



Abbreviations at end of Communiqué

The Ontario Stroke Network provides leadership and coordination for the Ontario Stroke System. It is funded by the Ministry of Health Promotion, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, and Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario.

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Welcome

In this issue of *Communiqué*, you can learn about the progress we have made on a number of projects that are on the go. Please be sure to read our Evaluation Update and Research Update for news. As always, we welcome your input. Please don't hesitate to [be in touch](#).

OSN Strategic Plan

AT A GLANCE: We've been sharing our Strategic Plan with stakeholders. It was presented to the regional and district stroke leaders in September, and OSN's Executive Director will present it at regional stroke committee meetings. The new strategic directions will also be incorporated into OSN's operating plan.

The [2011-2016 OSN Strategic Plan](#) has been disseminated to OSS stakeholders. At the September 26th RPD/DSC meeting, the plan was presented and the process to communicate the plan was discussed. Alignment of regional and district plans was discussed. The ED will present the plan at upcoming Regional Stroke Steering Committee meetings. Our FY 12/13 operating plan will incorporate the new strategic directions: *Credible leader, strategic partner and effective advocate for fewer strokes and better outcomes*; and *Catalyst to drive for excellence in stroke care and vascular health* along with the priority activities identified through our consultation process.

Board/Staff Participants: Joann Trypuc, Malcolm Moffat, Adam Watson, Lori Marshall, Cally Martin, Linda Kelloway, Linda Nutbrown, Chris O'Callaghan

Telestroke

AT A GLANCE: Darren Jermyn will chair the Ontario Telestroke Steering Committee (OTSC), which provides a forum to identify, plan and monitor provincial Telestroke initiatives.

The committee held its first meeting on September 14th, endorsing Darren Jermyn as chair and approving Terms of Reference. A workplan is under development and will be discussed at the December meeting. In addition, the Committee reviewed the *Telestroke and Stroke Unit Briefing Note* on the need to balance the number of Telestroke sites with access to "stroke unit care." The OTSC identified the OSN Best Practice Secondary Prevention Stroke Unit Task Group as the appropriate group to develop a plan to address the issue and Briefing Note recommendations. The OTSC will liaise with the Best Practice Stroke Unit Task group through joint membership. An environmental scan of referring Telestroke sites to identify current practices related to provision of thrombolysis, including access to stroke units, was completed in November. The results will be discussed at the December OTSC meeting.

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



Research Update

AT A GLANCE: Our research work continues to intensify. Five OSN research projects will be highlighted at a poster presentation at the MOHLTC Research Showcase on December 1st. The OSN Research Committee membership recruitment is completed and will be approved by the Board and then announced.

Final funding decisions have been made and researchers have been notified of the outcome. Upon receipt of all executed research agreements, a list of successful projects will be forwarded to the Board and OSS.

The OSN Board approved the [OSN Research Grant Administration Policy](#) at its September meeting. A videoconference will be scheduled in January 2012 to provide an overview of the policy and allow the opportunity for Q&A.

Recruitment for Committee membership, including the Chair, is complete. Recommendations will be presented to the OSN Board for approval on November 29th and announced in December.

In accordance with the *Grant Administration Policy* and as outlined in the Managed Research Cycle, the Research Committee has developed recommended priorities for the *FY 12/13 Call for Proposals*. The recommendations will be presented to the OSN Board for approval on November 29th. The research priorities will be announced as part of the *Call for Proposals* scheduled for December.

Five OSN research projects have been selected for poster presentation at the MoHLTC *Health Research Showcase* on December 1st. The *Showcase* provides a forum for researchers and policymakers to interact, share ideas and lay a foundation for greater collaboration among researchers.

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

Best Practice Sub-Committee (Secondary Prevention and Acute Care)

AT A GLANCE: Two priority areas have been identified: Stroke Units and Outpatient/ER TIA/Minor Stroke Management, and two task groups have been established to address these priorities. To inform the OSA Resource Inventory an environmental scan is being completed and plans for facilitating the adoption and dissemination of common triage definitions will be developed at the December meeting.

Stroke Unit Task Group Activities: provided input to the OSA Resource Inventory and the development of a Stroke Unit Implementation Toolkit. The OTSC requested the Stroke Unit Task Group develop a plan to address the Telestroke and Stroke Unit Briefing Note recommendations. The OTSC will liaise with the Best Practice Stroke Unit Task group through joint membership. An environmental scan of referring telestroke sites to identify current practices related to provision of thrombolysis, including access to stroke units was completed in November. The results of the environmental scan will be discussed at the December Stroke Unit Task Group meeting and incorporated into the workplan.

The Outpatient/ER TIA/Minor Stroke Management Task Group: is exploring strategies and opportunities to address Carotid Endarterectomy wait times and the adoption of common triage definitions. A triage algorithm, aligned with best practices is in development. Plans for facilitating the adoption and dissemination of common triage definitions will be developed at the December meeting.

