

Leading Transformational Change

The Cancer Strategic Clinical Network's Core Committee meeting on February 24, 2016 was an in-person session in Calgary that covered a wide range of topics. Here are some meeting highlights:

Welcome to our New Core Committee Members!

We're happy to announce the addition of two new members to our Core Committee:

- **Barb Kathol** - Executive Director of Medicine, Emergency and Allied Health at the Foothills Medical Centre in Calgary
- **Diana Gitzel** - Lead for Nursing Education in the North Zone and the Operational Lead for the Grande Prairie Regional Hospital.



cancer and other areas; while there is no 'one size fits all' method for developing pathways, there is a wealth of information to learn from.

* A clinical care pathway is a multidisciplinary outline of anticipated care, placed in an appropriate timeframe, to help a patient with a specific condition or set of symptoms move progressively through a clinical experience to positive outcomes.

Cancer SCN Seed Funding Competition Updates

2016 Cancer SCN / CancerControl Alberta Seed Grant Competition

The Cancer SCN and CancerControl Alberta have partnered together for a research grant competition that will fund projects aimed at advancing knowledge and informing decision making



around the implementation of [Choosing Wisely Canada's \(2015\) Cancer-specific recommendations](#) or other areas of clinical practice with evidence of:

- Low value and/or harm;
- Frequent use in Canada;
- Potential for reduction;
- Feasible and measurable outcomes; and,
- Relevance to the Canadian context

The overall goal of the competition is to support research:

- With the potential to significantly impact cancer care in Alberta.
- That can be used to secure substantial funding from other AHS, provincial, or national competitions.

A Proposed Breast Cancer Provincial Clinical Care Pathway*

We had the pleasure of welcoming Dr. May Lynn Quan (pictured right) to start our meeting with a presentation about a proposed provincial clinical care pathway* for breast cancer. Dr. Quan is a breast surgical oncologist and health services researcher focusing on quality and delivery of cancer care. She is also an Associate Professor in the Department of Surgery and Oncology, University of Calgary, and is the interim Medical Director and Surgical Lead of the Calgary Breast Health Program.

Key points from the presentation and corresponding discussion were:

- The importance for clinical care pathways to incorporate the input, expertise, experiences and preferences of patients, families, and frontline providers.
- The role of prevention in clinical care pathways related to cancer and other preventable conditions.
- The importance of incorporating lessons learned and recommendations from other clinical pathways specific to

IMPORTANT DATES

March 11, 2016	Applications Due
March 25, 2016	Round 1 Review Complete
April 8, 2016	Round 2 Review Complete
April 19, 2016	Presentation to Core Committee (Edmonton) by invitation only
April 29, 2016	Notification of Awards

For more information about the 2016/2017 Seed Fund Competition please contact melissa.shea-budgell@ahs.ca and/or visit the following website: [2016 Cancer SCN / CancerControl Alberta Seed Grant Competition](#)

Status Update: 2015 Cancer SCN Seed Grant Recipients

Dr. Greg Cairncross – Scientific Director, Cancer Research (pictured below) – shared status updates about the projects awarded seed funding by the Cancer SCN in 2015.

NOVEL 2 – Care Delivery Models in Early Breast Cancer (PI: Edith Pituskin)

In attendance at the meeting were Dr. Edith Pituskin and Krista Rawson (seed fund recipients from 2015), who delivered a progress report presentation about the NOVEL2 project - a two-phase initiative with the following objectives:

- Phase 1** To identify, describe, and compare characteristics of early breast cancer active treatment systemic therapy models in Alberta;
To determine whether the models are associated with differences in clinical and safety outcomes.
- Phase 2** To identify factors associated with utilization of each model.

For more information about the NOVEL2 project please contact Dr. Pituskin via pituskin@ualberta.ca or Krista Rawson via Krista.Rawson@ahs.ca.

Cancer SCN Engagement and Outreach Strategy for 2016

Engagement and outreach is a key area of focus for the Cancer SCN in 2016. To engage our stakeholders and empower our members, we have developed an *Engagement and Outreach Strategy* to help define, execute and evaluate the Cancer SCN's engagement and outreach activities and tactics going forward.

Engagement is a process, not a means to an end. With that in mind, our work streams for engagement and outreach include:



Cancer SCN Website



Written Communications



Core Committee



Leadership Team Activities



Patient Engagement



Research / Science Portfolio

Within each work stream are activities and tactics that the Cancer SCN's Leadership Team, Core Committee, Research / Science Portfolio and Working Groups will execute and evaluate to contribute to our goals of:

- Supporting Clinical Effectiveness Research (AKA Health Services Research)
- Supporting Teams Designing and Implementing Innovative Care

For more information about the Engagement and Outreach activities of the Cancer SCN or to get involved, please contact Angela.Estey@ahs.ca

KEY MESSAGES from the CANCER Strategic Clinical Network CORE COMMITTEE MEETING, February 24, 2016

The topic of Patient Engagement was addressed during the afternoon portion of our meeting, involving presentations and a lot of great group discussion

Alberta's Cancer Provincial Advisory Council

The provincial Cancer Provincial Advisory Council (PAC) is a longstanding example of patient engagement in action at AHS. The PAC is comprised of clinicians, researchers and public members (including patients and families) and provides advice to AHS leadership on service delivery and program design for a province-wide cancer system.

Tricia Antonini, current PAC member and Patient Advisor to the Cancer SCN, provided an overview of the major challenges to Alberta's Cancer system identified by the Cancer PAC members, which included:

- Long Wait Times
- Difficult Transitions of Care
- Limited Access to Patient Navigation
- Lack of Expertise/Tools in Rural Setting
- Lack of Patient Engagement
- Lack of Support (Educational, Financial, Etc)

Engagement and Patient Experience (EPE) and the SCNS

Jessica Lamb, a Senior Advisor from AHS' Engagement and Patient Experience (EPE) team, also joined us to discuss the importance of patient engagement, as well as the results of a recent Patient Engagement Needs Assessment conducted for the SCNs. Emerging themes from the assessment included:

- Providing education and support for patient / family advisors and leadership.
- Being clear about the reason for engagement with advisors and patient and community engagement researchers (or PaCERS).
- Involving patients and family advisors in research activity and hiring of leaders.
- Developing data and measurement checklists.

IMAGINE CITIZENS - Collaborating for Health

IMAGINE is a grassroots initiative that aims to improve the healthcare system by engaging Albertans in the design and delivery of healthcare. IMAGINE was started by a number of concerned citizens working with the support of the O'Brien Institute for Public Health at the University of Calgary.

We were pleased to welcome two members from IMAGINE's Steering Committee – Charlie Fischer and Dr. Gail MacKean – who shared their reasons for starting IMAGINE, and IMAGINE's vision: A health system that is designed, and care that is delivered, in partnership with citizens, achieving the best possible experiences and outcomes for patients.

For more information, visit: www.imaginecitizens.ca



Key Discussion Themes and Proposed Actions

Following the presentations, a large group and breakout discussions were held. Discussion themes included:

- The importance of shifting our mindset from providing care "to patients" to "for patients" to (eventually) "with patients."
- Exploring innovative approaches to engaging patients, families and clinicians about the principles of patient engagement and patient and family centred care (PFCC).

Proposed actions to push the Cancer SCN's patient engagement work forward included:

- Developing a Cancer SCN Patient Engagement Strategy, and corresponding Quality Framework, informed by promising and leading practices.
- Recruiting additional patient and family advisors to the Cancer SCN
- Exploring ways to measure Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROMS).