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## APPHON/ROHPPA NEWSLETTER

Atlantic Provinces Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Network

Réseau d'Oncologie et Hématologie Pédiatrique des Provinces Atlantiques

Fall/Winter 2005 Issue 8

### Conference a Success



*Dr. Dorothy Barnard with guest speaker, Dr. Max House*

The APPHON Conference on "Safe Practices for Better Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Health" was held on October 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. Over 70 people participated on Friday with close to 60 attending Saturday.

We were extremely fortunate with the speakers who were able to present: Dr. Mark Fleming, who very entertainingly spoke on safety culture; Dr. Noni MacDonald who spoke on infection control ....get your flu shots; Rich Gray and Andrew Scott who spoke on the benefits of computerized oncology system; Dr. Greg Guilcher who spoke on the outcomes of oncology patients in Newfoundland; Dr. Kevin Oeffinger, from the United States, who spoke on patient

outcomes; Anne McGuire, IWK CEO, who gave us great statistics on patient safety; Dr. Bruce Crooks who made a very visual presentation on the number of people who see a child with a brain tumour; Dr. Marc Blumberg who spoke on risk-taking and decision making in adolescent cancer survivors; Dr. Max House who entertained us with his history and the history/future of telehealth; Dr. Allen Finley who spoke on pain management in children; and Dr. Vicky Price, who spoke on CVL complications.



*Dr. Emile Paras, Janice Scott, Judy Clark*

Rumor has it that this could be the best APPHON conference yet and we owe many thanks to all the presenters who as well as enlightening us, also entertained us. Most of the presentations can be found on the APPHON website <http://www.apphon-rohppa.ca/>



Dr. Bruce Crooks, Presenter

Participants were asked to fill out evaluation forms both on the conference itself and on all the presenters. Ratings were very positive with only a few issues/concerns raised. It is amazing that with such a wide variety of speakers/professionals participating in the conference almost all enjoyed every presentation even when they did not find it relevant to their work. As well with the exception of one, the program content was deemed to be just right.

A few suggestions for future conferences that came up frequently were: that we distribute the handouts prior to each presentation; that we have more working group time, on both days; the first day should be shorter; need a social evening (was that you Newfoundland??). All will be addressed next year.



Chris Gallant, Dr. Jack Hand, Erin Little, Shelly MacPhee

In case anyone is wondering how many physicians it takes to turn on a projector: Dorothy Barnard says 9 and it was proven at the conference!

## Guidelines

Since our last newsletter the revision of the guideline on constipation has been completed. As well the guideline on immunization met final approval at the IWK after a discussion of hematology/ oncology and infectious disease/immunology physicians and other health professionals. Blood transfusion will be the next one ready for circulation. Tumour lysis is also in

the process of being developed. All guidelines can be obtained on our website [www.apphon-rohppa.ca](http://www.apphon-rohppa.ca). If you do not have a password for the site please contact [carol.digout@iwk.nshealth.ca](mailto:carol.digout@iwk.nshealth.ca)

## Education Day

An education day was held on September 26<sup>th</sup> for a multi-disciplinary group of about 18. Presentations on current educational material for all disciplines were discussed and how to best adopt/adapt present material into an educational framework for APPHON members.

Each working group: psychosocial, nurses and physicians will be working on how to establish an effective education system for all levels of people involved with pediatric hematology/oncology care. This system, developed in conjunction with Atlantic Provincial Cancer Agencies, when in place, will be available across the Atlantic Provinces as a tool to further education and learning.

## Guidelines, Policies & Protocols

As Allan Fotheringham would say it is time to de-muddify the muddification of Policies, Guidelines and Protocols.

First, *protocols* are the specific treatment plan for a disease, for most of our patients it is a COG protocol. It is what you must follow to participate in the research study. *Policies* are specific to each institution. They must be followed as well but are hospital driven, e.g. chemotherapy administration. *Guidelines* are just that ... guidelines which outline what is recognized to be best practice in a certain area. But they are guidelines; unlike policies/protocols they have some flexibility.

There are times when a health care professional may need to work outside the guideline in order to do what is best for their patient. So, policies are mandatory driven by the institution; protocols are mandatory driven by research study parameters; guidelines are more flexible and represent written principles that will guide actions.

## Web Site Update

Since the last newsletter a lot of new information has been posted on the web site:

- Revised constipation guidelines
- Immunization guidelines, including an immunization record form and roadmaps for pre/post therapy
- 48 chemotherapy information sheets (patient and family teaching handouts) developed by the IWK Pharmacy

- IWK Health Centre Hypersensitivity Reactions pre-printed physician's order - a supporting document (for reference) with the asparaginase administration guidelines (and other HSR risk chemotherapy)
- New hematology links
- New oncology links
- COG family handbook

## Working Groups

All of the working groups have met, either during/before the conference, to work on an education credentialing system.

The nurses have almost completed a competencies matrix based on the Level of Care system. For further information on the Nurses working group please contact their chair: Kim Chapman at: [kim.chapman@rch.nb.ca](mailto:kim.chapman@rch.nb.ca).



*Nurses Working Group: Back row, L - R: Kim Chapman, Judy Clark, Dawn Mullin, Phyllis Colpitts, Gloria Gallant, Patty Monty, Mary Jean Howitt, Darlene Howatt, Anne McCormick. Front row, L-R: Rebecca Doiron, Buffy Cooper, Norma Kean, Christine Gallant and Charlie Coade.*

The psychosocial group has developed a list of recommendations for when to refer to different psychosocial groups. They are starting to work on a 'tool box' to be available for Health Professionals and patients. For further information on the psychosocial group or to join the group please contact their chair: Kimberley Hagan at: [kahagan@ihis.org](mailto:kahagan@ihis.org).

The physicians discussed issues of shared care for children with "rare" diseases such as sickle cell anemia and how to ensure that they are appropriately triaged and treated in emergency departments. For further information please contact their chair Dorothy Barnard at: [dorothy.barnard@iwk.nshealth.ca](mailto:dorothy.barnard@iwk.nshealth.ca)

Above is a picture of the nursing working group, prior to the APPHON Annual conference. If anyone is not in a working group and is

interested please give the APPHON office a call at [902-470-7429](tel:902-470-7429)/[carol.digout@iwk.nshealth.ca](mailto:carol.digout@iwk.nshealth.ca).

## More Conference Attendees



*Kimberley Hagan, Rebecca Doiron, Maartje Stroink*

## Important Tidbits

- Flu Season coming - Get your flu shot!
- October 17<sup>th</sup> was the IASP® Global Day Against Pain. For the next year the IASP® theme will be "Pain in Children". Please visit their web site for more information and to learn about their symposium in Vancouver at: <http://iasp-pain.org/GlobalDay-2005.htm>.
- The IWK welcomes Dr. Jason Berman to the Hematology/Oncology Service
- The IWK is also welcoming back Dr. Vicky Price from maternity leave.
- Guidelines currently available from Cancer Care Nova Scotia (CCNS) include: kidney, adult testicular, Lung, Acute Myelogenous Leukemia and Nausea and Vomiting. Cancer related pain will be available in the New Year. All guidelines are available through their website: [www.cancercare.ns](http://www.cancercare.ns) or by phone 1-866-599-2267.
- Anyone having an 'important tidbit' they would like published in the next APPHON newsletter please contact Carol at [carol.digout@iwk.nshealth.ca](mailto:carol.digout@iwk.nshealth.ca)

## 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