
Section Reports

2016-2017

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PSYCHOTHERAPY/MENTAL HEALTH

Dr. Elizabeth King, secretary

There were three meetings for this Section; two were executive meetings and one was a meeting of the whole.

Executive Meeting June 26, 2016

Items included:

1. A review of the current membership of the Section.
2. Composing a welcome email to the membership including the Terms of Reference (TOR).
3. Planning the first meeting of the whole.
4. Discussing the new fee application for non-face-to-face care for mental health patients.
5. Division of labour within the Executive was discussed and responsibilities were laid out.
6. Discussion of Section support from Doctors Nova Scotia (DNS).

Meeting of the Whole Oct. 13, 2016, 4 p.m.

Dr. Christina Toplack chaired the meeting. A welcome was extended and there was robust sharing and discussion of ideas for the work and focus of the Section. Much of this emphasized advocacy for patient care and access as well as the rational use of limited resources.

Copies of the TOR were distributed for comment and discussion. The question of how the TOR was created arose and the process was explained. It was suggested by some members that the TOR be revised to more accurately reflect the group's decision about mandate and goals. Teleconference participation was identified as a barrier to feeling a part of the group.

It was noted that DNS does support Go-to-Meeting for visual contact and that will be arranged next time.

Actions:

1. Dr. Toplack to contact Bianca Horner re: the status of PSP implementation in Nova Scotia.
2. Members to review TOR and provide feedback to the Section Executive.
3. Next meeting to be scheduled by Doodle Poll.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Executive Meeting Nov. 28, 2016, 7 p.m.

1. Discussion around DHW/MSI decision re: psychotherapy types that are covered with no list or clear process available. Appealing the decisions based on best practices. Discussion took place around having mindfulness reinstated with MSI coverage.

Actions:

Dr. Elizabeth King to email Derek Law to inquire: response from Derek was that there is a mindfulness-based cognitive therapy fee application in process at the moment.

Elizabeth Gold is to check with the Atlantic Contemplative Centre to see what has been done to further mindfulness coverage. The ACC made a submission to Dr. Strang to explore the potential public health benefits of mindfulness therapy in the province. A mindfulness conference is planned for Spring 2017.

Update from Bianca Horner about the Mental Health Support Program in Nova Scotia. It is understood that Bianca is now retired. Training will be offered to physicians and nurse practitioners in Nova Scotia to bring this program to primary care.

The next meeting of the whole was scheduled for 7 p.m. on April 12, 2017.

PLASTIC/RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY

Dr. M. Bezuhly, chair

I am happy to report that our group continues to function well despite a number of challenges. We are a small group comprised of only 15 members located in Antigonish, Bridgewater, Dartmouth, Halifax and Sydney. Given the demographic challenges posed by our aging population, our members are very busy, providing services ranging from skin cancer excision to breast reconstruction. Although there is clearly room to expand the number of full-time plastic surgery positions based on demand, we remain limited by access to operative time and clinic space. It is unlikely that the shift to two health authorities will result in any changes to the Department of Health and Wellness Physician Resource Plan as it applies to our Section.

Following our successful Section meeting two years ago, we have developed a recruitment and retention strategy that fits within the mandate of the Department of Health and Wellness Physician Resource Plan. Our Section members will be meeting during the annual meeting of the Atlantic Society of Plastic Surgeons in September to revisit the current strategy. Our most recent Section addition was Dr. Simon Frank, who joined me at the IWK over a year ago. He has done a tremendous job in terms of expanding access to breast reconstruction in this province.

In general, the Section members have been happy with streamlining of the audit and appeal process that resulted from the Carter Report findings. Although there has been increased clarity in terms of appeals, the tight timeline provided by MSI remains a source of contention for some.

A number of our members are actively engaged in the Physician's Manual Modernization Project to update the

current fee schedule. We hope that an updated fee schedule that recognizes the complexity of the cases we perform will serve to level the playing field between our members and plastic surgeons across the country. This should improve retention of talent in Nova Scotia in the future.

MISSING REPORTS

Anesthesia – Dr. George Kanellakos, chair
Cardiac surgery – vacant
Integrative and complementary medicine – Dr. J. Wm. LaValley, chair
Emergency medicine – Dr. Michael Clory, chair
General practice – Dr. Alban Comeau, chair
Health promotion – Dr. Howard Wightman, chair
Hospitalist medicine – Dr. Mike Mulherin, chair
Internal medicine – vacant
Nephrology – Dr. Christine Dipchand, chair
Neurosurgery – Dr. Sean Christie, chair
Obstetrics/gynecology – Dr. Robyn MacQuarrie, chair
Ophthalmology – Dr. Alexander Tan, chair
Orthopedic surgery – Dr. Nadia Murphy
Otolaryngology – Dr. Tim Brown, chair
Pediatrics – vacant
Palliative care – Dr. David Henderson, chair
Pathology lab. medicine – Dr. Brian Jollymore, chair
Psychiatry – Dr. Pippa Moss, chair
Radiation oncology – Dr. Sandra Wajstaub, chair
Radiology – Dr. Daniel Petrie, chair
Rural specialists – Dr. Minoli Amit, interim chair
Senior and retired doctors – Dr. Margaret Casey, chair
Surgery – Dr. Mark Walsh, chair
Surgery (vascular) – Dr. Patrick Casey, chair
Urology – Dr. John-Paul McCarthy, chair