

# RESPIRATORY HEALTH STRATEGIC CLINICAL NETWORK™

September 2016

## Mission:

**“The Respiratory Health Strategic Clinical Network (RHSCN) will facilitate optimal respiratory health through implementation of innovative, patient-centered, evidence-informed and coordinated services.”**

**“It was not just his journey, it was our journey.” [on her husband, Dave’s battle with Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis]**

**—Darlene, Family Advisor  
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**“Along with increased focus on prevention, more coordinated chronic disease management could reap amazing rewards for our patients and healthcare system.”**

**—Connie Kadey,  
Asthma Working Group Member (page**

## A Message from RHSCN Leadership

Back to School, and work!

We trust you all took time to soak up summer’s rays and enjoy outdoor time with family and friends. September is often reflective of ‘back to school’ which is a great time to turn a new leaf and focus on the advantages of a new school year! This is certainly the case for the RHSCN Leadership team. We have spent the past few weeks mapping out our work and planning for the busy Fall season ahead.

We have had many successes over the last couple years and our current challenges include finding a balance between maintaining our gains and finding new and innovative areas of focus. We are happy the ASD recruitment was a success and look forward to hearing more from our Scientific Office as Mike and Heather work collaboratively with our scientific community to set our strategic direction for research and innovation within our SCN.

Of course it goes without saying, our best asset is your active engagement -- so please use this season to connect with us, share your vision for our network and ensure your voice is integrated in our collective work!

**—Dale, Shelley, Jim, Eileen, Mike, Heather,  
Lesly, Tracey and Bailey**

## Dr. Amirav on Asthma Action Plans; The Canadian and Global Perspectives

Dr. Amirav is an Associate Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Alberta, Program Director of the Pediatric Respiriology Residency Training Program and a Staff Respiriologist at the Stollery Children's Hospital. His global experience and success in developing and patenting aerosol devices make him an invaluable member of our Respiratory community. At a presentation to our Asthma Working Group focused on Asthma Action Plans (AAP) this past month, Dr. Amirav addressed the evolution of AAPs, differences between Canadian AAPs and those of other countries; and distinguished the differences between asthma control and AAPs. Showing learnings from around the globe, we learn from others and acknowledge other 'patient focus' approaches globally. To learn more about what the Asthma Working Group is up to, [click here](#).



Dr. Amirav's presentation to the Asthma Working Group, September 13, 2015

### Announcements

We would like to welcome our new Assistant Scientific Director, Heather Sharpe. Heather, PhD RN may be new to this role but not to our Respiratory Health family. She brings with her much experience and we look forward to having her as part of our leadership team.

Please join us in welcoming Heather.

### Clinical Project Support Unit

COPD and Heart Failure are chronic conditions that affect thousands of Albertans. Both diseases may cause extended hospitalizations with gradual worsening of symptoms. The Respiratory Health Strategic Clinical Network has partnered with the Cardiovascular Health SCN to promote better care through the use of standardized admission order sets. These order sets reflect up to date best practice and were created with input from many disciplines from both communities of practice. Order set usage encourages clinicians to adhere to best practice and begin discharge planning early into a

hospitalization. To support this work and ensure successful implementation provincially a joint team of professionals have been brought together to leverage their skill and experience. The Clinical Project Support Team (CPSU) is made up of project managers, knowledge experts and senior clinicians. This unique arrangement of shared support reflects the commitment of the clinical networks to improve the delivery of care and experience for patients suffering from COPD or Heart Failure. Implementation, measurement and support of these orders will involve all zones over the next two years.



Left to Right: Dr. Atul Khullar, Dr. Irv Mayers, Dr. Sachin Pendharkar, Dr. Willis Tsai, Roberta Dubois (SDWG Members)

**DID YOU KNOW?**



**More than 3,000 Albertans die each year as a result of tobacco product use.**



## Sleep Disorders Working Group

Our 24-member Sleep Disorders Working Group (SDWG) has completed new draft Standards for Home Sleep Apnea Testing and updated Standards for in-lab testing (ie. PSG or Level I). Clinicians should watch for an opportunity to participate in a feedback survey about the draft, coming from the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta by early November. Other work in progress focuses on (a) development of an integrated delivery model for specialty and primary care of sleep disordered breathing and (b) development of provincial competencies for non-physician roles in sleep testing. In our next issue, we will share further details about these two projects – including 120 primary health care clinicians’ responses to our recent needs assessment survey. For more details, [click here](#).

