



IWK Health Centre

Making Waves

A newsletter for IWK staff, physicians and volunteers.

Our Core Values and Beliefs: **Care and Passion. Excellence and Leadership. Worklife and Relationships.**

November 3, 2011

Anne's Message



The Health Centre hosted their Annual General Meeting last week - Outgoing Board Chair, John Rogers, led the event as he shared in some memories and accomplishments from the past year. He also addressed the difficult challenges the organization will face as we move forward this year.

As always, the organization released our annual Report to the Community at the AGM. To see what we've done and where we are going, visit www.iwkreachesout.ca to view the IWK's 2010/11 Report to the Community.

PrideHealth, in partnership with Capital Health and the IWK, is putting a call out to GLBTIQ staff to take part in their latest initiative. With a youth-focus, prideHealth is producing an 'It Gets Better' video, where staff members are asked to share their trials growing up, but more importantly, to show the success and happiness that they have found in life. I proudly support this venture, and can't wait to see the finished product.

Building a Better Tomorrow Together is a provincial program that was implemented in 2003 and has since grown. Read on to find out how you can book a session for your team!

We try and keep up with our ambitious employees - this edition profiles Dr. Ron George, who most recently went to Ghana, where he was working to help improve maternal and neonatal care as a part of a team from the non-profit organization *Kybele*.
-Anne

Calling all GLBTIQ staff

PrideHealth is creating an It Gets Better video for YouTube.

It Gets Better is an initiative

aimed at supporting GLBTIQ youth which was started by sexual health columnist, Dan Savage. In an interview setting, GLBTIQ participants are asked to share their trials growing up, but more importantly, to show the success and happiness that they have found in life. These videos have garnered support from large companies, such as Apple and Facebook - now the IWK and Capital Health want to take their turn!

"This project exemplifies a large focus of prideHealth - youth. As a program, prideHealth extends a lot of support to the GLBTIQ community overall but it is important to concentrate some of that support directly on youth," says Jackie Spiers, Manager of Primary Health at the IWK Health Centre. "I encourage GLBTIQ staff to participate and share their story."

"Between the two organizations, prideHealth is currently recruiting staff to participate in this project. The IWK Health Centre and Capital Health believe in working together to provide a safe and positive environment for all employees. We want the same for our GLBTIQ communities and we hope to accomplish that through this project," Jackie Spiers continued.

The video will be filmed during the first two weeks of November. If you are interested in sharing your story and adding your proud voice to the prideHealth It Gets Better video, please e-mail prideHealth@cdha.nshealth.ca or call Cybelle Rieber, prideHealth Coordinator, at 473-1433.

To see examples of It Gets Better videos or to find out more about the It Gets Better project, visit www.itgetsbetter.org.

The prideHealth program provides safe and accessible primary health care to members of the GLBTIQ community. For more information about prideHealth, visit prideHealth.ca.

IT GETS BETTER VIDEO PROJECT

Building a Better Tomorrow Together (BBTT)



Facilitators at the latest BBTT session

The provincial program, Building a Better Tomorrow (BBT), was developed in April 2003. Currently, these educational modules have been reviewed, revised and are now being facilitated under what is called Building a Better Tomorrow Together (BBTT).

The BBTT modules were designed to enhance interprofessional collaboration and patient-centred practice within new and existing health care teams.

Health Care into all programs." says Jackie Spiers, Manager of Primary Health.

Although BBTT modules were originally offered to support and educate acute care teams transitioning through the Models of Care process, registration for the modules has now been extended and any team in the Health Centre can register.

There are currently 10 employees from various disciplines and professions across the IWK who have been trained to facilitate BBTT modules. Judy Elliot, Manager, Mental Health and Addictions Program, says, "The facilitators for the BBTT sessions present in a professional manner, taking the time to listen and learn the needs of the team and adapt the session accordingly."

To date, modules have received positive feedback, eighty per cent of BBTT attendees stated they would recommend the modules to others.

"The sessions are great learning but also a good team building event. I highly recommend them," concludes Judy Elliot.

For more information or to register your team, please contact julie.folk@iwk.nshealth.ca or check out the BBTT section located under the Departments and Services section on PULSE.

At the Department of Health and Wellness, BBTT is led by Models of Care and Primary Health Care. At the IWK, the modules are being coordinated out of Learning and Development, in collaboration with Primary Health.

"Learning and Development works with teams across the Health Centre to collaborate and facilitate the delivery of learning activities that are in line with Health Centre priorities," says Mary Thibeault, Manager of Learning and Development.

