pg 20-21, Canadian Health Research Awards Program 2006. Ottawa: Canadian Institutes of Health Research, 2006. Reproduced with the permission of the Minister of Public Works and Government Services Canada 2006.