



Heart of the Matter

Division of Cardiology

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Volume 1 Edition 1

Dr. Magdy N. Basta Endowment Fund

Dr. Magdy Basta was an important and valued member of the Division of Cardiology. He joined the Heart Rhythm Service within the Division of Cardiology 17 years ago and was cherished by his patients, staff, and colleagues here at the QEII.

To honor and remember his contribution to patient care and his bond to his colleagues, an Endowment Fund has been established at the QEII Foundation. This fund will be used to support educational efforts for our students. It will support a Dalhousie medical stu-

dent, providing funds to pay their summer studentships and will provide a prize to a Cardiology or Cardiac Surgery resident each year who display excellent patient care or teaching during their training. A contribution to this fund can be done by a cheque made to the QEII Foundation with "Basta Fund" written on the memo line. Cheques can be sent to Dr. Kells' office.

Submitted by:
Dr. Martin Gardner



Dr. Magdy N. Basta

Focus on Heart Failure

Heart Failure services have expanded within the Division of Cardiology. From care in the Heart Function Clinic, led by our outstanding nurse practitioners, to more advanced specialty care in the heart transplant/VAD (ventricular assist device) clinic, patients with heart failure have access to a spectrum of care at the QEII Health Science Center. The newly opened Cardio-Oncology Clinic offers specialty consultation in the cardiac manifestations and consequences of a variety of cancers; primarily focusing on assessment and management of cardiotoxicity from existing and newly developed chemotherapeutic agents. This clinic operates within the infrastructure of the existing Heart Function Clinic and was created to establish a rapid referral link for these often time sensitive assessments. Referrals can be directed to the "Cardio-Oncology Clinic" and faxed to the Heart Function Clinic. This clinic is operated by Drs. Brian Clarke and Miroslaw Rajda.

The Heart Function Clinic is a nurse practitioner-led, physician-supervised specialty clinic for the assessment and ongoing management of a variety of heart failure patients. The number of active patients in the clinic has been steadily increasing, with over 1700 patient visits, over 1000 phone calls, and 199 new referrals in 2013.

The Advanced Heart Failure Program at the QEII involves a multidisciplinary team for the assessment of end-stage or refractory heart failure, and includes Cardiology, Cardiac Surgery, Social Work, designated nurse coordinators, dietary consultants, and Psychology. In the

last 5 years, 51 heart transplants have been performed and 44 durable VADs have been implanted. Outcomes have been superior to internationally published reports. Outpatient referrals are accepted from all Atlantic Provinces for advanced heart failure assessment through the Heart Transplant Clinic.

Inpatient assessment and management of acute, end-stage, refractory, post-operative, or complex heart failure at the QEII is available through the heart failure service, which offers inpatient consultation on patients admitted to Cardiology or Cardiac Surgery. Consultation requests for inpatient assessment can be made by fax to the Heart Transplant Clinic or paging the on-call heart transplant cardiologist.

Heart failure research is active with clinical trials of new pharmacologic agents in acute and chronic heart failure. TRUE-HF is a clinical trial using a novel IV vasodilator in patients admitted with acutely decompensated heart failure. If any of these patients are admitted to Cardiology, the heart failure team wants to know! COSMIC-HF is a clinical trial of a new oral agent, a cardiac myosin activator, in stable chronic heart failure. Patients are actively being sought to participate in this study.

Submitted by:
Dr. Brian Clarke





*“The hospital -
and the entire
medical system -
is very valuable to
me. I think the
QEII is a great
place”*

- Mr. Michael Covert

Make a Difference

Dr. Miroslaw Rajda made the difference for Ann Radcliffe and Bruce Forcey when Ann’s instincts told her Bruce’s chest pain wasn’t normal. As a “pit-stop” to the hospital before catching a flight to Texas for a wedding, they learned the difficult news that lead to a triple bypass. Get the full story in the QEII Times, **“Ann Radcliffe and Bruce Forcey: Dressed for an elegant Texas wedding, admitted to the QEII for heart surgery”**, where you can find an amazing photograph of the couple posing for a last-minute photograph with Dr. Rajda. They may not have made the wedding, but they sure left an impression.

“Meet Your Doctors”

Head on over to the **Doctors Nova Scotia** Website, where you can read an interesting article about one of our very own cardiac electrophysiologists, Dr. John Sapp. Dr. Sapp along with the QEII team of EP physicians strive to improve patient care for all Nova Scotians with his commitment to cutting-edge research.

Go to: www.yourdoctors.ca/doctors/bio/john-sapp to get the full story.



Awards/Acknowledgements

It is with great pleasure that the Division of Cardiology announces the following award recipients.

Barbara Blauvelt Prince Award - Dr. Lauren Clark

Lourdes Embil Award - Dr. Sebastian Launcelott

**Gold-Headed Cane Award (Humanities) -
Dr. R.N. Anderson**

Gold-Headed Cane Award (Outstanding Professionalism) - Dr. G. Kindred Turnbull

**CDHA Leading Practice Award (Newsletter)-
Ms. Eleanor Griffiths & Dr. J. Sapp**

Did you know?

