WRHA Professional Advisory Committee
The WRHA is one of the first health regions in Canada to establish a Professional Advisory Committee (PAC). The PAC is the Senior Patient Care committee of healthcare professionals of WRHA, directly advisory to the Board on policy related to patient/resident/client care issues, as may be defined and constituted under the by-laws of the Board, and advisory to the CEO on operational matters. Its purposes are:

1. To provide advice to Senior Management on operational issues related to professional practice, scope of practice, including standards of care, competencies, patient safety, quality indicators, and performance management systems.

2. To provide a structure that promotes professional identity and advocacy within an inter-professional environment and to provide a mechanism for accountability of professional practice that crosses program and facility boundaries.

3. To promote a positive culture for professional staff for the benefit of patients served by WRHA.

Thank you to all those individuals who expressed interest in participating on this committee. Committee members were selected on the basis of interest, skill, professional mix and balancing sector (acute, community and long term care) representation.

Furthering Regionalization – Community Hospitals
The Chief Operating Officers of the four community hospitals – Grace, Concordia, Seven Oaks and Victoria have joined the WRHA Senior Management team. Each of the Boards representing these facilities has named a Board member to the WRHA Board of Directors. WRHA now becomes responsible for financial management of these facilities. Details regarding the respective roles of these Hospital Boards and the Region are being finalized. It is a pleasure to have Mark Neskar, Ray Racette, John McFarlane and Henry Tessman join our Senior Management team.

COMMUNICATION DISORDERS NEWS
- The Canadian Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists (CASLPA) National Conference was held in Winnipeg in May. The conference committee was co-chaired by Carla Johns (SLP, HSC) and Ann Oberbuchner (Audi, WRHA). Colleen Braun-Janzen (SLP, DLC) and Leslie Sarchuk (Director, HSC) presented on “Communication Needs of Non-speaking Adult Patients in Acute Care – roles of Nurses and Speech-Language Pathologists.” Colleen also presented on “Attitudes and Perceptions of Adults with Severe Acquired Communication Disorders.”
- Colleen Lee (SLP, HSC) and members of the Department of Communication Disorders Library Committee at HSC have created a Health Topic for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology on the Neil John Maclean Library Web Site. The Health Topic contains a listing of approximately 250 books found on the U of M Libraries related to SLP and Aud. A listing and a link to approximately 50 online journals have also been created. Finally, several webbibographies have been created that feature a selected listing of book titles, current articles, relevant journals and web sites specific to that topic. All WRHA employees have free access to the Health Topic and its listed resources.
- Shelley Proven (SLP, HSC) and Brenda Fjeldsted (OT, HSC) were accepted to present at the International Conference on FASD in Victoria, B.C. in March 2007. The presentation is entitled, “The Role of the Speech-Language Pathologist and Occupational Therapist in Fetal Alcohol Disorder Assessment, Intervention and Follow-up.”
- Heather Jacobson (SLP, RHC) will be sharing an inter-disciplinary presentation entitled “Enhancing the Mealtime Experience” (a caregiver education program related to mealtimes for individuals with dementia) at the Canadian Association on Gerontology (CAG) in Quebec City at the end of October 2006.
- Val Hachey (SLP, SOGH) and Leslie Sarchuk (Director, HSC) have just completed an evaluation of Fiberoptic Endoscopic Evaluation of Swallowing (FEES) equipment approved through the Capital...
Equipment Process. FEES equipment is used as an instrumental technique in the assessment of swallowing function. It provides a direct view of the pharynx and larynx when evaluating swallowing function in patients with dysphagia (i.e. swallowing disorders). FEES will provide an alternative instrumental assessment to Videofluoroscopic Swallow Studies (VFSS); resulting in more timely and complete assessments for this patient population. SOGH and HSC will be the two initial sites providing this service, with a view to expanding FEES to other sites throughout the region.

