

Ontario Cancer News



Final Call for Nominations for Quality and Innovation Awards

Don't miss your last chance for nominations for the second annual Quality and Innovation Awards from Cancer Care Ontario and the Cancer Quality Council of Ontario. These awards recognize leaders and/or teams for significant contributions to quality or innovation in the delivery of cancer care.

The submission deadline is September 19, 2007. For more information or to download the forms [visit the Cancer Care Ontario web site](#).



Ontario's Wait Time Information System Gathers Top Award in Innovation Management

Cancer Care Ontario has received the prestigious gold award for Innovation Management from the Institute of Public Administration of Canada (IPAC) for developing and deploying a Wait Time Information System (WTIS), a critical component of Ontario's Wait Time Strategy.

"Ontario has moved from being a laggard to being a leader in the field of wait time information management," said Dr. Alan Hudson, Lead, Wait Time Strategy and Access to Services. "The Wait Time Information System is a critical part of Ontario's strategy to reduce wait times and more than 250,000 Ontarians will benefit annually from its ability to track and share the most timely and accurate information."

The 2007 IPAC awards focused on New Service Breakthroughs with Technology and celebrated and encouraged innovative managerial initiatives in public administration. The Wait Time Information System was selected from 53 nominations from across the country for exceptional management in public administration.

The WTIS is a provincial, patient-centred system that provides timely and accurate reporting of wait times to the public from hospitals. The WTIS helps clinicians, administrators and health system managers better monitor and manage access to health care services.

"It is extremely rewarding to be recognized on a national scale for the Wait Time Information System," said Sarah Kramer, Lead for the Wait Time Information Management Strategy and VP and CIO for Cancer Care Ontario. "This award acknowledges the Ontario government's steadfast commitment to report to the public on the performance of the health care system and reflects the combined efforts of hospitals, health care professionals and various public and private sector partners across the province."

In less than two years, Cancer Care Ontario has delivered two province-wide systems that are now transforming Ontario's health system. The WTIS is the first provincial system to capture accurate and timely wait time data. Cancer Care Ontario also concurrently implemented Ontario's Client Registry/Enterprise Master Patient Index (EMPI) to support the WTIS in accurately identifying patients within and across hospitals. Ontario's Client Registry/EMPI sets a foundation for an electronic health record and will be used for other local and provincial e-Health initiatives in the future. It is the largest patient/client registry in Canada, containing more than 48 million records and information from 62 sources including hospitals, other health care organizations and the WTIS.

As of June 2007, staff from 81 Ontario hospitals and 1,700 surgeons' offices, are using the WTIS and Ontario's Client Registry/EMPI to improve access to care. Today in Ontario, wait time data for cancer surgery, cataract surgery, cardiac surgery, hip and knee replacement surgery, and MRI and CT scans are being captured in near real-time and reported publicly through the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's web site www.ontariowaittimes.com.

Clinicians and patients now have better information for decision-making and the public has access to information to hold government and other health care leaders accountable for wait times. Initially developed to capture information in five key areas, Cancer Care Ontario has been mandated by the government to lead the expansion of the WTIS. Beginning spring 2008, the WTIS will be expanded to include all surgical procedures for adults and paediatrics by end of March 2009.



Ontario Launches HPV Vaccine Web Site as Program Set to Roll Out Across the Province

Ontario's Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care has launched a new web site -- <http://www.hpvontario.ca/> -- to provide information to Ontario families about the province's recently launched HPV vaccination program for girls in Grade 8. The program, first announced in August, is being rolled out in Ontario schools this month.

The vaccine protects against Human Papilloma Virus (HPV), the cause of cervical cancer. It is a powerful new tool in the battle against cervical cancer, in addition to the tried and true Pap test, which detects changes in the cervix that could progress to cancer. The HPV vaccine does not replace cervical cancer screening. Together, HPV immunization and regular cervical screening could potentially lead to the end of this disease in Ontario.

