

## **ABSTRACT FROM THE STAR RESEARCH GRANTS AWARDED (2008)**

**Title: The Role of the Emergency Department in Chronic Illness Management**

**Lead Investigator: Katherine Nelson**

This project aims to contribute to knowledge related to the role of the emergency department in chronic healthcare. The objectives are: to determine the frequency ED presentations by people for either mental illness or for chronic obstructive airways disease (COPD) reasons; to understand the similarities and differences in the role of ED in how people with mental illness and people with COPD, who are frequent users of ED, manage their mental illness and their COPD. The research uses a 2-stage mixed method design using retrospective review of ED records and semi-structured interviews of frequent users of ED services. The finding will inform service development and guide the development of interventions to reduce the number and seriousness of health events that result in a presentation to ED for these two patient groups.