My Voice Matters
Survey 2012:
Action planning underway.

Spotlight on the Adult
Ambulatory, SIS, Diabetes,
Medical Daycare and
GIMRAOC clinics.

“The survey really came at an opportune
time for us,” says Lynda Aliberti, clinical
manager at McMaster University Medical
Centre (MUMC). “Over the next couple of
years, the Diabetes Care and Research
Program, Adult Ambulatory Clinic, General
Internal Medicine Rapid Assessment
Outpatient Clinic (GIMRAOC) and Medical
Day Care teams will be coming together
to form a new ambulatory center at MUMC.

Through conversations about the survey
results, the teams identified teamwork and
collaboration, and growth and development
as priorities going forward. By taking
action on these priority areas, we’ll also
be supporting the successful integration
of the clinics at MUMC in the future.”

Marcia Stirling, clinical leader, adult
ambulatory clinics, MUMC site says that
her team is excited about the next steps.

“This is a very exciting opportunity for
our team to develop great working
relationships with other departments, formalize communication processes around
shared care patients, and ultimately improve patient care.”

The Diabetes Care and Research team is pursuing the formalization of monthly
case reviews. “This will help determine areas for improvement when it comes to
collaboration between programs and units,” says Lisa Maks (formerly Orasanin),
clinical coordinator. “As a team, we’ll continue to have discussions about issues that
are important to all of us and how we can improve processes.”

“By participating in the survey and now the action
planning, they are contributing to making HHS an even
better place to work and receive care.”

Members of the GIMRAOC team will be focusing on increasing educational
opportunities, and gathering feedback specific to GIMRAOC effectiveness from
leaders and physicians. “We have an amazing team that is eager to enhance
patient care through skills development, team building and reflection of our
service through insight from others,” says Ginnie Allan, clinical coordinator,
GIMRAOC.

Lynda is pleased to report that 89 per cent of her team members participated in
the survey. “By participating in the survey and now the action planning, they are
contributing to making HHS an even better place to work and receive care.”
Celebrating Excellence: The 20th Annual Cornerstone Awards

For 20 years, the Cornerstone Awards have bestowed the highest recognition upon staff members, volunteers and physicians whose outstanding commitment and contributions have helped to shape our organization and fuel the advancement of health care within our community. The Cornerstones give us an opportunity to recognize and celebrate what makes our organization so special: the people who, together, define the character of our hospitals. Congratulations to the recipients of the 2013 Hamilton Health Sciences Cornerstone Awards!

TINA COOPER
Executive Director
Hamilton Health Sciences Volunteer Association

GEORGIA GEORGIOU
Clinical Manager
Hematology Ward C4 and B4
Juravinski Hospital and Cancer Centre

DR. BEVERLY HATTERSLEY
Medical Director
Palliative Care Program
St. Peter’s Hospital

2012 FISH NETWORK
Customer Support Services
Breathing new life into unused equipment

As a respiratory therapist, Jennifer Lewis’ job is to help people breathe. When she’s not busy providing therapeutic care to her patients at Juravinski Hospital & Cancer Centre, Jennifer is leading an initiative that is breathing new life into unused respiratory ventilators at Hamilton Health Sciences (HHS) and sending them abroad to developing countries in greater need.

The donated equipment is considered out-dated by HHS compared to newer models, though it is still fully-functional and ready-to-use for medical purposes.

Jennifer learned of the ventilators a couple of years ago. At the time, the equipment was in hospital storage.

“I realized that there are a lot of places around the world that could actually make use of them,” says Jennifer of the two ventilator models, the Servo 900 and 300.

Jennifer learned that there were 19 unused ventilators in storage. With no other use in mind for the equipment, the decision was made to donate the ventilators abroad.

In April, Jennifer and her parents brought the Servo 900 models to Samaritan’s Purse in North Carolina, where they would depart for a hospital Kijabe, Kenya.

The Servo 300 models are destined for the International Children’s Heart Foundation (ICHF) in Tennessee, which sends volunteer medical teams around the world to perform cardiac surgery for children born with heart defects. Jennifer contacted ICHF and they expressed interest in the equipment. Jennifer is currently raising funds to get the ventilators to Tennessee so they can be distributed to their final destinations abroad.

