



SIMCOE MUSKOKA REGIONAL CANCER PROGRAM e-newsletter

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Message From the Regional Vice President



I have been privileged to lead the team of the Simcoe Muskoka Regional Cancer Centre for almost two years. It has been an incredibly rewarding experience with the completion and opening of the new cancer centre. But what has impressed me more is the extremely talented team of professionals across that region that are committed to providing the best, highest quality cancer care for our communities.

I have also been touched by the personal stories that are used to drive improvement in our program. These experiences with cancer often focus on the difficult journeys but often end with a message about the strength of the human spirit in living with and beyond cancer.

The entire team of professionals working in cancer care across the region are committed to doing whatever we can to make every encounter with our staff the best it can be for patients and their families. Every day we strive to "Make each life better. Together".

I am proud to report that the first ever Simcoe Muskoka Regional Cancer Plan is in production and will be ready for launch in early November. I believe that it is an exceptional plan, responsive to Cancer Care Ontario's strategic plan and aligned with Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre's Strategic Plan. It is the result of over eight months of visioning, planning and consultation with patients, families, doctors, nurses, other healthcare professionals, volunteers and partners throughout our region.

Right now we are poised to become a consistently top performing cancer program. We have the team, we have the infrastructure and now we have the PLAN. The regional goals and clear action plans provide the focus for our efforts over the next three years. Delivery on these goals is our promise to you – our patients, providers and partner organizations. Together, we are committed to exceeding patient and family expectations.

*Lindsey Crawford
Regional Vice President*

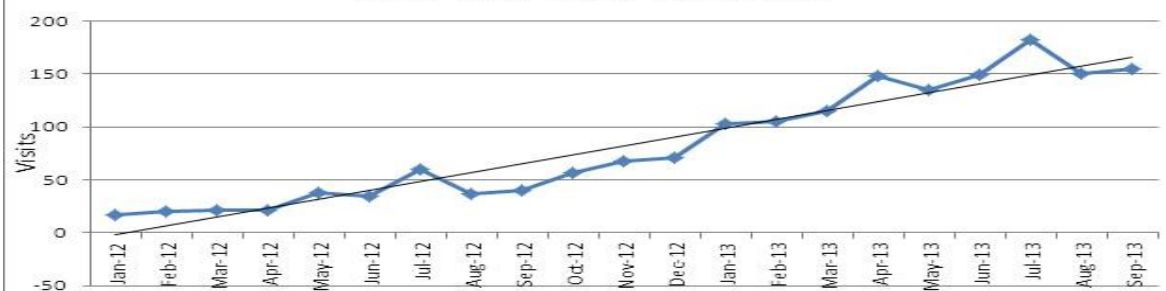
OTN Take Off in the Regional Cancer Program

Ontario Telemedicine Network's (OTN) mission is to develop and support telemedicine solutions that enhance access and quality of health care in Ontario, and inspire adoption by health care providers, organizations, and the public. This vision is helping to transform cancer services in our Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) and help achieve care close to home for patients in the Simcoe Muskoka Regional Cancer Program.

Medical Oncologists and Nurses use OTN to connect by videoconference to satellite clinics located in Orillia, Collingwood, Bracebridge, Huntsville, Midland and Parry Sound. The Oncologist and Nurse can see and hear the patient, family and local healthcare provider and provide treatment advice, including decisions about treatments and follow-up care. For those undergoing chemotherapy treatments, the telemedicine visit allows the medical oncologist to assess the patient and determine whether or not treatment should proceed.

The use of OTN for cancer service delivery not only makes the best use of the skills and expertise of scarce specialist health care professionals, but also brings care closer to home for residents across North Simcoe Muskoka. In the last 16 months, the cancer program has facilitated over 1600 telemedicine visits, over half of which took place in the last 6 months alone.

Total OTN Visits by Month



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Breast Diagnostic Assessment (DAP) Program

The Simcoe Muskoka Regional Cancer Centre is excited to announce the launch of our Breast Diagnostic Assessment Program (DAP). The program began accepting referrals as of Monday, July 22 and ran the first Breast DAP clinic (staffed by Dr. Renee Hanrahan) on Monday, July 29.

