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APPHON/ROHPPA NEWSLETTER

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

A huge thank you to everyone who helped make this years conference a success. With over 90 people registered it was the largest conference in APPHON history. Someone remarked on their evaluation that coming to APPHON was like coming to a Family Reunion and it seemed to be a general feeling. It was wonderful to see everyone!



Dr. Bruce Crooks introducing Dr. Conrad Fernandez

Special thanks to Lynn Payne and Dr. Bruce Crooks who helped organize the conference this year; thanks to Sandra Barnes and Mickie Al-Molky, who are always there to help; and kudos to Dr.

Crooks for an awesome job moderating the conference.

Once again the speakers were very well received and our deep appreciation is extended to:

Dr. Conrad Fernandez for his informative talk on offering research results to participants



Dr. Nicole Leblanc, Dr. Geneviève Leblanc and Anne McCormick getting warmed up for CCNS's communication module!

Cancer Care Nova Scotia for making us get out of our seats and get moving, and for the interactive way of gaining knowledge re: communication

To **Dr. Eileen McBride** for her informative presentation on approaches to the bleeding child

To **Dr. Bruce Crooks** for giving much-needed information on Retinoblastoma

To **Alison Thompson** for her interesting look at research on Complementary and Alternative Research and Education, and for traveling from Alberta!

To **Rebecca Doiron** and **Mary Jean McCarthy** for presenting their research on Family Centered Care.

To **Annette Penney** for presenting her research on Long term follow up care

To **Sarah Williams** for keeping us informed on what is available through the Canadian Cancer Society

To **Dr. Mark Bernstein** for helping to further educate us on the Levels of Care.

The text of all presentations at the APPHON conference are available on our website, as well as minutes from break-away meetings (where available) and the AGM.

Special thanks to all of our registrants without you there would not be a conference or APPHON.

Conference Evaluations

The ratings on the conference have been examined carefully in consideration of next year's conference. The speakers were very well received, food was improved, registration handled efficiently etc. The only complaint involved the break away sessions. Many felt that it was not necessary to have the discipline specific meetings both during the conference and the Thursday before the conference. They also felt that there needed to be a more formal agenda for each break away session. These issues will be addressed before the 2008 conference.

AGM

Kim Chapman, chair of APPHON presided over the AGM at this year's conference. Minutes from the AGM are available on the website.

The main items discussed were the timing of the conference and a move back to the Fall for 2008 and the need to re-evaluate the funding which APPHON provides.

Nurses Working Group-Pre-Conference Meeting

The APPHON Nursing Working Group met on Thursday April 26, 2007, 1300-1630 in the Parker Reception Room of the IWK Health Centre. The document, "Practice Standards and Competencies for Nurses Providing Cancer Care to Children with Cancer and their Families in Atlantic Canada," was complete and the group met to plan the next step - implementation of the document. Discussion included how APPHON can help nurses use the document, who needs to have the document and how should they get it, and how we make the education happen [just-in-time pieces, basic knowledge and skills, what's in place now, and gaps, difficulties /obstacles?].

The following plan was developed:

- Nurses within the APPHON Nurses Working Group will be given a copy of the document with the recommendation of using it for personal professional development by using the self assessment tool to help them identify their learning needs [and thus helping to trial it], with an explanation of the planned process for implementation. In the future, the document will be appended to the Levels of Care document and be introduced as a part of the implementation of levels of care. For the centres and districts that have

had initial visits, the document will be included and introduced in an upcoming APPHON update mail out to nurse/unit managers [It was concluded that nurse/unit managers responsible for their nurses' competencies, could initiate discussion with those who have a say in budgets and resources, and with those could best determine how it be used and introduced to staff nurses].

- It was agreed that APPHON should recommend "The Pediatric Chemotherapy and Biotherapy Curriculum" be taken by any nurse administering pediatric chemotherapy in the Atlantic Provinces. Kim Chapman will take this to the board and advocate for financial assistance for the tertiary centres to offer the course. This recommendation is not doable unless this course can be provided to nurses in the Atlantic Provinces.
- Work will continue to be done to implement the competency document and provide the education resources that would allow nurses to achieve and maintain the competencies. With the technology available today, perhaps more needs to be done with videoconferencing and website education.

The workshop ended with a presentation by Mary Jean Howitt, adapted from the "The Pediatric Chemotherapy and Biotherapy Curriculum," on Biotherapy.
Mickie Al-Molky RN, CON(C) APPHON Levels of Care Coordinator

Psychosocial Working Group

The psychosocial working group held a meeting on April 26th, 2007 before the annual APPHON conference. The committee has a couple of projects on the table at the present time. One of the projects presently being worked on is the development of a resource list. This resource list will hopefully encompass

the names and contact numbers of all psychosocial professionals within the Atlantic Provinces.

The second project on the table for the psychosocial committee is the completion of the Distress Management Guidelines. The Delphi was examined at the meeting and the ratings helped to shape the proposed contents of the guideline. It is the hope of the psychosocial committee that they can find existing information that is evidence based. The areas of the proposed guideline were divided into sections and the responsibility divided amongst the members of the psychosocial committee. The group is presently off and running on the guideline.

The working group has a busy and exciting year ahead of them, and we look forward to keeping you updated on our progress. Thank you to the members of the psychosocial working group who took on this extra work, and a special thank you to Carol Digout for all her guidance and support. *Tracy Warren, Chair Psychosocial Committee*

APPHON Board Changes



Kimberley Hagan and Dr. Kathryn Bigsby

The APPHON Board of Directors would like to announce some board changes: It was with sadness and appreciation that the APPHON Board of Directors accepted Kimberley Hagan's resignation from the board. Kimberley has been a very active

board member since joining the board in 2003. Kimberley assures us that while no longer a board member she will still be an active participant in APPHON.

The board welcomes, Dr. Eshwar Kumar who is the Co-CEO of the New Brunswick Cancer Network and Carol Chafe, Program Director, Children's and Women's Health at the Janeway in Newfoundland.

Pediatric Chemotherapy and Biotherapy Provider Course

Mary Jean Howitt and Paula Murphy, both APHON [Association of Pediatric Hematology Oncology Nurses] Chemotherapy/Biotherapy Instructors, are once again offering the APHON Pediatric Chemotherapy and Biotherapy Provider Course to nurses in the Maritime Provinces who administer pediatric chemotherapy/ biotherapy. The course provides a general pediatric cancer overview and a comprehensive review of the knowledge needed to administer pediatric cytotoxic and biotherapeutic agents. The fee is \$200.00 dollars for the course. Space is limited. More information and a registration form are available on the APPHON website. Please direct all inquiries regarding registration to 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
