IMPACT, Canada’s Immunization Monitoring Program ACTive, is a national surveillance initiative managed by the Canadian Paediatric Society (CPS) and carried out by the IMPACT network of infectious disease specialists 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. Please share this newsletter. You can also subscribe at www.cps.ca/en/impact.

**Surveillance update**

**New surveillance target:**
IMPACT centers are currently conducting surveillance on the burden of Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) disease in hospitalized children. This is a one year pilot.

Documenting the burden of RSV admissions to IMPACT pediatric hospitals is important prior to the availability of RSV vaccines. This will allow future assessment of RSV vaccine effectiveness.

**Publications and presentations:**
IMPACT is now entering its 27th year of surveillance. The IMPACT team has produced a long, impressive list of peer-reviewed publications (70) and scientific presentations (121) presented both nationally and internationally. The team has also been part of many other knowledge translation activities over the program’s 26-year history that have not made it on the official list, including mentoring other international IMPACT-like groups.
IMPACT has been able to provide assurance about the safety of vaccines through its surveillance for vaccine adverse events as well as demonstrate the impact of vaccine programs and the continuing burden of some vaccine preventable diseases. IMPACT data has also demonstrated the disease burden in pre- and post-vaccine eras and the benefits of vaccination in specific populations. These are just a few examples of the types of analyses that can be performed using the many years of surveillance data.

Some upcoming presentations include:
1. Invasive pneumococcal disease at the 11th International Symposium for Pneumococci and Pneumococcal Diseases in Melbourne Australia, April 2018
2. Varicella at the 95th annual conference of the Canadian Paediatric Society in Quebec City, May 2018
3. Pneumococcal disease in children with cancer at the Pediatric Academy Society meeting in Toronto, May 2018

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**IMPACT: Hello and Goodbye**

There have been a few new and returning individuals to the IMPACT team! Hello and welcome to Dr. Jesse Papenburg to the position of Investigator at the Montreal Children’s Hospital (MCH). We are happy to welcome back Lorraine Piché as the lead nurse monitor at MCH. Lorraine was a previous lead monitor from 1997 to 2012. Goodbye and thanks to Dr. Marie-Astrid Lefebvre at MCH for your time with IMPACT.

A tremendous thank you to Heather Samson, who will officially be retiring as the IMPACT nurse monitor liaison as of May 1. Heather joined the IMPACT family in 1994 (first as nurse monitor and then as liaison) and has worked diligently and tirelessly towards IMPACT’s goals ever since. She has provided tremendous support and leadership to investigators, monitors, the data center and the CPS and will be greatly missed. We wish Heather all the very best in her retirement and hope to still benefit from her expertise in some capacity!

Finally, it is with great pleasure that IMPACT welcomes Annick Audet as she replaces Heather Samson in the role of Nurse Monitor Liaison. Annick has been with IMPACT as the lead nurse monitor at MCH since 2012 and will be a tremendous asset to IMPACT in her new role.
**Canadian websites and recent updates**

- **IMPACT:** [www.cps.ca/en/impact](http://www.cps.ca/en/impact)
- **Canadian Paediatric Society (CPS):** [www.cps.ca](http://www.cps.ca)
- **Canadian Paediatric Surveillance Program (CPSP):** [www.cpsp.cps.ca](http://www.cpsp.cps.ca)
- **Immunize Canada:** [www.immunize.ca](http://www.immunize.ca)
- **Canadian Association for Immunization Research and Evaluation (CAIRE):** [www.caire.ca](http://www.caire.ca)
- **Canadian Immunization Research Network:** [www.cirnetwork.ca](http://www.cirnetwork.ca)

**Medskl.com** is a free, online medical curriculum produced by Queen's University faculty. The chapter on infant and child immunization was written by Dr. David Scheifele: [medskl.com/module/index/infant-and-child-immunization](http://medskl.com/module/index/infant-and-child-immunization)

**PHAC Immunization resources for health professionals** can be found at [https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/vaccination-children/health-professionals.html#s3](https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/vaccination-children/health-professionals.html#s3)

