

# THETA Quarterly News Bulletin

January 2009

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## Project Updates

### **Ontario Pressure Ulcer Model (OPUM):**

The Cost-Effectiveness of Prevention Strategies for Pressure Ulcers in Long-Term Care Homes in Ontario: Projections of the Ontario Pressure Ulcer Model

- The [final report](#) was completed in December, 2008.

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 MAS in mid-February.

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

- All data acquisition from the inter-RAI group and Department of Health studies, University of Waterloo, was completed in December, 2008.
- The final report will be completed towards the end of February.

### **Development of the Ontario Cardiovascular Economic Model:**

Phase 1, which was aimed at identifying and selecting a working computational model for use in cost-effectiveness analysis of coronary heart disease (CHD) interventions, is complete.

Phase 2 intends to explain the decrease in CHD deaths by the use of medical treatments and changes in cardiovascular risk factors. Data acquisition and analysis is currently underway.

Phase 3, which is currently under development, will evaluate the cost-effectiveness of an intermediate care programme (i.e. heart clinics vs. standard medical care) for Ontario patients with CHD.

## **Deep Brain Stimulation for Treatment-Resistant Depression - A Field Evaluation:**

Funding has been approved by the MoHLTC and a final funding agreement is underway with St. Jude Medical.

UHN REB has approved the study. Health Canada submission is pending. We hope to commence patient enrolment in the spring.

## **Systematic Review of Economic Evaluations of Biologics Compared to DMARDs for the Treatment of Rheumatoid Arthritis in Adults:**

Systematic e-search to the end of 2008 has been completed. Title and abstract screening is also complete. Expected date of completion of the review update is May, 2009.

## **Using Mathematical and Economic Models to Guide Screening Policy in Cervical Cancer:**

A multi-disciplinary team consisting of experts in all aspects of modeling and epidemiology of HPV and cervical cancer (Chris Bauch, U of Guelph; Ba' Pham, THETA; Lawrence Paszat, ICES; Meg McLachlin, London Health Sciences Centre; Vladimir Gilca, Quebec Institute of Public Health; Murray Krahn, THETA) is developing a model to evaluate the clinical effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of current and possible modified screening strategies using new technologies in light of vaccination. The model consists of an extension of previous disease history models in this area, as well as a network model component that analyzes sexual behaviour. This will help provinces develop new screening recommendations in the vaccine era, with the goal of reducing cervical cancer incidence in Canada.

### **Announcements**

Please mark your calendars! The **2nd Annual THETA Symposium** will take place on May 22-23, at [Queen's Landing](#), Niagara-on-the-Lake. You will receive your formal invitation shortly. We hope to have a great turnout once again!

Gloria Woo and Holly Witteman were the recipients of Career Development Awards at the 30th Annual Meeting of the Society for Medical Decision Making in October.

- Gloria's presentation, "Bayesian Mixed Treatment Comparison Meta-analysis of Outcomes of Treatment for Chronic Hepatitis B", placed 1st for the Lee B. Lusted Student Prize. Congratulations Gloria!

- Holly's presentation, "Narratives in Online Communities and Women's Decisions about Birth Attendants and Birth Place", also won the Lee B. Lusted Student Prize. Congratulations Holly!

Congratulations to Ba' Pham (OPUM project) and Marcio Machado (Cardiovascular project) for having their abstracts accepted as poster presentations at the upcoming CADTH 2009 Symposium.

Ski Day - THETA will heading to [Blue Mountain](#) for a fun-filled day of skiing and snowshoeing on Thursday, February 5th. All are welcome! Please e-mail [Steven Carcone](#) for further details.

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

### **THETA Academic Rounds**

THETA would like to thank the following presenters for their participation: Rob Fowler, Eleanor Pullenayegum, Ba' Pham, Rinku Sutradhar, Fiona Miller, Wendy Ungar, Vania Costa, Greg Zaric, and Marcio Machado.

Upcoming guest speakers include:

- Merrick Zwarenstein - Feb 6th
- Karl Claxton - March 18th
- Michael Drummond - May 1st
- Mark Roberts - May 29th

Please refer to our [website](#) for further details.

### **THETA Events**

## **Rosie Thein's Farewell Dinner**

Rosie has accepted a faculty position at The University of South Wales. Congratulations Rosie! THETA wishes you the best of luck!



## THETA Christmas Lunch

Wayne Hindmarsh, Murray Krahn



THETA collaborators and staff



Walter Wodchis, Murray Krahn & Andreas Laupacis