“When you’re born here with a heart defect, you get surgery,” says Jennifer. “But in other parts of the world, they can’t get the same kind of care without donations or having to travel to another country.”

Jennifer tells that one of her colleagues in the intensive care unit (ICU) brought a portable ultrasound machine to her attention. The ultrasound machine had been taken out of circulation with the arrival of new equipment. Jennifer’s colleague suggested it also be donated to the initiative.

“It’s awesome to see other people getting into it,” says Jennifer. She also acknowledges the many others who have contributed to the project, including the biomedical engineering department at HHS.

“Jennifer has brought her passion for care delivery to a new level by seeking out opportunities to support people who are very much in need of medical equipment,” says Mike Kampen, chief if inter-professional practice at HHS.

“Mechanical ventilators support a patient’s cardio-respiratory health when the patient cannot do this on their own. The technology that we consider ‘phased-out’ is hard to come-by in some countries. Respiratory therapists like Jennifer are stepping-up to make this a little easier.”
Our organization’s efforts in identifying and implementing waste-reduction strategies were recognized in October 2012 by the Ontario Hospital Association (OHA), as HHS was selected as one of five recipients of the OHA’s one-time Green Hospital Champion Fund (GHCF). The GHCF was established by the OHA, with the support of the Ontario government through the OntarioBuys initiative, to help Ontario hospitals improve their environmental performance and reduce operating costs through implementation of green projects.

Each year, approximately 17 per cent of the waste generated across our hospital sites is comprised of organic (food) waste. Hamilton Health Sciences’ successful GHCF project proposal outlined an opportunity to divert much of this waste from the landfill through the installation of organic waste dehydrators. With the support of the Green Hospital Champion Fund, a project pilot was implemented at McMaster University Medical Centre this spring. The month-long trial involved one waste dehydrator, and saw an 85-90 percent reduction in the volume of organic waste sent to landfill. The remaining by-product is usable as a fertilizer or compost additive.

The dehydrator works by simultaneously agitating the food waste, heating it to 180 degrees, decomposing and deodorizing the waste while killing any bacteria. The organic residual is then removed and repurposed. The equipment operates overnight (about 15 hours per load) and requires no fresh water, chemicals or venting.

“This is an innovative project that identifies Hamilton Health Sciences as a green health care leader,” says Rosemary Van Oostrom, waste management coordinator at HHS. “I was especially impressed with the staff engagement when we conducted the trial of the food waste dehydrators - they were very supportive of this initiative to reduce the environmental impact of our waste.”

Following the success of the pilot project at MUMC, the Organic Waste Steering Committee is moving forward with the installation of an additional nine food dehydrators across HHS’ five main sites, with the first three scheduled for install at the MUMC, Juravinski, and Chedoke sites at the beginning of July. The General and St. Peter’s sites will take place in August and September, respectfully. Combined, the dehydrators have the potential to divert more than 300 tonnes of organic waste per year.

Through the support of the Ontario Hospital Association’s Green Hospital Champion Fund, Hamilton Health Sciences has implemented an organic waste dehydration project that will divert as much as 90 per cent of the organic waste generated at our hospitals from the landfill.

Treading lightly:
Reducing our environmental impact through organic waste management

At Hamilton Health Sciences, we care for our community in many ways. This includes fulfilling our responsibility as an organization to reduce the environmental impact of healthcare waste we generate on a daily basis.

The first Successful Aging Speakers’ Series of 2013 kicked off on June 7, 2013 at St. Peter’s Hospital. Dr. Stuart Phillips, from McMaster University, provided the audience with an informative and practical approach to aging successfully through proper diet and exercise.

At the top of his recommendations were adequate protein intake and, what he says is the single best thing we can do for our health, exercise.

His casual approach, injected with a good dosage of humour, kept all in attendance laughing when they weren’t taking notes.

The Green Smoothie Bar was also on site for the event to provide free samples of their nutrient-packed smoothies.

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We welcome your feedback and suggestions!

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