

IMPACT

Canadian Immunization Monitoring Program, ACTive
Programme canadien de surveillance active de l'immunisation

The Canadian Immunization Monitoring Program, ACTive (IMPACT), is a national surveillance initiative managed by the Canadian Paediatric Society (CPS) and administered by the IMPACT network of paediatric investigators and nurse monitors. Surveillance is supported primarily by the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC).

The information collected complements existing national surveillance systems, supports public health action, informs policy dialogue with federal, provincial and territorial governments and other national stakeholders, and assists in meeting Canada's international immunization commitments.

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www.cps.ca/en/impact

Reaching the 25 year mark

By Heather Samson, Nurse Monitor Liaison based in Halifax, NS

Since its beginning as a pilot project in 1991 (with only five sites), IMPACT is closing in on its 25th anniversary. The IMPACT newsletter continues to be an excellent forum for sharing information resulting from our work. The newsletter also highlights significant awards and achievements, recognizes the work of valuable volunteers and organizations, allows us to welcome or bid farewell to team members, and to share a variety of immunization resources.

Equally important are the "every -day" teaching opportunities that the IMPACT team (monitors, investigators, data team members and support staff) carry out while promoting the important role vaccines play in disease prevention. Parents, caregivers, medical, nursing, pharmacy, lab and health records staff (just to name a few) benefit greatly from the surveillance work done at the 12 IMPACT hospitals.

Surveillance update

The current listing of IMPACT presentations and publications remains accessible here:

www.cps.ca/en/impact; www.cps.ca/fr/impact.

There have been 113 presentations and 75 peer-reviewed publications since IMPACT's first presentation at a scientific conference in 1992.. Many other collaborative and knowledge translation activities by IMPACT team members (volunteer investigators and part-time nurse monitors) have also taken place over the years.

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IMPACT surveillance activities

IMPACT data is collected (see below) and reported by 12 IMPACT centre nurse monitors and physician investigators with a focus on: reports of selected adverse events following immunization (AEFI); cases of selected vaccine-preventable (or soon-to-be preventable) diseases (VPD); and cases of influenza or complications from influenza that result in hospitalization. Centres also report cases of Acute Flaccid Paralysis to the Canadian Paediatric Surveillance Program and to the local public health authority, if legislatively required in that jurisdiction.

1. **Adverse events following immunization (AEFIs):** Selected AEFIs within defined intervals (temporal association following an immunization) and any adverse events that the nurse monitors become aware of in their centre are reported to the Public Health Agency of Canada for collation into the Canadian Adverse Events Following Immunization Surveillance System (CAEFISS).
<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/im/vs-sv/index-eng.php>
2. **Vaccine Preventable Diseases:** The following cases are reported to the IMPACT data centre in Vancouver: Varicella, Zoster, Pertussis, Rotavirus, Invasive disease with *Haemophilus influenzae (HI)*, *Streptococcus pneumoniae (SP)* and *Neisseria meningitidis* (exception with this target includes adult cases in a defined population area to the IMPACT centre).
3. **Influenza:** Reports of influenza admissions, as well as deaths and ICU visits contribute to the Canadian Flu Watch surveillance system. (<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/>)
4. **Cases of Acute Flaccid Paralysis,** regardless of recent immunization, are reported to the Canadian Paediatric Surveillance Program. <http://www.cpsp.cps.ca/>

Role changes – Welcomes and thank yous

Thank you Dr. David Scheifele

A simple “thank-you” does not seem adequate to recognize the incredible volume and quality of Dr. David Scheifele’s contributions to IMPACT. His unwavering commitment to the paediatric infectious diseases community in Canada is a true inspiration to those who have crossed his path. In 2012 he received the Order of Canada in recognition of his contribution to improving health care through the prevention of infectious disease for more than 30 years. He has been instrumental in developing an international cadre of vaccinologists and has always advocated for collaboration and networking to ensure that Canada remains a leader in vaccines.