This year, the HPV vaccine will be offered to about 84,000 young women in Grade 8. The school-based vaccination is administered by public health nurses on a voluntary basis, with consent forms and information provided to parents and guardians ahead of time.

For more information, go to <http://www.hpvontario.ca>.



Colorectal Cancer Screening Program Rolls Out Awareness Campaign

This fall and winter, Ontario's colorectal cancer screening program is rolling out a health provider awareness campaign that includes information kits, patient counseling materials, journal articles, regional forums, and a dedicated web site. A multi-faceted Continuing Medical Education program is being developed in partnership with the Ontario College of Family Physicians, the Ontario Medical Association, the Ontario Pharmacists' Association and the Nurse Practitioners' Association.

Regional forums and continuing professional workshops will take place across the province. Some have already been conducted in Niagara, Hamilton, Burlington, Thunder Bay and Windsor.

Confirmed dates for upcoming forums are:

- September 27, Carlo Fidani Peel Regional Cancer Centre, Mississauga
- October 3, St. Joseph's Hospital, London
- October 23, St. Volodymyr Cultural Centre, Oakville
- October 26, Novotel Hotel, Mississauga

Forums are planned for all other regions across the province this fall. For information or to enquire about other dates and locations, send an e-mail to colorectalcancerscreening@cancercare.on.ca.

For more information about the colorectal cancer screening program, [see the January 2007 issue of Ontario Cancer News](#) or go to www.cancercare.on.ca and click on colorectal screening.

Regional News

RVH begins construction of one of Canada's first portable radiation bunkers



Royal Victoria Hospital celebrated the beginning of construction of one of Canada's first portable radiation facilities at an event this August 21. The mobile unit will offer lifesaving radiation therapy to cancer patients throughout Simcoe-Muskoka until the Simcoe-Muskoka Regional Cancer Centre opens in 2010/11.

Using an innovative modular design, rather than traditional concrete radiation shielding, the facility can be built in less than a week, and following rigorous testing, begin treating cancer patients early in 2008. The unit will be the only radiation facility between Toronto and Sudbury.

"The portable radiation unit is an innovative solution to provide hundreds of Barrie-area patients with access to high quality, timely radiation therapy close to home," said Terrence Sullivan, Cancer Care Ontario's president and CEO. "The addition of this unit will also give the province greater capacity to continue reducing wait times while the Simcoe-Muskoka Regional Cancer Centre is being built."

It's projected the single radiation facility will treat almost 400 area cancer patients annually. Currently almost 2,000 cancer patients across the Simcoe-Muskoka region must travel to cancer centres in Toronto for their lifesaving radiation therapy every year.

Once the Simcoe-Muskoka Regional Cancer Centre opens, the portable radiation facility could be moved to another location in Ontario.

For more information, [go to the Royal Victoria Hospital web site](#).

Ottawa celebrates arrival of new MRI machine, portable radiation facility and Tomotherapy unit

The Ottawa Hospital celebrated the arrival of a new MRI machine, one of the first portable radiation facilities in Canada, and a Tomotherapy system at an event on August 27. Health and Long-Term Care Minister George Smitherman was on hand to announce the government's investment of \$1.2-million for the MRI and \$5.2-million for the portable radiation facility.

Ottawa is the second Ontario cancer centre to adopt mobile radiation technology and a Tomotherapy treatment system. When completed, the mobile unit will provide radiation therapy to 400 patients per year in the Ottawa area. The Tomotherapy unit is an advancement in radiation therapy and treatment that enables doctors to view and treat complex cases more effectively.

The MRI is expected to be operational in March 2008 and will provide about 4,500 additional scans annually to its patients.

"This investment will mean faster service and better access to health care services for residents of Ottawa," said Dr. Jack Kitts, president and CEO of the Ottawa Hospital

Southlake celebrates official kick-off on cancer centre construction

Southlake Regional Health Centre officially announced the start of the construction of the four-storey Regional Cancer Centre at Southlake—the centrepiece of the hospital's \$110-million Regional Cancer Program – at a media event on August 21.