SOCIAL WORK NEWS
A number of Social Workers in the region participated in the 2006 National Social Work Conference: Transformation, Charting Our Course, in Halifax Nova Scotia:

- **Sonia Busca Owczar** MSW RSW, Health Sciences Centre, and **Megan Beamish** MSW, Eve Omar MSW, **Jennifer Sveinson** BSW presented a poster titled “Crossing the Bridge: An 8-Week Psycho-Educational Group Program for Adolescents with Chronic Illness and Their Families as They Transition From Pediatric Health to Adult Health Services.”
- **Pam Robb** attended President’s Meetings in Nova Scotia on behalf of MASW/MIRSW. As well, Pam attended meetings of the CASW Health Interest Group and presented her work on working conditions of social workers in health. The group will be completing a position statement on this topic.

Conference/Workshop Presentations
- **Agathe Bisson**, MSW RSW presented at the Canadian Association of Psychosocial Oncology Conference in Ottawa on Children and Grief (in French) in May 2006.
- **Linda McKellar** co-presented with **Bridget Remillard** RN, at the Manitoba Hospice and Palliative Care Conference in September, “From the Ground Up – Research, Development and Implementation of an Adult Support Group.”
- **Nora Cristall** and **Kathy Hendrickson Gracie** presented at the “Quality is As Quality Does, Tell Us What You’re Doing” Workshop Friday, Sept. 8th in Winnipeg. Their topic was: “Reflective Practice: Enhancing Patient Care and Data Mining as a Quality Improvement Tool.”

Grants and Scholarships Awarded
- **Rachelle Ashcroft** MSW RSW, Neurosurgery Social Worker Health Sciences Centre, was awarded a CASW scholarship to present “Hospital Social Workers’ Experiences with Ethics and Ethical Decision – Making.” Rachelle conducted a qualitative research study that explored the experiences of hospital social workers in ethical practice and decision - making, and to better understand ethical issues encountered in practice.
- **Phyllis Mooney** MSW RSW, Forensics and Adult Mental Health Social Worker, Health Sciences Centre, has been awarded a research grant to study and pilot the “Use of a Family Consultation Model in an Inpatient Setting.” The purpose of the model is to develop a program wide framework for family involvement in the care of patients served by the Mental Health Program, and to promote family involvement consistent with evidence based practice.
- **Nora Cristall** has received a grant from CASW to develop a handbook on Ethical Practice for Social Workers. This will support the implementation of the 2005 Code of Ethics.
- **Cathy Farwell**, BSW RSW at HSC received a grant through the Children’s Hospital Foundation to develop a Discharge Resource Manual for staff at the Children’s Hospital as well as developing educational materials for parents and children admitted to Children’s Hospital.

Other News
- **Pam Robb** Health Sciences Centre is beginning her term as president of MASW/MIRSW.
- **Dawn Chaitram**, Social Worker at Deer Lodge Centre has been a facilitating a number of workshops on cross-cultural competency and anti-racism/anti-oppression strategies for health care staff within the WRHA. Dawn began her work at the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization of Manitoba where she worked with individuals from diverse backgrounds who were experiencing a range of physical and mental health problems. Dawn developed an interest in cross-cultural issues as many of the patients she worked with were experiencing racial, ethnic, and linguistic barriers when attempting to access medical services. Staff also expressed the need for information pertaining to cross-cultural communication and conflict resolution within a multi-cultural environment. Dawn continues to work with staff and patients within the health care community in regards to the development of culturally competent assessment and communication skills. For more information, Dawn can be reached at dchaitram@deerlodge.mb.ca.
- The **Regional Social Work Leadership Council** participated in an “Agreements for Excellence” workshop in the spring of 2006. Projects under the umbrella of Best Practice, Infrastructure, Strengthening Partnerships and Profile have been initiated, and further information will be disseminated as these projects
unfold. Please contact the social work lead in your site/program, or call Sandra Loewen at 940-6611 if you wish further information.

- Congratulations to Gloria Dixon for being selected as a representative on the WRHA Professional Advisory Council.

Please mark your calendar for the upcoming workshop “Competency and Decision Making Capacity” with speakers Greg Reid, Maureen Bonin, Dr. George Webster, Dr. David Strang, and Joanna Knowlton. A special thank you to Gloria Dixon for organizing the day.

