

**BC SURGICAL ONCOLOGY NETWORK  
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL EXECUTIVE MEETING  
March 14, 2008  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor Boardroom, BC Cancer Agency**

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**Attending:**

*Council Executive*

- Dr. Dianne Miller, *Acting Chair, Surgical Oncology Network, Acting Leader Provincial Surgical Oncology Program, BC Cancer Agency*
- Dr. Nadine Caron, *Northern Health Authority Representative*
- Ms. Stephanie Sainas, *Corporate Director, Strategic Program Development, Provincial Health Services Authority*
- Dr. Michelle Sutter, *Northern Health Authority Representative*

*Staff*

- Denise Des Lauriers, *Program Assistant, Surgical Oncology Network (Recorder)*
- Yasmin Miller, *Manager, Surgical Oncology Network*

**Regrets:**

*Council Executive*

- Dr. Abdul Aleem, *Community Surgeon, Cranbrook*
- Dr. Chris Baliski, *Interior Health Authority Representative; Chair, Skin Surgical Tumour Group*
- Dr. Carl Brown, *Chair, ROE Committee*
- Dr. Rona Cheifetz, *Chair, CPD-KT Committee*
- Dr. Noelle Davis, *Chair, Clinical Practice Committee*
- Dr. Susan O'Reilly, *Vice President, Cancer Care, BC Cancer Agency*
- Dr. Blair Rudston-Brown, *Co-Editor, SON Newsletter; Vancouver Island Health Authority Representative*
- Mr. Brian Schmidt, *Senior Vice President, Provincial Services, Public & Population Health, PHSA*
- Dr. Simon Sutcliffe, *President, BC Cancer Agency*
- Dr. Sam Wiseman, *Vancouver Coastal Health Authority Representative*
- Dr. John Yee, *Designate for the Head of Department of Surgery, University of British Columbia*

*Staff*

- Colleen McGahan, *Biostatistical Analyst, Surgical Oncology Network*
- Paul Mak, *Programmer, Surgical Oncology Network*
- Chrystal Palaty, *Special Projects, Surgical Oncology Network*

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda was approved as circulated.

**2. Approval of the Minutes of the September 21, 2007 Council Executive Meeting**

The minutes were approved as circulated.

### **3. SON BCCA Organizational Changes**

Dr. Dianne Miller is currently the Acting Chair of the Surgical Oncology Network and the Acting Leader Provincial Surgical Oncology

D. Miller reported that the search for a permanent replacement of Dr. Noelle Davis as Chair of the Surgical Oncology Network and Chair of the Surgical Oncology Program has temporarily stalled due to issues with the current job description and its relation to the vision of the program. The search committee would also like to see that position is also in line with the other section heads of the BC Cancer Agency.

### **4. Old Business**

#### **4a. Surgical Resident on Council**

Y. Miller reported that the appropriate people at UBC Division of Surgery have been contacted to nominate a resident to sit on the Council Executive but there has been no response to date. The Council Executive is asked to keep on the lookout for a resident who may be interested and inform Network staff who will follow up with the nominee.

#### **4b. Review/Evaluation of the Network**

At the Network's Annual Council Meeting on January 25, 2008, a discussion was held to determine whether an evaluation should be conducted externally or if it should be an internal review. Council concluded that an internal review should be done first, perhaps followed by an external evaluation of key issues if warranted.

A call for volunteers was issued at the meeting and an initial Steering Committee was struck:

- Dr. Sam Bugis, Chair
- Dr. Carl Brown
- Dr. Nadine Caron
- Dr. Tom Ehlen
- Dr. Al Hayashi
- Dr. Sharon Ong

A Steering Committee meeting was held on March 5, 2008, to discuss the direction of the evaluation. The Committee decided that a consultant should be identified to conduct the review. The Committee would establish the format of the evaluation and develop key questions in association with the consultant. The Committee agreed that the role of the evaluation consultant should include writing and submitting an interim report, a draft final report and a final report, with recommendations, to the Committee and the Chair of the Network. The final report would go to the Council Executive and key stakeholders.

The Committee agreed the consultant should be someone in BC, preferably a surgeon or someone familiar with surgery and the hospital system in BC. Dr. Richard Finley was recommended. Dr. Finley is currently conducting an evaluation of the Surgical Oncology Program, which would tie in with a review of the Network. Dr. Bugis has discussed this with Dr. Finley and he has agreed to do the review.

#### **4c. Cancer Surgeon Directory**

The Cancer Surgeon Directory was created to support a more strategic approach to implementing Network activities. Forms have been sent to surgeons across the province and data is being collected.