## Flu-Shot Season



Executive Director, Respiratory SCN

<10

100%



Flu shots will be provided for staff beginning October 11. Last year 100% of the Respiratory Health SCN rolled up our sleeves - join us! For more information, please contact [WHS](#). Remember that by getting immunized you protect yourself, our patients and your families!

### New guidelines support integrated care



An estimated 30 per cent of Albertans have a chronic condition, which not only impacts their health, but also puts stress on the health system.

A provincewide AHS working group created the Chronic Condition and Disease Prevention and Management guiding principles to minimize these effects, and provide a more integrated approach to chronic conditions.

[Read More](#) +

### New Guidelines Support Integrated Care

Our Respiratory Health SCN is happy to announce that Jim Graham, our Executive Director is on the Chronic Condition and Disease Prevention and Management committee.

The feedback from the Respiratory community has been nothing but positive.

“Hurray! I work across the continuum of care in Respiratory Therapy. Along with increased focus on prevention, more coordinated chronic disease management could reap amazing rewards for our patients and healthcare system. I look forward to seeing the changes and improvements in communication and networking.” - Connie, RRT, Asthma Working Group Member

## Patient Voice: Darlene's Story

Last month we featured 'Dave's Story'. Dave's story was told by his wife, Darlene. This issue we feature Darlene's story. Darlene is a brave wife, mother and grandmother; she also refers to herself as a survivor of pulmonary fibrosis. Until her husband, Dave's passing, Darlene was also his caregiver. Through the journey of caring for her husband, Darlene has a new purpose - to be an advocate and support for patients, family members and caregivers with Pulmonary Fibrosis. We are also fortunate to have her on our RHSCN Core Committee.



Darlene was able to capture her story with assistance from the Engagement and Patient experience department. Please click the play button above to watch her powerful story.

### Your Voice Makes a Difference

Currently, our Scientific Office is completing an Environmental Scan of Respiratory research activity in Alberta. The SCN's areas of focus include COPD, Asthma, Tuberculosis, Cystic Fibrosis, Lung Cancer and Interstitial Lung Disease.

**It is patient stories such as Darlene's above and the impact on their families, that remind us how important this work is.**

Darlene is the founder of the Edmonton Pulmonary Fibrosis Association. The group has had many successes as of late: 1. Became an Association as of April this year 2. Edmonton Mayor, Don Iveson proclaimed September as Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Month in Edmonton 3. September 7, with the assistance of a grant from Boehringer Ingelheim, this group hosted 75 participants at the first Information Forum for those with Pulmonary Fibrosis, their caregivers and family members in Alberta. Next steps for the team are to work on support from the provincial government to declare September as Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness month province wide and hope to spread awareness with their recent membership with the Health Coalition of Alberta.

The Edmonton Pulmonary Fibrosis Association meets the 3rd Tuesday of every month at the Lung Association Office (#208-17420 Stony Plain Road, Edmonton, Alberta). The group has a [Facebook](#) page and a website is soon to be launched.

### Contact Us:



If you wish to learn more, visit our website at:

[Respiratory Health SCN](#)

To become more involved, please contact us via email at:

[RespiratoryHealth.SCN@ahs.ca](mailto:RespiratoryHealth.SCN@ahs.ca) or

telephone via:

**Jim Graham** at 403-943-1391 or

**Bailey Jacobsen** at 403-910-1603

### Summer Networking



Our network was busy networking over the summer.

Between meetings with primary health care clinics and physicians to recruit for the childhood asthma pathway to phone interviews with adult Albertans with asthma to learn about pharmacy experiences and needs to online surveys for primary health care to gather input about home sleep apnea testing. A big thank you to everyone involved making/answering calls, creating/completing surveys and organizing/attending meetings.