

# Executive Report

February 1, 2007

## Report from the OHA

### OHA HealthAchieve Announces Exciting Keynote Speaker: General Colin Powell

OHA HealthAchieve2007 is still over nine months away, but it is already shaping up to be one of the most exciting shows yet! The Ontario Hospital Association (OHA) is pleased to announce [General Colin Powell](#), USA (Ret.) as the keynote speaker for the *Official Opening Session* on Monday, November 5, 2007. General Powell has been a leader for most of his life, holding many esteemed positions such as the 65th United States Secretary of State (2001-2005), Four-Star General with the United States Army, and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (1989-1993). Throughout his career, General Powell has confronted some of the most significant global and regional security challenges of the 21st century such as Operation Desert Storm in the Persian Gulf War. General Powell was also at the forefront of America's efforts to advance economic and social development worldwide for many causes, including the fight against HIV/AIDS and the pursuit of a freer trading and investment climate across the globe. With his life experience and his inspiring lessons, General Powell will, no doubt, set a tone for the celebration of world-class achievements at HealthAchieve2007.

For further information and regular updates about OHA HealthAchieve, visit [www.ohahealthachieve.com](http://www.ohahealthachieve.com) or contact Susan Jacobs at [sjacobs@oha.com](mailto:sjacobs@oha.com) or 416-205-1364.

### OHA Shares Recommendations from Vass Inquest

The OHA has received a copy of the *Coroner's Jury Verdict and Recommendations* following the inquest into the death of [Otto Vass](#). Unit force by the Toronto police was the subject of an inquest investigating the death of Mr. Vass, who died after struggling with officers arresting him in 2000. The report deals broadly with the issue of police training and the use of force when dealing with emotionally disturbed persons. It also recommends dialogue between emergency departments and mental health service providers to ensure that psychiatric patients triaged in emergency departments, who cannot be admitted, are made aware

of available alternative mental health support services. The *Coroner's Jury Recommendations* are not legally binding, but hospitals are encouraged to review and consider the verdict findings as appropriate. The online version is available on the OHA website under "Programs - Patient Safety - Coroner Reports - Newly Posted."

For further information, contact [June Barrette](#) at [jbarrette@oha.com](mailto:jbarrette@oha.com) or 416-205-1316.

### An Overview of Patient Safety Policies Now Available

The Patient Safety Support Service and the Council of Academic Hospitals of Ontario (CAHO) are pleased to release their second collaborative paper entitled, *Patient Safety in Ontario: An Overview of Patient Safety Policies in Select Ontario Academic Hospitals, Part II: Critical Incident Review*. The paper, available on the OHA website under "Programs - Patient Safety - Patient Safety Publications," presents a principles-based approach and general framework to critical incident review and reporting policy development based on a review of sixteen academic hospitals' critical incident review policies. For more information, contact [Sarena Weil](#) at [sweil@oha.com](mailto:sweil@oha.com) or 416-205-1439.

### OHA Seeking Interest for Group Purchase of Patient Safety Guidebooks

With such an overwhelmingly positive response to *Inspiring Ideas and Celebrating Successes: A Guidebook to Leading Patient Safety Practices in Ontario Hospitals*, the OHA is considering the possibility of placing a bulk order so that hospitals can order additional copies at a reduced cost. Hospitals may only have this one-time opportunity to order these materials while taking advantage of a reduced, bulk order cost. If you are interested, contact [Sarena Weil](#) at [sweil@oha.com](mailto:sweil@oha.com) or 416-205-1439 by February 23, 2007.

# Report on Health Care

## York Central Hospital Tests New Approach to Achieving Peak Performance

York Central Hospital has been selected by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) to test an innovative methodology aimed at increasing the quality and timeliness of patient care, the work-life balance of employees, and the efficiency and

stewardship of resources.

Following a call for proposals issued in December, the Ministry awarded a contract to EC Murphy Walsh Inc., which calls its methodology the Self-Improving System.<sup>TM</sup> This program engages a hospital's leadership, physicians and front-line staff in an organization-wide self-assessment that produces a Balanced Scorecard diagnosis. The assessment is done in tandem with a comprehensive review and collection of key trending data in finance, quality and patient throughput, and related areas, consistent with the scorecard protocol.

