

July 16, 2014

RE: Request for Expressions of Support via Email by mid-August for CR Quality Study

Dear Staff of CR Programs in Canada:

As a member of the Canadian Association of Cardiovascular Prevention and Rehabilitation serving on the Canadian Cardiac Rehab Registry research sub-committee, and chairing the Canadian Cardiovascular Society cardiac rehabilitation quality indicator working group, I am writing to tell you about the exciting research proposal we have developed, to enlist your support.

The overarching goal of this project is to measure the quality of cardiac rehabilitation we deliver, and whether the quarterly program reports provided result in quality improvements over time. We propose to enlist participation of 16 cardiac rehabilitation programs from across the country to join the Registry, to contribute their patient data over a period of 2.5 years. We have recently updated the Registry data dictionary, such that 27 quality indicators can be assessed within it. We will then describe the quality of cardiac rehabilitation we are delivering in Canada, particularly in relation to benchmarks that we are currently developing with the Canadian Cardiovascular Society.

In the second phase of the study, we will randomize each program to either receive quality reports quarterly, or not to receive them. We will then be able to test whether this feedback results in significant increases on program quality over time.

We are developing the proposal for the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada and a Canadian Institutes of Health Research competition called "Partnerships for Health System Improvement". Within the grant, we have budgeted for \$1500 / year over each of 3 years as a modest stipend for each program to support them in joining the Registry and contributing data. The latter grant has a larger funding amount, and therefore we will request a greater program honorarium through that competition. Funds are also requested to support Registry staff in on-boarding programs, data analysis and quarterly reporting.

The **deadline for submission is August 28th**, so we would appreciate if you could **reply to sgrace@yorku.ca to express your support** well before this deadline. I hope we can receive a reply email from programs across all parts of the country. Your reply can be as simple as: "On behalf of xxx cardiac rehabilitation program in xxxxx, we strongly support your study on measuring and improving cardiac rehabilitation delivery in Canada. We would be delighted to participate as a program in the study should we be invited, and contribute data to the Canadian Cardiac Rehab Registry." Feel free to copy and paste this text, or make it your own. Please include your full name, title, institution and contact information at the bottom of the email, and paste in your institution logo if possible.

The reviewers from our unsuccessful submission last year questioned the feasibility of enlisting participation from programs. Demonstrating support from the cardiac rehabilitation community will ensure the utmost competitiveness of our proposal. We hope to receive letters to demonstrate that a variety of programs would be willing to participate.

Results of the competition will be announced on April 30, 2015. We will be sure to inform you of the outcome. However, please feel free to be in touch any time in the interim with questions or comments about the proposed study.

Thank you again for considering this important proposal. I am sure you concur that this research could provide much needed support for our national Registry, and promote greater awareness of the high-quality care we provide in our programs every day.

Sincerely,

Sherry L. Grace, PhD
Professor, York University, School of Kinesiology and Health Science
Director of Research, University Health Network, GoodLife Fitness Cardiovascular Rehabilitation Unit