

We thought it would be helpful to our ABI research community and other valued stakeholders to share some updates on our activity in the ABI field.

Over the years as ONF has become more strategic, we have refined our directions to focus on activities, relevant audiences and systematic issues that will advance the ABI field. Our activity is targeted, often directed, involves many stakeholders, partners or groups, and is embedded in a mobilization focus.

This communiqué includes some details of recent developments. The activities outlined include both a research, development and mobilization focus.

We have briefly outlined some, but not all of our activities. We also briefly outline some of the priority areas that we will be focusing on for the next year.

We hope that this helps our stakeholders to be informed of our ongoing work .....

Work on the **Ontario ABI Dataset** continues. The research team, headed by Dr. Angela Colantonio, is examining data from 2007/08 and 2008/09. They are also focused on more deeply analyzing the data from CCAC's, Long-Term Care, Complex Chronic Care, and OHIP, in order to better understand the flow of people through the system of care. (To look at the initial information from the Dataset in a variety of formats, go to the ONF website, click ABI, then Program Plans, then ABI Data)

In 2009, we issued a Call for Proposals on Neuroimaging in TBI. Three research pilot projects were funded: 1) The TBI pediatric CT scan tool 2) Neuroimaging of dual task performance in youth after MTBI, 3) Monitoring of cerebral blood flow in the acute stage of ABI.

Funding was also approved for a large scale project on **Intensification of Inpatient Rehabilitation**, led by Dr. Robin Green; which is certain to have practice and policy implications for the field of rehabilitation.

With our Australian partners, the Victorian Neurotrauma Foundation, three joint ABI projects have been funded: 1) Serum biomarkers, as predictors of quality of life, in children with traumatic brain injury 2) Safer Roads to Recovery: Assessing Readiness for Driving after Traumatic Brain Injury, and 3) Neurotrauma Knowledge Translation – an international collaboration

ONF is supporting three provincial ABI Communities of Practice that are aimed at bringing together experts to share knowledge, examine and strategize on practice issues, work on information uptake and identify areas for research opportunity.

- **Ontario Pediatric ABI Research to Practice Network** is focused on professionals working within the realm of child and youth ABI, and includes service providers, researchers, association representatives and representation from MCYS. The group uses a web-based social networking platform to communicate and collaborate.
- **Substance Use and ABI Community of Practice** builds on earlier work and brings together professionals working in ABI and addictions to improve capacity to treat clients, examine areas for policy change and improve cross-training opportunities in all regions of the province
- **Ontario Community Participation Community of Practice** is focussed on improving participation of adults with ABI. Members include service providers, researchers, consumers, association representatives and Ministry of Health representation. This group has developed an outcomes framework that will drive their collective work in research and evaluation, best practice implementation, policy development and knowledge exchange.

Newly completed projects include:

- 1) Two Models of Service Delivery for ABI within Community Care Access Centres
- 2) Systems Analysis of ABI Health and Community Services in Ontario

*Over the summertime, information on these projects will be made public and shared with stakeholders across the province.*

## ABI update, cont'd

ABI activity during ONF's fiscal year 2010/11 will focus on the following areas:

- Preparing for **demonstration projects** and pilot projects in community participation and MTBI
- Activity arising from the **ABI Systems Analysis**
- Initializing a framework for classification of **pediatric ABI**.
- **Mild Traumatic Brain Injury** - see details on the MTBI Strategy to the top right .....
- **Aging with ABI**
- **Management of Co-morbidities and ABI** (including mental health and substance use and behavioural issues)

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Over the past several months, ONF has worked with numerous stakeholder organizations to plan for and develop a Provincial MTBI Strategy. We convened a MTBI Summit in April where over 45 organizations, associations and government bodies were represented. The Summit was a huge success and as a result, ONF and its collaborators have the beginnings of a strategy to improve outcomes of MTBI. A Coordinating Committee and five Working Groups have been formed to put the strategy into action. The Working groups are:

- Recognition and Awareness
- Diagnosis and Early Education of Patients and Families
- Access to Care, Timely Intervention
- Treatment and Management of Persisting Symptoms
- Psycho-social / Reintegration to Community

This is a big collaborative venture and we hope to see much success coming from it.

### **For 2010-11**

In ABI at ONF this could be considered to be a year of development; that involves building on current activity towards future directions, mobilizing knowledge and building capacity. Some of the upcoming activity in this year includes:

#### **Soon to be released**

ONF soon will release a Request for Proposals inviting projects that put into action some of the recommendations from the Systems Analysis of ABI Health and Community Services in Ontario. The RFP will appear on our website at [www.onf.org](http://www.onf.org) and an announcement will be sent by email to stakeholders. Keep your eyes open for this.

#### **Activity in development**

ONF is currently funding a Review of Best Practices in Community-Based Programs that Foster Community Participation in People with ABI. The review should be completed early in the fall. Later in the fall ONF will be holding a meeting of experts and members of the Community Participation Community of Practice to examine and discuss the Best Practice Review. We will be identifying programs for demonstration projects and looking at communications with policy makers in regards to existing practices and their impact.

An expert panel will be convened later this year to look at developing a Framework for Classifying Pediatric Brain Injury, including prognostication and outcome measurement. The panel will be looking at existing knowledge, gaps and challenges, and the optimal elements for a framework. We will be building on existing work by ONF-funded researchers and others to do this, as well as clinical experts from Ontario and beyond.

Research and knowledge mobilization arising from the MTBI Strategy will be established over the next few months. The strategy involves many partners and all of the work is valuable and has the potential to affect change. ONF will be looking at the emerging strategy to see where our resources are best directed, and it is hoped that others might do the same.

*This is not a complete list but gives an idea of what is upcoming, as well as how we are approaching our work. We hope to provide further updates in another six months.*