

Welcome!

Welcome to the first edition of the Maternal Newborn Child & Youth (MNCY) Strategic Clinical Network (SCN) Newsletter!

As with all "first issues," this is a starting block and we look forward to feedback and contributions to shape and improve the way we keep you in the loop!

Please send comments or ideas for upcoming issues to: [Ursula Szulczewski](mailto:Ursula.Szulczewski@albertahealthservices.ca).

MNCY SCN Partners

Take some time to explore some of our strategic partner's websites and the great work they do (just click on the acronyms).



Alberta Children's Hospital Research Institute ([ACHRI](http://www.achri.ca)) for Child and Maternal Health



Women and Children's Health Research Institute ([WCHRI](http://www.wchri.ca))

PRIHS Guidelines Available for 2015/2016...

Alberta Innovates Health Solutions announces the 2015/2016 Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Health System (PRIHS) competition. [Click here](#) for more information.

More detailed information on the application process, eligibility & objectives can be found in the [PRIHS Program Guide 2015/2016](#).

MNCY SCN makes 11...

After a great deal of anticipation and excitement, the newest addition to the AHS Strategic Clinical Network family arrived safely on March 19, 2015 and is the eleventh Strategic Clinical Network now in operation.

An SCN Orientation on the morning of Thursday, March 19, 2015 kicked off the new network. The inaugural MNCY Core Committee Meeting was held in the afternoon. The first order of business was to identify what was most important to the members and set the stage for future work- this is what they said:

1. Develop and recommend **standards of**

2. Utilize **research and data** to identify **risks** for each population subset and drive **outcome based initiatives**
3. Develop a coordinated approach to guide the health care **journey of the medically complex child**
4. Enhance **knowledge transfer** and support **expertise and competency development** of health care providers
5. Recommend models of care to support rural access and **sustainability**
6. **Partner** with other SCNs and support partners

7. Implement **health promotion, illness prevention** strategies
8. Address **First Nation disparities**
9. **Provide a voice** for patients and families

Along with the above goals, the mandate of the MNCY SCN is to deliver high-quality, innovative health care that is based on evidence, centered on patients, accessible within the optimal timeframe, and sustainable by taxpayers. Since not everything can be tackled at once, the core committee is now in the process of establishing priorities.

The MNCY SCN Team:

- [Allison Bichel](#), Senior Provincial Director
- [Dr. David Johnson](#), Senior Medical Director
- [Debbie Leitch](#), Executive Director
- [Dr. Suzanne Tough](#), Scientific Director
- [Dr. Seija Kromm](#), Assistant Scientific Director
- [Ursula Szulczewski](#), Manager
- [Alison Nelson](#), Senior Consultant
- [Anita Lal](#), Executive Assistant- Provincial Director
- [Erika Helmersen](#), Administrative Assistant- Medical Director



Farewell to Bretta Maloff!

It is with mixed emotion that we say goodbye to our colleague, friend and mentor. After devoting 41 years to a fulfilling career in healthcare, Bretta has decided to retire. Bretta's most recent role with Alberta Health Services was as the Senior Provincial Director of the Diabetes Obesity & Nutrition and the Maternal Newborn Child & Youth – Strategic Clinical Networks. With her passion and tenacity, her last piece of work was accomplished; the network had a successful launch in March of this year



Bretta's final months with AHS, had her diligently working on ensuring that the MNCY Strategic Clinical Network was up and running before her exit at the end of June 2015.

Bretta, as you move onto the next amazing chapter of your life, know that our very best thoughts and wishes go with you! Best wishes for a happy retirement!

MNCY Announcements

Senior Provincial Director, MNCY SCN

Allison Bichel has been appointed to the position of Senior Provincial Director, Addiction & Mental Health and Maternal, Newborn, Child & Youth, Strategic Clinical Networks effective June 1, 2015.

Allison has 20 years of experience in health care and consulting services. Prior to this appointment, Allison was the Executive Director for the Provincial Access Team.

Allison will be responsible for leading the work of the Addiction & Mental Health and Maternal, Newborn, Child & Youth, Strategic Clinical Networks. Allison will be located in Calgary.

Assistant Scientific Director, MNCY SCN

Dr. Seija Kromm assumed the role of Assistant Scientific Director effective June 1, 2015. Seija holds a PhD in Health Services Research from the Institute of Health Policy, Management & Evaluation from the University of Toronto.

Seija brings to her new role expertise in health economics, health policy analysis, and evaluation.

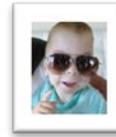
Seija will be responsible for developing, implementing, and evaluating research for the MNCY Strategic Clinical Network. She will be based in Edmonton.

Patients and family are part of the network

None of the work the SCNs commit to can be properly executed without the input and feedback of our patients. MNCY SCN is fortunate to have **Lia Lousier** as one of our Patient Advisors.

Lia is the proud Mom of three amazing children. However, life changed dramatically with the birth of her third child, Braedon (or better known as Mr. B.) in 2011. Mr. B has endured being born at 32 weeks, surviving heart

surgery at 22 days old and then fighting for his life again as Sepsis and Meningitis kicked in... and, this was only his first two months of life. Learn more about Mr. B by clicking on his picture to watch a brief video:



Lia's eyes were truly opened for the first time

about life (and lives) in the world of NICUs, PICUs and the Alberta Children's Hospital.

When Lia was introduced to the idea of the Strategic Clinical Networks, she was excited to be a voice, one for many, to help shape and conduct change in Alberta. Lia's hope is to assist in the guidance of change in child and family centered care in our province.

Asthma Education for Children

The Maternal Newborn Child & Youth SCN participated in a Health Economics course offered for the SCNs by Drs. Braden Manns and Fiona Clement from the University of Calgary, as well as a number of other faculty members serving as health economics mentors from the University of Calgary and the Institute of Health Economics.

Dr. Gillian Currie and Dr. Karen Kam served as mentors for a joint project between MNCY and Respiratory Health SCN. They looked at the cost-effectiveness of asthma education for children. Dr. Maria Ospina, Assistant Scientific Director of the Respiratory Health SCN, took the lead on this course project work with analytic support from Xioaming Wang.

Asthma is one of the most common chronic conditions in childhood affecting at least 13%* of Canadian children. Uncontrolled asthma is the leading cause of school absenteeism, and a major driver of hospitalizations and emergency department visits of children in Alberta.

Evidence-based asthma guidelines recommend education as an essential component of disease management to reduce ED visits and hospital admissions. There are a variety of approaches to asthma education. The cost-effectiveness of asthma education generically is unknown, and examining this was the focus of the project for the SCN health economics course.

A model was developed using estimates on effectiveness of asthma education, costs and quality of life from the literature to look at the cost-effectiveness over the course of a one year time horizon. The hypothetical model showed that there is potential for asthma education to be both cost saving and to improve quality of life. This model structure could provide a useful framework in further developing more specific evaluations of asthma education programs using locally relevant data.

*(Statistics Canada, Garner R, Kohen D. Changes in the prevalence of childhood asthma. Health Reports, 2008; catalogue 82-003-X); "uncontrolled asthmas is the leading cause of..." (<http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/7910.asp>)



If you would like to learn more about MNCY SCN feel free to contact any of the Team Members listed about or send the Network an email (click on the envelope to the left) with your comments and questions... we look forward to hearing from you!