

**BC SURGICAL ONCOLOGY NETWORK  
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL EXECUTIVE MEETING  
November 19, 2008  
Fairmont Medical Building 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Boardroom**

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**Attending:**

*Council Executive*

- Dr. Dianne Miller, *Acting Chair, SON Acting Leader Provincial Surgical Oncology Program, BCCA*
- 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. Sam Wiseman, *Vancouver Coastal Health Authority Representative*

*Staff*

- Fatima Cengic, *Program Assistant, Surgical Oncology Network*
- David Gavin, *Director of Data Integration, BCCA*
- Colleen McGahan, *Biostatistical Analyst, Surgical Oncology Network*
- Paul Mak, *Cancer Surveillance & Outcomes Analyst, Surgical Oncology Network*
- Yasmin Miller, *Manager, Surgical Oncology Network*

**Regrets:**

*Council Executive*

- Dr. Abdul Aleem, *Community Surgeon, Cranbrook*
- Dr. Nadine Caron, *Northern Health Authority Representative*
- Dr. Susan O'Reilly, *Vice President, Cancer Care, BC Cancer Agency*
- Dr. Blair Rudston-Brown, *Co-Editor, SON Newsletter; Vancouver Island Health Authority Representative*
- Ms. Stephanie Sainas, *Corporate Director, Strategic Program Development, Provincial Health Services Authority*
- Mr. Brian Schmidt, *Senior Vice President, Provincial Services, Public & Population Health, PHSA*
- Dr. Simon Sutcliffe, *President, BC Cancer Agency*
- Dr. Michelle Sutter, *Northern Health Authority Representative*
- Dr. Garth Warnock, *Head of Department of Surgery, University of British Columbia*
- Dr. John Yee, *Designate for the Head of Department of Surgery, University of British Columbia*

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda was approved as circulated.

**2. Approval of the Minutes of the June 11, 2008 Council Executive Meeting**

The minutes were approved as circulated.

**3. Old Business**

**3a. Staff Changes**

Fatima Cengic was introduced as the new Program Assistant for the Surgical Oncology Network effective October 24, 2008.

### **3b. Search for SON Chair and Program Leader**

Dr. D. Miller reported that the search for the new Leader of the Surgical Oncology Program/Chair of the Surgical Oncology Network is currently on hold. Dr. Miller will be completing her term as Acting Chair of the SON and Acting Leader for the Surgical Oncology Program effective December 31, 2008. No decision has been made as to the next interim leader for Surgical Oncology.

Dr. Simon Sutcliffe is stepping down as President of the BC Cancer Agency at the end of this year. The Agency's priority is to fill this position first, to allow for the new president to have input into the recruitment process for Surgical Oncology. A letter has been sent to the recruitment selection committee from Drs. Dianne Miller, Garth Warnock and Richard Finley, noting the importance of surgery in cancer care and suggesting that the committee consider surgeons in the process for appointing a new president.

### **3c. Evaluation of the Network**

Y. Miller reported that an Evaluation Steering Committee meeting was held on September 24, 2008 to discuss the list of interview questions, establish an interview list and identify key stakeholders. A subsequent meeting was held on October 29, 2008 to discuss the scope and timeline of the evaluation. A meeting has been scheduled for December 10, 2008 with Drs. R. Finley, S. O'Reilly, S. Bugis and D. Miller to confirm the scope and objectives of the SON evaluation in relation to the goals for the Provincial Surgical Oncology Program and to determine the best approach within the overall plan for surgical oncology in the province.

### **3d. Cancer Surgeon Directory**

F. Cengic reported that to date 1317 forms have been sent to surgeons across the province and 793 have been completed and returned for a response rate of 60%. Of these, 504 (63%) surgeons reported that they perform surgical oncology procedures in their practice, and 603 (76%) respondents indicated that they would like to receive information from the SON.

