

SCI CONSORTIUM QUARTERLY CONNECTIONS

MESSAGE FROM CENTRAL TEAM

As we finish off another successful year and looking forward to the warmer weather, we are happy to share another Edition of the Consortium Newsletter. In Ontario, we are hoping to hear about renewed funding after having planned activities to better support transitions of persons with SCI/D into the community. A key goal involves a more standardized referral process with SCI Ontario. This will facilitate the ultimate goal of consistent follow-up at 18 months that will ultimately help to identify and implement strategies for enhancing community integration.

At other sites across Canada, Praxis Institute and the Central Consortium Team are working on renewing funding for 2022-24 and currently working on site agreements with the Edmonton, Nova Scotian and New Brunswick sites. Next steps will focus on how we can restart and harmonize activities across the entire Consortium.

Hoping everyone has had an opportunity to take some time over the past few months and refresh for an exciting 2023-24!



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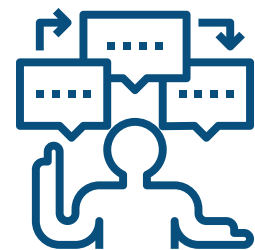
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SCI IEQCC Summit

HIGHLIGHTS DAY 1

On September 23, members of the Ontario network held a summit to discuss strategy for enhancing the way we work together across the province to support persons with SCI/D beyond inpatient rehabilitation. Morning activities focused on reviewing important aspects of the Consortium such as the mission and objectives, current care gaps and the vision for the community. In the afternoon, we broke into 5 separate groups to plan implementation strategies for the routine 18-month follow-up that is to be put in place over the next year in partnership with SCI Ontario. Key Issues that were identified include the following:

- Opportunities or gaps in care that need to be addressed with the 18-month follow-up
- Structures and processes that should be in place to prepare patients for the 18-month follow-up prior to discharge
- Elements of the referral system were identified that are done well as well as elements that are a challenge
- Perspectives from a lived experience viewpoint were shared



SCI IEQCC Summit

HIGHLIGHTS DAY 2

On October 7, members of the network continued part 2 of the summit to discuss several things such as:

- Sharing the rationale for the 18-month follow up
- Collectively planning to facilitate routine referrals to patients with SCI Ontario
- Describing and monitoring PLEX at 18-months after rehab admission
- Enabling advocacy and policy change through network resources



Brainstorm...

Key next steps that the site leads and the Implementation and Evaluation Specialists were asked to consider include the following (amongst other things):

- Identifying who should be on the community participation / outpatient / follow up SIT team (s)?
- What does your current outpatient practice profile look like?
- How does the practice profile need to change to support community data collection?

SCI IEQCC Summit

HIGHLIGHTS DAY 3

On January 11th, the National Consortium members met in the morning to discuss the 18-month follow-up. A brag and steal was initiated to highlight and present local initiatives and success stories.

