



Sociobehavioural Oncology CONNECTIONS

The Newsletter of BCCA's Cancer Rehabilitation Network

Winter 2006 - Issue 4

Connecting Brain Cancer Patients with Rehabilitation Services

By: Maureen Parkinson, MEd, CCRC - Vocational Rehabilitation Counsellor, Patient and Family Counselling Services, BCCA Lower Mainland Cancer Centres

Coping with a malignant brain tumour is a difficult experience for patients, families and their caregivers. Not only do they need to deal with a serious cancer diagnosis, but the brain tumour and its treatment have the potential to cause brain injury, resulting in functional disability. Some of these impairments can be improved with rehabilitation, but referral to acquired brain injury rehabilitation programs is not always offered or available.

Given the seriousness of malignant brain tumour diagnosis, there is some question as to whether or not current rehabilitation services provide the best treatment for the unique challenges of these cancer patients. Clinicians and researchers at the BC Cancer Agency, including Radiation Oncologist Dr.



Left to right: Rosemary Cashman, Maureen Parkinson & Dr. Michael McKenzie

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Newsletter FOCUS

Research in Practice

Share information and resources on research and clinical innovations.

Connect researchers, clinicians and administrators from across the country.

Build understanding about the sociobehavioural dimension of cancer.

Inside This Issue

1. A new SRC study on health care interpreters
2. The 2006 Cancer Rehabilitation Conference
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Mapping Our Future: Psychosocial Oncology at the 2005 BCCA Annual Cancer Conference

By: Dr. Glynis Marks, Ph.D., RPsych - Community Education Counsellor, BCCA Lower Mainland Cancer Centres

More than 70 participants at the BCCA Annual Cancer Conference joined in a session facilitated by Researcher and Clinical Practitioner Dr. Joanne Stephen to discuss and map out the future of psychosocial oncology care in BC. A variety of agencies and services throughout the province were represented including: counsellors, psychologists, nutritionists, oncologists, nurses, radiation therapists, researchers, and students. The participants identified numerous activities and initiatives that have been successful in meeting the psychosocial needs of cancer patients and families, but also recognized a number of challenges to the provision of good psychosocial care. These included:

- Inadequate levels of dedicated psychosocial support services in community hospitals and oncology clinics
- Limited information about the psychosocial oncology resources available in each community
- Inadequate psychosocial support for cancer patients and families once medical treatment is concluded
- Lack of information and educational materials about psychosocial issues throughout the clinical course of cancer

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Connecting Brain Cancer Patients continued from page 1

Michael McKenzie, Rehabilitation Counsellor Maureen Parkinson, Researcher & Clinical Practitioner Dr. Joanne Stephen, PFCS Regional Practice Leader Gina MacKenzie, and Advance Practice Nurse Rosemary Cashman, have combined forces with a team at G.F. Strong consisting of physiatrist Dr. Jennifer Yao, psychologist Dr. Maribeth Ruckman, and occupational therapist Jane Millard. Together they are currently studying the exceptional rehabilitation needs of the malignant tumour population and how they can better serve these patients and their caregivers.

The BCCA has an important and valued partnership with G. F. Strong. GF Strong's acceptance of BCCA patient referrals has resulted in significantly improving patient's quality of life. The two organizations promote education for staff and patients through workshops, have jointly developed a brochure to encourage patients to request rehabilitation services, co-authored newsletter articles regarding rehabilitation needs for the National Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada, and collaborate on research initiatives. The current study will enhance the partnership with G.F. Strong and help to determine what rehabilitative interventions and services might further support our malignant brain tumour patients and their care providers at the BCCA centres and in their communities.

For more information about rehabilitation services for brain cancer patients or the research study contact Maureen Parkinson at mparkins@bccancer.bc.ca or Joanne at jstephen@bccancer.bc.ca



AMSSA's Multicultural Health Fair 2006: Promoting Healthy Living

*** Free Event Admission *
Saturday February 18, 2006**

11:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Collingwood Neighbourhood House
5288 Joyce Street, Vancouver, B.C.

