

2015 NSMHPCN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

SPEAKER BIOS —DAY 2: Wednesday, May 27th, 2015



HSIEN SEOW, Ph.D

Dr. Hsien Seow holds the Cancer Care Ontario Research Chair in Health Services Research and the Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR) New Investigator Award (2014). With the Escarpment Cancer Research Institute as his academic home, he is able to share his passion for discovery. "Innovation happens at the intersection of disciplines," he says. "At ECRI, we have a dynamic and collegial group of experts from many specialties. Together, we'll answer important questions that can initiate real change." Dr. Seow started asking his own questions when he was an undergraduate student at Yale University. He began studying courses required for medical school but realized, during a course on health care financing, that he was more interested in how societies organize the systems to deliver health care. This interest led him to conduct research with RAND Health and then complete a PhD at Johns Hopkins School of Public Health in health policy and management. Dr. Seow was glad to return to Canada and continues pursuing research on improving palliative care services and the health system. "Death is part of life, yet our current health care system is poorly designed to care for the complex needs of the very sick and dying," he says. He has been conducting research that evaluates provincial policies on palliative care, the effect of home care services on reducing acute care use, and palliative care quality indicators. Ultimately, Dr. Seow is determined to helping change the health care system for the better.

Website: www.palliativecareinnovation.com



CORI JOHNSON

Cori graduated from the Georgian College Nursing Program in 1999 and worked as an RN in the community and hospital settings over a 2 year period. Since then, Cori has worked in Long Term Care and obtained the Gerontological certification by the Canadian Nurses Association. During her time in LTC, she worked as a charge nurse and as part of the management team, where she had the opportunity to participate in Health Quality Ontario's "Resident's First" Quality Improvement Program as an Improvement Facilitator. She holds her Comprehensive Advanced Palliative Care Education (CAPCE) certification as well as her Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Nursing (CHPCN) certification.

In Cori's current role with the Network, her focus is on project management and leading the Regional Integrated Palliative Care Team development. She also works with Long term care homes to engage them in developing a palliative approach to care and in providing consultations for residents.

EXPERT PANEL PRESENTATION

Details to follow

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**SHEILA ATKINSON, M.Div, Certified Specialist
(Canadian Ass'n for Spiritual Care)**

Sheila is the Bereavement Coordinator at Hospice Simcoe, where her work includes journeying with clients and families as they prepare for dying. She is a Spiritual Care Professional who began her career at BC Children's Hospital and BC Women's Health Centre in Vancouver, with a focus on pediatric and perinatal spiritual care. She has provided emotional and spiritual support in acute care settings, long term care and now palliative care and community bereavement support. She has a particular interest in facilitating "meaning-making" with those who find themselves in emotional and spiritual crisis. She is also passionate about supporting families in developing creative and meaningful rituals, in a generation whose grief traditions and rituals are profoundly changing.



DICK O'BRIEN, M.A.Sc

Dick is a professional speaker and a consultant in Human relations. He has been a therapist and a trainer for 41 years. Mr. O'Brien has held senior management positions in government and business. For the past seventeen years, he has been assisting corporations, school boards hospitals and police departments with issues of stress, wellness, counselling and leadership.

Dick O'Brien combines his personal experience as a counsellor and trainer with practical psychology and corporate consulting to develop common sense presentations.

Dick has presented to employee groups, parents, teachers, professional care givers, supervisors, business people, police officers and students in the past 27 years with very positive results. He uses humour, case descriptions and a high degree of enthusiasm to create a worthwhile and practical training seminar.