The IMPACT team is indebted to Dr. Scheifele for his leadership role since the beginning of the program. He was a co-founding member of the network in 1991 and remained Vancouver’s site investigator, as well as Co-Principal Investigator of the overall network for almost 20 years. He then took on the responsibility of IMPACT data centre Director; a role he now hands over to Dr. Julie Bettinger, IMPACT epidemiologist. After so many years of commitment, he will continue lending his expertise and historical knowledge to the network.

His longstanding contributions (14 years) to the National Advisory Committee on Immunization, CPS Infectious Diseases and Immunization Committee, as well as to the *Paediatrics & Child Health* editorial board (not to mention the countless publications to his credit) are but a few other noteworthy mentions. Dr. Scheifele also played an important role in raising the profile of research in the National Immunization Strategy.

Thank you Dr. Scheifele for leading the IMPACT group through many changes over the years. Throughout your fruitful clinical and research career, you managed to educate countless individuals, and contributed to improving the health of Canadian children and their families through infection prevention.

A Vaccinology Research Symposium in celebration of his research career will be held in Vancouver on November 5 and 6. Dr. Scheifele will give closing remarks entitled “In praise of research networks”. Attendance is free (in person or via live webcast). Registration information can be found on the CAIRE website: www.caire.ca

Dr. Barbara Law retires

Dr. Barbara Law recently retired as Chief of Vaccine Safety from the Public Health Agency of Canada. Prior to this position, Dr. Law was one of the original site investigators in Winnipeg from 1993-2005. She has been involved with IMPACT ever since. We thank Dr. Law for her expertise, especially on adverse events following immunization, and her dedication to the network these past years. Dr. Law will continue to lend her expertise as time permits. We wish her all the best in her new adventures and look forward to future collaborations.

The IMPACT network would like to welcome Christina Bancej, the new Chief of Vaccine Safety, as well as Jennifer Pennock, the new Director of the Vaccine and Immunization Program Surveillance at PHAC.

New Halifax IMPACT Investigator

Dr. Scott Halperin has been mentoring Dr. Karina Top in her role as IMPACT Co-Investigator in Halifax since 2012 and will be passing her the torch of Lead Investigator. Dr. Halperin will continue to provide his expertise to the IMPACT team and remain Co-Principal Investigator – a task he shares with Dr. Wendy Vaudry. From the entire IMPACT team (especially those of us in Halifax); thank you Dr. Scott Halperin for almost 25 years as Lead Investigator and welcome to Dr. Top.

CPS awards

Some IMPACT members received some well-deserved recognition during June’s CPS Annual Conference in Toronto.

Dr. Dorothy Moore (Investigator at Montreal Children’s Hospital) and Dr. Joan Robinson (IMPACT CPS Scientific Liaison) received the Danielle Grenier Member Recognition Award, which recognizes work that goes “above and beyond” the ordinary calls of membership.

Dr. Moore, along with three other IMPACT team members, Dr. Joanne Embree (Winnipeg); Dr. David Scheifele (Data Center Chief) and Dr. Scott Halperin (Halifax and Co-Principal Investigator) received CPS Life Membership awards for their “extraordinary” commitment to the CPS over the years.

Congratulations to all of you!



IMPACT nurse monitor annual meeting

IMPACT nurse monitors gathered in Ottawa for their annual meeting on September 29-30. It was an excellent opportunity to learn, receive updates and enjoy the company of colleagues from coast to coast.



Resources

Canadian

IMPACT

Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC)

Canadian Paediatric Society (CPS)

Canadian Paediatric Surveillance Program (CPSP)

Immunize Canada

Canadian Association for Immunization Research and Evaluation (CAIRE)

Canadian Immunization Conference (CIC) 2014

Canadian Immunization Research Network

Vaccine safety quarterly reports

www.cps.ca/en/impact

www.phac-aspc.gc.ca

www.cps.ca

www.cpsp.cps.ca

www.immunize.ca

www.caire.ca

www.cic-cci.ca

www.cirnetwork.ca

www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/im/safety-secure-eng.php

International

Centers for Disease Control and Protection www.cdc.gov

Immunization Action Coalition

Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization

www.immunize.org

www.gavi.org

Resources continued...

