

APPHON-ROHPPA

NEWSLETTER

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

September 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

IWK Health Hematology/Oncology is pleased to welcome Dr. Ash and Dr. Delaney!



Dr. Chelsea Ash

Chelsea is originally from Newfoundland and Labrador where she attended Memorial University for her BSc (biochemistry and behavioral neuroscience) and medical school. She then completed General Pediatrics Residency and Pediatric Hematology-Oncology subspecialty training at McGill University in Montreal, QC. Most recently, she spent a year in New York City for additional fellowship training in Pediatric Cancer Survivorship at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. Concurrent with her fellowships, she graduated with an MSc in Precision Cancer Medicine from the University of Oxford, UK. She is thrilled to be back "home", to join the Pediatric Hematology-Oncology team at the IWK, and to expand cancer survivorship care in the Maritimes.



Dr. Joanne Delaney

Joanne completed a Bachelor of Science with Honours in Medicinal Chemistry at the University of New Brunswick and received her Doctor of Medicine from Memorial University of Newfoundland. She remained in St. John's for residency training in pediatrics at the Janeway Child Health and Rehabilitation Center and then completed subspecialty training in pediatric hematology-oncology at the McGill University Health Center in Montreal, QC. During this time, she also obtained a Master of Health Professions Education at Queen's University in Kingston, ON. Most recently, she completed fellowship training in Pediatric Bone Marrow Transplant and Cellular Therapy at the Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids) in Toronto, ON and has been working as an attending physician in the SickKids Blood and Marrow Transplant/Cellular Therapy Section since January 2024. Originally from Harbour Grace, NL, Joanne's immediate family now resides in Fredericton, NB, and she is delighted to be coming home to Atlantic Canada. She will be on staff as of October 7, 2024.

In this newsletter
you can expect:

Blinatumomab
as Standard of
Care &
Educational
Session Sept 11

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APHON
Renewal Cycle

Last Call - CoP
for Nursing

CanHaem CME
Sept 20

Cellfie Project

LLSC
Conference

Coping and
Distraction
Techniques

Last Call - Community of Practice for Nursing

**JOIN
NOW**

At the 2023 APPHON/ROHPPA conference, there was great interest expressed in having a CoP for nursing in Atlantic Canada. However, we received little response to the recruitment in our Spring newsletter. We are thrilled to facilitate this initiative; anyone with interest in participating please contact Joanne or Carol. We will schedule an initial meeting to look at terms of reference and timing of meetings.

“Communities of practice are groups of people who *share a concern or a passion* for something they do and *learn how to do it better* as they interact regularly.”

- CoP Guidebook



[Email your interest today!](#)

Blinatumomab Update

Blinatumomab as Standard of Care

The standard risk B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia (B-ALL) trial through COG has temporarily closed. This was due to superior outcomes in the experimental arm (blinatumomab + standard chemotherapy) over the standard arm (chemotherapy alone). It is now recommended that all newly diagnosed patients with B-ALL receive 2 cycles of blinatumomab in addition to standard chemotherapy moving forward (this includes patients with high-risk B-ALL). The main exception are those patients with favorable risk B-ALL where standard chemotherapy alone already has cure rates approaching 99%; these patients will not be receiving blinatumomab.

In addition to the above, the IWK standard of care for all B- and T-ALL is now giving 2 years of maintenance therapy for boys from the end of consolidation therapy. The duration of treatment for boys will now match that of girls.

Please reach out to one of the IWK pediatric oncologists if you have any questions.

- Dr. Craig Erker

Educational Session

11 Sept 2024

Tracy MacNeil, Christa McGuirk and Tamara MacDonald will be presenting on:

Blinatumomab Administration for HCPs

Advanced centres will be able to provide blinatumomab starting this fall.

This session will provide information on how to prepare and administer the drug and any other information required.

