

Agency for Health
Protection and Promotion

START UP

March 2009

Welcome to Start Up, a newsletter to update you on new developments as we build Ontario's first public health agency.

For additional background information, we invite you to visit our web site at www.oahpp.ca.



Message from Vivek Goel, President and CEO



As we continue to build our capacity and staffing, the range of activities underway at the Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (OAHPP) is increasing exponentially.

News from the Sheela Basrur Centre

On February 9, we moved to our new headquarters at 480 University Avenue, Toronto. Our offices, which will be called the Sheela Basrur Centre, will be officially opened at a private ceremony with Dr. Basrur's family and friends in April. The Centre will be far more than physical space and will include professional development programs to support public health practitioners across the province. Planning is underway for initial Sheela Basrur Centre public activities, which will be held in May 2009. We will provide you with more information in the very near future.

Our Strategic Planning Consultation

With guidance from the Strategic Planning Committee of the OAHPP Board, we have launched an extensive consultation process around our first *Strategic Planning Framework and Start Up Operational Plan*, including sessions with staff and inter and intra-ministerial meetings with our government partners. As well, we have been working with Medical Officers of Health to set up stakeholder meetings and briefings in regions across the province. The document is available on our website at www.oahpp.ca. I invite you to find out more about our [consultation process](#) and submit any comments to stratplan@oahpp.ca.

Introducing our Director of Communications

I am pleased to announce that [Helen Simeon](#) joins the OAHPP on March 30, 2009 as Director of Communications, reporting to Sonya Corkum, our Vice President of Knowledge Exchange and Communications. In this role, Helen will be responsible for developing communication programs and strategies to support our multi-year strategic plan.

Launching Initiatives to Immediately Benefit the Field

While working on our *Strategic Planning Framework and Operational Plan* for the future, we are also working on a series of initiatives that will immediately benefit the public and health care workers that serve the people of Ontario. A major priority has been to build capacity in the areas of [Surveillance and Epidemiology](#), and [Infectious Disease Prevention and Infection Control](#).

In closing, building awareness of the OAHPP as a new organization is an important part of our work. I would like to express my appreciation to all the organizations and stakeholders that have invited us to make presentations to share information about our plans, progress and passion for protecting and promoting the health of the people of Ontario. If you would like to learn more about arranging a presentation please contact vincy.perri@oahpp.ca.

~ Vivek Goel



Start Up is produced by the Agency for Health Protection and Promotion to update you on start up and laboratory planning activities. The Agency welcomes your comments, questions and suggestions at info@oahpp.ca.

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Introducing Our Director of Communications

Helen Simeon joins the Agency on March 30, 2009 as Director, Communications, reporting to Sonya Corkum, Vice President, Knowledge Exchange and Communications. She will be responsible for developing communication programs and strategies to support the Agency's multi-year strategic plan. Helen has extensive experience in hospital and health communication management. She comes to the Agency from The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids) where she was Director, Public Affairs. In the 12 years she spent at SickKids, Helen developed programs to promote and publicize the work of the hospital and the Research Institute. She was also responsible for maintaining the reputation of the hospital through a number of high-profile issues and crises.

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