

DOC'S DIGEST

July 2008
Volume 6
Page 1

Dear Colleagues,

This is the sixth issue of Docs' Digest, a regular newsletter for IWK Health Centre Medical, Dental, and Scientific Staff (MDSS).

Physicians and Strategy

Several Strategic Plan projects of particular interest to physicians and dentists are proceeding:

- The Physician/Dentist Resource Plan project is developing a new and much streamlined approach to assessing impact of new appointments, an approach to allow the IWK to prioritize its requests for new positions, and a data-base that would facilitate both resource planning and credentialing.
- The Youth Health project is beginning interviews of staff at the IWK and CDHA to provide evidence of the best age for transition between the pediatric and adult systems in each subspecialty, as well as the needs and gaps in youth services in each area of service.
- The Program Leadership Structure project has developed a model describing the responsibilities of clinical and administrative co-leaders, has examined the role of Physician Leaders and is now exploring how clinical programs should be represented at the Operations Committees of each IWK Program, and is working towards short pilots of co-leader groups in each Program. The evaluations from these pilots will provide the basis for implementation of the co-leadership model throughout the Health Centre.

Notwithstanding these projects, I believe there remains a need for more dialogue between physicians, dentists, and leadership at the IWK. Clinicians need to be intimately engaged in IWK's activities and involved with decision-making at every level. Although we are making progress in many areas, there remains much mistrust among medical and dental staff. This mistrust undermines all our efforts to make the IWK the best clinical and academic health centre it can be. So I am asking you to please tell me how we can build trust. . . not what's been done wrong in the past, but what we can do right in the future. Drop into my office, call me, write me, fax me, e-mail me, stop me in the corridor . . . talk to me any way you wish. I look forward to hearing from you.

- Dr. Robin Walker, Vice-President Medicine

Allan Horsburgh Appointed IWK VP & Chief Financial Officer

~Anne McGuire, President & CEO

I am pleased to announce that Allan Horsburgh, CA, has been appointed to the position of Vice President and Chief Financial Officer for the IWK Health Centre.

Allan comes to the IWK from the Nova Scotia Departments of Health, and Health Promotion and Protection, where he served as Chief Financial Officer since 2004. At the Department of Health, he played a lead role in managing healthcare business issues and worked with health sector and government officials at all levels.

Amendment to Smoke-free Places Act Prohibits Smoking in Motor Vehicles

~Public Relations

The IWK Health Centre applauds the Nova Scotia Government for taking additional steps to ensure the health and well-being of children and youth by amending the Smoke-free Places Act.

Effective **April 1, 2008**, the amendment prohibits smoking in a motor vehicle with passengers under the age of 19.

This legislation is binding regardless of whether any window, sunroof, cartop, door, or other feature of the vehicle is open.

If you receive the newsletter by email, click the links in the text, which will take you to PULSE. If you receive this by fax or mail, you can click the new "Docs' Digest" button located in the bottom right-hand corner on PULSE. If you do not have access to PULSE, you can also find "Docs' Digest" on our website www.iwk.nshealth.ca located under the "Health Professionals" section. From time to time, you will also see Docs' Digest Bulletins, which I will send to you if there is a news item that is time-sensitive, or of particular importance.

IWK Statement on All-terrain Vehicle Youth Initiative

~ Public Relations

The following media release was issued to all Nova Scotia media by the IWK June 19th:

The IWK Health Centre would like to remind Nova Scotia parents of children under 16 years of age that their children should not operate all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) under any circumstances.

While we commend the Nova Scotia Department of Health Promotion and Protection for recognizing the importance of safety, we do not support the approach through the All Terrain Vehicle Youth Initiative, and we implore all parents of children under the age of 16 to prohibit their children from using an ATV.

The IWK leadership team, our Board of Directors, the IWK's Child Safety Link program, and the IWK Trauma Care program, were strong advocates for change during the all-terrain vehicle debate that led to new legislation in April of 2006 outlining ATV use restrictions for children under the age of 14. However, there is still a need for legislation protecting all children under the age of 16 from the dangers of ATVs.

"ATVs are heavy, motorized vehicles requiring adult skills and judgment which have a high risk of severe injury when used as recreational vehicles," says Dr. Robin Walker, Vice President, Medicine at the IWK Health Centre. "Like all other motor vehicles, ATVs are not toys, and should not be operated by children under the age of 16. Sadly, a child who is injured as a result of riding an ATV may never reach their full potential."