For more information visit
www.amssa.org/healthfair2006/
or call (604) 718 - 2776.



Introducing...

Sonia Susin, Research Project Assistant. Sonia has replaced Merissa Myles as the Research Project Assistant at the BCCA Cancer Rehabilitation Network and Sociobehavioural Research Centre. A recent graduate of Simon Fraser University, she has a joint BA in Sociology and Anthropology with certificates in Ethnic and Intercultural Relations and Liberal Arts. Sonia also has experience in the health sector working as a Medical Office Assistant.

Dr. Lian Chiu, Research Consultant. Lian came on board as a Research Assistant at the BCCA Sociobehavioural Research Centre in October of last year, and in January 2006 moved to the position of Research Consultant. She brings many years of experience as a registered nurse, researcher, and professor of nursing and public health in health policy and management. Lian's research interests are in health finance in relation to chronic illnesses and treatment models for drug abuse.

Saying Goodbye...



Merissa Myles, former Research Project Assistant. Merissa left the BCCA Cancer Rehabilitation Network and Sociobehavioural Research Centre as a Research Project Assistant in September 2005, moving on to a new communications position with the YMCA. We thank Merissa for all her great work and wish her all the best in her new endeavors!

Kathleen O'Connor, former Research Assistant. Kathleen joined the BCCA Sociobehavioural Research Centre late in 2005, and as a newcomer spent the last few months of the year primarily helping with the New Emerging Team's (NET) activities in Palliative and End of Life Care. From assisting in the coordination of grant proposals and LOI's to cataloguing the NET library, she supported the network in all of its activities. We thank Kathleen for all her hard work and her contagious smile, and wish her success in her new position as an exercise physiologist in a new program for cancer patients in Salt Lake City, Utah.



A New Study Understanding the Current Practice of Health Care Interpreting

SRC Researcher and Epidemiologist Dr. Maria Cristina Barroetavena is working in collaboration with Dr. Susan Cadell from Social Work & Family Studies at UBC, and PFCS Lower Mainland Practice Leader Gina MacKenzie in partnership with PHSA, PLS, Fraser Health Authority and Vancouver Coastal Health Authority to learn more about health care interpreters' experiences in cancer care encounters. The proposed study was prompted by the need to understand the challenges that certified health care interpreters face in interpreting sessions at the BC Cancer Agency. With funding from SSHRC medical consultations at the BCCA cancer centres involving patients, health care providers and Punjabi, Cantonese, and Mandarin speaking interpreters will be videotaped and then reviewed and analysed by the interpreters and researchers. The researchers hope the study will help to enhance the standards of practice for health care interpreting in B.C. and Canada.

Mapping our Future continued from page 1...



Conference participants listen in on a session presentation.

NEWS FLASH!

Cancer Rehabilitation Conference 2006 *Survivorship: Moving Forward After Treatment*

WHAT: The Second International Cancer Rehabilitation Conference 2006 "Survivorship: Moving Forward After Treatment"

WHEN: Thursday March 30th through to Saturday April 1st, 2006

WHERE: Vancouver, BC at the Westin Bayshore Resort and Marina.

WHY: To provide a forum for discussion of current research programs and best evidence in cancer rehabilitation with a focus on addressing the physical, psychosocial and spiritual impact on an individual's life after cancer treatment.

FOR WHOM: Health care providers, social workers, and individuals living with cancer and their families.

SCHOLARSHIPS: A scholarship program has been established for a limited number of individuals living with cancer to pay for registration fees. To apply write a letter of application with a completed registration form to the below address no later than February 10, 2006.

FOR MORE INFO: www.interprofessional.ubc.ca.

