



Sociobehavioural Oncology CONNECTIONS

The Newsletter of BCCA's Cancer Rehabilitation Network

May 2008 - Issue 9

Cross-Cultural Considerations in Promoting Advance Care Planning in Canada



Dr. Andrea Con with Paul Weaver present the Annual Cancer Care Conference Poster

A new report on Advance Care Planning (ACP) reveals that promoting the discussion of death and dying is unappealing but necessary. The report, *Cross-Cultural Considerations in Promoting Advance Care Planning in Canada*, was developed by the CIHR Cross-Cultural Palliative NET Project Team lead by Dr. Andrea Con, Research Investigator for SRC, and Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Health Care and Epidemiology, at UBC. Team members include Pat Nelson, Shona Lam, and Melissa Friesen.

The report aims to increase understanding of the diverse perspectives on death and dying to ensure ACP practices are respectful to individuals and their families from various cultural groups. Report information was gathered from published research materials, and 125 telephone interviews conducted with individuals representing minority groups, Aboriginal groups, and health care professionals. In addition, four focus groups were used to provide greater insight into the views of Chinese and South Asian cultures.

In general, key informants were positive about ACP and were hopeful that it would be implemented so that all Canadians had access to discussing their end-of-life (EOL) wishes. Although, many key informants commented that we are a death-denying society and were unsure how we could make people more comfortable talking about death and dying.

The key informants found that communication, including language barriers, was a common problem. Regarding ACP, the cultural groups suggested that a community leader who could speak the language and also came from the same ethnic background would be the best person to introduce ACP to the group and help it become more readily accepted.

Although the concept of ACP is not new, the process of having the conversation is still in its infancy. For example, there was no consensus as to who would be the best person to introduce the ACP discussion. The next steps will be creating practical guidelines to put ACP into practice while normalizing death and dying. The study was funded by Health Canada and Palliative Care in a Cross-Cultural Context: A NET for Equitable and Quality Cancer Care for Ethnically Diverse Populations. To read the full report: www.bccancer.bc.ca/RES/ResearchPrograms/SBR

Newsletter

Focus

Share information and resources on research and clinical innovations.

Connect researchers, clinicians and administrators from across the country.

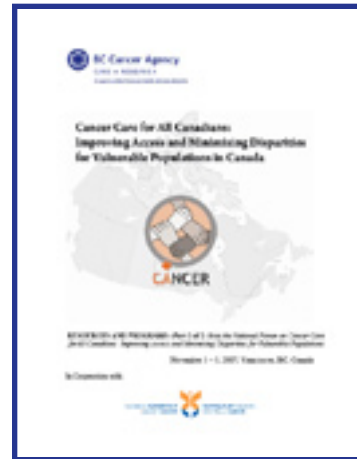
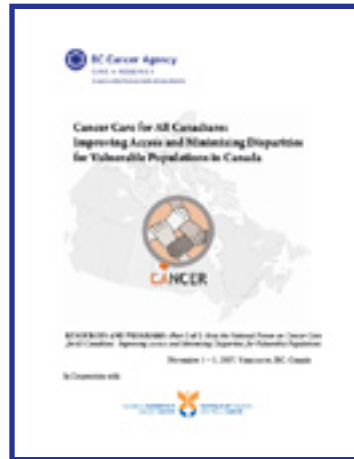
Build understanding about the sociobehavioural dimension of cancer.

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National Forum Final Proceedings Completed

To view the National Forum Final Proceedings on line go to www.bccancer.bc.ca/RES/ResearchPrograms/SBR/News/nationalforum.htm



Recommended Resource ***National Forum Final Proceedings***

In March 2008, a two part National Forum Final Proceedings was completed. The Proceedings began November 2007, Vancouver, BC, at the National Forum on Cancer Care for All Canadians: Improving Access and Minimizing Disparities for Vulnerable Populations. The goals for the Forum were to bring together programs and resources that are working across Canada, to identify actions needed to improve cancer care access, and form a national community of practice for equitable cancer control initiatives. Part One of the proceedings offers a summary of the Forum, including 8 Principals to improving access. Part Two offers Forum Outcomes and Recommendations. These Final Proceedings reflect the Forum objective of recording key insights from presentations, and working group discussions. This report has been designed as a reference tool for improving access in communities across Canada.

