

APPHON-ROHPPA

NEWSLETTER

Atlantic Provinces Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Network
Réseau d'Oncologie et Hématologie Pédiatrique des
Provinces Atlantiques

May 2024

The best care
for young Atlantic Canadians
with cancer and serious blood disorders.

ADVISORY COUNCIL EXECUTIVE:
CHAIR – HOLLY PAYNTER RN, BSCN
VICE CHAIR – DR. HEIDI BUDDEN

Staff Welcome Highlights



Joanne Albrecht
Administrative Assistant
APPHON

APPHON is excited to welcome Joanne Albrecht, our new administrative assistant. Joanne is grateful for the opportunity to support and learn from this passionate community. She completed her Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Education at MSVU and has enjoyed serving as a teacher, headmistress, international mission trips coordinator, and administrative assistant. With over 15 years of administrative experience in nonprofits, Joanne comes alive while supporting a team to do its best. Born in Coquitlam, BC and raised by family on both our west and east coasts, she's also enthusiastic about travelling across this beautiful country – most recently last summer with her sister, dog, cat, truck and camper!
joanne.albrecht@iwk.nshealth.ca | 902-717-0963

My name is Vicky Lagacé, I'm the new pediatric oncology nurse navigator for the Vitalité Health Network. I'm from a small village called Petit-Rocher in northern New Brunswick. I obtained my Bachelor of Nursing degree from Université de Moncton.

I've been working for Vitalité health network since 2015. I always knew I was meant to be working with children and was happy to have a position on the pediatric unit at the Georges Dumont Hospital early in my career. I wanted to experience other types of nursing, so I have also worked in nephrology, ICU, and an oral surgical clinic.

I am the proud mom of the most adorable and strong two-and-a-half-year-old boy, Theodore. He likes to keep our two border collies entertained. I have a wonderful husband, Justin, who's always up to follow my crazy ideas and is great at keeping track of where I left my cell phone! I'm happiest when I'm with my family, out in nature, near the water, and playing with the dogs. I look forward to working with all of you and meeting you in the future.
vicky.lagace@vitalitenb.ca | 506-862-7516



Vicky Lagacé
Vitalité Nurse Navigator

In this newsletter you can expect:

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Community of Practice for Nursing

At the APPHON/ROHPPA conference this past fall, there was great interest expressed around a CoP for nursing in Atlantic Canada. We are thrilled to facilitate this initiative. Anyone with interest in participating can contact Joanne or Carol. We will send out a Doodle Poll to set an initial meeting to look at terms of reference and timing of meetings.



[Email Joanne your interest!](#)

IWK Chemotherapy Order Changes

Hydration order changes:

Rapid prehydration no longer requires a urine specific gravity to proceed with chemotherapy.

The length of post hydration for cisplatin and ifosfamide and for intermediate to high doses of cyclophosphamide has changed to run at least 12 hours after the end of the infusion. For multi-day chemotherapy, the hydration will remain at maintenance rates after the 12-hour hyperhydration until the next day chemotherapy dose is due. This is a change from the previous practice of running hyperhydration for 24 hours after the chemotherapy doses. These changes will be reflected on the individual chemotherapy orders.

Etoposide administration:

Etoposide no longer requires a filter for concentrations less than or equal to 0.4 mg/mL and will now be administered over 2 hours vs 4 hours. A non-PVC bag and tubing are still required.

Palliative Care Needs Assessment

APPHON/ROHPPA members identified Palliative Care as a priority for Atlantic Canada at our fall conference. APPHON/ROHPPA is working on a Needs Assessment to gain more information around this. Emails will be sent to all in the coming weeks... stay tuned!

Education Sessions



22 May 2024

Desiree Naylor, Community Services Lead and Pediatric Portfolio Lead at the LLSC, is hosting an education session on blood cancer resources for patients, caregivers and HCPs:

SAVE THE DATE!

May 22, 2024 from 12-1 PM
More details to follow by email.



