



DR. WASSIM SAAD
CHIEF OF STAFF

CHIEF PROGRESS REPORT

December 2019 Edition

“A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step” – Lao Tzu

Last month we held our inaugural QPC meeting with the first cases being reviewed under the new M&M framework and we continue to remain focused on quality. The next piece of my five point plan is an Academic and Research vision. This month, our Board of Directors will see the terms of reference for a new sub-committee of the MAC, the Academic and Research Committee (ARC). We hope to have our first meeting in January to continue building a culture of clinical excellence based on education, teaching, and research.

We already have an excellent relationship and an affiliation agreement with the Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry. We have students and residents in all specialties rotating through our hospital on a monthly basis. These Departments hold Grand Rounds and other educational activities, but they are not necessarily coordinated, and we currently lack hospital-wide Grand Rounds. Through linkages with the Quality Practice Committee, the ARC will try to breakdown some of these educational silos and set a more global agenda for topics we all need to learn about to stay up to date on the latest in clinical practice and research.

We should also be very proud to have a local University in our own community that is setting the bar high with its own research initiatives. The University of Windsor has a strong track record of research and has issued over 500 funding awards and acquired over \$23 million in research funding. With many research centres and collaborations including the Windsor Cancer Research Group, The University of Windsor has strong ties to Windsor Regional Hospital. There are many opportunities for collaboration and accessing funding opportunities for staff members who have an interest in clinical research. The ARC will be a launching pad for those interested and will help guide them through the REB process with a more streamlined approach between the organizations.

Sometimes the last thing anyone wants to hear or think about when they are overworked and just trying to get through their day is *what are we doing about research?* However, did you know that we have been conducting clinical trials at our institution for many years and our Research Ethics Board (REB) has done an amazing job reviewing and processing approvals. Clinical trials can have a positive impact on patient care and play an important part of any research program. These are research studies investigating new treatment methods, medications or medical devices to improve care for future patients.

Taking this to the next step involves a coordinated effort to centralize and track the research activity in the organization. This will be one of the mandates of the ARC. As a sub-committee of the MAC, the Professional Staff and the Board of Directors will be kept up to date on the research activities we are involved in. This clinical research will play a critical part in the healthcare of our patients. When we emphasize research and training, it will lead to better patient care in the future. This in turn, will attract top physicians and other healthcare providers who will want to work in our academic environment.

We need to have a robust health research program in order to advance our academic mission but more importantly, to improve the health of the population we serve. Windsor/Essex has some of the highest rates of poverty, obesity, chronic lung disease, as well as certain types of cancer. This, combined with an aging population and a rapidly growing demographic of people over the age of 65, leads to plenty of opportunities to hypothesize and develop research projects. We already have many Professional Staff and other Allied Health Staff members who are publishing their own research but going unrecognized in our hospital. We are going to begin celebrating and highlighting those successes and the ARC will be central to doing this.

The Academic and Research Committee is going to have a lot of responsibilities but none more important than building a foundation from which we can move towards becoming a regional academic health sciences centre. There should be nothing stopping us from accomplishing this as we have all the necessary elements but need to encourage research and innovation, track our research funding and continue to attract top talent as we move towards a new hospital with close connections with our University partners. This may seem like years or even decades away, but if we do not take that first step, we will never get there.

Until next month,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Saad'.

Wassim

Do you have questions, comments or thoughts about the topic discussed this month? Any ideas for future newsletters? Feel free to contact me anytime by e-mail wassim.saad@wrh.on.ca