

# Consortium Quarterly Connections



Join us - General SCI IEQC Consortium Meeting  
Sept 18, 2020 12:00 PM

New Zoom Meeting Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83009678606>

Meeting ID: 830 0967 8606



## Working together for better outcomes!

It has been very rewarding to see Consortium centres working closely together in putting indicators and related best practices into action. A clear value of this work has been the linkages being developed between sites. Implementation specialists and leaders from each of the centres solving implementation challenges together. Coming soon will be an opportunity for all persons involved in site implementation teams across the province to link with each other through Microsoft Teams.

Recent online workshops featuring Dr. Lee Kirby sharing his expertise on Wheelchair Skills (see page 2 for more details) and a Summit on Emotional Well-Being demonstrated the value of learning together as well. Look out for more shared learning opportunities from the Consortium in the areas of Walking and Wheeled Mobility as well as Sexual Health coming soon.

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## Ontario SCI Consortium Goals

- To achieve optimal and equitable health care services through best practice implementation guided by:
  - Implementation science principles
  - Indicators for informing practice
  - Benchmarking to transform practice
- To build capacity in implementation science.
- To develop a strategy for sustaining this capacity.

## Focus On: Wheeled Mobility

One of the domains that each of the centres are working on currently is in the area of Wheeled Mobility - certainly important for many persons for living with SCI.

### The Construct:

Wheeled Mobility refers to the skilled use of any personal device with wheels including power wheelchairs, and manual wheelchairs (with arm or foot propulsion), by individuals with physical impairments such as SCI/D, to allow full participation in daily life.

### The Indicators:

#### Structure Indicator

Proportion of regulated healthcare professionals in the program who have specialized training in wheelchair mobility and wheelchair skills development.

#### Process Indicator

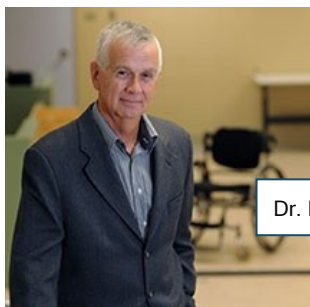
Total number of hours of wheelchair service provision (based on WHO guideline, steps 1-8) provided per patient.

#### Outcome Indicator

Intermediary - The proportion of wheelchair users at discharge who reached the 80% on the Wheelchair Skills Test Questionnaire (Wheelchair Skills Test-Q).

Final - A) Mean Life Space Assessment (LSA) questionnaire score

B) Mean Wheelchair Use Confidence Scale (WheelCon-manual/power wheelchair short form) Score



Dr. Lee Kirby



From <https://wheelchairskillsprogram.ca/> showing proper technique with a spotter strap

## Learning Together

July saw Dr. Lee Kirby, from Dalhousie University, leading expert on wheelchair skills and developer of the Wheelchair Skills Training Program (<https://wheelchairskillsprogram.ca/>) provide two helpful sessions on the W/C Skills Training Program and Test Questionnaire.

The website for the program has invaluable resources including videos demonstrating proper technique for many of the different skills that comprise the training program as well as the manuals and guides for delivering the W/C Skills Test.

The Consortium hopes to build on these experiences by offering more sessions that enable more practice and discussion where sites are linked virtually to troubleshoot and learn together!

# Update - SCI Ontario



Spinal Cord Injury Ontario has been busy supporting our community through COVID-19 and appreciate the input from our scientists and medical professionals, and the in-kind donations from our community and corporate partners. We've had to respond quickly to move our services online throughout COVID and, as we settle into a new way to support our clients and families, and collaborate with our networks, we wanted to share some new initiatives:

If you are not already an SCIO community member, please join us today at <https://sciontario.org/join>.



We are excited to share our new Roadmap to Recovery with our health care partners in rehab centres and hospitals. It's a fabulous new resource for newly injured people with SCI, their family and medical professionals. It's available online at [sciontario.org/roadmap](https://sciontario.org/roadmap) now and we will be distributing soon to our medical partners.



As SCIO continues its innovative five-year strategic plan, we are adopting an organization-wide continuous quality improvement process. All staff will be participating in improving every aspect of our work and we want to invite our wider community to participate by providing input and feedback to our initiatives. Please stay tuned for more



## REGISTER NOW

### Ontario SCI Alliance Members Meeting

October 1, 2020 1:00 - 3:00 pm

Join us in a multi-stakeholder meeting where we review and update the SCI community on strategic research underway in Ontario and align efforts to address and resolve systemic barriers that impact the quality of life for people with SCI. In this meeting you will learn about various initiatives led by Alliance members with opportunities to provide feedback, create new collaborations, and work with partners to achieve the goals and objectives of the consortium. We encourage your participation.

Register now at [sciontario.org/advocacy/sci-research/ontario-sci-alliance/](https://sciontario.org/advocacy/sci-research/ontario-sci-alliance/). A full agenda and supporting material will be posted shortly.



