ROLE TITLE: Ontario Head and Neck (HNK) Cancers Lead

REPORTS TO: Jointly to the Provincial Clinical Lead, Disease Pathway Management and Director, Clinical Cancer Programs at Ontario Health

LOCATION: Ontario (Currently Virtual)

ANTICIPATED TIME COMMITMENT: 0.5 days per week

TERM: 2 years

No. of OPPORTUNITIES: 1

POSTING DATE: July 27, 2023

CLOSING DATE: August 26, 2023

POSITION SUMMARY

Ontario Health is seeking expressions of interest from specialists with focused practices in treating Head and Neck (HNK) cancers for the position of Ontario HNK Cancers Lead. This is a unique opportunity to provide strategic leadership to the evolution of the Ontario cancer system. This opportunity is open to all qualified candidates, including the current incumbent.

The Ontario HNK Cancers Lead (the Lead) will work collaboratively with Ontario Health programs and structures to ensure:

a) Disease-specific system planning and quality issues are identified and addressed in the context of the Ontario Cancer Plan,

b) A disease-specific lens is applied to the work of Ontario Health

c) Alignment and prioritization of disease-specific efforts across the organization, and,

d) Timely, disease-specific expert input into Ontario Health Programs and initiatives.

Interested parties should forward their expression of interest and curriculum vitae, electronically, to Amber.Hunter@ontariohealth.ca no later than 12:00 P.M. on August 26, 2023.

Questions about the role may be submitted to Amber.Hunter@ontariohealth.ca no later than August 14, 2023. A consolidated list of all questions and answers will be available to any party, by request, by August 18, 2023. To receive a copy of the consolidated list of questions and answers, please contact Amber.Hunter@ontariohealth.ca.

ACCOUNTABILITIES

In conjunction with clinical experts, patient/family representatives and OH’s Clinical Programs the general accountabilities of all Ontario Cancer Leads include:

1. Horizon- and Jurisdictional-Scanning: Ensuring Ontario’s cancer system is aware of and prepared for emerging knowledge and practice. Identifying and understanding differences in policy and practice between Ontario and other key jurisdictions.
2. **Disease Pathway Management (DPM)**: Promoting DPM as a framework for optimizing clinical care and quality improvement. Leading the development and maintenance of quality indicators, pathway maps, and/or quality initiatives, where applicable. Regular attendance and participation at the Ontario Cancer Leads Steering Committee.

3. **Clinical Practice Guidance**: Working in collaboration with the Program in Evidence-Based Care and OH Program Leads, ensuring that priority topics for clinical guidance are identified and that high-quality guidance is developed and kept current.

4. **Informing OH Programs**: Providing timely advice to provincial funding programs regarding clinical, program implementation and policy issues. Specific to drug programs, working collaboratively with the Clinical Lead, Provincial Drug Reimbursement Programs; leading local and national drug reviews and submissions; generating, prioritizing and endorsing evidence-building projects. Participating in funding model reform (i.e. Systemic Treatment, Radiation, Cancer Surgery Quality Based Procedure Funding).

5. **Inquiries**: Providing timely advice on responses to information requests from government, media, the public, the Ontario Ombudsman, OH programs and others. Upon request from OH Communications, serve as a spokesperson for specific issues.

6. **Alignment**: Ensuring alignment of OH efforts having an impact on/relating to the specified cancers. Participating in the Steering Committee of the Ontario Cancer Leads.

7. **Engagement**: Ensuring multi-disciplinary and multi-stakeholder engagement in the above work. Establishing and maintaining a link with disease-site entities as appropriate, both provincial and those in the Regional Cancer Programs. Leading a clinical advisory committee in support of all of the above activities.

**Specific accountabilities and priorities of the Ontario HNK Cancers Lead currently are:**

- Establishing a collaborative relationship and appropriate links with relevant OH Programs including Radiation Treatment, Surgical Oncology, Systemic Treatment Primary Care, Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, and the Program in Evidence-based Care (PEBC).

