

Journal
Club/Academic
Rounds:

Many thanks to
the past
presenters:

Karl Claxton
Angela Rocchi
William Witteman
Merrick
Zwarenstein

Upcoming Guest
Speakers:

May 1 :
Mike Drummond

May 29:
Mark Roberts

September 4:
Mike Carter



Ontario Pressure Ulcer Model (OPUM):

Cost-effectiveness Analysis of Minimum Standard for Patient Support Surfaces in Operating Rooms and Emergency Departments to Prevent Hospital-Acquired Pressure Ulcers

- The final report is currently under revision and will be submitted to the Medical Advisory Secretariat (MAS) in mid-April.

Risk Assessment and Alternative Foam Mattresses to Prevent Community-Acquired Pressure Ulcers: A Cost-Effectiveness Analysis

- The final report will be completed towards the end of April.

Both reports will be presented to the Ontario Health Technology Advisory Committee (OHTAC) in April.

Development of the Ontario Cardiovascular Economic Model (OCVEM):

Data entry has started for the OCVEM model. Population, mortality, risk factors, and treatment data have arrived

PROJECT UPDATES

from our data sources and we are now populating the model and making sure everything is running fine. Preliminary results are expected by mid-April and a steering committee meeting will occur on April 7th to discuss project status and technical issues.

A Clinical Evaluation of Subcallosal Cingulate Gyrus Deep Brain Stimulation for Treatment-Resistant Depression

The contract is now being finalized and we hope to commence patient enrolment in the spring.

Systematic Review of Economic Evaluations of Biologics for Rheumatoid Arthritis in Adults:

The updated systematic search of medical and economic electronic databases has been completed and 19 studies have been selected. The review teams have completed the standardized data extraction process and are currently undertaking the quality appraisal process.

Turning for Ulcer Reduction (TURN) Study:

A randomized clinical trial looking at the effect of different patient turning frequencies on the incidence of pressure ulcers in residents of long-term care facilities is set to begin soon. This study is a multi-site collaboration between THETA and the University of Texas, who plan to recruit 500 and 900 residents, respectively. Our goal is to have recruitment complete by the end of June. Interviews for the RA position have concluded and the new THETA employee will be announced shortly.

PROJECT UPDATES Cont'd

Pressure Ulcers Multidisciplinary Team (PUMT) Study – A Cluster Pragmatic Randomized Controlled Trial:

This trial will evaluate the clinical and cost-effectiveness of 'enhanced' multi-disciplinary wound care teams vs. 'usual' care teams in long-term care facilities in Ontario for the treatment of pressure ulcers. Phase 1 of the study is scheduled to commence in April. The Central Community Care Access Centre is partnering with THETA on this Phase. The protocol has recently been submitted to the MAS. This Phase will be a precursor to a full trial for which we will approach the CIHR for funding.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chinese Health Economics Institute (CHEI) visited THETA in late March with the intent of establishing a collaboration between THETA/Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy and the CHEI. The CHEI has over 200 researchers in health economics and health services research, but very few in health economic evaluation. There are fewer than 10 researchers in all of China with any background in HTA-most are at CHEI, and none are trained to PhD level. We are hoping to establish a collaboration to host visiting scholars, send students to China, and conduct joint projects. This collaborative agreement will be part of a more formal agreement between the health ministers of China and Canada, expected to take place in June 2009. Further discussions with CHEI will take place at the International Health Economics Association (iHEA) 7th World Congress in Beijing, July 12-15, 2009.

THETA will be hosting a panel session at this year's iHEA Congress titled, *Mega-analysis in health technology assessment: the THETA/MAS (MoHLTC) experience in assessing strategies for preventing pressure ulcers in long-term care facilities in Ontario, Canada*. The session will present the current method of health technology assessment within the concept of meta-analysis conducted by the MAS/Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and THETA Collaborative in the Province of Ontario, Canada. The clinical, humanistic and economic evaluation of a multitude of strategies for the prevention of pressure ulcers in the long-term care setting in Ontario will be discussed. A few THETA staff members, as well as PhD students will be in attendance.

The Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH) 2009 Symposium will take place in Ottawa on April 5th through 7th. THETA staff members Ba' Pham (OPUM) and Gabreille van der Velde representing Marcio Machado (Cardiovascular Project) will be presenting their work.

ANNOUNCEMENTS Cont'd

On March 17th, Karl Claxton, Murray Krahn, and Robert Peterson participated in a session on the value and reality behind the use of economic information in decision making . You can find the webcast [here](#).

Interviews for the biostatistician and health economist positions have concluded – our new THETA members will be announced very shortly.



SOCIAL EVENT

CHEERS!



On the first Friday of each month at 4pm, THETA staff, student and collaborators congregate at [Pogue Mahone Irish Pub](#) for a brew, located on College St. (between Bay & Yonge). We look forward to seeing you there!

For more information about THETA Quarterly Newsletter visit www.theta.utoronto.ca or call 416-946-0568

If you would like anything published in our newsletter, please contact [Steven Carcone](#)