Goals:

This program aims to streamline current processes and facilitate appropriate consultations with participating surgeons. The referral of patients to the Breast DAP will also:

- Reduce wait time inconsistencies; and
- Connect patients with a Clerical Navigator (Jill Vermaire) to support patients as they begin their cancer journey.

What is a DAP?

A DAP, or Diagnostic Assessment Program, is an organized, centralized, multidisciplinary system to deliver cancer diagnostic assessment services to patients.

How and when do patients get referred into the Breast DAP?

- As of Monday, July 22nd patients can be referred to the Breast DAP.
- Patients with abnormal/discordant imaging & positive biopsy that indicates a breast malignancy during assessment and/or screening can be referred by a radiologist to the Breast DAP.

What will the clinic look like?

- Patients will now be seen in the Breast DAP clinic twice a week.
- Two, half-day clinics have been booked.
- Dr. P. Dauphinee, Dr. R. Hanrahan, Dr. G. Kruzyk, Dr. K. Maharajh and Dr. H. Stefanison; breast cancer surgeons, will be supporting the program along with one Clerical Navigator.
- Breast DAP patients will register in the same manner as all new patients and will wait in the Level 2 general waiting room.

What if I have questions?

For more information about the Breast DAP please contact Jill Vermaire, Clerical Navigator at Ext. 43432

Smoking Cessation: The Challenge was on...

Throughout August and September, the Prevention, Screening and Education team challenged the Medical and Radiation Oncology Primary Nurses to complete a new tobacco use assessment for every new patient seen in the Simcoe Muskoka Regional Cancer Program (SMRCP) over the course of a 6 week period. The completion rate of the assessment improved from 53% to 100% by the end of the 6 week challenge. This truly is a remarkable accomplishment!

Thank you to all of the Primary Nurses for their efforts. The tobacco use assessment is a component of SMRCP's tobacco cessation program, which was implemented as part of Cancer Care Ontario's (CCO) *Framework for Smoking Cessation*, and will provide support and resources to patients who use tobacco. The SMRCP will begin to report the tobacco program metrics to CCO on a monthly basis. These figures will become part of our regional performance scorecard. We look forward to providing CCO with our ongoing high compliance rates.

Congratulations to the team!



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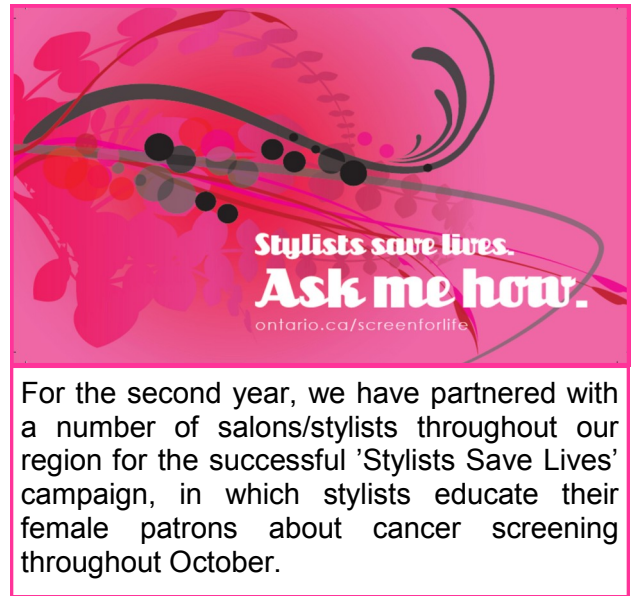
October Awareness Initiatives

October is Breast and Cervical Cancer Awareness month, and the Simcoe Muskoka Regional Cancer Program has organized two large initiatives throughout the region to raise awareness about the importance of breast and cervical cancer screening.