REGISTRATION: Early Bird Registration February 15, 2006
Registration Deadline March 5, 2006

TO REGISTER: www.interprofessional.ubc.ca
T: (604) 822 - 6156 / toll free 1-877-328-7744
F: (604) 822 - 4835

M: Interprofessional Continuing Education,
The University of British Columbia - Room 105,
2194 Health Sciences Mall, Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z3

- Insufficient resources for patients and families from rural or remote communities, specific cultural groups, and vulnerable groups (poor, persons with disabilities)

The most productive and exciting aspect of the discussion was the sharing of ideas to address these challenges. Participants said that increased advocacy is needed to raise funding for dedicated psychosocial support to community hospitals and oncology clinics. Everyone also agreed that a regularly updated list of resources related to psychosocial oncology and palliative care community services should be maintained in communities across B.C. Psychosocial educational materials, networking activities for medical and psychosocial care providers, and use of technology such as telephone and on-line counselling were also noted.

The initiatives arising from these ideas communicated at the session will be shared via the BCCA website as a first step in the process of building a coordinated and collaborative provincial psychosocial network. For further information or to share additional ideas, please contact Glynis Marks at (604) 930-4055 local 4454 or at gmarks@bccancer.bc.ca.

Upcoming Events

Psychosocial Oncology Rounds

Join us from 12pm to 1pm every 2nd Wednesday of the month for lunch time learning. Videolink to all 4 cancer centres. Location TBA. For information on upcoming speakers and topics, contact Diana Hass dhass@bccancer.bc.ca

Oncology Nutrition Lunch & Learn

Join us on the 3rd Wednesday of every month for lunch time learning from 12pm to 1pm by teleconference. For information on upcoming speakers and topics, contact Andrea Bowman abowman@bccancer.bc.ca

AMSSA's 2006 Multicultural Health Fair.

Promoting Healthy Living. February 17, 2006 - 11am to 5pm. Collingwood Neighbourhood House, Vancouver, B.C. Free admission. www.amssa.org/healthfair2006/

The 2nd International Cancer Rehabilitation Conference 2006.

Survivorship: Moving Forward After Treatment. March 30 - April 1, 2006. Westin Bayshore Resort and Marina, Vancouver, B.C. www.interprofessional.ubc.ca

CAPO 2006 Conference.

Psychosocial Risks & Consequences Across the Lifespan. May 3 - 6, 2006. Marriott Chateau Champlain, Montreal, Quebec. www.capo.ca

16th Annual Provincial Hospice Palliative Care Conference.

Advancing Leadership in Palliative Care. September 14 & 15, 2006. Winnipeg Convention Centre, Winnipeg, Manitoba. www.chpca.net/

Psychosocial Academy.

Pre-Congress Workshops. October 16 & 17, 2006. University of Ferrara, Ferrara, Italy. www.ipos2006.it

Cancer Rehabilitation Network

BCCA's Cancer Rehabilitation Network coordinates regional cancer centre activities for patient and family counselling, psychiatry, and nutrition services. The Rehabilitation Network also works with host hospitals to provide speech pathology and physiotherapy services. Community activities with practitioners are provided through the psychosocial oncology and nutrition oncology networks. Translational research is conducted by the Sociobehavioural Research Centre.

Sociobehavioural Research Centre

Working within the Cancer Rehabilitation Network and with community partners, BCCA's Sociobehavioural Research Centre's (SRC) mission is to provide leadership on quality of life issues by generating, disseminating, and facilitating uptake of an evidence-based understanding of cancer patients' physical, psychological, social, cultural, nutritional, informational, spiritual and practical needs.

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Sign up to receive Connections Newsletter in print or PDF format 3 times a year. Send your name, address and subscription request to ssusin@bccancer.bc.ca

More Information

This newsletter is published quarterly. To submit a story idea or to learn more about the Cancer Rehabilitation Network's activities please contact:

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<http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/HPI/NutritionalCare>

Psychosocial Oncology

<http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/PPI/CancerTreatment/SupportCopingwithCancerIntroduction/>