We've recently launched VIP4SCI™, our online platform where SCIO clients and family members can access service remotely. During COVID-19, especially, VIP4SCI™ was a reliable solution to uninterrupted service delivery in a secure and safe environment, though the value will be evident even as we move back to face-to-face meetings. Some of the options available for SCIO client and family members include connecting with SCIO staff, private messaging, calendar scheduling, goal setting, journaling, and direct access to SCIO's Cortree Disability Education Centre.

To make a referral to SCIO, please contact [referrals@sciontario.org](mailto:referrals@sciontario.org)





**ANDREA CHASE**  
Implementation & Evaluation Specialist  
The Ottawa Hospital



When not leading the implementation efforts of the Consortium at Ottawa, Andrea is a physiotherapist on the inpatient neurospinal unit. Her experience covers inpatient, outpatient, short term rehab, and acute care for persons with spinal cord injury and other neurological conditions. She is a National and International Classifier for the International Wheelchair Rugby Federation (IWRF); a sport originally developed for athletes with SCI. When not at work, she enjoys time pursuing health and fitness with her husband and two kids as well as family vacations on Georgian Bay.



## FOCUS ON ... LEADERSHIP



In this edition we are excited to profile the leadership team of Rebecca Fleck and Stephen Patton of Hamilton Health Sciences. Rebecca is the Director of the Regional Rehabilitation Program for Adult Regional Care Services and Stephen Patton is Clinical Manager for the Regional Rehabilitation Outpatient Services as well as the SCI and Amputee Rehab Programs and the Amputee Medical Day Care & Hand Clinic.

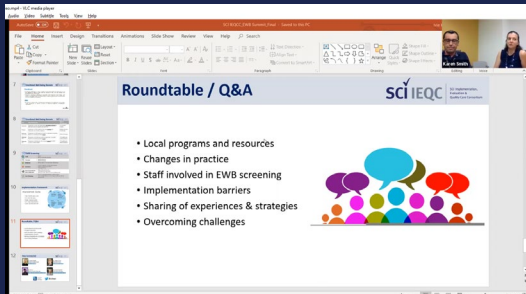
Like many across the province, this dynamic duo have done incredible work in facing the challenges presented by COVID-19. Amidst all that this entailed, Rebecca and Stephen have explored innovative virtual opportunities for continuing outpatient programming and oversaw the decanting of their entire SCI inpatient unit. This involved the team re-deploying staff and patients into St Peter's Hospital (a low intensity, rehabilitation facility for medically complex patients) and also working with the acute care teams in exploring approaches to offer more intensive therapy. These activities had unexpected benefits in achieving greater insight that came with facing challenges from the different vantage points across with the care continuum - often the case when different teams share and learn from each other.

Rebecca and Stephen note this as a key strength of the Consortium: a ready network of experts across the centers in the province that share learnings towards our common goal of best practice across Ontario.

Recently, Hamilton has been working on enhancing their sexual health program. Like all initiatives, a key part of this is employing the CQI board - centrally placed on the unit for all to see and representing a mechanism to identify progress on improvement initiatives and opportunities to enhance care.



## Sharing Progress - Emotional Well-Being Summit



This past June saw many Consortium members from the various site implementation teams share their work in the area of Emotional Well-Being in an “Emotional Well-Being Summit”. Each site shared the challenges and triumphs in putting screening tools for anxiety and depression in place as well as enhanced programming to promote emotional well-being.

The benefits of sharing experiences across our various settings is so important that we will be trying to increase the opportunities for inter-site connections as we move into the fall season!

## Organizational Profile - ONF



### From traditional funder to impact-driven funding ...

Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation (ONF) is a leader in moving research to evidence-informed practices by connecting health care practitioners, researchers, stakeholders and policymakers to the information they need about neurotrauma prevention and health practices.

For more than 20 years ONF has been deeply involved with the development and funding of research in neurotrauma; and more recently the Foundation is playing a vital role in mobilizing and implementing knowledge to drive impact in Ontario. Integrating a research, knowledge mobilization and an implementation science framework, ONF supports better patient outcomes for people with neurotrauma through the development of improved best practice guidelines.

The findings of the SCI Knowledge Mobilization Network (SCI-KMN), an ONF supported network purposed to explore the landscape of implementation of best practices at accessible health care sites, realized the need to bring key learnings regarding SCI care and rehabilitation to the forefront through the emergence of the SCI IEQCC. The Consortium will be a pivotal tool in driving improved SCI care and rehabilitation through implementation science principles.

### Next steps in implementation science...

In addition to supporting the SCI IEQCC, ONF has formed an internal implementation science support service. Through this scope of work ONF will support the translation of research into scaled best practices by providing effective implementation support to organizations with which it works. The implementation support framework, still in its inception, will help to foster a unified approach to provincial implementation efforts in neurotrauma.

ONF has come a long way in its journey toward an implementation science approach and endeavors to further impact health policy and care for people with neurotrauma across Ontario.

## Consortium Operations Team



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