

6th Edition | FALL 2021

CONSORTIUM QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



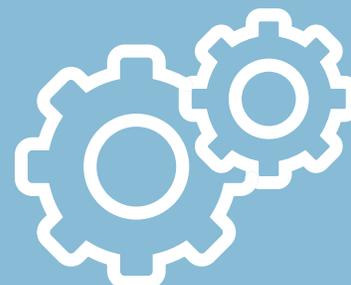
Message from the Central Team

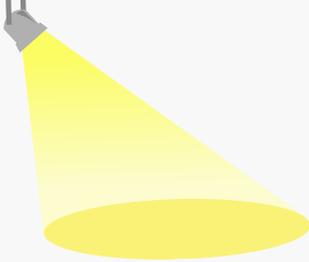
It has been exciting to see groups throughout the country work through uncertainty and COVID-19 challenges with resiliency and commitment to make continued progress within their various regions. This is the first newsletter that we have published where we can say that everyone is up and running in full force and working towards better care for persons with SCI/D. Going forward, we will continue our efforts in bringing together the learnings and experiences of the centres involved - whether from the West, the East or in between.

In this edition, we introduce some of the new sites to the Consortium and highlight Kingston's work as one of the original Consortium sites. Look out for some exciting news in our next issue, as Dr. Stacy Elliott and colleagues from GF Strong also join this exciting initiative!

Content:

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- IES Spotlight
- Focus on: Leadership
- Introduction of new sites
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- Good news story





IES Spotlight



Rachel Holtholf recently joined the team in the spring as the Implementation & Evaluation Specialist (IES) at the Providence Care Hospital in Kingston. She has 15 years of experience as a Social Worker and 10 years of experience with the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation program working with adults in both inpatient and outpatient settings involving neurological and musculoskeletal injuries, as well as geriatrics. She is also currently the Professional Practice Leader for Social Work and Social Service Workers. Rachel believes that rehabilitation includes the whole person in the context of their family and environment. She works with the Consortium team to support the emotional well-being of patients at Providence and assists with discharge planning from the program into the community.

Consortium Announcement

Letter of Intent Approval!!!!!!

The Craig H Neilsen Foundation recently approved our request to build on the work of the Consortium in the Walking domain. This research initiative would start with the indicator information in the domain, but would add more about walking therapies that are being conducted at participating sites. More information will be provided, but the key is that if people are interested, we would build in funds to support extra activities in this area with a proposal that needs to be submitted by November 19, 2021. Please contact **Dalton (dwolfe@uwo.ca)** if interested in obtaining more information and exploring possible participation.



The Consortium celebrates the entire team at Providence Care for their hard work and resilience in providing quality healthcare services to the SCI/D community. Providence Care is Southeastern Ontario's leading provider of specialized care in aging, mental health and rehabilitation. Providence Care consists of Providence Care Hospital, Providence Transitional Care Centre, Providence Manor Long-Term Care Home, and more than 20 community-based mental health and support services across the region. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the team continues to be resilient and relentless in serving their community by pivoting their services to add more than 200 beds at Providence Care Hospital by converting clinical and non-clinical spaces as part of a responsive pandemic response plan. This included accommodating patients from outside the South East Region.



Patti Harvey

Providence Care excels in providing peer support services for persons with SCI/D. The program provides great peer support services due to the amazing relationship and involvement of SCI-O. Prior to the pandemic, a highlight was the monthly social and educational event where patient alumni got together with the care team to reconnect and share experiences. The PCH Kingston SCI team also developed a unique program to aid the emotional well-being of inpatients including resilience and coping supports.

The Providence Care leadership team of Patti Harvey, Dr. Karen Smith and Dr. Sussan Askari have continued their commitment to the project work in supporting implementation of best practices to improve quality of care for persons with lived experience amidst challenging times.



Dr. Karen Smith

Patti Harvey is the Director of Rehabilitative Care with over 30 years of progressive rehabilitative experience. She values collaboration and works diligently to ensure teams offer a high quality of care in a safe, caring and compassionate environment while optimizing valuable resources.

