

# Bone and Joint Health SCN™ Newsletter

December 2017

## Celebrating Three Foundational BJH SCN Team Members



**Dr. Don Dick**

As our Senior Medical Director, Don has seen and initiated a major shift in the focus of the BJHSCN. Hip and Knee arthroplasty was the initial focus of the network, with some of the preliminary care pathway development and balanced scorecard work dating back 10 years. As the Provincial Hip and Knee Arthroplasty Program becomes more operational, the focus of the network is increasing shifting to additional musculoskeletal conditions, and to more upstream components of the care continuum. The BJHSCN is fortunate to have had Don as the SMD since the startup of the “original six” (no hockey reference intended) networks. Don was also involved in some provincial, visionary work prior to the networks, including his contributions to the establishment of the Alberta Bone and Joint Health Institute (ABJHI). ABJHI is a highly valued and trusted partner for the BJHSCN, providing data acquisition, analytic and interpretation services, as well as project management functions. Don has brought enthusiasm, a collaborative style, a zest for innovation, political prowess and big picture thinking to his role. The BJHSCN has been a strong beneficiary of his diverse skillset, as his drive and commitment has contributed to securing funds for projects, engaging clinical champions and fostering innovations. Don has influenced a culture of hard questions, hard work and a pleasant work environment (he is a coffee connoisseur)! We wish Don well in his new role- SMD for Improving Health Outcomes Together (IHOT). Fortunately, our paths with Don will continue to cross on initiatives of mutual interest – most notably on the quality dimension of appropriateness.



**Dr. Gordon Arnett**

Gord is also leaving the BJHSCN Core Committee. The self-described “rabble rouser” has been a strong clinical champion for numerous bone and joint health initiatives including the hip and knee working group, core committee and as co-lead of the Province wide Hip & Knee Accreditation review process. In summer 2016, The Alberta Hip and Knee Program was awarded Leading Practice Designation by Accreditation Canada. This *Leading Practice* designation firmly establishes Alberta Health Services as a national leader in the quality, safety and efficiency of hip and knee replacement care! Gord is also appreciated for his long standing informal role of being the “corporate memory” and is remembered, in part, for his story telling abilities and his self-deprecating style of referring to himself as a “simple orthoped”. We know and value that Gord is so much more than simple, we thank you Gord for your time and contributions and wish him a very healthy, somewhat relaxing and extremely enjoyable retirement.



**Jean Miller**

Jean has been a strong patient advisor voice for the Bone & Joint Health SCN. Jean has served the network for many years and in many different capacities. She will continue in her role as PACER, a role that has already provided great insights into patient needs with respect to osteoarthritis. Jean’s advocacy skills have been heard in many different rooms across the province and the country, as she has championed patient engagement at every level of the health system whenever and wherever possible, including to audiences with provincial and federal health ministers. It is slightly easier to say goodbye to Jean knowing that while she will no longer be at our Core Committee meetings, she will still be involved in designing community based osteoarthritis care, patient led research and related topics. Jean has set the standard of patient advisor at an exceedingly high level and we in the BJHSCN are appreciative beneficiaries!

## Engaging the Alberta Researcher Community

Big enough to have impact, small enough to get done.

Many of Alberta researchers recognize that they work in silos – defined by areas of content, expertise, research programs, and institutions. However, there is also recognition that connections – formal and informal - across individual programs and institutions are also critical to ensure Alberta is a robust knowledge production engine that is directly responsive to the health needs of Albertans. More specifically, being proactively prepared to respond to major funding calls, such as the current *PRIHS 4* and *CIHR-SPOR Rewarding Success Grant opportunities*, and providing the right support for junior and young investigators, who are grappling with various demands that are often not aligned in terms of how impact or success influence their academic career development now or in the future.

The BJH SCN Scientific Office aims to function as a facilitator of matching real world problems with doable and impactful solutions. Therefore, working closely with the BJH SCN operations leadership team, we have initiated an engagement exercise to bring together the research community in Alberta in the areas of bone, joint and muscle health. Our first foray was setting up “*Researcher Engagement Sessions*” in October to initiate a discussion with clinical, academic and patient researchers regarding the need for better connections and mechanisms on how to proactively position the on-going research activity in Alberta to be responsive to funding calls.

These initial engagement sessions were held in Calgary (Oct 20, 2017) and Edmonton (Oct 23, 2017). The sessions were attended by 23 researchers from across Alberta who represented a range of content areas; included patient, basic science, and clinical researchers; and, trainees, junior/new investigators, as well as established/senior researchers.

## Outputs of the Engagement Sessions:

Overall, the sessions were well received by the participants and resulted in rich discussions. Key ideas that emerged at the October 2017 BJH SCN Researcher Engagement Sessions:

- Creating and maintaining connection is valued and needed
- There is a need for a mechanism that will provide exposure about the interests of different researchers across the province (e.g. highlighting profiles)
- Mentorship for junior researchers is critical and needed
- Engagement of patient researchers (e.g. Pacers) is highly recommended
- Transparency and opportunity for input as ideas are being shared and developed is critical to build trust
- Learning from the successes derived from initiatives such as the OA Team
- We do not need to re-create the wheel - Creating links between leaders of established groups, networks in Alberta; learning from the successes of initiatives such as the OA Team
- The SCN can function as a facilitator, but also the glue that drives opportunities for connections
- This first step provided an opportunity to initiate a needed discussion and there is interest to continue to dialogue
- Interest in having more information about what the SCN is doing (and how research aligns with it and its priorities)

## Next Steps:

We recognize that these engagement sessions are but a first step and the initiation of a needed dialogue. This has led us to determine that our next step will be to develop a next set of provincial researcher-focused sessions which will be more targeted. We anticipate making announcements

providing details in December 2017 and host these sessions in January/February 2018. **Stay tuned!**

## Engagement Session Attendees

1. Allyson Jones
2. Brenda Leung
3. Derek Emery
4. Doug Gross
5. Emily Bishop
6. Emma Billington
7. Eric Parent
8. Greg Kawchuk
9. Jean Miller
10. Kiran Pohar Manhas
11. Kristine Godziuk
12. Lauren Beaupre
13. Lauren Burt
14. Marlis Sabo
15. Martin Ferguson-Pell
16. Mary Forhan
17. Nadr Jomha
18. Nancy Marlett
19. Reed Ferber
20. Rene Misfeldt
21. Samer Adeeb
22. Sarah Manske
23. Vivan Mushahwar



*May the good times and treasures of the present, become the golden memories of tomorrow. Wishing you lots of joy and happiness over the holiday season and best wishes to you and yours in 2018!*

*The BJH SCN Team*

*Jill, Mel, Dave, Ania, Sheila, Crystal, Violet*

