



Straight from the Heart

WRHA Cardiac Sciences Program Newsletter



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Cardiac Sciences Vision Session

When you think about the future, where do you want to go? What's your definition of success? Now consider these questions as they relate to the Cardiac Sciences Program. What should our Program strive to achieve in the next two, five or even ten years?



Visions Session Brainstorming

These were the main topics for discussion during the recent Cardiac Sciences Program Vision Session held on January 12, 2008. Cardiac Sciences team members, from various positions and sites throughout the Program, were invited to provide feedback and recommendations about the Program's future direction. Dr. Jerry Gray, Dean Emeritus and Senior Scholar at the University of Manitoba's Asper School of Business and a leading authority on organizational development, facilitated the consultation process.

This event was an important follow-up to the first Cardiac Sciences Program Vision Session which was

held in March 2005. Over the course of that initial day, Cardiac Sciences physicians and staff productively collaborated and a shared sense of direction soon emerged, namely:

The WRHA Cardiac Sciences Program will provide responsible patient-centered cardiac care, education and research within a professional organization that fosters respect, collaboration and open communication. The Program will be a recognized centre of clinical and academic excellence – locally, nationally and internationally.

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Cardiovascular Health Research in Manitoba (CHaRM)

Cardiovascular Health Research in Manitoba (CHaRM) is an innovative, new research initiative established by key cardiac clinician-researchers in the WRHA Cardiac Sciences Program. Dr. Rakesh Arora, Dr. Davinder Jassal, Dr. Alan Menkis and Dr. Shelley Zieroth are the founding members of the CHaRM Executive Committee. They, along with their cardiac research colleagues, are working to:

- create an internationally recognized centre of excellence, by building upon the first-rate, high quality cardiovascular research that is currently being conducted in Manitoba;
- develop a cohesive, interdisciplinary and collaborative research network that spans the breadth of community and



Recent CHaRM Meeting

tertiary hospital care in heart disease;

- coordinate and establish linkages between relevant basic science, clinical and translational research studies.

Current CHaRM members are from all areas of Cardiac Sciences and partner organizations, including: Cardiac Surgery, Cardiology, Cardiac Anesthesia, Cardiac Intensive Care, Faculty of Medicine, Faculty of Nursing, St. Boniface General Hospital Research Centre, Asper Clinical Research Institute, National Research Centre and Manitoba Centre for Health Policy, among others.

CHaRM's work is already well underway. Members meet on a regular basis and are actively collaborating on various basic sciences, clinical and translational research activities.



Dr. Alan Menkis, Dr. Rakesh Arora, Dr. Shelley Zieroth & Dr. Davinder Jassal

Cardiac Sciences Vision Session *cont'd*

With this background in mind, participants from the recent January 2008 Vision Session were asked to review these original statements, identify the major Program changes and issues that have arisen in the last three years and update the Program's vision accordingly. The group, through consensus decision-making, concluded the Program should focus and follow-up in these key areas:

- Deliver the continuum of cardiac patient care in a comprehensive, timely and appropriate manner;
- Undertake continuous quality improvement;
- Ensure job satisfaction and achievement of individual potential;



Above & Below:
Participants at the Cardiac Sciences Vision Session



- Recognize/communicate our progress and successes, to both internal and external audiences;
- Establish an internationally recognized heart institute.

These recommendations were strongly supported and will certainly help our Program build upon its positive momentum and refine its future direction. So where do we go from here? Cardiac Sciences Program team members will continue to be consulted and common themes will be incorporated into the Program's planning and implementation strategies. Stay tuned for further discussions and developments...

New Developments:

- Did you know February was Heart Month? It was a great opportunity to profile some of the wonderful work happening in the WRHA Cardiac Sciences Program. The Reh-Fit Centre was featured on Breakfast Television and a special story on the Seven Oaks Wellness Institute ran on CTV News. Also, congratulations to the Reh-Fit Centre on the huge success of its Rhythm & Shoes fundraising event!
- Speaking of heart healthy activities, thanks to all of the hockey players and cheerleaders who enthusiastically participated in the third annual Cardiac Sciences Hockey Night, held on March 1, 2008 at the Winnipeg Winter Club. The event was enjoyed by all and is drawing bigger crowds with each passing year. Special thanks to Dr. John Lee for initiating this great event.
- Mark your calendars for the upcoming Cardiac Sciences Research Day! This event is scheduled for Wednesday,

May 14, 2008 in the Sam Cohen Auditorium from 11:30 am to 5:00 pm. Please contact Jacqueline Courchene at 258.1203 or jcourchene@sbgh.mb.ca for more information.

- Want to join the Cardiac Sciences team at the River City Dragon Boat Festival? This event will be held July 25-27, 2008 and Cardiology has started organizing the dragon boat team(s). If interested, please contact Kathy van der Vis at 258.1290 or kvandervis@sbgh.mb.ca.

Recent Appointments:

Please welcome:

- Gladys Cadieux, Project Manager
- Angela Lesiuk, Nurse Practitioner
- Dianna Evangeline, Administrative Analyst

Talkback Corner

We want to hear from you! The WRHA Cardiac Sciences Program would appreciate your questions, comments or suggestions. Please forward articles for this newsletter or other items for communication to jberard@sbgh.mb.ca or via the "Contact Us" link on the WRHA Cardiac Sciences Program website, www.cardiacsciences.mb.ca.

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