Dr. Karen Smith's clinical practice focuses on acquired brain injury and spinal cord injury. Her research interests are in the area of primary care for persons with disabilities, exercise guideline development, wound care education and neurogenic bowel management.



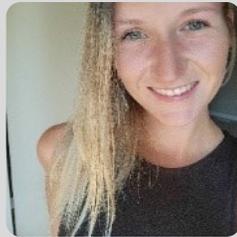
Dr. Sussan Askari

Dr. Sussan Askari is the Medical Director of Spinal Cord Injury. Her areas of interest include incorporating lifestyle modifications particularly in nutrition, emotional well-being and physical activity to reach optimal health and wellness of individuals with spinal cord injury.



Introduction of the New Consortium Sites

The Consortium welcomes five new sites to the network from Edmonton, Calgary, Fredericton, Halifax and PEI. The teams will be working on a few domains which include UTI, Emotional Wellbeing, Sexual Health and Walking.



Erika Reinarz



Rebecca Charbonneau



Magda Mouneimne



Jason Knox

Foothills Medical Centre Calgary, Alberta

The Tertiary Neuro Rehabilitation Unit at Foothills Medical Centre offers specialized rehabilitation services to persons living in southern Alberta recovering from spinal cord injury, brain injury, stroke, or other neurological injuries and illnesses. The Consortium is excited to collaborate with this dedicated team and Glenrose in Edmonton as we implement indicators in the domain of Urinary Tract Infection (UTI) to improve care for people living with spinal cord injury or disease (SCI/D).



Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital Edmonton, Alberta

The Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital provides inpatient, outpatient and outreach services for all age groups who require complex rehabilitation services. We look forward to the great work from Glenrose Rehab team in collaboration with Foothills Medical Center, Calgary in implementing best practice indicators in UTI domain.



Michelle Wallace



Beto Loyola-Sanchez



Rob Maclsaac



Marcy Cwiklewich



Yoshi Okuma



Queen Elizabeth Hospital Charlottetown, PEI



Bonnie Caldwell

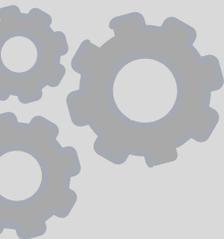
The Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH) provides leadership in acute care and specialized hospital services. The Provincial Rehabilitation Unit (Unit 7) is a specialized, 20-bed unit geared towards helping the patient develop maximum independence in everyday tasks. The Consortium is excited to collaborate with the team to implement best practice indicators in emotional well-being and sexual health.



Sonja McVeigh

Nova Scotia Rehabilitation and Arthritis Centre Halifax, Nova Scotia

The Nova Scotia Rehabilitation and Arthritis Centre's Neurology and Spinal Cord Injury Program provides interprofessional inpatient rehabilitation for persons with neurological conditions and spinal cord injuries. The team of healthcare professionals strive to provide patients with a multidisciplinary care approach to help them achieve functional independence. The incredible team would be working on emotional well-being and sexual health domains.



Erica Dagley



Stan Cassidy Centre for Rehabilitation Fredericton, New Brunswick

Stan Cassidy Centre for Rehabilitation (SCCR) program provides specialized inpatient rehabilitation, outpatient services and specialty clinics. The Centre offers support to community therapists in providing primary and secondary services, via consultation and professional education opportunities. Adjacent to the SCCR is the Stan Cassidy Kiwanis House, which offers accessible accommodation, and Atlantic Canada's only fully accessible rehabilitation Therapeutic Park. The remarkable team would be working on walking, sexual health and emotional well-being domains.