CCDR publications

<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/ccdr-rmtc/15vol41/index-eng.php>

Recent NACI statements

<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/naci-ccni/index-eng.php>

CPS Position Statement - Nosodes are no substitute for vaccines

<http://www.cps.ca/en/documents/position/nosodes-are-no-substitute-for-vaccines>

Updated recommendations for Palivizumab (RSV passive immunization)

<http://www.cps.ca/en/documents/position/preventing-hospitalizations-for-rsv-infections>

Education Program for Immunization Competencies (EPIC)

<http://www.cps.ca/en/epic-pfci>

Counselling Vaccine-hesitant parents

<http://www.advancingin.com/portal.aspx?pid=9>

U.S. experiences first measles death in twelve years

On July 2, the Washington State Department of Health released a press statement entitled *Measles led to death of Clallam Co. woman; first in U.S. in a dozen years.*

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/Newsroom/2015NewsReleases/15119WAMeaslesRelatedDeath>

How one person's death made me so outspoken about vaccines

<https://drjengunter.wordpress.com/2015/07/07/how-one-persons-death-made-me-so-outspoken-about-vaccines/>

The Science of Anti-vaccination

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rzxr9FeZf1g&feature=youtu.be>

How measles made a comeback

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kjFPUoIXd80&feature=iv&src_vid=Rzxr9FeZf1g&annotation_id=annotation_2343930959



IMPACT contacts

Centre	Lead/Backup Nurse Monitor	Investigator
IWK Health Centre Halifax, N.S.	Andrea Hudgin/Karen Branscombe Trish Smith	Dr. Karina Top
Le Centre Mère-Enfant Soleil Québec City, Que.	Lynn Poirier /Louise Gosselin	Dr. Roseline Thibeault
The Hospital for Sick Children Toronto, Ont.	Suganya Lee/Kim Simpson	Dr. Dat Tran
Health Sciences Centre Winnipeg, Man.	Debbie Coté/ Michelle Breton	Dr. Joanne Embree
B.C. Children’s Hospital Vancouver, B.C.	Karen Kroeker/Ivor Chee	Dr. Laura Sauvé
Children’s Hospital of Eastern Ontario, Ottawa Ont.	Chantal Bergeron/Jennifer Bowes	Dr. Nicole Le Saux
Alberta Children’s Hospital Calgary, Alta.	Shannon Pyra/Eileen Pyra	Dr. Taj Jadavji
The Montreal Children’s Hospital, Montreal, Que.	Annick Audet/Lina Moisan Teena Marie Johns	Dr. Dorothy Moore
Eastern Health Janeway St. John’s, NL	Daisy Gibbons/ Minnie Parsons	Dr. Natalie Bridger
CHU Sainte-Justine Montréal, Que.	Sophie Bouchard/Marie-France Gagnon	Dr. Marc Lebel
Stollery Children’s Hospital Edmonton, Alta.	Barb Neufeld	Dr. Wendy Vaudry (Co-PI)
Royal University Hospital Saskatoon, Sask.	Chris Cadman/Brenda Andreychuk	Dr. Ben Tan Dr. Athena McConnell

Other contacts:

Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC)

Jennifer Pennock , Director, Vaccine and Immunization Program Surveillance Division; Christina Bancej (Chief Vaccine Safety); Nooshin Ahmadipour, (Head of CAEFISS); Susan Squires (Acting Chief Vaccine-Preventable Diseases); Teresa Mersereau (Chief, Influenza)

Canadian Paediatric Society (CPS): Marie Adèle Davis (Executive Director); Melanie Laffin Thibodeau (Manager, Surveillance); Dominique Paré (French translator)

IMPACT Data Centre: Dr. Julie Bettinger (Epidemiologist & Data Centre Chief); Kim Marty (Data Manager)

Canadian Center for Vaccinology (CCFV): Natalie Giorgis (newsletter formatting); Heather Samson (Nurse Monitor Liaison & Newsletter Editor); Dr. Scott Halperin, Co-PI

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