To date, 1361 questionnaires have been mailed - 1183 to surgeons in CAIS, and 178 to surgeons who are listed with the BC College of Physicians and Surgeons but not in CAIS. 665 questionnaires have been returned for a response rate of 49%. The last mail out was completed on March 10, 2008.

At the end of April, non-responders will be sorted by region and specialty. Council members will review the list to determine which surgeons should be followed up and which ones can be removed from the list.

**Action: D. DesLauriers will work with P. Mak to generate reports of non-responders in May.**

#### **5. New Business**

##### **5a. Activity Update**

Y Miller circulated the 2007 Activity Report.

##### **Key Points:**

- On January 25, 2008, the Network held its 2007 Annual Council Meeting at the Four Seasons Hotel in Vancouver. This meeting marked the sixth year since the Network was established and the final year as Chair for Dr. Noelle Davis.
- Effective January 1, 2008, Dr. Dianne Miller was appointed Acting Provincial Leader for the Surgical Oncology Program and Acting Chair of the Surgical Oncology Network.
- Terms ended for the following Council members:
  - Dr. Ken Brown, Chair, Paediatric Surgical Tumour Group
  - Dr. Andy Coldman, Council Executive, VP Population Oncology, BCCA
  - Dr. Peter Doris, Council Executive, Fraser Health Authority Representative; Chair, Research & Outcomes Evaluation Committee
  - Dr. Richard Finley, Chair, Esophageal/Lung Surgical Tumour Group
- New members joined the Council:
  - Dr. Diane Miller, Acting Chair, Surgical Oncology Network
  - Dr. Carl Brown, Council Executive; Chair, Research & Outcomes Evaluation Committee
  - Dr. Nadine Caron, Council Executive, Northern Health Authority Co-representative
  - Dr. Mark Heywood, Chair, Gynaecology Surgical Tumour Group
  - Dr. Susan O'Reilly, Council Executive, VP Cancer Care, BCCA
  - Stephanie Sainas, Council Executive, PHSA Corporate Representative
  - Dr. Alan So, Chair, Urology Surgical Tumour Group
  - Dr. Michelle Sutter, Council Executive, Northern Health Authority Co-representative
  - Dr. John Yee, Council Executive, UBC Department of Surgery Designate

- New members joined the Research & Outcomes Evaluation Committee:
  - Dr. Carl Brown
  - Dr. Nadine Caron
  - David Gavin
  - Dr. Andrew Gemino
  - Paul Mak
  - Colleen McGahan
  - Dr. Sam Wiseman
- The Terms of Reference for the Council Executive, Committees and Surgical Tumour Groups were reviewed and updated.
- The Network changed from a co-chair to a single chair model.
- An Executive Finance Committee was established, comprised of the Network Chair and the Chairs of the three Committees.
- The Communications and Continuing Medical Education Committees were merged into one Continuing Professional Development and Knowledge Transfer Committee.
- The Annual Fall Update was held on October 27, 2007. An accredited course in Endocrine Surgical Oncology was offered featuring eleven speakers and sixty-five participants. The course was rated highly, receiving an overall rating of 4.55 out of 5.0.
- The Network published three newsletter issues.
- The BC Cancer Surgeon Directory was created to support a more strategic approach to implementing Network activities. Forms have been sent to surgeons across the province and data is being collected.
- The first SON Surgical Resident/Fellow Travel Awards were given. Recipients were Dr. Adrienne Melck and Dr. John Boutros.
- The Rectal Cancer Monitoring Study, a two-year follow up of a cohort of patients who underwent rectal cancer surgery between October 1, 2003 and September 30, 2004, was completed and an abstract submitted to the American Society of Colorectal Surgeons.
- An application was submitted to the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer - Cancer Guidelines Action Group for a pilot project to implement a web-based surgical medical record (WebSMR) now in use in Alberta, and integrate it with pathology and outcomes reporting in BC. CPAC has approved funding in principle to the Network to pilot WebSMR for breast and colorectal cancer at three hospital sites: BCCA Vancouver Cancer Centre, Vancouver General Hospital and St. Paul's Hospital. The scope of the pilot project may be expanded to include ovarian cancer.
- The Research & Outcomes Evaluation Committee established a project program to support Network surgeons with developing cancer surgery quality improvement projects.
- An application to the BC Ministry of Health requesting hospital discharge data for patients who have had cancer surgery procedures is underway. The goal is to establish a population-based Provincial Cancer Surgery Registry.

- Rectal Cancer has been selected as the topic for the 2008 Fall Update. It will be held on October 24-25, 2008 at St. Paul's Hospital. The program has been developed and the application for accreditation has been approved by UBC.