The Proceedings Provide

- Key principles developed by participants to guide issues of access, diversity and equity
- A list of critical success factors for moving forward new strategies
- A list of recommendations for actions to inform the Partnership Strategic Planning including “where do we want to be in 1 and 5 years from now”
- A list of recommendations to ensure sustainability of the communities of practice started at the Forum
- A reference tool for programs, initiatives and resources from across Canada

Resources and Programs Provide

- A collection of one page summaries of forum participants’ work
- Themes of the summaries include communities, cultural competency, language access, navigation, research, and rural/remote care
- A list of useful web links and reports

Research using on-line support groups for cancer patients



Karen Flood beside a poster advertising the online Wellness Community

Karen Flood, Shelly Gordon, Glenda Christie, Gregory Huebner, and Heather Rennie are among the first in the country to become trained by the Wellness Community to provide “real-time” support to cancer patients on-line in a group context. Using the Internet to provide counselling is relatively new, and holds great potential to reach those who might not have access to services otherwise.

Karen Flood is the facilitator for a first of its kind study in Canada examining real-time group counselling for young women with breast cancer. The study is a comparison

of Internet Support and Psychoeducation Groups to groups receiving written information on coping skills. Groups are being offered on a continuous intake basis for the next year and half . This study is funded by the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation, and being conducted by Dr. Joanne Stephen and Gina MacKenzie of BCCA, with Dr. Wolfgang Linden, Dr. Arminee Kazanjian, and Dr. Lori Brotto of UBC.

Two demonstration projects are also underway by PFC staff. A pilot group for prostate cancer patients will be launched by Gregory Huebner and another pilot for family caregivers of patients diagnosed with cancer by Heather Rennie this month, funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada.

For more information about these unique on-line groups, please contact Patient and Family Counselling at (604) 930-4000 or (604) 877-6000 extension 2194 or <http://canada.thewellnesscommunity.org>

John Jambour Diversity Seminars

Time: Friday, 12:00 to 1:00 pm
Place: John Jambour Room, First Floor BCCA, 600 W 10th

April 25, 2008

Kiran Malli, *Sensitively Speaking: Ensuring Equitable Access across BC How to work with interpreters*

May 2, 2008

Panel: Sandy Kwong, Jenny Soo, Heather Watson, Min Dumas, *What the BCCA is doing now and what is next? Wish list*

May 23, 2008

Cathy Rayment Deb Rusch Anne Macdonald & Anne McCulloch, *Tools and Resources*

May 30, 2008

Helena Akrigg and Savitri Singh, *The unique cultural needs of Chinese patient at the end of life care and The Patient's View of Respectful Cancer Care*

Introducing

Stewart Deyell, MA

Is a Research Assistant at the BCCA Sociobehavioural Research Centre. Stewart recently completed his Master of Arts in Family Studies/Sociology at the University of British Columbia.

Svetlana Ristovski-Slijepcevic, PhD

Is a new Research Coordinator for the CIHR Team in Supportive Cancer Care at the Sociobehavioural Research Centre. Svetlana's training from the University of British Columbia is in Sociology of Food, Nutrition and Health. Svetlana recently conducted an environmental scan regarding conceptualization, research and practice in cancer survivorship across Canada.

Antoinette Semenya, PhD

Is our new Research Scientist for the Sociobehavioural Research Centre. She received her research training in Social Psychology with a focus on ethnic and cultural relations from the University of Western Ontario.

Lucjan Zielonka, MD, FRCPC

Welcome to Psychiatrist Dr. Lucjan Zielonka BC Cancer Agency - Fraser Valley Centre

Lidia Schuster, MD, FRCPC

Welcome to Psychiatrist Dr. Lidia Schuster, who is providing support at BC Cancer Agency Centre for the Southern Interior

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

The Canadian Association of Psychosocial Oncology (CAPO) 2008 Psychosocial Oncology Conference 7-9 May 2008 in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. capo.ca/eng/index.asp

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

The International Union against Cancer (UICC) 2008 Congress, 27-31 August 2008 in Geneva, Switzerland www.uicc-congress08.org

BC Cancer Agency Annual Cancer Care Conference: Survivorship 20-22 November 2008 Westin Bayshore, Vancouver, BC

American Psychosocial Oncology Society (APOS) 6th Annual Conference, 5-8 February 2009 Charlotte, NC, USA www.apos-society.org

Find Us on the Web



Connections Newsletter

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

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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