

**Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital**  
**Chief of Staff Annual Report**  
**2008-2009**

**1) Human Resources**

Anesthesia – Dr. Tilsworth has joined the Department of Anesthesia as the Head of the Service this year. The service continues to be bolstered by Anesthetists from London as well as Dr. Proctor and Dr. K who have joined the service this year on a part time basis.

Emergency Department – The summer of 2008 saw a real crisis in the human resource supply of emergency room physicians. Many physicians really extended themselves in order to cover the short fall. As well, Dr. Julie Copeland came on as Head of Emergency Services and did an outstanding job in that role to liaise with the hospital, the Ministry of Health and many independent physician service providers in order to keep the department open. I would like to thank her for the work that went into this. Dr. Daniel Grushka joined the Emergency Department in September of 2008 as a full time CCFP-EM trained doctor. We are continuing to recruit in that area.

Orthopedics – Dr. Samer Hanna has left the hospital as of April 30, 2009. Dr. Vai Rajgopal has begun working with us on a part time basis and will be assuming full time duties in Orthopedics starting in July of 2009.

Obstetrics – Dr. Alison Marr stepped down as Head of Obstetrics after many years in that role. Dr. John Marcou has taken on the role of Obstetrics and Perinatal service. Dr. Marr has stopped her obstetrics practice in January of 2009.

ENT – Dr. McRae has been working here on a part time basis for many years. He has retired from practice and has resigned his privileges here as of March 2009.

Department of Surgery – Dr. Ian Ferguson is stepping down as Chief of the Department of Surgery after 5 years of service to the department and the hospital in that role. Dr. Cathy Blokker has agreed to take on the role as Chief of Surgery for the next three year term. I look forward to working with her in her new role.

Dr. Stan Smith – Dr. Smith is a family physician who had privileges here for many years. He has resigned his privileges as of December 2008 on the retirement from his practice in Mount Brydges. He was replaced in his practice by Dr. Vikram Dalal who has obtained privileges to work here and is actively involved in the ED as well as teaching and inpatient care.

Education Committee – Dr. Tom Wolder has resigned as head of the education committee after over 10 years of service to the ongoing education of the physicians and staff in the hospital. I would like to thank Dr. Wolder for the all the time and energy that he has put into the endeavor on behalf of all the hospital staff who have attended rounds over the years.

## **2) Credentials**

The following physicians were nominated to the Medical Staff Executive for 2009-2010:

President:	Dr. Tim MacDonald
Vice President:	Dr. Marc Raymond
Secretary:	Dr. Jen Parr

I would like to thank Dr. Blokker for the work that she has put in as President of the Medical staff for the year and for the valuable input that she has provided through out the year on the issues that the hospital was facing.

## **3) Policies and Procedures**

The following policies were passed at MAC over the past year:

- 1) Influenza Pandemic Plan
- 2) ALC Policy
- 3) Arterial Line Policy
- 4) TPN Protocol
- 5) ENITS Project for Neurosurgical Consultation
- 6) Resuscitation/End of Life Care Plan Policy
- 7) Physician Assistant Telephone Order Medical Directive

## **4) Going Forward**

This has been an extremely difficult year for the hospital and all the staff that works here. The hospital underwent three separate external reviews in the process of coming to a balanced budget. There has been a significant decrease in staffing in all departments with many people leaving or retiring from the hospital. We are in the process of reducing the hospital from three care areas to two in a bid to balance our budget which will be a big adjustment and will have its challenges. This will become a reality within the next few weeks. The budgetary pressure will continue in the face of the general economic conditions that the province is facing. The Ministry of Health is increasingly taking an active role in the monitoring of the provision of care through its Wait Time Strategy and Surge Capacity Monitoring program, and it is a challenge for the hospital to meet these obligations with the limited resources that we have.

I would like to encourage all of the physicians within the hospital to continue to take as active a role as they can in the affairs of the hospital. Many committee meetings are poorly attended by the physicians on the committees and we as physicians have a key role to play in shaping policy, the process of care and the culture within the hospital that we work in. As Chief of Staff, one of my main roles is to ensure the quality of care for the service provided within the hospital. It is only with the input of physicians that we can do this in a way that best serves all the parties involved and the patients that we care for.

I'd like to thank my Chief of Medicine, Dr. Phil Vandewalle and my Chief of Surgery, Dr. Ian Ferguson for their advice to me and their contributions both on the Medical Advisory Committee and to the functioning of their respective departments.

I would like to thank the Senior Administration Team of Mike Mazza, Nancy Maltby-Webster, Paul Long and Liz Grimster for their support to me over the last year.

I would like to thank Cathy Swan for her administrative support to me.

I appreciate the support of the entire Medical Staff during this past year, I know that we as a hospital continue to face many challenges that I am confident we can meet in the future.

Respectfully submitted

Dr. Paul Ferner  
Chief of Staff