There is no evidence that operating smaller all-terrain vehicles results in a significant enough reduction in the risk of injury. The US Consumer Product Safety Commission's All Terrain Vehicle 2001 Injury and Exposure Studies indicated that:

- The risk of injury per driving hour for a driver less than 16 years of age is reduced by only 18% when driving a <90cc engine machine compared to operating a vehicle over 200cc.
- The risk of injury to a child on a smaller vehicle is still almost twice that of an older driver on a larger machine (78% greater).
- The risk of injury to a driver less than 16 years old, operating a smaller machine, is five times higher than the risk to an older driver on the same sized machine.

Once again, the IWK reminds parents that the best way to ensure the safety of their children under 16 years of age is not to invest in a smaller ATV. Rather, the best way to ensure our children's safety is to ensure they are not using ATVs at all.

The IWK's Family Information Booklet - Now available in three languages!

~Public Relations

The IWK Health Centre is pleased to announce that its newly updated Family Information Booklet is now available to patients and families in three languages – English, French and Arabic!

The Family Information Booklet contains information for IWK patients, families and friends. It is an excellent resource for anyone who is using or will be using the services of the Health Centre.

You can view and print the booklet in English, French and Arabic by visiting Public Relations in the Departments/Services section on Pulse. It is also available for patients, families and the public on the *Your Visit* section on the IWK website at www.iwk.nshealth.ca.

Update on AboutKidsHealth partnership

As you may have heard, the IWK has been working with a team at Sick Kids to make their patient education website, called AboutKidsHealth, available via the IWK website. The goal was to package the site's generic education information so that it appears as part of the IWK website. When entering into the partnership, the providers of the site advised that the information available would be generic practical information and education materials for families, but not refer to treatment specifics or locations.

Unfortunately, some of the material that was made available on the site when it launched on June 26th included references to Sick Kids as the treatment centre. This is not appropriate, and for now the link is down; however, Public Relations is working with the AboutKidsHealth team to revise the partnership to remedy these challenges.

As this process unfolds and in advance of reinstating this component on the IWK website, Public Relations will be in touch with representatives from appropriate groups across the Health Centre.

Research Nugget

-Dr. Pat McGrath, VP Research

IWK Celebration of Research Excellence

Research Services at the IWK hosted a celebration of research excellence Monday, June 2nd at the Discovery Centre. Patrick McGrath, VP Research, welcomed six new researchers to the IWK/Dalhousie community; Ron El-Hawary, Surgery; Ron George, Anaesthesia; Shelly McNeil, Medicine; Shannon Johnson, Psychology; David Westwood, Health & Human Performance and Vicky Veitch Wolfe, Psychology Professional Practice Chief.

Dr. Herb Orlik Reappointed to Key IWK and Dalhousie Role

~Dr. Rpbir Walker, VP Medicine, IWK & Dr. Nicholas Delva, Head Department of Psychiatry, Dalhousie University

The IWK Health Centre and Dalhousie University in Halifax are pleased to announce that Dr. Herb Orlik has been reappointed as Chief of Psychiatry at the IWK and Head of the Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at Dalhousie University for a further 2-year term (July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2010).

For over 20 years Dr. Orlik has been a driving force in the Maritimes when it comes to the mental health of children and adolescents. He has led the integration of research and teaching in clinical programs such as the Mood Disorders Group, Eating Disorders Service, Tourette's Syndrome and Neuropsychiatry Service, the Attention Deficit Disorder and Psychopharmacology Service, and Pervasive Development Disorder Service. He has also pioneered the IWK's telemedicine initiative, the mental health care that families are faced with when they live in remote communities. Through the use of telehealth service Dr. Orlik is able to use video conferencing to assess individual patients, conduct case conferences with families and other health care providers, and to teach health care professionals without them having to leave the community that they live in. Dr. Orlik continues to develop our next generation of specialists by sharing his knowledge and expertise as an instructor in all years of the undergraduate medical program and through the supervision of residents.

The future of the IWK Health Centre and Dalhousie University, in partnership with Dr. Orlik, will prove to be exciting and ground breaking. Please join us in congratulating Dr. Orlik on this appointment.

