



Sociobehavioural Oncology CONNECTIONS

The Newsletter of BCCA's Cancer Rehabilitation Network

November 2007 - Issue 8



A National Forum on Cancer Care for All Canadians Improving Access & Minimizing Disparities for Vulnerable Populations

Dr. Maria Cristina Barroetavena and the Honourable Wally Oppal, Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Multiculturalism

The National Forum on Cancer Care for all Canadians: Improving Access & Minimizing Disparities for Vulnerable Populations, was held in Vancouver, BC from November 1 – 3, 2007. The purpose of the Forum was to develop an action strategy for improving access to culturally competent quality cancer care for vulnerable or under-served Canadians, which will be forwarded as recommendations to CPAC's Rebalance Focus Action Group (RF-AG).

The Forum brought together a diverse and experienced group of participants including policy makers and advisors, cancer survivors and patient representatives, social workers, community health representatives, students, directors, administrators, managers, nurses, educators, and physicians, with representation from many different cultures and from most regions in Canada.

The Forum, a hybrid between a conference and a working group, offered presentations on the key themes of communities, navigation, cultural competency, language access, research and rural/remote from a variety of keynote and plenary speakers, panelists and abstract presenters. Breakout groups created opportunities for participants to share ideas and resources and to discuss "What Works!" and to identify actions required to move forward. The next step involved the creation and distribution of an executive summary, with the key principals coming out of the meeting, to be followed by a full report which will include descriptions of initiatives in this area and important resources available across Canada. The executive summary is available on the website: www.bccancer.bc.ca/RES/ResearchPrograms/SBR. Watch the web site for the final report and updates of actions from the National Forum.

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

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Eight key principles for addressing Access and Inclusion in the Canadian Cancer System: Results from the National Forum

Forum participants articulated the following 8 key principles for addressing Access and Inclusion in the Canadian Cancer System:

- 1) Cancer care is inherently complex. Every cancer patient deserves an integrated person-centered, supportive and a well coordinated system of care and services.
- 2) Effective navigation strategies are essential to ensure coordination and continuity of care throughout the cancer care continuum. Navigational support must be available for those who need it, and knowledge derived from patient navigation best practices should inform continuous quality improvement within the system.
- 3) Action strategies are needed to address systemic barriers to appropriate quality cancer care and control among persons who are at risk of poorer health outcomes because of systemic unbalances of power and disparity of access. If we envision and build programs with these persons in mind, we will create the kinds of systems that can serve everyone. There are many different examples of persons who are at risk of poorer health outcomes, and the different factors (poverty, rural/remote location, language and cultural barriers, transportation barriers) may intersect and further influence the quality of care.
- 4) Collection of important determinants of health such as demographic, cultural and socioeconomic contextual variables within cancer data bases is essential in order to evaluate the effectiveness of our cancer control system to serve the needs of minority and under-served communities and groups. The ethical and social sensitivities surrounding identifiers must be addressed.
- 5) Current knowledge about poverty, place of residence, language barriers and sociocultural patterns, is sufficient to warrant serious attention toward addressing current disparities in access to cancer prevention, screening and treatment services.
- 6) Cultural competency is a fundamental element of an equitable system of care that is worthy of incorporation as a core value/mission into every public health institution and cancer control strategy, as well as practiced by all members of cancer care systems. The removal of language barriers is an essential part of cultural competence.
- 7) Community partnership is key to success. Appropriate consultation with cultural and patient communities is essential in cancer control strategy decision making processes.
- 8) Across the Canadian cancer care community there are numerous examples of exceptional skill and expertise in addressing the inequities of specific populations. These best practices should form a substantial part of the evidence basis upon which a coordinated sustainable national pan-Canadian strategy is built.

The next step is the generation of a series of action strategies designed: (1) to integrate the issues of diversity and equity as a core value underlying a coordinated cancer system for Canada; (2) to forge meaningful connections, partnerships, networks and best practice resource sharing capacity among and between groups working to address inequities within our cancer system, and (3) to embed attention to diversity issues within the existing leadership structure for implementation of the action plan of the Rebalance Focus Action Group within the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer.

