PLANNING FOR POLICY IMPACT: LESSONS LEARNED

AllerGen

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WHAT YOU NEED TO CHANGE THE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

1. Leadership commitment and support
2. Key stakeholder involvement
3. Regular communication must convey the evidence
4. It takes money....and patience
5. Data gathering, evaluation and monitoring of outcomes.
6. Educate, educate, educate
7. Simple changes in practice should be introduced first
Reduce the effects of stroke on the lives of Canadians and Canadian society

Place Canada at the forefront of stroke research through multi-disciplinary research, high-quality training, and partnerships

Translate the research into health and economic benefits
CSN RESEARCH GOES BEYOND EXCELLENCE TO FOCUS ON IMPACT

- Goal-directed
- 100+ researchers working together
- Half of stroke research in Canada
- National, multidisciplinary teams

Sample High-Impact Projects:
- Neuroprotection
- Stroke rehabilitation
- Registry of the CSN
TRAINING HIGHLIGHTS

- CSN research training programs
  - 40 trainees in Focus on Stroke (CSN, CIHR, HSFC, Astra)
  - Over 100 highly qualified personnel
  - 10 summer students
  - 2 nurse fellows supported with HSFC
  - Brain repair training programs

- Program under development
  - Physician training program
REGISTRY OF THE CANADIAN STROKE NETWORK

- Clinical database of consecutive stroke patients from >20 hospitals across Canada (Phase I & II)
- Data was collected by full time nurse specialists
- Acute care
- Follow-up data (30d, 6m)
- Custom software package e-data transfer to Toronto
- Linkages of data between administrative databases
- ~10,000 patients registered
CANADIAN STROKE NETWORK ACTIVITIES IN PUBLIC EDUCATION

- Patients Guide to Stroke Care
- Sodium Campaign
- Life after Stroke
- Hosts 5 websites
- Annual Report
- Magazine
- Social media
PARTNERSHIPS

- One of CSN’s primary goals was to ensure the economic benefits of the Network's research, partnerships and training programs are maximized.
- The CSN helped to establish three new Canadian technology companies. NoNO Inc. and Phoenix Biopharm Inc. and Stem Cell Therapeutics
- Funding support was available from the CSN to help
  - protect intellectual property
  - develop commercial technology, and
  - help establish new companies
- The CSN’s ability to support early proof-of-principle stage activities and to establish large-scale programs in stroke research had significant potential to attract partners and commercial investment.
“The Canadian Stroke Strategy, a partnership between the Canadian Stroke Network and the Heart & Stroke Foundation of Canada, is a framework to change policy and practice where healthcare is delivered.....this is about real health systems change.”
Knowledge Translation: What Needs to Happen on the Ground

- Large scale *public awareness campaign* of the signs and symptoms of stroke and call to action
- Comprehensive *surveillance* system
- Developing *best practices and standards* of care in stroke and making them accessible, reinforced by stroke centre accreditation
- Novel stroke *training programs* for health professionals, including team-based approaches for stroke care
- **Enhanced research** in stroke, including clinical trials
**WHAT THE CSN HAS ACCOMPLISHED**

- Registry data were linked to administrative data
- The CSN flipped the NCE Concept on its Head, and redefined its mission: to reduce the effects of stroke on the lives of Canadians and Canadian society.
- CSN developed Stroke Best Practice Guidelines
- CSN defined Optimal STROKE Management With t-PA: t-PA Target Times
- Stroke Accreditation of Hospitals (Stroke Distinction Award)
- Stroke Prevention Best Practice Tool Kit developed,
- The anti-Salt campaign (media, Sodium 101.ca website, fridge magnets)
- Role of atrial fibrillation in stroke confirmed by David Gladstone,
- CSN Helped Structure and Advance Stroke Recovery
- CSN contributed to the formation of the next generation of Stroke Personnel
- CSN performed an audit of stroke care in Canada
ONTARIO T-PA RATES FOR PATIENTS ARRIVING WITHIN 2.5 HOURS TO REGIONAL STROKE CENTRES
ONTARIO, IT IS HARD-BALL TIME!

Ministry of Health in Ontario now linking hospital’s budget to adherence to CSN’s Best Practice Guidelines defined timelines for acute stroke care.
THANK YOU