

# APPHON/ROHPPA NEWSLETTER



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

## 'Issues of Youth'

### Special Interest Articles:

- Annual Conference Highlights

The theme of the 2004 Annual Conference was 'Issues of Youth with Pediatric Hematologic/Oncologic Disorders.' The conference took place at the IWK Health Centre, October 15-17<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 70 professionals from all over Atlantic Canada participated.

Keynote speaker was Geoff Eaton from St. John's, NL. Geoff is the founder of RealTime Cancer - a web-based, non-medical, support resource for youth and young adults affected by cancer. Geoff, a survivor of leukemia gave an inspirational and powerful presentation of his journey with cancer.

### Board Executive:

Chair - Dorothy Barnard  
Vice Chair - Kim Chapman  
Secretary/Treasurer - Theresa Marie Underhill



*Geoff Eaton  
RealTime Cancer  
[www.realtimencancer.org](http://www.realtimencancer.org)  
(709) 579-7325*

## Education sessions at this year's conference

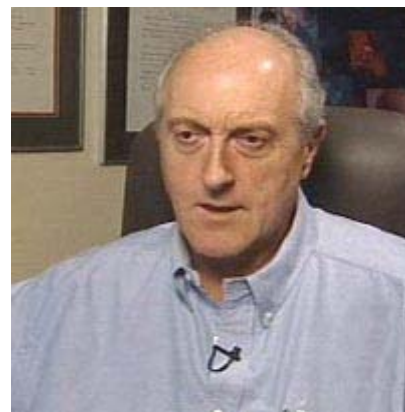
Speakers focused on various medical, ethical and psychosocial aspects and issues of cancer in adolescents.

Dr. Ronald Barr's presentations included the long-term complications of ALL. Dr. Barr is Chief of Service in the Children's Hospital, Hamilton, Ontario.

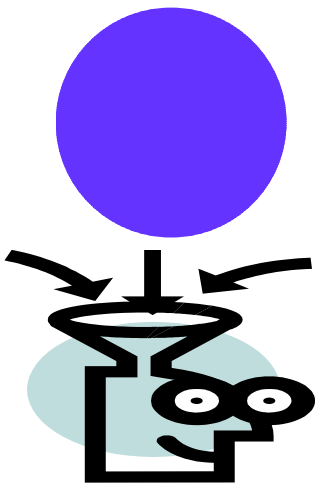
Dr. Conrad Fernandez, IWK Health Centre explored ethical issues of consent for adolescents. Dr. Gillian Graves, also with the IWK Health Centre - gave a comprehensive overview of vaginal bleeding and other gynecological complications of young women undergoing chemotherapy. Clinical psychologist, Dr. Marc Blumberg discussed psychosocial needs and approaches to families who have an adolescent with cancer.

Dr. Elizabeth Cummings, IWK Endocrinologist, discussed healthy living life styles for all children. Dr. Christy Simpson, PhD with the Department of Bioethics at Dalhousie University explored the role of hope in health care.

***Copies of all of these presentations are available on request.***



*Dr. Ronald D. Barr M.B., Ch.B., M .D.*



## Credentialing for Levels of Care - Focus of Professional Meetings

With levels of care being piloted this fall in PEI, River Valley Heath, NB and in Cape Breton, credentialing for healthcare professionals was the subject of the professional meetings at this year's conference. Two new working groups were formed - Nursing and Child Life Specialists. These groups, as well as, the Psychosocial Committee will be discussing the broader issues of credentialing for healthcare professionals in the coming year. One of the ideas being considered is a self-directed orientation package for psychosocial professionals.

If you are interested in participating in any one of these working groups please contact the facilitators as follows:

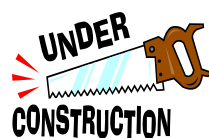
- ❖ Kim Chapman, Nursing Working Group: [kim.chapman@rvh.nb.ca](mailto:kim.chapman@rvh.nb.ca)
- ❖ Maartje Stroink, Child Life Specialist Working Group: [maartje.stroink@iwk.nshealth.ca](mailto:maartje.stroink@iwk.nshealth.ca)
- ❖ Tressie Dutchyn, Psychosocial Committee: [tressie.dutchyn@iwk.nshealth.ca](mailto:tressie.dutchyn@iwk.nshealth.ca)

## Guideline Presentations and Adoptions

*Management of reproductive issues for pediatric hematology/oncology patients and Initial approach to febrile neutropenia guidelines were accepted and passed at the meeting.*

### APPHON Website

The website is still in development by IT firm *The Working Group* and we hope it will be available soon. The website will initially serve healthcare professionals and will have limited access (password protected). It will include links to other organizations and information on protocols, guidelines, resources, Levels of Care and contacts by facility.





## Our Vision:

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

APPHON/ROHPPA

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**If you would like copies of any of the presentations  
please contact:**

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tressie.dutchyn@iwk.nshealth.ca**