"Providing IWK teams with necessary tools to ensure their success is very important as we move forward with the Models of Care Initiative at the IWK, and begin to integrate Primary



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Profile: Dr. Ron George



Dr. George and his team with members of the Obstetrics Department at Tamale Teaching Hospital

One of the IWK's obstetric anesthesiologists, Dr. Ron George, recently returned from Ghana, where he was working to help improve maternal and neonatal care as a part of a team from the non-profit organization Kybele.

Kybele is a humanitarian organization dedicated to improving childbirth conditions worldwide through medical education partnerships. Bringing together healthcare professionals

from the U.S., Canada, Australia and Europe, Kybele teams spend time in host countries working alongside doctors and nurses in their home environments, promoting teaching and providing hands-on training in techniques that improve healthcare safety.

In countries like Ghana, "Life is very different for health care professionals," says Dr. George. "Maternal and neonatal death is an unfortunate routine part of working in a birthing centre."

Kybele aims to change that through developing and maintaining learning that health care workers can then share with others throughout their country. Health professionals from

Kybele work with local health professionals to practice team-centric approaches that help facilitate learning.

Kybele programs are designed to be culturally sensitive and country specific; Kybele teams work with host countries to develop evidence-based medical strategies for better patient care with consideration of the local infrastructure and culture.

The difficulties in Ghana are especially prevalent in rural areas, where people often have to travel long distances to obtain care. Rural midwives are often the front-line workers in Ghana, and Kybele has worked with Ghanaian midwives to provide learning that those midwives are able to use to educate their peers in other regions; disseminating their teaching.

On Dr. George's most recent trip, he was working in the Ghanaian city of Tamale, where the local hospital and medical school have been extremely supportive of Kybele's work to enhance maternal and neonatal care. There is no single intervention that can markedly improve maternal and perinatal care in Africa. Sustainable improvements are possible, however, only by comprehensively addressing the multitude of factors that comprise such complex systems.

In Ghana, Kybele's efforts appears to be working; the first "Centre of Excellence," Ridge Hospital, in the capital city of Accra, has seen significant improvements in their maternal mortality rate thanks to the hard work by many volunteers.

For more information about Kybele, please visit www.kybeleworldwide.org or contact Dr. George at ronald.george@iwk.nshealth.ca

IWK Annual General Meeting



The Code Blue Simulation

The 2011 IWK Annual General Meeting (AGM) hosted by the IWK Board of Directors took place on Wednesday, October 26, 2011. The event opened with a performance of 'Imagine' by the IWK choir. The inspirational undertone continued with remarks from John Rogers, Chair, IWK Board of Directors, "The IWK is a remarkable place, full of remarkable, committed and caring people [...] The

health of our children, women and families depend on a strong and vibrant IWK."

The Honourable Maureen MacDonald, Nova Scotia Minister of Health and Wellness and Anne McGuire, President & CEO of the Health Centre also brought greetings.

In addition to the formal board business, Bailey Gore performed a traditional Mi'kmaq dance in acknowledgement of Mi'kmaq History Month. Following the dance, Dr. Shannon MacPhee, Chief of Emergency Medicine, gave a presentation about the innovative learning tools implemented in the Emergency Department this past year; however, Shannon's presentation was interrupted by a distraught mother, carrying her baby who wasn't breathing, searching

for the Emergency Department. It took a few moments for the audience to realize that a simulation was underway. As the auditorium turned into a trauma room with a team working to save this baby, Anne McGuire provided comfort to the mother on stage.

After the audience's heart rates returned to normal, it was time for the awards portion of the ceremony. In efforts to honor those whose skills and talents have helped develop a reputation for the IWK that is international in scope, three board awards were given. Those being honoured include: Mitch, Tracey and Alex Emerson - Board Award of Community Excellence; Anne Cogdon, Executive Director, Primary Health, IWK Health Centre - Board Award of Leadership; and Dr. Richard Goldbloom - Board Award of Distinction.

The IWK's Family Leadership Council also celebrated achievements in patient and family-centred care by presenting the Award for Excellence in Patient and Family-Centred Care to Andy Cox, IWK Mental Health Patient Advocate, and Dr. Tony Otley and the IWK Gastroenterology (GI) Team.

Local hip-hop artist, Jason Bruce (J-Bru) took the stage to close the 2011 AGM. Special guest, Dutch Robinson accompanied J-Bru in a performance of 'Moving on Up'. However, it was J-Bru's poem that left the lasting impression, providing a unique take on the work we do, "With resources like playrooms, a family library, and the teen lounge, your patients can flourish, at the IWK, there's no flying away, to stand strong and fight hard is encouraged."



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Send us your success story! We know you have stories of achievements, changes and improvements you've made in your areas, and we'd love to help you tell them. Please send your success stories to Karen.Butt@iwk.nshealth.ca.