20 September 2024

CanHaem is hosting an educational session on hemoglobinopathies:

SAVE THE DATE!

SEPTEMBER 20, 2024 from 4-6PM
Halifax, Nova Scotia

We would like to hear from you about topics of interest. Please use this link:

[Submit Topics of Interest!](#)



YACC has so much to offer!

Getting diagnosed with cancer sucks. No question. But when you're dealing with cancer and its impact in your late teens, 20s, or 30s, it hits your life in a totally different way. You have a job, school, kids, a plan—it's a really inconvenient time to deal with a life-changing illness.

Young Adult Cancer Canada (YACC) provides a connection to peers, bridge out of isolation, and source of inspiration. Our web-based and face-to-face programs and services help young adults understand why it's different to be diagnosed with cancer before the age of 40, overcome cancer-related challenges, and process their experiences with people who truly get it.

YACC also makes it easy for healthcare providers to [refer young adults to us with this online form](#). Once it is sent, you can be sure we will connect with a welcoming message and all the information needed.

OUR PROGRAMS

YACC Chats provide a confidential and secure way for young adults affected by cancer to connect and support one another. These peer-led virtual conversations are offered over Zoom by a team of trained and compassionate YACC leaders who prioritize creating a safe and supportive environment.

YACC Chats: Series is similar to the regular YACC Chats, but participants sign up and commit to getting together weekly for eight weeks in order to deepen connections and build on the conversation discussing topics relevant to the young adult cancer community.

YACC also monitors a **private Facebook group** for over 1,500 young adults dealing with cancer in Canada. The group's members share their trials and triumphs, support each other, and also share a few jokes now and then!

Localife is a fun, local, social activity-based group led by trained YACCers in eight cities across Canada (St. John's, Ottawa, Toronto, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Calgary, Vancouver, and Victoria). It is the program where you can come and connect over hot wings or at a great event where the conversation isn't always about cancer, but it's always welcome to come up.

We also know it takes longer to recover from cancer than to be treated for it. At YACC, recovery is about more than remission, it is about living a life worth loving—hopefully for the long road. That is why YACC launched the **Recover Study!**

Recover is a community-led study where we work together to set the priorities and better understand life and cancer for young adults and how it affects quality of life over time.

The survey is open to people living in Canada who were diagnosed with cancer before the age of 40 and are currently over the age of 18. The information provided will be used to increase awareness and develop programs to address the issues that young adults with cancer feel are most important.

That's just a taste of what YACC has up its sleeve, so make sure to visit youngadultcancer.ca or recoverstudy.ca to learn more!



Dr. Jack Hand Education Fund

APPHON/ROHPPA supports educational endeavors for health care professionals who care for pediatric hematology/oncology patients in Atlantic Canada. We are pleased to offer educational funding in honour of the memory of Dr. Jack Hand.

Dr. Hand practiced as a Pediatric Hematologist/Oncologist at the Janeway Children's Health and Rehabilitation Centre in Newfoundland and was the Vice Chair of APPHON/ROHPPA. He was a driving force

behind the development of APPHON/ROHPPA and contributed greatly to its growth and success. Dr. Hand served as a positive role model for his colleagues and students by his love, compassion and humour. He has had a tremendous impact on the lives of the children and families in his care.

We wish to continue that legacy by offering funding to promote and support ongoing education that will benefit all members of APPHON/ROHPPA, as well as the children and families for whom we care.

Applications for funding are **due by June 30**. [The application form is available on our website.](#)

Our Vision:

To facilitate access for Atlantic Province children and youth to comprehensive, current, effective, evidence-based hematologic/oncologic treatment delivered as close to home as safely feasible.

Our Mission:

APPHON/ROHPPA acts as a vehicle for communication, education, advocacy, and development of standards by and for member organizations, groups and individuals to achieve shared goals of comprehensive health services and clinical care, education and research related to the health care of children with hematologic or oncologic disorders and for their families.



Thank you for reading!

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