**5b. Data Request to Ministry of Health (Cancer Surgery Registry)**

The Network is in the process of completing an application to the BC Ministry of Health for data to establish a population-based Provincial Cancer Surgery Registry. The purpose of the Registry will be to enable ongoing quality management, resource planning and knowledge transfer activities, and to ensure consistent access to high quality cancer surgery for patients throughout BC.

Patient data from the Canadian Institute of Health Information (CIHI) Discharge and Admissions Data (DAD) will be combined with patient data from the Cancer Agency Information System (CAIS) and the Cancer Registry, thereby enabling a comprehensive assessment of cancer surgery related measures and outcomes.

The Research & Outcomes Evaluation Committee is overseeing this request to MOH and the development of the Cancer Surgery Registry. The application process is well underway, including the Privacy Impact Assessment. All documentation will be reviewed by the ROE Committee and the PHSA Director of Information Access and Privacy prior to submitting the application to the Ministry of Health.

D. Miller, C. Brown and Y. Miller will be meeting with Dr. Susan O'Reilly, VP Cancer Care and Dr. Andy Coldman, VP Population Oncology, to discuss this initiative and gain organizational support.

**5c. Vacancies on Council**

Dr. Peter Doris completed his term on the Council Executive as the Fraser Health Authority Representative.

The following members have or will be completing their terms as Surgical Tumour Group Chairs:

- Dr. Richard Finley - Esophagael/Lung Surgical Tumour Group.
- Dr. Ken Brown – Paediatric Surgical Tumour Group
- Dr. Charles Scudamore – Hepatobiliary Surgical Tumour Group

**Action: D. Miller will contact P. Doris to ask him who he recommends to be the representative for the Fraser Health Authority. D. Miller will also contact the STG Chairs for suggestions as to who should succeed them.**

**5d. Synoptic Reporting (WebSMR) Pilot Project**

Canadian Partnership Against Cancer Synoptic Reporting Tools Project

An application was submitted to the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer - Cancer Guidelines Action Group for a pilot project to implement a web-based surgical medical record (WebSMR) now in use in Alberta, and integrate it with pathology and outcomes reporting in BC.

CPAC has approved funding in principle to the Network to pilot WebSMR for breast and colorectal cancer at three hospital sites: BCCA Vancouver Cancer Centre, Vancouver General Hospital and St. Paul's Hospital. The project leads in BC are Dr. Carl Brown for colorectal cancer and Dr. Noelle Davis for breast cancer. The scope of the pilot project may be expanded to include ovarian cancer. Dr. Tom Ehlen would be the lead for this tumour site.

The primary aim of this project is to implement an integrated data collection and outcomes reporting system. This project will enable the collection of surgical, clinical, pathology and outcomes data, and generate reports that demonstrate how surgical and clinical factors directly affect patient outcomes such as survival, quality of life and recurrence. The ultimate goal is to determine the processes, feasibility and utility of implementing this system on a wider scale.

In May/June 2008, the CPAC Synoptic Reporting Tools Project Planning Committee will be meeting with the BC project team along with the heads of surgery and IT for the hospitals involved in the pilot project to discuss WebSMR implementation. It is expected that details about funding and the implementation process will be determined at that time.

A preliminary planning meeting has been scheduled for April 17, 2008, to discuss the practical steps to incorporating WebSMR as an alternate operative reporting system at VGH, Providence and BC Cancer Agency VCC.

This meeting will include:

- Dr. Carl Brown, Chair, SON Research & Outcomes Evaluation Committee
- Dr. Noelle Davis, Chair, SON Clinical Practice Committee
- Dr. Tom Ehlen, Gynaecologic Oncologist, BCCA
- Greg Feltmate, Chief Information Officer, Vancouver Coastal Health & Providence Health Care Authority
- Don Henkelman, Chief Information Officer, Provincial Health Services Authority
- Dr. Diane Miller, Acting Leader, Provincial Surgical Oncology Program, BCCA; Acting Chair, SON
- Dr. Nancy Van Laeken, Head, Dept. of Surgery, St. Paul's Hospital (Regrets)
- Dr. Garth Warnock, Head, Dept. of Surgery, Vancouver General Hospital
- Gerald Regier - Privacy and Security Consultant, PHSA
- SON staff

#### **6.0 Next Council Executive Meeting:**

The next meeting of the Council Executive will be Wednesday **June 11, 2008 from 4:00 – 5:30 pm in the 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Boardroom of the Fairmont Medical Building at 750 W. Broadway.**