Brag and Steal Initiatives & Stories

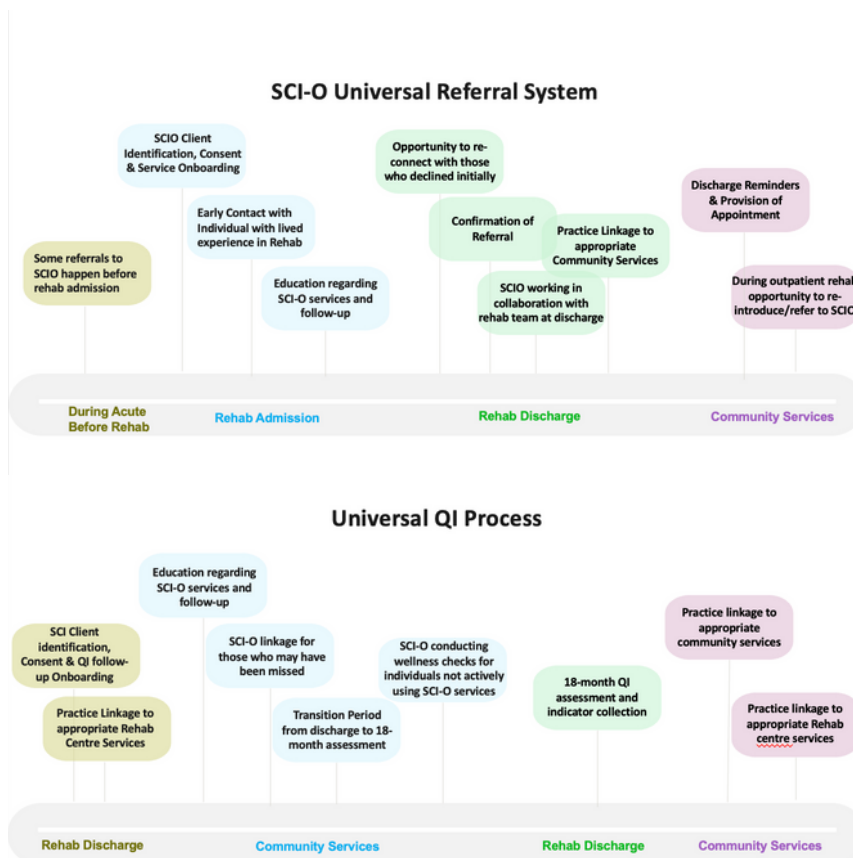
- Changing the nursing landscape on the inpatient units
 - Toronto Rehabilitation Institute - Lyndhurst Centre
- Sexual Health Domain
 - The Ottawa Hospital Rehabilitation Centre
- Resilience Group & Indigenous Transition Facilitator
 - Providence Care Hospital
- Sexual Health Implementation
 - Parkwood Institute
- Focus on Skin and Wound
 - Hamilton Health Sciences
- Improving bladder management and UTI management and prevention
 - Alberta Health Services
- Sexual Health
 - Stan Cassidy Centre for Rehabilitation
- Memorandum of Understanding
 - Spinal Cord Injury Ontario and UHN (Lyndhurst Centre)
- What we've learned, what we know we need to do and what we're doing now
 - Nova Scotia Rehabilitation Centre



Into the afternoon Ontario Consortium members continued the meeting with practical follow-up exercises, in which the IES's presented their site's answers to some practical case study scenarios to demonstrate the varying resources available to each site and how each site would handle the situation. Following the case studies, the planning of the 18-month follow-up implementation was presented to the group to provoke brainstorming within each individual on how to implement the follow-up at each site. This also helped to inform what type of resources might be a part of a toolkit that would be available to support patients identifying any issues during the follow up assessment.

SCIO's Vision for the partnership with Consortium:

We are excited to partner with all the specialized rehab centres across Ontario to develop a coordinated referral process that introduces SCI-O services to persons with spinal cord injuries sooner in their rehab journey. This will be an important part of providing a more collaborative and seamless transition back into the community no matter where one lives. Implementing this coordinated referral process with each rehab partner will lay the foundation that is needed for SCI-O to continue consortium activities including the post rehab 18-month follow-up in the community. A key part of this work will involve establishing agreements with each facility and designing a referral process that will allow SCI-O in partnership with the rehab sites to follow and provide support to individuals in their communities throughout the province.



At the Summit (see Pages 2-4), the key building blocks show to the left were developed. These provide the framework for the IES's to work collaboratively with SCI-O and the Central Consortium team to create the practice profiles and other components of a fulsome implementation plan. This work will unfold over the next 2 years with the Universal Referral system expected to be in place over the next calendar year followed by development of a Universal QI process that will meet the needs at each local site.

Wheelchair Skills Course

The Wheelchair Skills Program (WSP) is a free online high-impact, evidence-based resource for the assessment and training of the wheelchair skills of users. These include manual wheelchairs with or without the assistance of caregivers, powered wheelchairs and motorized mobility scooters.



