ontario stroke network
Advancing the Ontario Stroke System

Abbreviations at end of Communiqué

Welcome

In this issue of *Communiqué*, you will learn about our progress on a number of projects. Please be sure to read our Evaluation and Research updates for the latest news. As always, we welcome your input. Please don't hesitate to be in touch.

Telestroke Program

The Ontario Telestroke Steering Committee (OTSC) has completed its review of the Telestroke program. The Telestroke program review focused on several areas: the planning process to determine needs and priorities for program expansion; alignment of Telestroke with all stroke best practices; governance and accountabilities; physician consultant policies and accountabilities; and, performance metrics and quality assurance. The OTSC has accepted the recommendations and developed an action plan. The recommendations will be reviewed by the OSN Board on June 14th and then shared with stakeholders.

Board/Staff Participants: Demetrios Sahlas, Darren Jermyn, Chris O'Callaghan, Linda Kelloway

Research Update

The MOHLTC recently advised the OSN that effective in FY 2013/14, all organizations receiving research funding will be required to secure funding via a competitive awards process. It is expected that a new health research agency will be established to oversee the funding process and manage the research programs and initiatives. Details of this transition to a new agency, including the number of research programs and funding envelope have not been finalized. It is expected that the ministry's research program will be designed to address strategic priorities such as those identified in the MOHLTC Action Plan, Excellent Care for All Act (ECFAA), Drummond Report and Applied Health Research Question (AHRQ) program. Once more details become available the OSN Research Committee will collaborate with its partners to determine research priorities, implications for the current research program and a communications strategy.

The 2012-2013 Call for Proposals was issued on March 6th 2012 for two areas: Investigator Driven to support research areas of focus and two (2) Directed Research Priorities (Optimal Transient Ischemic Attack (TIA) Management and Investigating Stroke Unit Care). Twenty proposals in total were received and have undergone scientific review. Under the advice of the OSN Research Committee, the Call for Proposals for Directed Research Priority "Optimal TIA Management" has been reissued with a revised submission deadline of July 20th. Researchers will be informed of the outcome of their application once Ministry funding is confirmed.

The 3rd Annual Research Impact Assessment Report (formerly titled the OSS Research Program Evaluation Report) will be circulated by the end of June.

Board/Staff participants: Sandra Ireland, Linda Kelloway, Ruth Hall, Chris O'Callaghan, Deborah VanOosten

Knowledge Translation

The 3rd Canadian Stroke Congress will be held in Calgary, Alberta from September 29-October 2. Notification of successful abstracts submissions have been released in June. Registration for the conference is now open.

The 15th Annual Stroke Collaborative will be held on **October 15th**. Program planning is underway and is being coordinated by the Ontario Stroke Network and the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

Board/Staff Participants: Sandra Ireland, Linda Kelloway

Communications and Stakeholder Relations

 Progress is being made on the key priorities outlined in the Communications Audit and Stakeholder Relations Strategy i.e. developing a communications tool kit, providing training for regional stroke networks, developing a communications and media plan for the 2012 Ontario Stroke Evaluation Report release for stroke month, and an OSN annual report. The media release for the evaluation report is planned for June 18th or 19th, training of regional spokespeople in preparation in support of the release has been completed. The OSS teams will participate in a communications training session on June 21st.

Board/Staff Participants: Sandra Ireland, Cally Martin, Linda Kelloway, Chris O'Callaghan

Evaluation Update

The 2012 edition of the SEQC Evaluation Report will be publically released the week of June 18th 2012. In collaboration with ICES a communications and media plan has been developed. The media release will be distributed to the media a few days prior to the public release. A deck of the highlights of the Report has been created and will be available to OSN stakeholders by the end of June.

The paper on the development of the "ABC stroke benchmarks" has been submitted to the International Journal of Stroke. Two posters, one on Telestroke and the other on the LHIN stroke report cards have been accepted for poster presentation at the 2012 Canadian Stroke Congress.

Four OSN provincial targets with an achievement date of 2017 have been developed and presented at the OSN forum on May 1 2012. The four targets are (FY 10/11 is the reference year): double the reduction in hospitalization; double the access to stroke units; half the time for admission to inpatient rehabilitation; half the percentage of patients admitted into long term care facilities after a stroke; and, an overarching goal to reduce LHIN variation. These targets are intended to be "stretch goals", bring greater attention to important stroke best practices and outcomes, and measure progress on the OSN strategic plan.

The 2012 SPC audit was launched on April 18, 2012. To date 3,400 charts have been completed.

Work is progressing between the OSN, MOH and CIHI on collecting an indicator of inpatient rehabilitation intensity within the National Rehabilitation Reporting System (NRS) database. The goal is to have this indicator collected in fiscal year 2013/14 through a special project approach similar to "CIHI special project 340 for stroke" which is now mandatory.

Accreditation Canada's Stroke Services Distinction program, developed in partnership with the Canadian Stroke Network, recognizes stroke centres that demonstrate clinical excellence and outstanding commitment to leadership in stroke care. The OSN has made available a one-time funding opportunity to

provide support to organizations within Ontario to complete the Stroke Services Distinction program and to share lessons learned that would facilitate other organizations to undergo the Stroke Distinction process in the future.

The successful applicants are: Credit Valley Hospital-Trillium Health Centre; Kingston General Hospital; York Central Hospital; Bridgepoint Health.

Board/Staff Participants: Mark Bayley, Darren Jermyn, Cally Martin, Ruth Hall, Chris O'Callaghan

Ontario Integrated Vascular Health Strategy (OIVHS)

The Report 'An Integrated Vascular Health Blueprint for Ontario' will be released by the end of June. The Vascular Health Coalition has established a work plan with the main priority to establish the Ontario Vascular Health Implementation Steering Committee by the end of the summer.

Board/Staff Participants: Linda Kelloway, Chris O'Callaghan

Expert Panel on Rehabilitation and Complex Continuing Care

A final report on "The Impact of Moving to Stroke Rehabilitation Best Practices in Ontario" will be submitted to the Ministry by end of June pending review by the Stroke Reference Panel. OSN is collaborating with Health Quality Ontario on this work. A Stroke Rehabilitation Resource Portal is being incorporated into the OSN website and will be launched in June.

Members of the OSN Stroke Reference Group have been invited to continue providing advice and feedback to the Ontario Association of Community Care Access Centres on the development of a Stroke Outcome Pathway for CCAC Case Managers.

Board/Staff Participants: Mark Bayley, Malcolm Moffat, Chris O'Callaghan, Linda Kelloway

2nd Ontario Stroke Network Forum

The 2nd OSN Forum was held on May 1st and was attended by the Regional Stroke Steering Committee Chairs, Regional Medical Directors, RSC Administration Liaisons and RPDs (Regional Stroke Executive Teams). At a morning meeting the chairs and RPDs discussed different forms of governance including "organizational" and "systems" governance and its relevance as a model for the regional stroke steering committees. Late morning the medical directors and administration liaisons joined the meeting to discuss and provide feedback on: the OSN provincial targets; ways to leverage the LHIN report cards; the plans for the media release for stroke month; and, core responsibilities for the medical directors, chairs and administration liaisons. There was a high level of discussion and participation generating many ideas and opportunities for improvement. A report on the day will be distributed in July.

Board/Staff Participants: Chris O'Callaghan