

THETA Quarterly News Bulletin

September 2008

Project Updates

Canadian Cardiovascular Model:

The Ontario Cardiovascular Disease Economic Modeling (OCDEM) team (reviewers from PATH, ICES, and THETA) have selected the IMPACT model, based on the model transparency, validity, and applicability to the Ontario setting.

The OCDEM modeling team is in the process of finalizing the protocol and negotiating a formal comprehensive written research agreement between PATH, ICES, THETA, and the Liverpool group.

Ontario Pressure Ulcer Model (OPUM):

A meeting with an Expert Panel has been scheduled for October 3rd to discuss the methodology and costing of wound care treatment strategies.

A final report on the *Cost Effectiveness of Prevention Strategies for Pressure Ulcers in Long-Term Care: Ontario Pressure Ulcer Model* will be completed by the end of this year.

ICES have approved our data request proposal for the project entitled *Cost effectiveness of prevention and treatment for pressure ulcers in acute care and home care*. A data analyst from ICES will be assigned to work with THETA in early October.

Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) RCT:

Patient enrolment will begin as soon as a contract between the UHN, U of T, and the industrial sponsor has been finalized, and approval received from Health Canada.

Systematic Review of the Cost Effectiveness of Biologics for Rheumatoid Arthritis:

The systematic review has been extended to now capture articles published between 2006-2008.

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

A multi-disciplinary team consisting of experts in all aspects of HPV and cervical cancer (Chris Bauch, U of Guelph; Meg McLachlin, London Health Sciences Centre; Vladimir Gilca, Quebec Institute of Public Health; Lawrence Paszat, ICES; THETA) will develop a computer model to evaluate the clinical effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of current and possible modified screening strategies using new technologies in light of vaccination. This will help provinces to develop new screening recommendations in the vaccine era, with a goal of further reducing cervical cancer incidence in Canada.

Announcements

Please mark your calendars! **The 2nd Annual THETA Retreat 2009** will take place on May 22-24, at the [Queens Landing Hotel](#) in Niagara-on-the-Lake. You will receive your formal invitation shortly. We hope to have a great turnout once again!

THETA has been hosting [bi-weekly academic rounds](#), which will alternate between a journal club and academic meeting format. Rounds will be held at the Leslie Dan Pharmacy building, U of T, room 310.

Rosie Thein et al. have submitted their manuscript entitled *Health status utilities and the impact of pressure ulcer in long-term care residents in Ontario* to Medical Care on September 15th.

CHEERS! On the first Friday of each month at 4pm, THETA staff, students and collaborators, will be gathering at [Pogue Mahone Irish Pub](#) located at Bay and College. We look forward to seeing you there!

THETA Staff

We wish to thank Desiree Chanderbhan for all her amazing help while Karen was away. It was a pleasure working with you Des! All the best in the future!



We wish to welcome back from maternity leave Karen Liu. THETA looks forward to working with you once again Karen!



Welcome [Dr. Gabrielle van der Velde](#), DC PhD, to the THETA team! Gabrielle will be working as a Research Associate at THETA. She is also a Scientific Associate at the University Health Network (Toronto General Hospital) and an Adjunct Scientist at the Institute for Work & Health.



Welcome [Orges Ormanidhi](#), MSc MPhil! Orges will be working as a Research Associate in a joint appointment between the University of Guelph and THETA. His main focus will be in the area of HPV screening and vaccination policy.

Communications

THETA is attempting to provide links for individuals interested in HTA education. [Courses in HTA](#) are offered through a number of departments and faculties at the University of Toronto.