Many of the Implementation & Evaluation Specialists and other clinicians within the Ontario rehabilitation sites completed a course last December about the WSP led by Dr. Lee Kirby from Dalhousie University.

This course has supported clinicians in delivering improved service to support patients and their caregivers (when needed) in using two-hand propulsion of manual wheelchairs. The course was conducted over 6 weeks in Oct-Dec and involved a final exam to test the knowledge retained by the participants.



<https://www.youtube.com/@WheelchairSkillsProgram/featured>



<https://wheelchairskillsprogram.ca/en/>

**WHEELCHAIR
SKILLS** PROGRAM

DALHOUSIE
UNIVERSITY

nova scotia
health

Welcome to the Consortium!



Maryam Omidvar

REVISION

(from previous Newsletter)

Maryam is a Research Associate at Toronto Rehab. She is part of the central team and contributes to the operational activities.

Tracy joined the Consortium last summer as the new Implementation Specialist for Providence Care in Kingston, Ontario. She works within outpatient services providing physiotherapy services to musculoskeletal, neurological and frail elderly clients, as well as, being a professional practice leader working towards best practice and innovation in practice.



Tracy Down



FAREWELL & THANK YOU

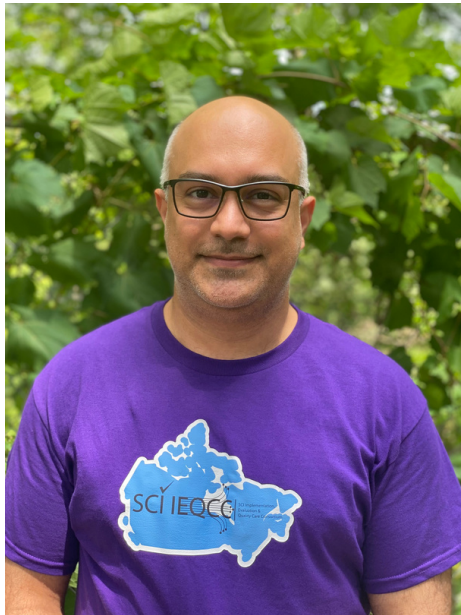


Carol Scovil

As an implementation mentor, Carol has assisted many implementation evaluation specialists in "learning the ropes". We wish her the best and will miss her practical wisdom!

Sheila Casemore

Sheila has been a long-time champion of Spinal Cord Injury Ontario and a strong advocate for the spinal cord community. Recently retiring from her position as Director of Client Services - she will be sorely missed.



Reza Amiri

Reza has been instrumental in developing and conducting the data collection and evaluation processes - and is responsible for those impressive dashboards we have just started getting used to. We wish him well in his new position at ICON plc (a leading Healthcare Intelligence and Clinical Research Firm).

Andrea Lee

Andrea recently retired as the Director of Rehabilitation at Parkwood Institute and is now enjoying her time climbing the pickleball ladder and having fun around Ontario and beyond with friends and family. Rebecca Fleck from Hamilton Health Sciences has recently begun as the new Director in London (News to come from Hamilton!).



Thank you for all your hard work!

CONSORTIUM UPDATES

Upcoming dates ...



Network Meeting:

- May 12th, 2023

Data Transfer:

- June 17th, 2023

Summit & Showcase:

- Nov 21st, 2023

INCLUSIVITY & ENGAGEMENT

10TH NATIONAL SPINAL CORD INJURY CONFERENCE

SAVE THE DATE: NOV 21 - 23, 2023

Beanfield Centre, Toronto, (ON)



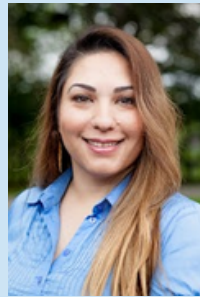
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Julia Rybkina
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Julianne joined the Central Consortium Team this past summer as part of the Research 2 Practice Team at Parkwood Institute, London. She has taken over the newsletter duties so **please send in any ideas or contributions to Julianne** .

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