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## APPHON/ROHPPA NEWSLETTER ---- APPHON/ROHPPA

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

### Winter/Spring 2006 Issue 9

#### Award Winner



*Dr. Margaret (Peggy) Yhap with Dr. Gillis, receiving the D.A. Gillis award for Clinical Excellence.*

Congratulations to Dr. Peggy Yhap! She was awarded the Dr. D.A. Gillis award for clinical excellence at the IWK in February. As noted by coworkers, her attributes of clinical acumen, integrity, commitment to patient care and teamwork, innovation, leadership, common sense, patience, humour, and compassion make her an outstanding physician. In addition, Dr. Yhap is now the Principal

Investigator for the Children's Oncology Group studies at the IWK. Yippee!!!! (says Dr. Dorothy Barnard)

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#### Conference In MAY!!!!!!!!!!

Due to the many conflicts in October we have decided to hold our annual conference in the Spring. This year's conference will be held on May 12<sup>th</sup> and May 13<sup>th</sup> in Halifax at the IWK Health Centre. The theme for this year is "Pediatric Hematology/Oncology emergencies" Attached to the newsletter is a tentative agenda (subject to change) and a registration form. The registration form and the up-dated agenda will be posted on the APPHON website.

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#### Speakers at Conference

In a very short time and hot off the heels of the last conference, many people have graciously agreed to present at the conference in May:

- Due to popular demand, Dr. Mark Fleming will once again be our opening speaker. He will be presenting on decision-making in an emergency. Other presenters include:
- The psychosocial group will present on when to refer to a psychosocial professional.
- Dr. Fergall Magee will present on emergent diagnostic issues.
- There will be a presentation on emergencies in children with sickle cell anemia.
- Cancer Care Nova Scotia Patients Navigators will speak about their role in the cancer network and accessing help outside the tertiary care area.
- Janet Curran will present on Innovative KT strategies in Emergency Practice.
- Dr. Lynette Bowes will speak on Tumor Lysis.
- Dr Victor Blanchette from Toronto will speak on bleeding and clotting emergencies.
- Dr. Marie Claude Gregoire will speak on “pain crisis”.
- Dr. Bruce Crooks will speak on “Breaking bad news”

## You asked for it.....

You asked for it and I would love to say you got all of it, but..... After the last conference many suggestions were made to improve the conference. Some changes were quite easy to make and some simply not possible given budget and time constraints.

We have managed to make Friday a shorter day by eliminating the

dinner and keynote speaker. We are definitely going to give out presentation handouts at the start of each day. We will have one breakaway on Friday where individual groups will meet. Many people asked for provincial meetings, which, due to time constraints, will have to be held on Saturday.

Unfortunately a social was not in the budget this year, but we may be able to work out an impromptu arrangement for those interested.

## Working Group meetings

The nurses and psychosocial working groups, as well as meeting on the Friday of the conference, are planning on meeting Thursday, May 11<sup>th</sup>. Each session will be from 1:30pm - 5:00pm and will continue the work with educational issues. The chair of the nurses group is **Kim Chapman** ([kim.chapman@rvh.nb.ca](mailto:kim.chapman@rvh.nb.ca)) and the chair of the psychosocial group is **Kimberley Hagan** ([kahagan@ihis.org](mailto:kahagan@ihis.org)). Anyone who wishes to attend the sessions on Thursday, please e-mail the chairs to let them know.

## The physicians group

Physicians will meet on Friday and be chaired by **Dr. Nicole Leblanc** ([nleblanc@health.nb.ca](mailto:nleblanc@health.nb.ca)). Some of the topics include, pediatric hem/onc education; what APPHON can do to help physicians? Is APPHON meeting our needs? How can physicians improve the system?

## Provincial meetings.

On Saturday there will be breakaway meetings by Provinces. These meetings will look at the concerns per region in regards to ped hem/onc; solutions to better provincial communication; what can APPHON do to help each region. This will be a great time to meet your neighbors!

The New Brunswick meeting will be lead by **Deanna Stewart-McGarry**, the Nova Scotia meeting by **Dr. Dorothy Barnard**, PEI by **Dr. Kathryn Bigsby** and Newfoundland by **Dr. Jack Hand**.

## IWK Tour

Since APPHON representatives visit all the hospitals, we felt it may be nice to let people attending the conference see the facilities at the IWK. If there is interest we will arrange to get approval to see the areas people want to visit.

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## Delphi on Neutropenia

Numerous requests have been made to APPHON for development of a guideline on the care of a child with Neutropenia.

With that in mind the Delphi Technique was used to determine what information people would like to see in such a guideline. Thirty-six people were invited to participate in different disciplines. 12 people responded to at least one part of the Delphi. 43 ideas were generated

as to what information a Neutropenia guideline should contain. The top-rated ideas for inclusion in a guideline were: having visitors/visiting when someone is sick; what activities are okay at what ANC level; food restrictions; sexual activity; shaving and personal hygiene.



*Mickie Al-Molky and Gloria Gallant, need help. See how exhausted they look? Help us out with a neutropenia supportive care guideline. All welcome (contact:carol.digout@iwk.nshealth.ca)*

We will include as many of the ideas as possible within the guideline. We are looking for help in writing this guideline from any discipline. We will need some psychosocial help, nutrition help, nurses, etc to deal with all the issues.

Anyone wanting/willing to help please contact Carol at 470-7429/  
[carol.digout@iwk.nshealth.ca](mailto:carol.digout@iwk.nshealth.ca).

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## Web Site Update

Things have been moving a bit slowly on the web site. We have now added contact information for the hospital in Fredericton. We have the chemotherapy drug information and many of the supportive care guidelines in French and they will be put on the web shortly.

Also look for the blood transfusion guidelines which will be replacing the management of anemia and thrombocytopenia guidelines. IWK pre-printed orders for transfusion and transfusion reaction will be placed on the web as well. There will be a supportive care guidelines binder update mailout VERY soon.

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## COG Staff



*COG staff: Tina Blocking, Lynn Russell, Ruth McHugh and Fiona Thraves look forward to working with Dr. Peggy Yhap as principal investigator*

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## Levels of Care

Now that spring is on its way (maybe!?) we can now start planning to travel and visit some hospitals in the Atlantic Region. Plans are being made to visit 6 sites in Nova Scotia and to re-visit Prince Edward Island.

Cancer Care Nova Scotia is implementing an adult level of care system within Nova Scotia. We will use their information to hopefully decrease the amount of information we need to collect while visiting

around Nova Scotia. So if you have not seen us yet, we will hopefully be coming soon.

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## Important Tidbits

- The Cape Breton Regional Hospital welcomes a new Pediatric Clinician. Her name is Donna Krasowski and she will be coordinating care for the complex pediatric patients. Her phone number is 902-567-7845.
  - Tumor Board rounds have begun between Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island via telehealth. They are being held on the first Wednesday of every month.
  - Intellidose (computerized drug information) was implemented in Moncton at the Dr. Georges du Mont and the Moncton Hospital in February. Although, not running to its full capacity they are optimistic. We will try to get a full report from Moncton once they have been up and running for a while.
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## 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.*

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