Scheduled to open in mid-2009, the Regional Cancer Centre at Southlake will provide advanced cancer diagnostics, radiation treatment and follow-up care. The comprehensive cancer program at Southlake will include the new cancer centre, the introduction of screening such as breast, lung, colorectal, and prostate within the hospital's new Medical Arts Building, and expanded services within the main hospital.

The Honourable George Smitherman, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, confirmed his government's support for the project.

"It can be a difficult time when someone is diagnosed with cancer," he said. "That's why we are moving forward with this project at Southlake to ensure local residents have access to the cancer care they need closer to home. Today's construction kick-off marks an important milestone in cancer care for the communities within York Region and south Simcoe County."

To mark the historical significance of the announcement, a special ceremony was held to dedicate the start of the construction to the over one million residents of York Region and Simcoe County who will benefit from having advanced cancer services available close to home.

For more information, [go to the Southlake web site](#).

Niagara announces short-listed project teams for hospital redevelopment project

The Niagara Health System redevelopment project has reached a key milestone with the release of a request for proposals (RFP) to design, build, finance and maintain a new health care complex, including a new regional cancer centre. The RFP release was announced September 4, during a sign unveiling event at the site where the new health care complex will be built. This represents one of the final steps in the procurement process before construction can begin.

The short-listed bidders are:

- **Hospital Infrastructure Partners Inc.** - Carillion Canada, EllisDon Corporation, LPF Infrastructure Fund (Labourers' Pension Fund of Central and Eastern Ontario), Stantec/Murphy Hilgers Architects in Joint Venture, Rybka, Smith and Ginsler
- **Plenary Health** - Plenary Group, PCL Constructors, Bregman + Hamann Architects and Silver Thomas International Architects, Johnson Controls, Deutsche Bank
- **Infusion Health** - Bilfinger Berger BOT, John Laing, Vanbots Construction, Parkin Architects/Vermeulen-Hind Architects in Joint Venture, Honeywell Building Solutions, RBC Capital Markets

The Niagara Health System already offers chemotherapy and cancer surgery services, and with the new centre and radiation services will soon offer the full spectrum of high-quality cancer treatment services in one location. The Niagara Regional Cancer Centre will provide radiation treatments for more than 1,414 patients, 1,411 chemotherapy cases and 442 cancer surgeries each year.

In addition to the regional cancer centre, the new 850,000 square-foot health care complex will include:

- A 375-bed community-based hospital offering a full range of services to the residents of St. Catharines, Thorold, Niagara-on-the-Lake and the immediate area.

- A new regional tertiary mental health centre with 53 new longer-term mental health beds.
- A new Regional Cardiac Catheterization Centre.

Construction is expected to begin in fall 2008.

For more information, [go to the Niagara Health System web site](#).

Pandemic Planning Update



In 2006, Cancer Care Ontario began developing a plan so we will be prepared in the event of an emergency such as an influenza pandemic. Our pandemic plan will help to ensure that Ontario's cancer system will be in the best position to continue to provide critical cancer care, and Cancer Care Ontario will be able to continue to provide critical services such as funding for cancer drugs.

Through a clinical subcommittee of our Pandemic Planning Committee, and with input from cancer experts across the province, Cancer Care Ontario has developed a clinical guideline to help the cancer programs classify and prioritize patients in the event of a pandemic. The guideline includes a high-level ethical framework.

Cancer Care Ontario was invited to include the clinical guideline as part of the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's *2007 Ontario Health Plan for an Influenza Pandemic* document. The guideline has also been distributed to cancer care providers across the province so they can integrate it into their local planning initiatives.

A business continuity plan for Cancer Care Ontario is also in development and expected to be completed this fall. In addition to internal business issues, this plan addresses CCO's leadership role in the coordination of cancer services across the province, and as the liaison between cancer service providers and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, in the event of a pandemic.