Board/Staff Participants: Demetrios Sahlas, Linda Kelloway, Ruth Hall



Knowledge Translation

OREG has adopted the *Knowledge to Action* (KTA) framework by Graham et al (2006) which is designed to anticipate learning needs of health care professionals, and facilitate the implementation and sustained integration of best practice stroke prevention and care. On January 12, 2012, OREG will host Videoconference Rounds to further highlight the potential of the KTA framework, identify emerging opportunities and present OREG's action plan. For more information please contact [OSN](#).

The 2nd Canadian Stroke Congress held October 1-4, 2011, included more than 10 oral presentations and over 25 poster presentations by members of the Ontario Stroke System. The 3rd Canadian Stroke Congress is scheduled for September 29-October 2, 2012 in Calgary, Alberta.

Board/Staff Participants: Sandra Ireland, Linda Kelloway

Communications and Stakeholder Relations

The OSN has initiated Phase 1 of the Communications and Stakeholder Relations initiative, developing a communication and public relations plan. Key informant interviews are taking place and focus group interviews with the Regional and District Stroke Centre Leaders and the Board are scheduled for November 28 and 29 respectively. The plan will be presented to OSN in December. Implementation begins in Phase 2, with evaluation on-going through 2012.

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

Evaluation Update

AT A GLANCE: Evaluation is a major focus for OSN. There has been a lot of activity, including the completion of the largest ever stroke care audit. A paper on the development of the ABC stroke benchmarks will be submitted for publication in January. The 2012 SEQC Evaluation Report will include data from continuing care reporting system databases for the first time.

The largest Ontario acute stroke care audit with over 15,000 charts is currently 72% complete and on target for the December 31st completion date. The data will be used to update the indicators for the provincial and LHIN stroke report cards. Significant progress has been made in the analysis and interpretation of acute stroke "trajectories of stroke care" data. One of the outcomes of this work will be a paper in collaboration with Dr. Walter Wodchis examining costs associated with the various trajectories. A paper on the development of the "ABC" stroke benchmarks will be submitted for academic journal publication by January 2012. Three abstracts submitted to the 2012 Internal Stroke Conference were accepted for poster presentation (*Facility Stroke Volume and Outcome Relationship; Gender Differences in Stroke Secondary Prevention Care; and, From Data to Action: Improving Knowledge Translation through Ontario's Stroke Report Cards*). Additionally, the LHIN stroke report card abstract was selected for the upcoming 2011 MOHLTC Health Research Showcase on December 1st. The LHIN stroke report card presentations at the Canadian Stroke Congress received great interest from attendees and the media.

The 2012 edition of the SEQC Evaluation Report will, for the first time, include data from the Continuing Care Reporting System databases and the inter-RAI (Resident Assessment Instrument). The data will be used to provide a description of stroke patients in complex continuing care beds and long term care homes.

The OSN funded research project *Evaluating the Quality of Secondary Stroke Prevention Clinic Data* has been completed. The final report will be available November 30th and will be distributed to stakeholders and

presented at upcoming OSN meetings. The key finding was that only 13/21 SPCs data can be used with confidence for provincial reporting, because completion of data elements was voluntary. Current limitations of the SPC database highlights the need for the OSN to undertake a comprehensive SPC audit to adequately evaluate the quality of secondary stroke prevention care in Ontario. In preparation for the SPC audit, the revised web-based case record form will be pilot tested following a December 5th webinar which will provide a demonstration of the new form. Please [contact us](#) if you would like to attend the webinar.

On October 31st the Canadian Stroke Networks “Prescribed” person status ended and ICES took over as the steward of the Stroke Registry, allowing continued stroke care data collection without patient consent. This transition has led to a name change for the stroke data being collected through ICES. Further details around the name change to follow.

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

Ontario Integrated Vascular Health Strategy

Following a successful first meeting of the Ontario Integrated Vascular Health (OIVHS) Advisory Council on October 12th, the OIVHS Steering Committee has confirmed the vision, guiding principles and broad strategic directions that will guide development of the OIVHS Blueprint over the next five to six months. Each strategic direction will be reviewed in detail and a final set of strategies, goals and initiatives will be selected for inclusion in the Blueprint.

Upon completion of the draft OIVHS Blueprint, the Steering Committee, with the assistance of the LHINS, will consult with key community and health care groups across the province to review the draft directions and obtain feedback re: challenges and opportunities for implementation.

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

Expert Panel on Rehabilitation and Complex Continuing Care

The Stroke Reference Group met in September to review work to date and provide further advice on the cost benefit analysis activities. The Stroke Reference group will meet later in December or early January to review the cost benefit analysis work and the draft implementation toolkit. The Gap Analysis addresses: Earlier Access, Intensification and Ambulatory/Community Rehabilitation and the Best Practices Inventory has been completed by Deb Willems and will be used to inform the Implementation Toolkit.

The Rehab/CCC Expert panel has established two workgroups: the Definitions Working Group and Data Availability and Use Working Group. Members of the Stroke Reference Group are participating on the Data Availability and Use Working Group. The outputs from both of these work groups will form the basis of the second phase of the Rehab/CCC Expert Panel.

Members of the Stroke Reference Group were invited to provide advice and feedback to the Ontario Association of Community Care Access Centres on the development of a Stroke Pathway. This feedback will be shared with the CCAC Rehab Working group and we anticipate future consultation and collaboration on this developing work.

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