

Respiratory Health Strategic Clinical Network™



MISSION:

“The Respiratory Health Strategic Clinical Network™ will facilitate optimal respiratory health through implementation of innovative, patient-centered, evidence-informed and coordinated services.”



- Opportunity to Change Sleep Care in Alberta
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“Innovation is not just a widget or a digit, it's a way of doing things better.”

-Dr. Kathryn Todd,
Vice President, Research, Innovation & Analytics

The Respiratory Health SCN turned three last month. We want to take this time to thank each of you for your dedication to the important and exciting work we do.

The SCNs are tracking and measuring their progression across 10 identified capabilities. In 2017-18, our focus will be: Strategic Alignment, Innovation and Organization and Culture.

We look forward to continued success. As we mature and reflect on the great work of the network to date. We are proud of facilitating improved patient care, safer practice, and promoting fiscal responsibility. Some projects include:

- Alberta Childhood Asthma Pathway
- COPD Admission Order Sets - Calgary & Central Zone
- PRIHS Projects:
 - COPD Discharge Model
 - Primary Care Asthma
- Safer Oxygen Delivery Guidelines
- Better care through consistent use of a Metered Dose Inhaler (MDI) with Spacer vs. Nebulizer

The time and energy our members have dedicated to this work does not go unnoticed. You each play a role in the success of our network - thank you!
—RHSCN Leadership Team



Alberta Childhood
Asthma Pathway



Tool Kit
[Click to Access](#)

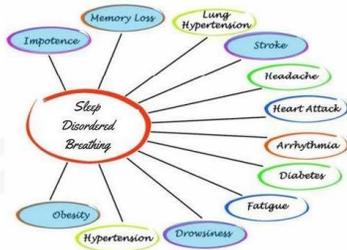
20 March 17
20

Q&A
Session

SIGN UP
Today

Opportunity to Change Sleep Care in Alberta

**WE
NEED
YOUR
HELP!!!**



SLEEP DISORDERED BREATHING

AHS | RHSCN | U of A | U of C | W21C

SPRING 2017 | SIGN UP TODAY

 [Respiratory Health SCN](#)
 RespiratoryHealth.SCN@ahs.ca

Dr. Sachin Pendharkar is leading a research project addressing [Sleep Disordered Breathing care](#) in Alberta. This project is in partnership with AHS, RHSCN, U of A, U of C and W21C.

Dr. Pendharkar and his research team are recruiting patients, family

members and providers. Patients and family members will have an opportunity to share their experiences. Providers will have an opportunity to attend a workshop discussing the current state. Contact us to attend either the patient and family or provider focused discussion.



We're on Twitter

Respiratory Health SCN is on Twitter. Follow us and stay tuned to what might be going on with the network and how you can become involved.

The Value of Strategic Clinical Networks

In Dr. Verna Yiu's first [video blog](#) of 2017, she discussed the positive impact the Strategic Clinical Networks have on Albertans with our Vice President of Research, Dr. Kathryn Todd.



Our network is proud of the positive changes we bring to the lives of Albertans!

Therapeutic Interchange: Metered Dose Inhaler

March 1, a therapeutic interchange (TI) was implemented province wide.

The reason for this implementation is to **reduce risk** of:

- Spread of infection
- Adverse effects to patients
- Drug exposure to staff
- Medical air/oxygen misconnect.

All orders for nebulized specific respiratory medications will be interchanged to a metered-dose inhaler (MDI) with spacer wherever possible by an authorized prescriber. The only exception will be for neonates/NICU.

Supplementary resources are accessible on the AHS staff intranet, by using the search term "Therapeutic Interchange. Non-AHS staff can email us to receive a copy of the following resources:

- FAQs: Therapeutic Interchange Supplemental Information
- Information for Prescribers
- PowerPoint Presentation
- Pharmacy Services

Our Members at Work

Alice Arthur and Leslie Phillips, RNs with the Aspen Primary Care Network value community engagement. Their 4th Annual Women's Symposium hosts 100 women and approximately 20 community agencies. This year's theme is: 'Embracing Change'. A vendor marketplace, two keynote speakers and lunch are offered. Admission is a Food Bank donation.

The community perspective these clinicians bring to our network is invaluable. We wish them a very successful day.

Funding for Research



“If we knew what we were doing, it would not be called research, would it?” — Albert Einstein

The RHSCN has been busy with several key award competitions. We are pleased to be able to advance new knowledge and build research capacity in Alberta. If you have any questions regarding these opportunities, require copies of studentship applications, or have questions regarding other aspects of the scientific office, please contact Heather Sharpe, our Assistant Scientific Director by [email](#).

The following is a brief summary of our current competitions and recent awardees.

1. We currently have a call for summer studentships available, these awards aim to provide undergraduate students with the opportunity to spend a summer immersed in respiratory research. The awards are valued at a total of \$6,000 (\$1,500/month for up to four months). Applications are due by March 17, 2017, and awardees will be notified by April 15, 2017.
2. In partnership with The Lung Association, Alberta & Northwest Territories (TNANT) we are pleased to be providing an \$11,500, one year graduate studentship. Applications are due by March 3, 2017 and we will be announcing award recipients by March 15, 2017.
3. We are pleased to announce the successful applicants to our Research and Innovation Seed grants. This year's competition was competitive as we received a total of 13 applications and were able to fund three. These grants are important as they provide investigators with essential funds to conduct feasibility studies and create a foundation for future research. On behalf of the RHSCN, congratulations to the following investigators and their teams:

Dr. Pendharkar

- Evaluating the impact of rural residency on continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) usage in patients with obstructive sleep apnea (OSA)

Dr. MacLean

- The impact of geography on the use of non-invasive ventilation in children

Dr. Rowe

- Exploring health care connections and transitions in care for patients presenting to the emergency department with asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

Empathy in the Health Care System

In support of Heart Month, the Cardiovascular Health and Stroke (CvHS) SCN hosted a lunch and learn on the importance of Empathy.

Our CEO, Dr. Verna Yiu believes in the [importance of storytelling](#) and the role it places in the future health of Albertans.

Dr. Helen Riess' Ted Talk on [The Power of Empathy](#) reminded us that making small changes in the way we interact with our colleagues, patients, family and friends—we can make a big difference in many aspects of our lives!

You can watch Winnie, CvHS Patient Advisor's [video story](#). By sharing your stories, you have the ability to have your voice heard and help identify areas of need and opportunity.

Do you or a family member live with Asthma, Sleep Disorders, COPD or other respiratory related diseases? Are you interested in a role as a Patient advisor? We would love to talk to you!



Contact Us

If you wish to learn more, please visit our website or twitter.



To become more involved, please contact us via email or telephone:



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