Wave 3 of Strategic Plan Postponed Until Fall

~ Change Management Office

The Wave 3 Projects associated with the Strategic Plan, originally scheduled to be launched this spring, will be postponed until the fall. The Executive Leadership Team acknowledges the vast number of competing priorities and demands that everyone is facing, and has decided that it is best to move this launch date. The projects associated with Wave 3 are:

1. Family Centred Care Model
2. Align Clinical Services with Vision/Mission
3. Talent Management
4. Revenue Generation Plan
5. Teaching Support and Recognition.

Currently Wave 1 and Wave 2 Projects are underway with ten projects in Wave 1 and nine projects in Wave 2. The Project Teams meet regularly to move their projects forward and provide biweekly updates to the Change Management Office which are posted under the Strategic Plan icon on PULSE. We encourage you to visit PULSE to review the latest updates.

In addition, visit the iWave, a six-panel communications tool that is updated monthly and placed throughout the Health Centre. It is currently located in the Gallery of the Dr. Richard B. Goldbloom Research and Clinical Care Pavilion.

Stay tuned for the launch date in the fall!

American Pain Society honours Dr. Allen Finley

~IWK Public Relations

(from dalnews.dal.ca -- <http://dalnews.dal.ca/2008/06/03/kudos-pain.html>)

Kudos Dr. Allen Finley!

The American Pain Society (APS) recently honoured Halifax pain researcher and physician Allen Finley for his global efforts to end children's pain. The society presented Dr. Finley with the Jeffrey Lawson Award for Advocacy in Children's Pain Relief at its annual meeting in Tampa, Florida in May.

"During his career, Allen Finley has been a passionate advocate for effective care for children with acute and chronic pain," said APS President Judith Paice, PhD, RN. "His achievements deserve our recognition."

A pediatric anesthesiologist at the IWK Health Centre and professor at Dalhousie Medical School, Dr. Finley has worked for years to spread the message that children's pain is real, that it matters, and that it can be measured and treated. "Many people used to think babies and young children don't feel pain as much as older children and adults," explains Dr. Finley. "Now we know that even the youngest children feel pain just as intensely as anyone else; adults just haven't known how to identify or assess their pain."

Over the past 15 years, Dr. Finley has published more than 80 papers in peer-reviewed journals, co-written textbooks now available in at least a dozen languages, and delivered some 160 lectures on childhood pain, on six continents. He founded the PEDIATRIC-PAIN e-mail discussion forum, bringing together pain researchers and clinicians from 40 over countries. As current president of the International Association for the Study of Pain's 'Special Interest Group on Pain in Childhood,' he has mobilized colleagues around the world to address children's pain in developing nations.

"Children's pain is a huge challenge around the world," Dr. Finley says, in part because 80 per cent of the world's children live in developing nations, where they are subject to the same pains as children in wealthier nations, plus pain from malaria, HIV/AIDS, late diagnosis of cancer, and injuries caused by war, terrorism and natural disasters. "Regardless of location or cause, untreated childhood pain can hinder development, alter the nervous system, and raise the risk of chronic pain later in life," he says.

Dr. Finley has worked with hospitals across Canada and around the world to set up Pediatric pain management programs – most recently in a children's cancer unit in Amman, Jordan. Now he is working with Khon Kaen University to study how children's pain is understood and managed in rural Thailand, with a \$960,000 Teasdale-Corti Team Grant from the Global Health Research Initiative Program. "We will develop, implement, test and refine new pain management policies and professional education programs," says Dr. Finley, who is planning similar projects with colleagues in China and Brazil. "My focus is on developing clinical services and the professional expertise and capacity to sustain

Dr. Stan Kutcher Receives Doctors Nova Scotia Physician Health Promotion Award

~Public Relations

Dr. Stan Kutcher, Sun Life Financial Chair in Adolescent Mental Health, was one of nine recipients of this year's Doctors Nova Scotia Physician Health Promotion Award, which was presented on June 7, 2008 at the Doctors Nova Scotia Annual Conference. This award is given to a physician who has made an outstanding contribution to health promotion, safety and preventative care among Nova Scotians.

Dr. Kutcher is an internationally-renowned expert in adolescent mental health and a national and international leader in mental health research, advocacy, training, policy and health services innovation.