



*leveraging innovation
at the practitioner level*

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Surgical Oncology CoP News Bulletin

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News Update

This is a very exciting time at Cancer Care Ontario, with the roll out of the Surgical Oncology program's Community of Practice (CoP) initiative. The CoP initiative focuses on activities at the practitioner level. In the surgical community, there are various ongoing innovations that are all aimed at the increase in quality of care. The purpose of the CoP is to leverage these innovations and to connect practitioners to each other to share knowledge and ideas. The central CoP office will support the CoP initiatives through several enablers, which will help the communities to work towards their various goals and objectives. These enablers will help facilitate the communities' learning, projects and research.

Decision Support

This refers to the informatics unit at CCO that will provide decision support to the communities. This unit provides data services for CCO and any related initiatives via CoP projects.

Project Development

This component will centre around the bi-directional flow of needs between all stakeholders, but most importantly linking the sponsoring organization to the surgical groups. The development stage will include structure, strategy, grants, feedback, electronic communication tools, and evaluative tools.

Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada

The RCPSC is a partner with CCO on this initiative. The CoP team will work together with a team from the Center for Learning in Practice on various research projects as well as promoting learning

that is supported by and linked to the Maintenance of Certification Program. The focus of the knowledge research will include evaluation of learning in practice, practitioner self-assessment and group learning as it relates to interactions within a CoP

Communication System

This will provide a supportive communication infrastructure for the initiative. Recognizing that it is impossible to rely on face-to face meetings and teleconferences alone for interaction to thrive, additional electronic tools must be available to the community. This will allow all members of the community to communicate easily and quickly in a private space that will foster knowledge exchange and innovation.

Program in Evidence-Based Care (PEBC)

The PEBC will assist in the coordination of the chosen initiatives, both strategically and operationally. In doing so the CoP initiatives will be able to capitalize on PEBC's expertise and experience in evidence-based product development (guidelines development cycle), managing and supporting a provincial system of Disease Site Groups, knowledge translation, behavioral sciences, and program evaluation.

Current Status

The Surgical Gynecologic Oncologists and the General Surgeons Performing Colorectal Cancer Surgery have been selected to pilot this initiative. These groups are highly distinct in their membership and in their interests, providing us with an opportunity to develop a CoP model in the health care setting. Through communications with both groups, we have found many innovative projects and ideas. Three of the initial projects that we will be supporting include:

1. The Laparoscopic Colon Resection Surgery Guidelines and Dissemination Project;
2. The selection and measurement of Quality Indicators in Colorectal Cancer Surgery;
3. The issues and solutions surrounding Access to Gynecologic Oncology Consultation.

Next Steps

As we proceed, the goals of the core group will be to continue to develop a series of tools and support structures to facilitate the current projects. The natural extension of this is the validation of these tools. Documentation of the successes and/or improvements will be key to facilitating the roll out of a larger surgical oncology membership in order to streamline completion of other projects. The next step includes developing a model as well as evaluation structures for current projects so as to create tools that can be shared with other projects.

For more information about Communities of Practice please contact our office. Next month's news bulletin will feature Practitioners' Stories of Improvements, articles of interest and project updates.

CCO CoP TEAM

Sponsor

Dr. Hartley Stern is the Provincial Head of Surgical Oncology with Cancer Care Ontario and the Vice President of The Ottawa Hospital Regional Cancer Centre. Dr. Stern's clinical focus is colorectal cancer, and he continues to be actively involved in teaching students and clinical research. His provincial role is focused on improving the standard of cancer surgery in Ontario, using specific principles and guideline development, in conjunction with CoP.

CoP Surgeon Leader

Dr. Michael Fung Kee Fung is located at the Ottawa Hospital and is Director of the Gynaecologic Oncology Program, and Head of Surgical Oncology. His research interests include the use of medical informatics for training and evaluation of physician learners, and knowledge management in cancer care. His research also centers around guideline development for Gynecologic cancer and he is presently the chair of the Provincial Disease Site Group of the Program in Evidence-Based Care.

Project Manager

Alex Drossos is the Program Manager for Surgical Oncology at CCO in Toronto. Alex is a graduate of the McMaster University Health Services Management MBA program, and he is now the instructor of a new course called "Health Informatics" in that program. His undergraduate studies included Computer Engineering and Biology, both at UWO.

CoP Coordinator

Karen Sequeira is the CoP Coordinator, working at the Ottawa Hospital. She is a graduate of the Schulich School of Business MBA program, graduating with high distinction. Her undergraduate studies were in Human Biology and Chemistry at the University of Toronto. Karen has experience in the telecommunications sector as a Strategic Relations Manager, and more recently has worked on a collaborative consulting Microsystems project with Dartmouth Medical School, Sunnybrook & Women's College, and Schulich, along with a complete analysis on the organization Evergreen.
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CoP IT and Education Officer

Arifa Abdulla is the Knowledge Coordinator at The Ottawa Hospital's Gynecology Oncology Program. She graduated from McGill University with a BCom, and has pursued a career in IT with a special focus in Health Care. Arifa has worked on a number of Federal and Provincial Government projects as a Coordinator and Project Manager. Her work at the Gynecology Oncology Program in Ottawa is focused on Education and Learning in the Health Care setting, as well as the use of Information Technology as an enabler for continued learning.
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CoP Information Officer

Elena Goubanova is the CoP Information Officer, working at the Ottawa Hospital. Elena has an MA in Public Administration from Carleton University (2004). She graduated from the Algonquin College Interactive Multimedia program in 2000 and completed training in community development with Leadership Ottawa in 2003. She has experience in statistical analysis, project management and evaluation from her work in the social research field and with the federal government.

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Surgical Oncology CoP News Bulletin is the official newsletter for surgical Communities of Practice. You may distribute this bulletin to others that are interested. If you have questions, comments or suggestions please contact us: egoubanova@ottawahospital.on.ca, 613.737.7700x56097.