A list of non-responders has been sorted by region and specialty. The list has been sent to the regional representatives on Council for review to identify which surgeons to follow up with and which ones may be removed from the list.

### **3e. Changes on Council**

The position of Fraser Health Authority Representative on Council is currently vacant. Dr. R. Cheifetz previously nominated Dr. Jason Francoeur, Peace Arch Hospital. Dr. D. Miller will contact Dr. Peter Doris, outgoing representative, for additional suggestions for a replacement before a final decision is made by the Council Executive.

Surgical Tumour Group (STG) Chairs are appointed by the Council Executive for an initial term of three years with the possibility of renewal for two years. The following STG Chairs will complete their terms at the end of this year: Dr. A. Hayashi, Breast; Dr. T. Phang, Colorectal; Dr. B. Toyota, Brain; Dr. F. Wong, Chair, Head & Neck. Council Executive acknowledged these Chairs for commitment to the Network and thanked them for their work.

Council Executive received two nominations for the Chair of the Colorectal STG – Drs. Manoj Ravel and Carl Brown. Dr. Brown declined given his responsibilities as Chair of the Research and Outcomes Evaluation Committee. Council Executive approved Dr. M. Raval as the new Colorectal STG Chair.

Nominations will be solicited for new Chairs for the Brain, Breast, and Head & Neck STGs and submitted to Council Executive for review. Names will also be generated from the SON Surgeon Directory.

**Action: Y. Miller will circulate a request for nominations for new Surgical Tumour Groups Chairs for Brain, Breast and Head & Neck and submit names to the Council Executive.**

**D. Miller will contact P. Doris for a recommendation for the Fraser Health Authority representative on the Council Executive.**

### **3f. Data Request to Ministry of Health for Cancer Surgery Registry**

Y. Miller reported that a draft of the application to the BC Ministry of Health for CIHI discharge and admissions data to establish a population-based Provincial Cancer Surgery Registry has been reviewed by Cindy Brice, Corporate Director, Information Access and Privacy, and Gerald Regier, Privacy Consultant, PHSA. It has also undergone a preliminary review by Sean Gannon, Team Lead, Research Agreements, Ministry of Health, who provided some initial feedback and noted areas that required further clarification. The application was revised to address these concerns. It is anticipated that once the application is formally submitted, the Ministry will do a much more thorough review and this will likely lead to more questions and further requests for clarification.

The application is now undergoing a final review by the Research and Outcomes Evaluation Committee and will then be submitted to the Research Ethics Board for review. Following the ethics review, it will be submitted to the Ministry of Health, along with a cover letter from the VPs of Population Oncology and Cancer Care at the BCCA. This application process will be completed by the end of the year.

Acknowledgement was given to Chrystal Palaty, who coordinated this effort and compiled much of the information, and to Colleen McGahan, who contributed significantly to this document, as well as to everyone who has helped in the preparation of this application.

### **3g. CPAC Synoptic Reporting Project (WebSMR Pilot Project)**

Dr. C. Brown provided an update on the status of the CPAC synoptic reporting initiative in BC. A planning meeting was held on July 30, 2008 with 30 participants, including Dr. Walley Temple and Evangeline Tamano, CPAC national operational leaders, and Vancouver Coastal Health and PHSA representatives from surgery, IM/IT, health records, privacy and security, and risk management staff from BCCA, Vancouver General Hospital and St. Paul's Hospital. A couple of key stumbling blocks to implementing WebSMR were discussed, including integration with hospital ADT systems and identification of sustainable funding for the software system when CPAC funding ends.

In August and September there were additional meetings involving the Surgical Oncology Network and IM/IT and senior staff at the PHSA and VCH regarding the synoptic reporting project for breast, colorectal and ovarian cancer surgeries in BC. There was consensus that WebSMR implementation before the end of March 2009 was not feasible and that further work was required to prepare for synoptic reporting implementation in BC, even in a pilot format. In addition, there are simultaneous projects/proposals for cancer staging, pathology and operative reporting that significantly overlap.