REGISTER TODAY

to receive the meeting invitation for Sept 11, 2024 from 12-1 PM ADT

Changes to the APHON Chemotherapy and Biotherapy Provider Renewal Cycle

As you are aware, the field of chemotherapy-biotherapy is experiencing rapid developments, with many changes occurring within a shorter timeframe. In response to this dynamic environment, the Association of Pediatric Hematology Oncology Nurses (APHON) has decided to transition from the current three-year renewal cycle to a two-year renewal cycle.

This change is aimed at keeping current with the evolving landscape of chemotherapy-biotherapy and aligning with the renewal patterns observed in other nursing licenses and certifications.

By transitioning to a two-year renewal cycle, we aim to ensure that our providers stay abreast of the latest developments and maintain the highest standards of practice for our patients.

Two-year renewal cycle started in 2024

The new 2-year renewal cycle will take effect starting with the 2024 provider renewal cycle. This means that providers who are due for renewal in 2024 will be the first cohort under the new schedule, with the next renewal due in 2026. To find your provider renewal date please refer to the [Chemotherapy/Biotherapy Provider Directory](#).

– Christa McGuirk

Upcoming CME Opportunity



Pleased to announce a hybrid educational session on Sickle Cell Disease

Objectives:

1. Understanding the pathophysiology
2. Identifying and managing acute complications

Presenters: Dr. Ewurabena Simpson and Dr. Kristine Matusiak

20 September 2024, 16:00-18:00 EST

At The Westin Nova Scotian, Halifax

**All health professionals are welcome to attend this
in-person and virtual event.**

Please use the following link to register:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6YPQBCD>

All eyes on ALL, AML, CLL and CML | Join the LLSC, along with an impressive lineup of experts, for 5 information-packed days of learning, including a keynote on the exciting realm of RNA and its role in leukemia!

Register today: <https://www.bloodcancers.ca/events/national-leukemia-conference-2024>

If you are unable to attend the live event, register to receive a link to the recording. Recordings will be posted on the [LLSC website](#) & [YouTube Channel](#).



LLSC has added new resources for September, in time for **Childhood Cancer Awareness Month**, including a webcast for parents on: [Mental Health of Children Affected by a Blood Cancer](#).



The Cellfie Project: A new laboratory experience for pediatric leukemia patients

Valerie Bourque-Riel, Bruce Crooks, David M. Conrad
IWK Health, Halifax, NS, Canada

Pediatric patients and caregivers, who have completed induction chemotherapy for newly diagnosed acute lymphoblastic or myeloid leukemia, are offered review of their pathology during a Cellfie visit with the IWK Health Centre hematopathologist.

Patients are given a new laboratory coat, and are shown images of their peripheral blood and bone marrow taken at diagnosis and post-induction, which emphasizes the effect of chemotherapy on their leukemia.

Normal hematopoietic cell functions are explained to enhance the patients' understanding of why they feel sick and why chemotherapy side effects occur. Patients are given their images (i.e., "Cellfies") on a USB stick along with plush blood cell toy keepsakes. Cellfie visits include a laboratory tour, allowing a better appreciation of the laboratory's role in diagnosing leukemia.

For more information:



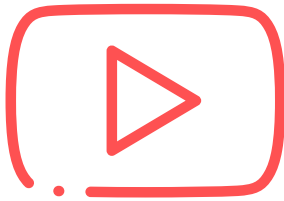
CBC Podcast



CTV Your Morning



IWK Health



“The ways that children perceive and respond to stress are often more important than the stress itself.”

APPHON Website Resources VIDEO: Coping and Distraction Techniques

A few years ago, we held an educational session on the topic of Coping and Distraction Techniques. It remains to be a popular topic. The presenters have reviewed and confirmed that the content shared is still current and it is now re-posted on our website.

Review this and other education resources: www.apphon-rohppa.com



We welcome newsletter submissions to share with our APPHON/ROHPPA Community -- [email us today!](#)

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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