



APPHON/ROHPPA NEWSLETTER

Atlantic Provinces Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Network
Réseau d'Oncologie et Hématologie Pédiatrique des Provinces
Atlantiques

Board Executive:

Chair - Holly Paynter RN, BScN
Vice Chair - Dr. Heidi Budden

Our Vision

To facilitate access for Atlantic Province children and youth to comprehensive, current, effective, evidence-based hematologic/oncologic treatment delivered as close to home as safely feasible.

Winter 2023

2023 APPHON/ROHPPA Conference **Save the Date!**

APPHON/ROHPPA will be hosting its bi-annual conference **November 2nd to November 4th, 2023**. We are still unsure if it will be entirely virtual, or if we will be able to host a hybrid - a virtual and in-person combination. Stay tuned!

APHON Chemotherapy and Biotherapy Provider Course

The IWK will be holding a virtual APHON course **March 29th and March 30th, 2023**. The deadline for registration is **March 3rd, 2023**. Please see our website for the [Registration Form](#).

Please note, if you require a staff member to take an APHON course, it is now possible via another facility. Dates for upcoming courses can be found at [Upcoming Provider Courses | APHON](#)

Upcoming Educational Webinar

We are very pleased to be offering a shared educational session in

collaboration with the Long-term Follow up Nurses Working Committee. Mary Stuart from SickKids/Princess Margaret Cancer Centre will present *Sexual Health and Cancer Survivors, Consideration for Health Care Providers* **February 28th 14:30-15:30**. A calendar invitation has been sent and reminders will follow the week prior to the presentation.

Dr. Satvinder Ghotra from the IWK Health Centre will be presenting *Iron Deficiency - Prevention and Management in Preterm Infants*, **April 12th, 2023 - 1200-1300**. A link will be emailed in the coming weeks.

Communication Guidance Document

We are currently working on a Communication Guidance document and have almost completed the pediatrician and navigators' component. We are now looking to start a nursing and psychosocial working group. If anyone has interest in participating, please email carol.digout@iwk.nshealth.ca. Our expectation is attendance at two to three, one-hour meetings.

Guideline Update 2023

The ***Guidelines for the Management of Febrile Neutropenia in Children*** will be reviewed based on the recently released update (Lehrnbecher T et al., 2023). The ***Guidelines for Varicella Zoster/Herpes Zoster in Immunocompromised Children*** will be updated if new information is available.

Due to an expression of need, the following **Care Pathways** will be created for the management of **Sickle Cell Disease** (Acute Chest Syndrome, Acute Painful Episodes, Vaso-Occlusive Crisis, Acute Splenic Sequestration, Peri-Operative Management, Priapism, Hydroxyurea Guidelines, and Stroke).

Lastly, the **APPHON/ROHPPA Guideline Committee** will review the WHO Guidelines on the **Management of Chronic Pain in Children**, for adoption or adaptation.

From the IWK Children's Oncology Group (COG) Team

First, we would like to acknowledge the amazing ongoing commitment of the regional pediatric teams throughout the Maritime provinces. Because of all of you, and your willingness to share the care of children and adolescents with cancer on clinical trial, we can offer children and adolescents cutting-edge therapies, while still enabling them to safely go home, when able. If we did not have this partnership, patients could not go home if they chose clinical trial. Families would be separated for longer periods of time, causing additional hardship. Some families would not choose to participate in a trial if this barrier existed, which could impact their outcomes. Part of this commitment has

required pediatricians across the provinces to complete and maintain research training to ensure we are meeting research regulations. We have been asking you to do this training for seven years now, and many of you have renewed several times; we are well established in this program. Because of each of you, the Maritime provinces are now recognized as a 'state of the art' program for regional access to clinical trials, which many other provinces aspire to! And because of you and this incredible partnership, patients and families can have additional hope wherever possible...invaluable!

Secondly, the COG team would like to update you on our current COG staff. On January 31, 2023, we had the privilege of watching a legend retire from the office. Tina Bocking has worked in Hematology/Oncology for 35 years and was a COG Clinical Research Associate for 25 of those years; working with every COG Principal Investigator we have had so far. She has made her mark and left the program in a great state. We have so appreciated her dedication, knowledge, and tireless efforts. We will miss you, Tina!

We are excited to announce our newest member of the COG team; **Jeff LeBrun**.



Jeff has been a quick understudy and has assimilated into the work with ease. He has spent five years on the

IWK Hematology/Oncology/Nephrology Inpatient Unit as an RN, and then fulfilled an interim educator role for Shared Clinics. Jeff is currently working on his Master's in Nursing.

Welcome, Jeff! We are excited to have you on the team and watch you grow in the role.

The IWK COG Team



Dr. Craig Erker continues in his role as the site **Principal Investigator (PI)**.
craig.erker@iwk.nshealth.ca

Deb Parker - New **Lead Clinical Research Associate (CRA)** since Tina's retirement.
deborah.parker@iwk.nshealth.ca

Shelly Hollett - Continues in her role as **COG CRA** shelly.hollett@iwk.nshealth.ca

Jeff LeBrun - New **COG CRA** started in Dec 2022 jeff.lebrun@iwk.nshealth.ca

Erin MacKinnon - Changed positions and is now a **Research Coordinator** in the COG office as of November 2022. Congratulations, Erin!
erin.mackinnon@iwk.nshealth.ca

Mary Jean Howitt - Continues as **COG Regional Clinical Trial Coordinator**
maryjean.howitt@iwk.nshealth.ca