Recommended Resource

The Diversity Tool Box, a valuable resource introduced at the National Forum by Gurwinder Gill of Trillium Healthcare, Ontario. It is for sale to non-profit organizations and contains information on diversity awareness, culture, cultural competency, models and standards, legal issues, promotional materials, service evaluations, cultural practices, community resources. For information on this resource, please contact: Gurwinder Gill Manager, Diversity Services Trillium Health Centre 90 Burnhamthorpe Rd West, Suite 500 Mississauga ON L5B 3C3 905 848 7580 Ex 3640 ggill@thc.on.ca

National Survey on Cancer Care Resources

Please let us know about your local/regional initiatives for under-served populations. Survey at www.bccancer.bc.ca/RES/ResearchPrograms/SBR/News/nationalforum.htm - form needs to be printed and faxed to 604.708.2091

BC Cancer Agency offers innovative support group for men whose partners have advanced cancer

John Christopherson, a clinical counsellor at the BC Cancer Agency, Vancouver Cancer Centre has been offering a support group for men whose partners have advanced cancer. The group meets once a month. "Men tend to be less up-front about their need for comfort and assistance," says Christopherson, "And as a result there is a definite lack of social support systems for men dealing with emotional situations. The BC Cancer Agency's support group for men has proven to be a valuable resource to help them deal with their partner's serious illness and not feel alone." Men who are interested in attending or learning more about the group are encouraged to contact John Christopherson at 604.877.6000 extension 2190.



John Christopherson, MSW

Introducing

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| Kirsten Bell, PhD | Dr. Kirsten Bell is a New Investigator for the NET at the Sociobehavioural Research Centre and a Research Associate in the Anthropology Department at the University of British Columbia. She has training in cultural and medical anthropology and has held academic positions in universities in both Australia and the USA. |
| Melissa Friesen | Melissa Friesen is a Research Assistant for the Cross-Cultural Palliative NET and a Research Project Assistant for the Cancer Rehab/Sociobehavioural Research Centre. She will be joining the SRC team full-time in December 2007 upon completion of her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology at Simon Fraser University. |
| Judith Leong, MD | Dr. Judith Leong is a new Psychiatrist to the Vancouver Cancer Centre, Patient and Family Counselling. |
| Nancy Payer, MSW, RSW | Welcome to Nancy Payeur Regional Professional Practice Leader, Victoria Cancer Centre. Nancy formerly served as Director of Service for Interlock EFAP Corporation since 2002. She has many years of clinical experience working with individuals and families in diverse settings. Nancy's clinical, academic and leadership skills, along with her research interests, will be an asset to our regional and provincial Rehab team. |
| Richa Sharan, MD | Dr. Richa Sharan is a new Psychiatrist to the Fraser Valley Cancer Centre, Patient and Family Counselling. |
| Paul Weaver, MA | Paul is the Research Coordinator for the NET in Palliative Care in a Cross Cultural Context at the Sociobehavioural Research Centre. Paul's research interests include health policy and health system sustainability. |

Farewell

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| Shona Lam, MLIS | Shona Lam, NET Research Assistant |
| Patricia Nelson, MA | Pat Nelson has left her position as Research Coordinator for Palliative Care NET and has a new position as Research Program Manager for the Childhood, Adolescent, and Young Adult Cancer Survivorship Research Program (CAYACS) in Cancer Control Research at the BCCRC. Congratulations Pat! |

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 Angela Bowman abowman@bccancer.bc.ca

5th Annual Conference of the American Psychosocial Oncology Society (APOS) February 28–March 2, 2008 Irvine, CA. Late-breaking abstracts must be submitted using the online abstract submission system, between November 26 and December 10, 2007. www.apos-society.org

Canadian Association of Psychosocial Oncology (CAPO) Conference 2008- Taking Difference into Account: May 7 - 9, 2008 Halifax, Nova Scotia. Abstract Deadline December 1, 2007 Early Bird: March 30, 2008 www.capo.ca/eng/index.asp

International Psycho-Oncology Society (IPOS): The 10th World Congress of Psycho-Oncology: June 9 - 13 2008 Madrid, Spain. Abstract Deadline: January 11, 2008 www.ipos-society.org/ipos2008

Announcement: Patient and Family Counselling are now in active planning for two NEW Online Groups offering support to prostate cancer patients and caregivers. Online groups are expected to begin in late February with enrolment interviewing beginning the end of January. For more information please contact Heather Rennie, Community Education Counsellor North Office, Fraser Valley Cancer Centre (604) 707-5900, ext 4962

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Cross Cultural Palliative Care, NET

www.bccancer.bc.ca/RES/ResearchPrograms/NET

Oncology Nutrition

www.bccancer.bc.ca/HPI/NutritionalCare

Psychosocial Oncology

www.bccancer.bc.ca/PPI/copingwithcancer

Sociobehavioural Research Centre

www.bccancer.bc.ca/RES/ResearchPrograms/SBR



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. Knowledge Translation 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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More Information

To submit a story idea or to learn more about the Cancer Rehabilitation Network's activities please contact:

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