CLINICAL NUTRITION NEWS

- The Manitoba Dietetic Education Partnership Program (MDEPP) has accepted and enrolled 21 dietetic interns into the Nutrition and Food Services (NFS) internship in September. The 3-week orientation is now complete and the students are in their placements within WRHA or in a rural health authority. A total of 11 new practice based research projects will be completed as a result of the internship.

- Coralee Hill RD, DLC, conducted a 4-month study (October 2004 – January 2005) to investigate the impact of adding 1 tablespoon of ground flaxseed daily to the breakfast menu of 30 residents living in a long-term care facility. Results indicated a 15% reduction in the use of prescribed stool softeners and laxatives, a 50% reduction in suppository use, and a 32% increase in bowel frequency. Responses to a Patient Assessment of Constipation Questionnaire indicated fewer symptoms of constipation and increased comfort. Ground flaxseed appears to be an easily tolerated intervention for the prevention and treatment of constipation in this setting.

- Pat Ozechowsky, RD, HSC received a grant of $31,874 from the Children's Hospital Foundation to update and revise the HSC Handbook of Pediatric Enteral and Parenteral Nutrition in conjunction with the Child Health Nutrition Working Group.

- Practice Councils for each sector are meeting regularly and working to establish evidence based recommendations for clinical nutrition practice.

- Clinical Nutrition Expert Review Groups continually send Executive Summary of recommendations for therapeutic diets to the Nutrition Advisory Subcommittee of Pharmacy and Therapeutics for approval.

- New food service rethermalization equipment has been tendered, selected and trialed at many sites. This new equipment will be introduced to the system early in the new year.

- Congratulations to Rosemary Szabadka, Community Nutritionist, in partnership with Bookmates Family Learning Centre, on receiving the regional “speaking of food and healthy living award” for her participation in the development of “Alphabet Soup.” Alphabet Soup is a nutrition and literacy program that teaches preschoolers and their parents the basics of healthy eating through the love of reading, rhyme and song. The award is an annual award given through Dietitians of Canada to honor collaborative communication initiatives that promote clear and credible nutrition healthy living information to Canadians.

- Marni McFadden, Clinical Dietitian – Education, with Nutrition and Food Services was a Volunteer Recognition Award Recipient for her contributions as chair and executive member of the Dietitians of Canada Community Dietitians in Health Centres Network from 2002 to 2006. Marni was specifically recognized for her work in expanding the Ontario-based network across the country.

PHARMACY NEWS

- Pediatric Adverse Drug Reaction Study
  The Genotype-specific Approaches to Therapy in Childhood (GATC) study is a pediatric multi-centre, Canadian study examining adverse drug reactions in children. The ultimate goal of the study is to prevent ADRs in children by identifying predictive genomic biomarkers of significant ADRs by comparing the DNA of enrolled pediatric participants who have experienced an ADR to the DNA of control participants who have been on the same drug but not had an ADR. The GATC project hopes to incorporate the genomic biomarkers into a diagnostic tool that will be used to predict and prevent ADRs in children by using specific dosing recommendations for commonly used drugs which are based on that individual's genetic make-up.

  The WRHA Regional Pharmacy program is facilitating the study in Winnipeg (one of eight sites across Canada). The study is currently underway at the Winnipeg Health Science Centre’s Children’s Hospital with the hopes to expand to other areas including CancerCare Manitoba, St. Boniface General Hospital, and Manitoba Adolescent Treatment Centres in the near future.

  The study is dependant on referrals from physicians, nurses, pharmacists, allied health professionals and the families of children who have experienced an ADR themselves. Health care professionals can help by talking with their pediatric patients and families that have suffered an ADR and asking if they would be willing to talk with ADR study clinician.

  If you or your patient would like to learn more about the GATC study, please contact the GATC study clinician:
  - Shanna Chan @ 787-1195, pager 931-2314 or email schan@hsc.mb.ca.
Congratulations to Kevin Hall, Director of Pharmacy Services for the WRHA, who was awarded the 2006 Meritorious Service Award by the Canadian Pharmaceutical Association.