Watch for updates on Cancer Care Ontario's pandemic planning initiative in future issues of ***Ontario Cancer News***.

- [Download CCO's pandemic clinical guideline](#)

Cancer 2020 eScoop



Cancer 2020 e-Scoop is a monthly bulletin from Cancer Care Ontario's Division of Preventive Oncology, consisting of regional and provincial news, initiatives, events and resources relevant to those working in cancer prevention and screening.

- [Read the September issue of Cancer 2020 eScoop](#)

Upcoming Events



Updates in Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia, September 28 & 29, 2007, Toronto Marriott Bloor Yorkville Hotel, Toronto

For information, [download the brochure](#), or contact the Office of Continuing Education & Professional Development, Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto at 416-978-2719 or toll-free at 1-888-512-8173, or send e-mail to help-MED0739@cmeteronto.ca.

International Society for Quality in Health Care's 24th International Conference: Transforming Healthcare in the Electronic Age, September 30 to October 3, 2007, Boston, MA

For information, go to <http://www.isqua.org.au/isquaPages/boston07.html> or send e-mail to isqua@isqua.org.

5th National Conference on Tobacco or Health; Smoke Free: A World of Difference, October 1 – 3, 2007, Edmonton, AB

Hosted by the Canadian Council for Tobacco Control. Registration closes September 20. For information, go to <http://www.ncth.ca/>.

Treating Cancer While Preserving Quality of Life, October 28 – November 1, Los Angeles, CA

49th Annual Meeting of the American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology. For information, go to <http://www.astro.org/Meetings/AnnualMeetings/>.

Food, Nutrition, Physical Activity and the Prevention of Cancer: A Global Perspective: A Launch Conference, November 1 – 2, Washington, DC

The World Cancer Research Fund and American Institute for Cancer Research release and discuss the landmark second expert report on cancer prevention. For information, go to http://www.aicr.org/site/PageServer?pagename=res_rc_home.

A National Forum on Cancer Care for All Canadians: Improving Access & Minimizing Disparities, November 1 – 3, 2007, The Coast Plaza Hotel & Suites, Vancouver, British Columbia

For information, go to www.interprofessional.ubc.ca, call 604-822-7524 or send e-mail to ipad@interchange.ubc.ca.

Toronto Myelodysplastic Syndromes Symposium 2007: Challenges and Opportunities, November 2, 2007, The Sutton Place Hotel, Toronto

For information, [download the brochure](#), send e-mail to help-MED0722@cmeterontoronto.ca, or call 416-978-2719 or 1-888-512-8173.

Ontario Hospital Association Health Achieve 2007, A World Class Showcase of Achievement in Health Care: Inspiring Ideas and Innovation, November 5 – 7, Toronto, ON

For information, go to <http://www.ohahealthachieve.com>.

Ontario College of Family Physicians: 45th Annual Scientific Assembly Conference, November 15 - 17, Toronto, ON

For information, go to <http://www.ocfp.on.ca/English/OCFP/CME/ASA/default.asp?s=1>.

National Cancer Institute of Canada celebrates its 60th Anniversary with Making Connections: A Canadian Cancer Research Conference, November 15 – 17, Toronto, ON

For information, go to http://www.ncic.cancer.ca/ncic/internet/standard/0,3621,84658243_1483513437_1_langId-en,00.html#1.

Second International Cancer Control Congress, November 25 – 28, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Hosted by the Brazilian National Cancer Institute and co-sponsored by the World Health Organization. For information go to <http://www.cancercontrol2007.com/>.

Contact Us

All enquiries and article suggestions should be directed to:

Christine Naugler
Public Affairs
Cancer Care Ontario
620 University Avenue
Toronto, ON M5G 2L7
phone: (416) 971-9800 x 1605
fax: (416) 217-1249
e-mail: publicaffairs@cancercare.on.ca

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