Nova Scotia will be hosting a blood pressure challenge across the province for the month of May. Its purpose is to help increase blood pressure awareness and give the public knowledge on how to keep their blood pressure within a healthy range. Please email: info@nsrp.nshealth.ca for details.

Supported by:



Retirements (Rest & Relaxation)

We would like to extend our heart-felt gratitude to the following staff for their exceptional commitment to patient care and wish them the very best in their future endeavors.

Millie MacKenzie

Sandra MacLeod

Anne Larade

Valerie Wentzel

Peggy Carmicheal

Gerarda Kennedy

Catherine Parker

Elaine MacQuarrie-Moar (April 2014)

Joni MacDonald (April 2014)

Donations from the Heart.....

Check out the QEII Times for an interesting article labeled, **“A donation has been made in your name.”** Mr. Michael Covert, a Cardiology patient, diagnosed with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy and has been fitted with a defibrillator. In tribute to the ongoing spectacular care and treatment received within CDHA he has been making donations to the QEII Foundation for more than a decade. The donations are always made in the name of a friend, relative, or acquaintance who has passed away. To date, he has donated more than \$40,000.

You can support the Division of Cardiology by making donations to the QEII Foundation.

Go to: www.QE2Foundation.ca for information on how you can donate!

IMPACT-AF

Atrial fibrillation (AF) is the most common heart arrhythmia, affecting more than 20,000 Nova Scotians with an estimated annual cost of \$5000 per patient. Caring for persons with AF can be challenging for community-based Primary Care Physicians (PCPs) when there is uncertainty and a lack of clarity about its diagnosis, treatment and management. **IMPACT-AF** (Integrated Management Program Advancing Community Treatment of Atrial Fibrillation) is an exciting patient-centered, community-based research study that aims to address these challenges. Up to 200 PCPs and 4,000 of their patients from across Nova Scotia are anticipated to participate in the study.

Building upon learnings from other disease management projects, such as ICONS and ANCHOR, IMPACT-AF will transfer knowledge and expertise of specialized patient care from leading Nova Scotia researchers to front-line community PCPs and their patients through the use of a new and novel interactive clinical decision support system (CDSS). This web-based tool will interpret patient profiles and, based on evidence-informed AF recommendations, guide care decisions by auto-calculating risk scores and prioritizing patient care needs with proactive personalized communications. In addition, patients will have online access to education, goal setting opportunities, alerts, reminders and motivational supports.

The research team, lead by Dr. Jafna Cox (Division of Cardiology), includes co-investigators from Capital Health (Dr. Ratika Parkash), Dalhousie University,

McMaster University and primary health care. Guidance and expertise will be provided by a broad range of stakeholders, including CVHNS, Heart and Stroke, Canadian Cardiovascular Society, the Department of Health and Wellness and Doctors NS. Using a cluster-randomized trial design, the study will examine both clinical (effectiveness) and economic (efficiency) outcomes. The primary outcome is a reduction in CV hospitalizations with secondary outcomes related to patient quality of life, clinical, process of care and economic measures. Once proven effective, the CDSS technology has the potential to be applied to a range of other chronic conditions.

PCPs that care for patients with AF are currently being recruited. Practices will be randomly assigned to the CDSS (intervention) or to continue with usual care for approximately 12-months. Physicians will receive remuneration for their participation. IMPACT-AF meets the accreditation criteria of the College of Family Physicians of Canada and has been accredited for up to 22 Mainpro-C credits and 5 Mainpro-M1 credits.

For more information please visit www.impact-af.ca or call the study office: 902-473-6309 (direct) or: 1-855-550-0557 (toll-free).

Submitted By:
Laura Hamilton &
Jenn Dixon



Save the Date!

May 1, 2014 - DoM Research Day

May 7, 2014 - Promotions Reception

The following physicians from the Division of Cardiology will be receiving promotion acknowledgements: Dr. Hussein Beydoun, Dr. Najef Nadeem, Dr. Miroslaw Rajda, and Dr. Ata Quraishi

May 17, 2014 - World Hypertension Day

June 12-14, 2014 - 23rd Montreal Live Symposium

June 13, 2014 - Residents' Year-End Celebration

Congratulations!!

The Division of Cardiology Staff wish to extend a warm welcome to baby "Nora Grace" born February 18, 2014 to proud parents:

Dr. Kim Styles and husband,
Dr. Jon Enright



A note from the Designer:

I would like to take a moment to thank Dr. Kells and Ms. Michelle Baker for giving me the opportunity and the tools necessary to produce this Newsletter. To the Division, I hope you find this new look and approach to be useful and informative. I look forward to your future submissions and the continued improvement and evolution of the Division of Cardiology Newsletter.



April 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Do you have an important event, conference, symposium, gala, or awards reception in the upcoming months? Do you think the Division of Cardiology/Department of Medicine could benefit from that information? Then let us know. You can email us the event details and spread the word.

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