RESPIRATORY THERAPY NEWS

Please join us in celebrating Respiratory Therapy Week – October 22-28, 2006.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY NEWS

Jeanette Edwards, WRHA was the recipient of two prestigious occupational therapy awards. In May she received the Outstanding Occupational Therapist Award at the Manitoba Society of Occupational Therapists gala awards dinner. This award was in recognition of the significant impact she has had on the profession and community at large. For many years, Jeanette has envisioned health in a different paradigm and tirelessly championed the ideals of primary health care. Her work was further recognized in Montreal at the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapy (CAOT) National Conference where she was awarded the CAOT Award for Innovative Practice.

Louise Nichol and co-presenter Corine Poirier, (Home Care – Community Stroke Service) won the Innovation Award for Education, Data Quality and Clinical Practice for their presentation at the National Resident Assessment Instrument (RAI) Forum held at Winnipeg in May. Their talk was entitled “Community Stroke Rehabilitation: A Novel approach to RAI-HC implementation and care planning.”

Kristal Laminman (HSC) and Catherine Troia (SOGH) were selected by their respective facilities to attend the Health Leaders Institute in Toronto November 13-17, 2006 and March 30-31, 2007.

Gina Devos (HSC) presented a paper entitled “Giving Hope a Home: Providing Support to Men” in Transition at the Schizophrenia Society of Canada conference held in Winnipeg.

Marlene Stern, (WRHA) was the invited speaker at the Victoria General Hospital in September. Her talk was entitled “Yes I Can…Use A Client-Centred Approach.”

Fifteen occupational therapists were added to the Occupational Therapy Department, School of Medical Rehabilitation, University of Manitoba, Roster of Honour Roll – David Chochinov and Charmin McFarlane-Chrusch (CTS), Corie Haslbeck (MHC) Suzanne Arpin, Kim Baessler, Sheryl Singer (HSC), Rebecca Bayes, Dallas Collingridge (SMD), Marlys Nagy, Jane Lawler (St. Amant), Marcy Fengler, Julie Lamothe, Leyda Thalman, Robin Jewers (SBGH), Christy Ploegman (VGH). They were nominated by their students for having demonstrated excellence in the provision of a fieldwork placement and for making an outstanding contribution to their education.

The following occupational therapists presented and/or authored papers and posters at the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapy Conference at Montreal in June.

- Cara Brown, Kristal Laminman (HSC) – “A process for evaluating acute care service provision”
- Kristal Laminman, Angie Maidment (HSC) – “Adult seating clinic outcomes measurement: Goal attainment and maintenance”
- Lori Knott (HSC) – “Measuring occupational performance in lightweight and ultralight wheelchairs”
- Marie Masiowski, Jenifer Girard, Karin Chanas, Janet Meleshko, Leslie Constianis, Leyda Thalman (SBGH) – “I need occupational therapy: A self-referral and screening tool”
- Robin Jewers (SBGH) – “Ouch! Sensory responses of children diagnosed with Tourette’s disorder”
- Julie Lamothe, Kelly Erbach, Leyda Thalman (SBGH) – “Bundle me: Implementing bundled bathing for premature infants”
- Marlene Stern (WRHA) – “Professional practice leadership network: Support for evidence-based decision-making”

The Occupational Therapy Advisory Committee at RHC developed a practice guideline for the use of the Brain Injury Visual Assessment Battery for Adults (biVABA) in conjunction with three Master of Occupational Therapy Students at the University of Winnipeg.

THERAPEUTIC RECREATION NEWS

Maem Slater Enns (SOGH) was selected by SOGH to attend the Health Leaders Institute in Toronto November 13-17, 2006 and March 30-31, 2007.

Your Feedback
I am interested in hearing from you. If you have any questions feedback, please email me at info@wrha.mb.ca.

Sincerely,

Réal Cloutier
Vice President and Chief Allied Health Officer
Winnipeg Regional Health Authority