**International**

- **United States:**
  - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/index.html)
  - Immunization Action Coalition: [www.immunize.org](http://www.immunize.org)
- **Australia:**
  - National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance: [www.ncirs.edu.au/](http://www.ncirs.edu.au/)

The Can Immunize App has many resources available to help you track and give you further information: [www.canimmunize.ca/en/home](http://www.canimmunize.ca/en/home)

**Articles:**

**Influenza**
[https://academic.oup.com/pch/article/23/1/31/4810455](https://academic.oup.com/pch/article/23/1/31/4810455)

**Meningococcal**

**Podcasts**

**Immunization week**

National Immunization Awareness Week in Canada ([immunize.ca/niaw](http://immunize.ca/niaw)) coincides well with World Immunization Week ([www.who.int/campaigns/immunization-week/2018/en/](http://www.who.int/campaigns/immunization-week/2018/en/)) which is happening April 24 to 30. Many organizations participate in raising awareness of the important role vaccines play.
### Current Team IMPACT contacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Centre</th>
<th>Lead/Backup Nurse Monitor</th>
<th>Investigator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IWK Health Centre Halifax, N.S.</td>
<td>Andrea Hudgin/Karen Branscombe Trish Smith/ Heather Samson</td>
<td>Dr. Karina Top Dr. Scott Halperin (Network Co-PI)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Le Centre Mère-Enfant Soleil Québec City, Que.</td>
<td>Lynn Poirier/Marie-France Nolin/Louise Gosselin</td>
<td>Dr. Roseline Thibeault</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Hospital for Sick Children Toronto, Ont.</td>
<td>Suganya Lee/Kim Simpson</td>
<td>Dr. Shaun Morris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Sciences Centre Winnipeg, Man.</td>
<td>Debbie Coté/Michelle Breton</td>
<td>Dr. Joanne Embree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B.C. Children’s Hospital Vancouver, B.C.</td>
<td>Karen Kroeker/Ivor Chee</td>
<td>Dr. Manish Sadarangani Dr. Laura Sauvé (Co-Inv)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children’s Hospital of Eastern Ontario, Ottawa, Ont.</td>
<td>Chantal Bergeron/Jennifer Bowes</td>
<td>Dr. Nicole Le Saux</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alberta Children’s Hospital Calgary, Alta.</td>
<td>Shannon Pyra/Eileen Pyra</td>
<td>Dr. Taj Jadavji Dr. Rupesh Chawla (Co-Inv)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Montreal Children’s Hospital, Montreal, Que.</td>
<td>Lorraine Piché</td>
<td>Dr. Jesse Papenburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Health Janeway St. John’s, NL</td>
<td>Debbie Harnum/Krista Rideout</td>
<td>Dr. Natalie Bridger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHU Sainte-Justine Montreal, Que.</td>
<td>Sophie Bouchard/Marie-Hélène Lavergne</td>
<td>Dr. Marc Lebel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stollery Children’s Hospital Edmonton, Alta.</td>
<td>Barb Neufeld/Chris Bon</td>
<td>Dr. Wendy Vaudry (Network Co-PI)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Royal University Hospital Saskatoon, Sask.</td>
<td>Chris Cadman/Brenda Andreychuk</td>
<td>Dr. Ben Tan (Lead) Dr. Athena McConnell (Co-Inv)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Other contacts:

**Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC)**
Jennifer Pennock (Director, Vaccine and Immunization Program Surveillance Division); Lyne Cantin (Acting Manager, Vaccine Safety); Christina Bancej (Chief, Surveillance, Assessment and Response Section); Susan Squires (Chief, Vaccine-Preventable Diseases)

**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); Emily Rousseau (Data Research Assistant); Sarah McCann (Data Nurse Scrutineer)

**Canadian Center for Vaccinology (CCfV):** Natalie Giorgis (newsletter formatting)

**McGill University Vaccine Study Center:** Annick Audet (IMPACT Nurse Monitor Liaison)

*To connect with an IMPACT centre please contact Annick Audet by email at [Annick.Audet@MUHC.MCGILL.CA](mailto:Annick.Audet@MUHC.MCGILL.CA)*