There is agreement that these undertakings should be consistent with the following principles:

- An integrated web-based system for staging, pathology, imaging and surgery.

- Ease of integration with the Health Authorities' IT platforms – must interact with hospital ADT systems
- Scaleable
- Easy to maintain and upgrade over time
- Sustainable
- Maximises synergies across a range of synoptic reporting capabilities
- Translates into an "intelligent" information resource for staging
- Flexible data entry
- Ease of adapting the format to capture a defined "minimal data set"

On September 25, 2008, Dr. Brown informed CPAC that further evaluation of WebSMR and other synoptic reporting options was required in BC before proceeding with implementation, and that in accordance with PHSA and VCH policies and procedures, a workflow analysis, solution concept/strategy and project charter needed to be completed. This process would take four to six months, which would position synoptic reporting as a priority project for the 2009-10 fiscal year. It was hoped that CPAC funding would support this process. C. Brown also noted that BC intended to proceed with working on the national minimal dataset for colorectal, ovarian and breast cancer surgeries.

Dr. Temple subsequently informed Dr. Brown by phone that unless the SON was committed to WebSMR and did not consider any alternative synoptic reporting tool, CPAC would not fund BC. Dr. Brown reiterated that we are required to ensure due consideration of all possible vendors when spending public funds, and that while WebSMR was a strong contender, we could not guarantee the outcome of this process.

Several requests have been made to Dr. Temple to receive a formal letter confirming withdrawal of CPAC funding from the synoptic operative reporting initiative in BC, including the reasons for the exclusion from the national project. Dr. Temple has confirmed that a letter will be forthcoming.

The SON remains an enthusiastic proponent of synoptic reporting and will continue to advance the minimum data sets in colorectal, breast and ovarian cancer surgeries.

#### **4. New Business**

##### **4a. Rectal Cancer Update**

R. Cheifetz reported on the Rectal Cancer Fall Update held October 24-25, 2008. There were 46 registered participants and 12 speakers. According to the evaluation forms, the course was rated overall at 4.67 on a scale of 1-5 with 5 being excellent. All participants reported that the course satisfied their expectations, allowed sufficient time for participation, met stated objectives, and found it to be relevant to their current practice. As a result of this conference, 98% of attendees indicated that they plan to continue discussion with colleagues and 90% reported that this information will change their practice performance. Speakers were rated highly, with all speakers receiving ratings of above average or excellent on measures of clarity and relevance.

It was noted that there was a low turnout of surgeons from Vancouver General Hospital and that no UBC residents attended.

##### **4b. Annual Council Meeting**

The Council Executive discussed the timing of the next Annual Council Meeting. Due to scheduling conflicts in January, the date for the Annual Council Meeting will be Friday February 27, 2009. Details on the location and agenda will be circulated in January.

**4c. Next Council Executive Meeting**

The next meeting of the Council Executive will be held **Wednesday, April 8, 2009 4:00-5:30 pm in the 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Boardroom of the Fairmont Medical Building at 750 W. Broadway.**

**4d. 7th National Community Cancer Control Summit**

The 7th National Community Cancer Control Summit will be hosted by Northern Health June 11-13, 2009 in Prince George, and presented by the Canadian Association of Provincial Cancer Agencies (CAPCA), with support from the BC Cancer Agency and the BC Cancer Foundation. The theme for the Summit is “Innovative Solutions for Rural & Remote Cancer Control Issues” (plus Aboriginal). Details on the Summit are available online at [www.cancersummit.ca](http://www.cancersummit.ca)

The conference planners are gathering input with how groups may wish to participate in the June 2009 Summit. Please send your ideas and feedback regarding surgical oncology to Yasmin Miller at [ymiller@bccancer.bc.ca](mailto:ymiller@bccancer.bc.ca) and to Heena Vadgama at [hvadgama@bccancer.bc.ca](mailto:hvadgama@bccancer.bc.ca)