

News Release

Research Team at the Providence Heart and Lung Institute at St. Paul's Hospital Wins International Chronic Disease Management Award

VANCOUVER, NOVEMBER 13, 2007 – A team with the Pacific Lung Health Centre, part of the Providence Heart and Lung Institute at St. Paul's Hospital, was awarded one of seven awards at the 2007 International Conference on Chronic Disease Management held in Calgary earlier this month. The conference was co-hosted by the World Health Organization (WHO) through its regional affiliate the Pan American Health Organization.

The winning PRIISME™ project, led by Jane Burns, a physiotherapist and PRIISME COPD Clinic Coordinator, and a distinguished team from the St. Paul's Hospital (SPH) Respiratory Division, developed a comprehensive chronic disease management program that includes hospital based and community programs. It integrates the different steps of care for patients with chronic obstructive lung disease (COPD), including prevention, diagnosis, treatment, drug compliance and follow-up.

Currently, there are multiple health-care professionals playing key roles in helping patients with COPD manage their disease - such as providing care, suggesting lifestyle changes and prescribing medicines. But patients often experience confusion because they receive conflicting information and direction.

The program, known as PRIISME™ helps enable health-care professionals to deliver more integrated and coordinated care to patients with COPD and empower patients to take greater control of the management of their illness.

“Our goal with PRIISME is to take our knowledge and resources within the hospital directly into the community, reaching health-care professionals and patients where COPD is most often managed,” explains Burns.

This is the first ever presentation of international awards for high level achievement by organizations in chronic disease prevention and management. Candidates for these awards underwent a rigorous review selection process by a scientific panel.

The scientific judging panel was particularly impressed with the project's integration of specialty care into primary health care.

“They commended us on the way we have enabled primary health care teams to deliver proactive, evidence-based care,” said Burns.

“The recognition that the Pacific Lung Health Centre and Providence Heart and Lung Institute are leaders in the world of chronic disease management demonstrates that what we are doing here at St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver is pushing the boundaries and achieving some very real results for the health of the patients we serve,” said Burns.

About COPD

COPD stands for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease and includes a few lung diseases: the most common are chronic bronchitis and emphysema. Many people with COPD have both of these diseases. COPD is the fourth leading cause of death in Canada, and incidence of the deadly lung disease continues to climb. November 14, 2007 is World COPD Day.

About the COPD PRIISME™ program at the Pacific Lung Health Centre

The PRIISME COPD Program was started within the Pacific Lung Health Centre, part of the Providence Heart and Lung Institute at St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver. Through partnership with health authorities, health centres, community-based clinics, health care providers and GlaxoSmithKline, PRIISME promotes an integrated approach to the optimal management of chronic disease in the areas of asthma, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and diabetes. The goal for the Vancouver project was to establish a comprehensive chronic disease management program for patients with COPD including hospital-based and community based programs.

About the Providence Heart and Lung Institute at St. Paul's Hospital

Launched in June 2007, the Providence Heart and Lung Institute at St. Paul's Hospital merges and integrates all of Providence's heart and lung research, education and care programs under one umbrella. Its mandate is to transform cardiovascular and pulmonary research and care—transferring new care solutions from the laboratory to the clinics and communities to improve the lives of British Columbians.

The Pacific Lung Health Centre (PLHC) is an academic clinical program of the Respiratory Division, part of the Providence Heart and Lung Institute at St. Paul's Hospital, dedicated to the care for patients with lung disease.