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HEALTH SCIENCES NORTH
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018

Report from the Chief of Staff

Dr. John Fenton



Health Sciences North
Horizon Santé-Nord

Report of the Chief of Staff Dr. John Fenton AGM - June 21, 2018

Thank you Nicole.

Good evening and thank you for joining us here tonight for the Annual General Meeting.

As you've heard from our Board Chair, Nicole Everest and our CEO, Dominic Giroux, the past year has been a year of change and opportunity at HSN. For me, it has also been an exciting year as the successor to Dr. Chris Bourdon in the role of Chief of Staff.

The role of the Chief of Staff offers an opportunity to enable change within our organization. Improving care for patients and making HSN a better place for medical professionals to work is why I wanted to do this job. Thank you for welcoming me into this new role.

As your Chief of Staff, it is my pleasure to report on the activities of the medical staff at HSN this past year.

2017 has been another successful year for physician recruitment in Greater Sudbury. Each year, HSN, the City of Greater Sudbury, and the Greater Sudbury Chamber of Commerce team up to attract doctors.

This past year, 19 physicians started new practices in the city, including six family doctors, 11 specialists, and two Emergency Medicine physicians. Our new specialists cover the fields of anaesthesia, cardiology, gastroenterology, general surgery, haematology, radiology, psychiatry, respirology and urology. New recruits are an important part of being able to continue to offer access to high quality care and innovative skills and procedures. A warm welcome to all who have joined our teams.

Also, much like previous years, we have also had the pleasure of welcoming over 300 medical students and over 1,700 learners of other health care disciplines to HSN's care teams.

These learners provide care while they learn, and giving them opportunities to spend time here greatly increases our ability to recruit and retain skilled health care workers.

2017 has also been a challenging year. We have experienced significant bed pressures, financial pressures and continued to provide high quality care to the patients and families from all over Northeastern Ontario.

Despite these challenges, our clinical teams have done extraordinary work and I am proud to highlight a few of their accomplishments this year.

- The first Percutaneous Patent Foramen Ovale (PFO) cardiac procedure was performed through collaboration between Cardiovascular Surgery, the Intensive Care Unit, Cath Lab, Cardiology and Anaesthesia. This lifesaving procedure allows the team to repair complex tears in a patient's aorta in a minimally invasive way, with remarkable patient outcomes.

- We launched a cardiac Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) service. The multidisciplinary team includes a cardiologist, radiologist, and medical imaging technician who take an MRI scan of a patient's heart. This MRI provides precise imaging to determine the extent of damage caused by a heart attack or inflammatory heart disease.
- We have also celebrated the implementation of Radiofrequency Ablation to help treat cancer patients. Prior to this, cancer patients have had to travel to southern Ontario for this treatment.
- We celebrated the 100th taTME operation which put HSN at the forefront of the management of colorectal cancer. HSN was one the first centers to adopt this cancer treatment technique and, as a result, our colorectal team has become a leader in the country in the management of rectal cancer using minimally invasive approaches. Better results, minimal incisions, less pain, and less time spent in hospital are just some of the benefits of this advanced surgical procedure for patients of Northern Ontario.

These are all examples of how HSN is providing leading-edge care closer to home to patients of the Northeast.

In addition to this, we have implemented recommendations from external reviews in Cardiology and Radiology. We improved access to care in Radiology with the introduction of remote reading and reduced the turn-around time for CT scans ordered by the Emergency department. Challenges still remain in terms of recruitment of new radiologists to achieve a full complement of physicians in the radiology department.

In Psychiatry, we are in the process of improving after-hours access to care and have introduced changes in the service delivery model to better meet the needs of our patients and families.

On behalf of the medical staff, I'd like to share in the enthusiasm for the development of the Learners' Centre which aligns to and supports the evolution of our organization as an Academic Health Sciences Center. We also share in the excitement for the construction launch of the PET-CT scanner enabling HSN to provide this important diagnostic service to patients right here in Sudbury.

As the needs of patients and families continue to evolve, we as a healthcare institution must continue to transform to meet those needs. Looking to the future of HSN has been a big part of 2017-18. I'm pleased to see the engagement and contributions of the medical staff in the Strategic Planning process. The process to date has been comprehensive, ensuring that all stakeholders have the opportunity to contribute to the planning of HSN's future and the enhancement of patient services for northerners.

At next year's Annual General Meeting, I look forward to being able to share with you how we've continued to align to HSN's academic mission. We will also look to share how we've continued to build relationships with our partner hospitals and organizations through the Northeast. Through these partner collaborations and with further recruitment efforts we will be positioned to offer enhanced care closer to home.

Finally, I would like to thank all members of the Medical Advisory Committee for their support.