Colleen O'Connell

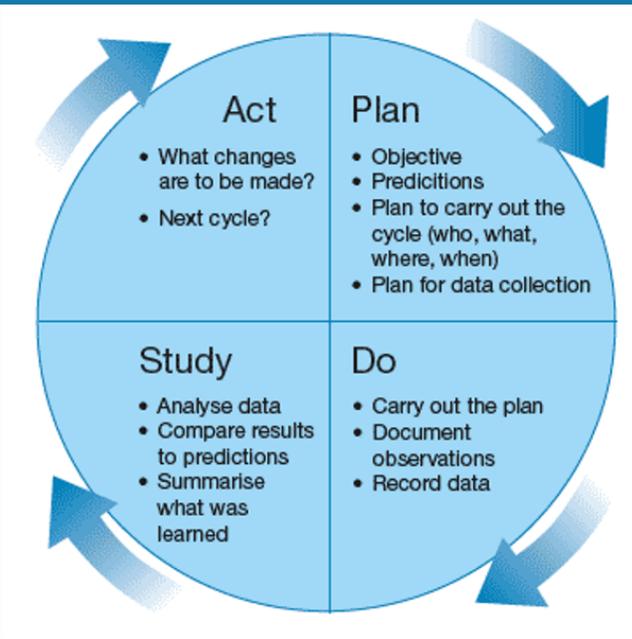


JoAnne Savoie



Dominique LeBlanc





Teach Corner: PDSA Cycle

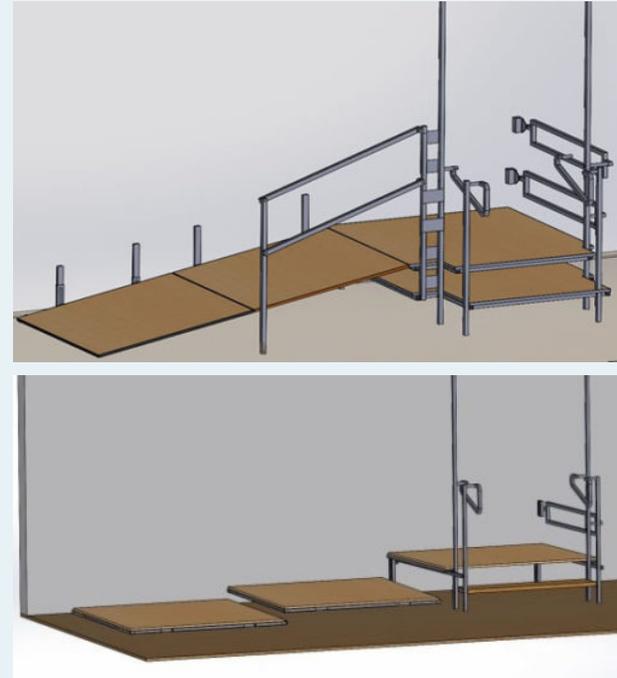
Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) cycle is a Quality Improvement (QI) tool that allows for a structured approach to make improvements or changes to a practice or process iteratively. The PDSA cycle offers a step-by-step process to make changes by developing a plan to implement the practice change (Plan), actually implementing the change (Do), evaluating the change implemented (Study), making modifications or adjustments where necessary (Act) and then repeat the cycle over and over again. Depending on what stage of QI, PDSAs can be used differently in a QI framework; early on or late in the implementation process.

Good News Story



Sex education and wheelies

Andrea and the team were featured in the Ottawa hospital news for the great work done in the domains of sexual health and wheeled mobility. The news highlights the importance and impact of developing a sexual health program for SCI inpatients as well as a wheelchair skills program. As part of the work being done with the Consortium, the engineering team developed a multi-positional ramp to help wheelchair users practice pushing up an incline and wheeling over curbs of different heights.



For more news on the incredible work done by the team, see the link below'

<https://www.ottawahospital.on.ca/en/sex-education-and-wheelies-spinal-cord-injury-patients-receive-more-equitable-access-to-care-during-rehabilitation/>





Congratulations Dr. Cathy Craven!!!



The Consortium congratulates Dr. Cathy Craven for being one of seventy-four fellows elected into the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences.

Election to Fellowship in the Academy is considered one of the highest honours for individuals in the Canadian health sciences community and carries with it a covenant to serve the Academy and the future well-being of the health sciences irrespective of the Fellow's specific discipline.

“Becoming a member of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences recognizes Fellows’ dedication to health sciences,” says Dr. Chris Simpson, President, CAHS. “We are proud of their accomplishments and we are honoured to welcome them to the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences.”

For more information, see link below;

<https://cahs-acss.ca/seventy-four-new-fellows-elected-into-the-canadian-academy-of-health-sciences/>



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