The 'RSVP' (Routine Screening is Very Possible) awareness campaign will support eligible women in North Simcoe Muskoka to get up-to-date with their breast, cervical and colorectal cancer screening.

Women will be encouraged to contact our program for education about the three cancer screening programs, and assistance in accessing these services.



For the second year, we have partnered with a number of salons/stylists throughout our region for the successful 'Stylists Save Lives' campaign, in which stylists educate their female patrons about cancer screening throughout October.

The ultimate goals of the October campaigns are to raise awareness about the importance of regular cancer screening and to support access to the screening programs. For more information about either of these campaigns, please visit the RVH website (www.rvh.on.ca).

Improving Patient Safety and Adherence Through a Nurse-led Oral Chemotherapy Program

Clearly, oral chemotherapy has taken off in the oncology treatment field, representing 30% of all cancer treatments given by the end of 2013. Aging population, number of concurrent therapies, physical limitations and adverse effects along with drug cost significantly impact adherence and therapeutic benefit. Current literature echoes the patients need for more information concerning adverse effects, interaction with other drugs and proper handling.

The Simcoe Muskoka Regional Cancer Program (SMRCP) has been a leader in recognizing the unique needs of patients on oral chemotherapy. We have created a distinctive oral chemotherapy clinic in which the oncology nurse, with specialized knowledge and skill is instrumental in teaching, supporting and navigating the patient through treatment using collaborative linkages with physicians and the interdisciplinary team. This is a theory based model of care, utilizing current evidence based tools and guidelines.

Mary Gorr, RN, and Trish MacIsaac, RN, lead the initiative facilitating clear communication between patient, physician, drug access co-coordinator, pharmacist and other members of the team within our center. Outreach to community retail pharmacists is occurring to enhance their knowledge on oral chemotherapy and gain perspective on individual challenges.

Evaluations of the clinic are currently underway which will demonstrate improved patient experience, enhanced communication/documentation, utilization of evidence based guidelines and transformation to safer, patient centered care. Mary Gorr and Colleen Campbell will be presenting their clinic model at the Canadian Association of Nurses in Oncology annual conference in October this year.



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The Empowering Youth for Cancer Change (EYCC) Conference

In July 2013, the Prevention, Screening and Education (PSE) team of the Simcoe Muskoka Regional Cancer Program held the first The Empowering Youth for Cancer Change (EYCC) Conference. This conference provided a unique opportunity to collect information from local youth regarding health promotion and cancer prevention. The attendees were encouraged to provide their insight and experience with cancer in hopes to promote a sense of ownership for future cancer prevention programming within the community. The event identified three key goals to raise awareness and reduce the risk for youth in our community:

- **Goal 1:** Normalizing talking about cervical cancer
- **Goal 2:** Focusing on the age-groups for cervical screening
- **Goal 3:** Linking the HPV vaccine to cervical cancer

Pledge quotes from the participants

- I strive to inform young people to not take their health for granted
- I will take action within my school for cancer prevention awareness
- I will use my knowledge to promote cancer screening and advocate a healthy lifestyle
- I will make a difference
- I will educate my community
- I will strive to create change and awareness for cancer prevention
- I will strive to educate and advocate what I have learned today because we are the future
- I will be a positive role model
- I will share what I have learned about cancer with my friends and family



Who Says Science Fairs are Only for Kids?

On Friday August 9, the Simcoe Muskoka Regional Cancer Program (SMRCP) Project Leads; Suman Dhanju and Ashleigh Clarke, organized a Skills Expo/Science Fair event to showcase new initiatives being rolled out in the SMRCP. Foregoing the standard didactic presentation, a series of poster boards were set-up around the room which allowed staff to visit each board, learn about the projects and ask questions. No erupting volcanoes from this science fair, and still drew a crowd of 60+ staff members! Thank you to everyone who attended.

Project Lead, Suman Dhanju answers questions about the Follow-up Pre-Chemo Nursing Phone Assessments



Staff gather while Project Lead, Ashley Clarke, explains the new Breast Diagnostic Assessment Program