A York Central Hospital leadership team, supported by EC Murphy Walsh coaches, will coordinate the implementation of a seven-step process. The process will provide useful diagnostic and implementation tools to complement the hospital's current efforts to meet its desired patient, staff and financial outcomes.

The approach is part of a range of Ministry initiatives available to the sector, intended to assist hospitals in meeting their performance obligations under the Hospital Accountability Agreements (HAAs). However, because it is predicated on the principles of change management, and the results are only designed to inform future hospital activities, it is different from what has been used in the past.



The pilot started in January and will continue through February, with a report being provided to York Central's Board, executive leadership, and the Ministry on February 9, 2007.

For more information about this initiative, visit the Ministry's website, [Hospital Planning and Accountability](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/project/hosp_plan/hosp_plan_mn.html), at [http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/project/hosp\\_plan/hosp\\_plan\\_mn.html](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/project/hosp_plan/hosp_plan_mn.html) or email York Central Hospital CEO and President, Bruce Harber, at [bharber@yorkcentral.ca](mailto:bharber@yorkcentral.ca).

## CPSI Offers Executive Patient Safety Series for Hospital Executives

The Canadian Patient Safety Institute (CPSI) is hosting the *Executive Patient Safety Series* at the Metropolitan Hotel in Toronto on February 27, 28 and March 1, 2007. The purpose of the event is to enable interaction among senior leaders around the issue of patient safety. This event is open to Hospital Board Chairs and Hospital Chief Executive Officers by invitation only. Registration is limited. For further information, or to register, contact Chantal Backman at the Canadian Patient Safety Institute at [cbackman@cpsi-icsp.ca](mailto:cbackman@cpsi-icsp.ca) or 613-738-9130.

## Toronto Rehab uses Artificial Intelligence to Help Individuals with Alzheimer's Disease

Researchers at the Toronto Rehabilitation Institute (Toronto Rehab) are leading the way in development of intelligent, self-adaptive technologies that will enable older adults with cognitive impairments to safely remain in their homes.

Dr. Alex Mihailidis, a mechanical and biomedical engineer and researcher at Toronto Rehab and his research team at the Intelligent Assistive Technology and Systems Lab, a Toronto Rehab and University of Toronto joint venture, have developed home-based computer systems that use artificial intelligence to promote independence and ensure the safety of older people living at home who might experience memory loss, confusion, or other cognitive problems as a result of Alzheimer's disease or other dementia.

Toronto Rehab researchers are the first internationally to test home-based artificial intelligence systems in clinical trials.

## Family Donation Makes a Difference at Humber River Regional Hospital

On January 19, 2007, approximately 300 Humber River Regional Hospital hemodialysis patients received a duffle bag containing a fleece blanket and pillow. The bags and their contents were donated by the Kazman family in memory of Marty Kazman, a husband and father who understood the challenges of living with kidney disease.

Ada Kazman and her daughters, Elise and Melanie, along with Kidney Foundation representatives were at Humber River to hand out the duffle bags to patients.

# Executive Announcements

The Board of Directors of Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre has announced that **Leo Steven**, President and CEO will retire later in 2007. Leo will remain in his current role over the next several months to allow for a comprehensive search and proper transition for his successor.

The Board of Directors of the Ontario Association of Community Care Access Centres (OACCAC) has accepted the resignation of **Dr. Jim Armstrong** as Chief Executive Officer. Dr. Armstrong will retire on February 28, 2007.

**Richard Ross**, Chair of the Board of St. Joseph's Health Centre, Toronto is pleased to announce the promotion of **Carolyn Baker** to the position of President and CEO, effective March 1, 2007. Ms. Baker is currently St. Joseph Health Centre, Toronto's Vice President Clinical and Professional Programs and Services and Chief Nurse Executive.

