

# THETA Quarterly News Bulletin

March 2008

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## THETA Retreat

The THETA Annual Academic Meeting at the [Pillar and Post](#) is scheduled for May 23-25. The weekend promises to be filled with various types of activities ranging from a winery tour to informative talks intermingled with speed dating. A brief agenda can be found on our website [theta.utoronto.ca](http://theta.utoronto.ca).

Please confirm your ability to attend, if you haven't already done so, by emailing Desiree Chanderbhan at [info@theta.utoronto.ca](mailto:info@theta.utoronto.ca).

## Project Updates

- Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) RCT: THETA's first field evaluation is underway. The DBS protocol has been submitted to the Research Ethics Board at UHN. The Case Report Form is being designed in collaboration with Progressare, the company providing a digitalized solution for data capture. Participant recruitment will hopefully begin in May. In addition to THETA staff, this project involves site investigators, Dr's Andres Lozano and Sid Kennedy, and THETA investigators, Dr. David Urbach and Shabbir Alibhai.
- Systematic Review of the Cost Effectiveness of Biologics for Rheumatoid Arthritis: In close collaboration with Dr. Bombardier and staff from the Medical Advisory Secretariat (MAS) at the MoH, THETA led the writing of a report that has been presented to the CED. It is currently under review within CED.
- Pressure Ulcer Project (PU): A comprehensive policy model is being developed with Drs. Bayoumi, Wodchis and Krahn. Input data is from a plethora of sources including a review of the literature, consultation with clinical experts, and from administration databases from the MoH. The model will be used to generate a "league" table displaying clinical effectiveness, cost, cost-effectiveness and budget impact analysis for a large number of prevention and treatment options.

More detailed project descriptions and updates will be shared at the THETA retreat.

## THETA Communications

Our website is up! Please visit [theta.utoronto.ca](http://theta.utoronto.ca). The website will not just be a communications tool, but a clearing house for tools developed at THETA. Plans include tools for managing workflow for Systematic Reviews and Economic Models. Future editions of our news bulletin will be posted on our site.

## **THETA Activities**

THETA's official launch, held at the Wine and Cheese reception on Jan. 23rd, was a great success. Representatives from MAS, HPME, Cancer Care Ontario, UHN and U of T Pharmacy expressed support for the formation of THETA and the nature of its collaborative approach to HTA.

A HTA report on liquid-based cytology for cervical cancer screening involving some of the THETA investigators and students was released by CADTH February 28, 2008.

(<http://www.cadth.ca/index.php/en/hta/reports-publications/search/publication/799>)

A MAS retreat was held on Feb. 7th. Representatives from the Programs for Assessment of Technology in Health (PATH), THETA, and MAS gathered to discuss how decision analytic models could be used to support policy decision making at the strategic level.

## **THETA Capacity Building**

Welcome to our newest staff members Desiree Chanderbhan (Finance and Administrative Support), Anita Stern (Clinical Research Co-ordinator), and William Witteman (Research Associate). Others who will be joining us shortly include a post-doc in Pharmacy, a health economist, and a senior data analyst. PhD candidates contributing expertise to THETA projects on a part-time permanent basis include Beate Sander, Ava John-Baptiste, Andrea Anonychuk, Maggie Chen, Wendong Chen, and Gloria Woo.