



# APPHON/ROHPPA NEWSLETTER

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

## Board Executive:

Chair - Holly Morrison R.N., B.Sc.N

Vice Chair - Dr. Heidi Budden

## 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.*

## Summer 2022

### Guideline News

Guidelines on **Chemotherapy-Induced Nausea and Vomiting** have been adapted from **POGO** (Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Group of Ontario), and can be found on our website:

**APPHON/ROHPPA Guideline for the Prevention and Management of Chemotherapy Induced Nausea and Vomiting in Children with Cancer** -

May 2022

**Quick Guide/Recommendation Tables for the Guideline for the Prevention and Management of Chemotherapy Induced Nausea and Vomiting in Children with Cancer** - May 2022

Drs Erica Schollenberg and Kathy Whelan have updated our guideline on processing malignant specimens:

**Guidelines for the Handling & Processing of Potentially Malignant Specimens from Pediatric Patients** -

May 2022

### Endorsed Guidelines

APPHON/ROHPPA has endorsed the following guidelines and the links can be found on our website:

**A Guideline for Fertility Planning Regarding Pre- and Post-Exposure to Cancer-Directed or Cancer-Like Therapy for Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Patients** developed by IWK Health

**American Society of Hematology Guidelines for the Management of Venous Thromboembolism: Treatment of Pediatric Venous Thromboembolism**

**Nova Scotia Guideline for Blood Component Utilization in Adults and Pediatrics**

**Guidance on Platelet Transfusion for Patients with Cancer**, endorsed by COG, developed by the American Society of Clinical Oncology.

**Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation (HSCT) of Children with Cancer: Immunization Recommendations** - May 2022

developed by IWK Health

### Upcoming Educational Webinars

Dr. Tamara MacDonald will be presenting *Vaccination Guidelines for Children with Cancer* on Wednesday, September 14th 12:00pm-1:00pm via GoToMeeting. Stay tuned as calendar invitations will be sent out in the coming weeks.

### IWK Health Welcomes Fellows

The IWK is pleased to welcome two new hematology/oncology fellows, Dr. Valérie Bourque-Riel and Dr. Fares Al-Fares.

#### Dr. Valérie Bourque-Riel



From Sherbrooke (Quebec), I traveled 991km to meet the wonders of Halifax and the IWK.

I started my academic journey with a baccalaureate in Biomedical sciences and did my medical degree at the University of Montreal. I trained at the University of Sherbrooke for my pediatric residency. We can say that I'm a tanner 4 kid hoping to be a fully grown hemato-oncologist. I love to bike to find the best sunsets spots and to grow a forest at home!

#### Dr. Fares Al-Fares



I'm Fares AlFares, the name is so nice, you say it twice! I am so happy to be able to stay here for my fellowship another few years after being a pediatric resident at the IWK. I am from the beautiful country of Kuwait but am happy to call Halifax my home for these past three years. I am a proud Pokemon master and can't wait to start on my new adventures with all of you!

**Retirement Note from Dr. Conrad  
Fernandez**

Thanks so much for the many lovely retirement wishes that I have received over the last couple of months... I am now a little over a month in and thoroughly enjoying it - a good mix of golf, sitting on the dock watching the water and finally getting to some long-delayed jobs around the house/cottage - but throughout continue to revel in your many kind words. I wanted to share some personal words of thanks and reflections.

First and foremost, I would like to thank my family - Suzanne, my wife, who has been an amazing partner in the joys and challenges of working in pediatric oncology and my children Nick and Caroline - it gives me great joy to see them happy and thriving in life and their studies... A happy career does not happen without their fantastic support. For all this, I am so grateful.

I would also like to thank you for the many comforts you have provided to our family - from emails to cards to meals to just good wishes as Suzanne's journey through cancer has impacted our lives these last 20 months. You have helped sustain us. She is doing great and has an attitude of living life with humor, despite cancer, rather than let it drive our decisions, which makes me settled.

I will so miss the patients and my friends and colleagues at the IWK and throughout the Maritimes, but I also know this is the right time to hand over the reins. There is a terrific group of docs in my division to carry on the work with a marvelous leader who will put her own stamp and direction on the service, dedicated nurses who pour their beings into their work, allied health who bring their thoughtful expertise and all the

others who provide critical support to the running of the institution and program in so many ways. This service could not succeed in its mandate without the amazing network of regional health care providers called APPHON - you provide such an important gift of comfort and care in allowing patients and their families the ability to receive complex care closer to their homes, family and friend supports and schools. For that I am so very grateful.

COVID has messed with our face-to-face interactions but has not diminished the vibrancy that you bring that I will take with me as warm memories. I will also take with me memories of friends and colleagues who have died, retired, or moved to other opportunities. Each has left an indelible mark on my heart.

A patient's mom recently sent me a note that so moved me and in part read "you were exactly what we needed in the time when we needed it most". I am sure many of you have had similar sentiments from patients and families expressed to you. It underlines what a great privilege and responsibility we share - something that we can all strive towards in whatever way we may touch the patients and families we serve.

So, in closing, I wish you all strength and grace to be "those people that are exactly what our patients and families need, when they need you most" - in whatever ways your own personal gifts can be used. It applies equally to how we support our colleagues and students.

Thank you to everyone for touching me in such a positive way throughout my career and tenure at the IWK.

Best wishes and deepest affection,

Conrad