## Report on Health Care cont'd

### William Osler Health Centre Celebrates Family Literacy Day

William Osler Health Centre is pleased to announce their new collaboration with Early Literacy Specialists from the Region of Peel Children's Services and the Macaulay Child Development Centre in Toronto. The collaboration features the launch of Early Literacy Displays at both hospital sites and promotes future educational opportunities with front-line staff.

Strategically placed in their paediatric inpatient units, the Early Literacy Displays provide valuable take-away information to help families learn how to support their child's literacy development. Featured quarterly topics will include Brain Development, Reading to Your Child, Family Literacy, and School Transitions. To meet the needs of a diverse patient population, most materials will be available in a number of languages.

## Report from Queen's Park

### Ministry Announces New Assistant Deputy Minister for HSIM Division

In January 2006, the MOHLTC announced the creation of the new Health System Information Management (HSIM) division. This week, **Mr. John McKinley** was appointed Assistant Deputy Minister for the division.

Mr. McKinley's first priority is to consolidate the Ministry's decision support and information management functions into the division's Information Management Strategy and Policy, Health Data, Health Analytics,

and Knowledge Management and Library Services branches. At the same time, he will continue to be responsible for the transition of the Community Health Division and will assume responsibility for the Acute Services Division following **Mary Kardos Burton's** departure.

Once the transition is complete, e-Health will be added to his portfolio. In the interim, **Gail Paech** will continue to lead the integration of the Ministry's e-Health initiatives.



# OHA Conferences

Conference for Front-Line Finance Personnel  
February 13, 2007  
Holiday Inn on King, 370 King Street West,  
Toronto

The OHA presents the annual conference for *Front-Line Finance Personnel* on February 13, 2007. This one-day conference is designed to provide front-line, new finance personnel and finance managers with hands-on tools they can use in the day-to-day operations of a health care organization's finance department. Attendees will also hear the latest updates from industry leaders on the issues impacting health care finance today and in the near future.

For further information, contact Shannon Byck Munday at [sbyckmunday@oha.com](mailto:sbyckmunday@oha.com) or 416-205-1357.

Volunteer Leaders Conference  
February 26, 2007  
Holiday Inn on King, 370 King Street West,  
Toronto

This program will focus on "The New Volunteer Arena" and the quickly changing volunteer landscape that often includes different generations of volunteers working side-by-side in a fast-paced environment. It is increasingly important for volunteer leaders to be able to recruit the leaders of tomorrow and to tap into new resources to develop and maintain a vigorous and thriving health care volunteer sector. Issues to be addressed include: how to identify and develop leadership, strategic planning for the volunteer sector, maintaining service levels in a competitive environment, and transitioning volunteers when the time is right.

For further information, contact Brian Shields at [bshields@oha.com](mailto:bshields@oha.com) or 416-205-1455.

Community Affairs and Communications  
Network - March 6, 2007  
Holiday Inn on King, 370 King Street West,  
Toronto

To help support health care communicators in their ongoing efforts to reach out to their hospital, community and the media, the OHA presents its annual *Community Affairs and Communications Network (CACN)* conference. This one-day program promises to be an informative and interactive event with dynamic speakers presenting perspectives on crisis communications, health care branding, building positive relationships with local media, and planning for an upcoming provincial election. For further information, contact Brian Shields at [bshields@oha.com](mailto:bshields@oha.com) or 416-205-1455.

Diagnostic Imaging Equipment: Ensuring  
Patient Safety - March 28, 2007  
Holiday Inn on King, 370 King Street West,  
Toronto

Patient exposure to radiation from computed tomography (CT) scanners and other diagnostic tools is an emerging international safety issue, one that has recently been the subject of examination and debate in the United States, the European Union and Ontario. This conference will feature expert discussions on national and international diagnostic imaging standards and best practices, including the current work of Ontario's Diagnostic Imaging Safety Committee, in developing guidelines for the use of CT scanners, as well as the steps hospitals can take to ensure these important tools are used as safely and effectively as possible. For further information, contact Brian Shields at [bshields@oha.com](mailto:bshields@oha.com) or 416-205-1455.



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