

KEY APPOINTMENTS TO ONTARIO'S AGENCY FOR HEALTH PROTECTION AND PROMOTION INCREASE CAPACITY TO IMPROVE PUBLIC HEALTH IN ONTARIO

Agency Assumes Leadership Role in Revitalizing Public Health in Ontario

NEWS

September 19, 2008

The Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (OAHPP) has appointed three experienced medical leaders from across Canada and around the world to its leadership team.

Dr. Michael Gardam has been appointed Director of Infectious Disease Prevention and Control. Dr. Gardam is currently the Director of Infection Prevention and Control at the University Health Network where he has, over the past several years, championed initiatives related to tuberculosis, hand hygiene, infection control program development, and medical equipment reprocessing. Dr. Gardam is specialized in infectious diseases and has a background in research and public health policy. His program has frequently been sought out to help hospitals to control outbreaks of C-difficile and other organisms.

In his role with the Agency, Dr. Gardam will develop and lead a team of infectious disease control specialists to develop and enhance capacity across the province in infection and communicable disease control.

Dr. Natasha Crowcroft has joined the Agency as Director of Surveillance and Epidemiology. Dr. Crowcroft is a public health physician, with substantial experience as a UK national expert in vaccine preventable diseases, and as a consultant to the World Health Organization. She has a broad background in clinical medicine, microbiology, and field epidemiology, and an extensive portfolio of research, training, policy and public health service. In her previous role with the UK Health Protection Agency, Dr. Crowcroft's expertise in generating information from research and surveillance of infectious diseases was applied to vaccination policy development and evaluation as well as outbreak detection and response.

Dr. Crowcroft will be responsible for leading the development and implementation of an Agency-wide surveillance strategy and system, and for preparing epidemiologic and surveillance protocols, policies, resources, guidelines and tools for the Agency and its stakeholders.

Dr. Heather Manson has been appointed Senior Medical Advisor to the President. Dr. Manson joins the Agency from Vancouver Coastal Health where she was Vice President, Population Continuums, responsible for leading the organization to achieve its strategic goal of improving health outcomes and enabling a continuum of care focused around the needs of the patient, client, resident or population. She brings clinical, administrative and population health experience to the Agency, having also worked as an internist and hematologist, and Senior Medical Director and Medical Health Officer in Richmond, British Columbia.

In her role with the Agency, Dr. Manson will apply her knowledge and expertise in linking population health concepts at the local, provincial and national level to establishing the Agency presence within the evolving public health and regional structures in Ontario, and to applying a population health continuum to health planning and service delivery in Ontario.

While the Agency for Health Protection and Promotion was created in response to SARS, its mandate is broad and includes not only infectious diseases, but also health promotion, chronic disease and injury prevention, and occupational and environmental health. The Agency will conduct original research and will put science into practice in a manner that can be easily applied by those in the field.

QUOTES

“We are building our capacity to support improvements to Ontario’s public health system across a number of fronts, including outbreak prevention and control, research and surveillance, and health promotion and chronic disease prevention,” said Dr. Vivek Goel, President and CEO of the OAHPP. “Our team is looking forward to contributing to the ongoing revitalization and renewal of public health in Ontario.”

QUICK FACTS

- The Ontario government established the public health agency on June 4, 2007 when the *Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion Act, 2007* received Royal Assent.
- The agency’s board is chaired by Dr. David Walker, Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences at Queen’s University.
- The agency named Dr. Vivek Goel as its first president and chief executive officer, effective July 1, 2008.

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