- Establishing a network of providers across all settings, who can provide input into the quality issues for the diagnosis and treatment of HNK cancers, and who will champion improvement initiatives locally

- Chairing the HNK Cancers Advisory Committee with regional and multidisciplinary representation to advise on disease site priorities

- Leading/partnering on relevant quality improvement initiatives

- Working with the Provincial Drug Reimbursement Programs (PDRP) on the following:
  a) horizon planning activities,
  b) providing decision support to the drug review process (national and local) and PDRP policy implementation;
  c) ensuring continued relevance of drug funding policies by identifying and addressing funding gaps;
  d) leading Drug Advisory Committees-initiated submissions and Evidence Building Program projects;
  e) providing expert input in case adjudication and in Ministry, Ombudsman and media inquiries;
  f) assisting with quality assurance and performance reporting initiatives.
QUALIFICATIONS

- A medical doctor licensed to practice in the province of Ontario in good standing with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (CPSO) with significant experience and a focused practice in treating HNK cancers and a good understanding of issues across the cancer continuum for all HNK cancers including diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up care
- Proven track record of leadership at the hospital and/or university and/or system level
- Recognition as an opinion leader in the professional and oncology community
- Knowledge of clinical, administrative, policy and system issues with respect to cancer services
- Aptitude for systems thinking; ability to analyze information and to make sound decisions
- Ability/credibility to reach and engage clinicians in different settings of care and disciplines
- Excellent interpersonal skills and ability to build consensus
- Demonstrated commitment to patient-centred care, evidence-based medicine and public accountability
- Enthusiasm for and commitment to quality improvement in cancer care at the system level
- Creativity demonstrated through publication or research and/or implementation of innovative systems and ideas

Please note that the successful applicant will be required to comply with the provisions of OH’s Conflict of Interest Policy for Regulated Health Professionals, as it may be amended from time to time, which may impact your outside activities (including, but not limited to, activities that are funded by pharmaceutical or related industry entities) if they may impair, influence, or create the appearance of impairing or influencing your ability to objectively exercise your duties to OH.

HOW TO APPLY:

Interested parties should forward their expression of interest and curriculum vitae, electronically, to Amber.Hunter@ontariohealth.ca, no later than 12:00 P.M. on August 26, 2023.

We will evaluate all applications against the skills and experience requirements for the position. Those candidates selected for interview will be contacted directly by a representative from the Business Unit. Ontario Health may consider applications from incumbents currently in the position. If you have not been contacted within 3 weeks after the close of the posting, you can assume you are not under consideration for this position.

More about Ontario Health:

Ontario Health is an agency created by the Government of Ontario with a mandate to connect and coordinate Ontario’s health care system in ways that have not been done before, to help ensure that Ontarians receive the best possible care.

Ontario Health oversees health care delivery across the province, which includes ensuring front-line providers and other health professionals have the tools and information they need to deliver the best possible care within their communities. This also means simplifying the current system and connecting and coordinating its many complex parts in new and innovative ways. This involves keeping a close eye on how the health system is performing and providing evidence-based standards and improvements to address any gaps.

Ontario Health helps to support significant and important transformation in Ontario’s health system, working to ease the transition between points of care for Ontarians and helping to ensure they have access to the care they need. Ontario Health is adapting world-renowned practices from areas such as cancer care and renal care to other parts of the system, including mental health and addictions.
Through integration, coordination, connection, and clinical excellence, Ontario Health is working to reduce strain on the system which will enable investment of more resources on the care Ontarians need, and, most importantly, improve health outcomes and overall wellness for all.

As an operational service agency of the Government of Ontario, Ontario Health is accountable for conducting a fair and transparent process, providing equal treatment to all qualified parties, in selecting a candidate for the above mentioned role.

Our website is at:
http://www.ontariohealth.ca