

SEPTEMBER 2016 STAKEHOLDER UPDATE

Given the unofficial end of summer and the beginning of what many consider a “new year,” we would like to kick things off with a brief update on SWAHN’s activities and plans for the season. Your questions and comments regarding SWAHN are always appreciated. Please feel free to contact us for more information, to share ideas, or to learn about how you may become engaged in SWAHN’s work!

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SWAHN Announcement: Dr. Douglas (Doug) Jones



As noted in our June 2016 update, Dr. Margaret Steele said goodbye to SWAHN, the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, and London, Ontario this past summer to take on the Dean’s role at Memorial University of Newfoundland’s Faculty of Medicine. Her exceptional leadership, passion, and commitment concerning SWAHN is missed. However, we are pleased to announce that Dr. Douglas (Doug) Jones has agreed to take on a role as interim Co-Chair until a permanent replacement is determined. Dr. Jones’ biography can be found on SWAHN’s website here:

http://www.swahn.ca/42/Operations_Committee/

Highlighting SWAHN’s Activities: Fall 2016 and Beyond

SWAHN’s standing committees direct the activities of various working groups as noted below.

Community Engagement Committee

Mental Health & Addiction Working Group – The proceedings from the May 2016 research and innovation symposium entitled “*Evaluation, Resilience, and Sustainability in Family Mental Health & Addiction Peer Support*” are currently in development and will be completed this fall. This document will be posted to the website and sent to all attendees of the symposium.

The Working Group has reviewed the notes from the symposium’s breakout group discussions as well as the completed participant feedback forms to begin to unpack and explore next steps. The development of a virtual tool kit is under consideration. Event participants will be contacted for input this fall.

Nutrition Working Group – The Working Group is currently developing its priorities for the year ahead. It is considering hosting a symposium in the spring of 2017.

Education Committee

Interprofessional Education Working Group – The Working Group is holding a “mini-retreat” for its members on the afternoon of September 22nd at King’s University College. This meeting will be to

develop the group's priorities and an action plan for the year ahead. The second annual "IPE Day", an event that integrates first-year students from a variety of health professions in a day of discussion and case based study, is under development for the spring of 2017.

Palliative Care Working Group – The Working Group is continuing to examine the alignment of curricula for "entry to practice" professionals with competency standards in palliative care. Recommendations regarding supplementary education/training to address the gaps will be shared with both learners and educators across professions to determine next steps to encourage implementation.

Simulation Working Group – The inventory survey of simulation facilities, programs, and resources across the SWAHN region has been submitted for ethics approval. Once approved, the survey will be released to simulation centre managers for completion. The Working Group is also continuing to explore the potential for an initiative that involves the shared procurement of consumable supplies for simulation programs.

Knowledge Generation & Translation Committee

Choosing Wisely Working Group – The Working Group is planning a forum for health professionals across the SWAHN region later this year to highlight the challenges and achievements experienced by different organizations who have taken up a "Choosing Wisely" initiative in the workplace. (More details to be provided soon.)

Research Ethics Harmonization Working Group – At its meeting on September 1st, Susan Marlin, CEO of Clinical Trials Ontario (CTO), offered a presentation to the Working Group that outlined CTO's coordinated review process for both clinical and non-clinical trials. This initial meeting has opened the doors to a working relationship between SWAHN and CTO in the future as the Working Group explores the development of an ethics approval process that simplifies the work of principal investigators who wish to conduct research with other organizations in Southwestern Ontario.

Communications Advisory Committee

Efforts to address three priorities for the fall season have been divided among the Committee's members:

- A survey will be sent this week to Committee members which will serve as an audit of each organization's tools that could be used to support SWAHN communications. Questions in the audit will help the Co-Chairs get a sense as to the communications vehicles within organizations that might be available to assist in raising awareness and sharing news about SWAHN to stakeholders.
- Over the summer months, standardized processes and procedures were developed to guide SWAHN's future communication-related activities.
- A strategic communications plan for SWAHN is currently under development.

Association of Academic Health Centers International (AAHCI) 2016 Regional Meeting

AAHCI's first Canadian regional meeting will be held at the Ivey Spencer Leadership Centre in London, Ontario on **October 27-28, 2016**. This event draws leaders from Academic Health Centres across the globe as both presenters and guests. This year's theme will engage participants in the exploration of innovative ways to integrate technology and healthcare within academic health centres. A link to registration and to the agenda can be found on the homepage carousel of www.swahn.ca.

