

A Look Back: Milestone Achievements of the SHS-UHN Antimicrobial Stewardship Program

- Antimicrobial Stewardship Program is launched at Princess Margaret with Audit and Feedback.
- Mount Sinai Hospital and University Health Network's Antimicrobial Stewardship Programs merge.

2009

- Antimicrobial Stewardship Program (ASP) is launched in the Mount Sinai Hospital Intensive Care Unit (ICU) with Audit and Feedback- a process whereby an ASP Pharmacist/MD meets with the clinical team and together they review the antibiotics patients are receiving so as to optimize their use.
- Reducing infection in C-section. An initiative to ensure patients are getting appropriate antimicrobials at the right time in order to reduce post-op C-section infections.
- ASP launched at University Health Network in ICU and Outpatient Antimicrobial Treatment trial launched, Audit and Feedback in the ICU and ensuring patients being transitioned home on antibiotics are receiving proper follow-up.

2010

- The ASP develops Best Practices and Algorithms for the management of common infections.
- The ASP names their first clinical research fellow.
- Accreditation Canada adds antimicrobial stewardship programs to its list of required organizational practices.

2011

- antimicrobialstewardship.com is launched to offer resources to both health care providers and patients.
- Antimicrobial Stewardship Program offers and hosts the first national course on antimicrobial stewardship.
- Council of Academic Hospitals of Ontario (CAHO) program Advancing Research to Improve Care (ARTIC) awards the ASP with a grant to assist academic hospitals across Ontario to develop similar ASPs in their ICUs.
- ASP initiative for General Internal Medicine begins with audit and feedback for prescribers and other clinicians.

2012

- Success of the ARTIC initiative in academic hospitals results in another grant being awarded to the ASP - ARTIC CHILL - to assist the development of ASPs in community hospitals across Ontario.
- The first ASP registered nurse position in Canada is created.
- In working to improve how hospitals deal with sepsis, the Sepsis Now a Priority (SNAP) algorithm to assess and treat at-risk patients was implemented in Mount Sinai's Emergency Department.
- ASP launches the CLiP application and clinician tool.
- ASP develops, implements and disseminates High Risk Febrile Neutropenia protocol. Cancer Care Ontario further assists in the dissemination of the protocol to ensure continuity of care and protection of immune-suppressed patients in their community hospitals.

2013

- ASP develops their first three-year strategic plan.
- Antimicrobial stewardship course, developed by a member of the ASP, is offered at University of Toronto. It remains the only undergraduate antimicrobial stewardship course in the country.
- SHS-UHN ASP develops and delivers second national course on antimicrobial stewardship.

2014

- ASP is visited by Canada's Chief Public Health Officer, Federal Deputy Minister of Health, and the Public Health Agency's CEO.
- ASP develops physician-specific reports, allowing for more specific feedback on prescribing antimicrobials to patients.
- ASP creates nursing interventions aimed at reducing antimicrobial use in asymptomatic bacteriuria (Toronto General Hospital, Toronto Western Hospital and Toronto Rehabilitation Institute).

2015

- Antimicrobial Stewardship Program is launched in the Multi-Organ Transplant Program at UHN with Audit and Feedback.
- In partnership with Accreditation Canada, ASP creates an antimicrobial stewardship course, specifically to assist hospitals through the accreditation process.
- Sinai Health System and University Health Network ASP co-host the Pan-Canadian Antimicrobial Resistance Round Table with HealthcareCAN.

2016

- ASP develops a patient-centred video to educate about antibiotic use.
- Community ASP initiative launched with Ministry of Health and Long Term Care.
- New ASP website 2.0 launched.
- ASP and Michener Critical Care Nursing Program curriculum launched.

2017

- Development and launch of Multi-Organ Transplant Best Practice Guidelines for infections.
- Launch of JEDI (Judicious Evaluation of antimicrobial Decision-making in the ICU) and SABR (Stewardship At Bedside Rounds) in the ICUs at UHN and Mount Sinai Hospital, with the aim of returning antimicrobial stewardship to the bedside while improving nursing engagement.
- Visit from Federal Minister of Health, the Hon. Jane Philpott.

2018



The Antimicrobial Stewardship Program is an integral component of our safety and quality agenda, and keeps our patients safe. I am proud to know that this group has provided leadership across the province, country and internationally in this area.”

Dr. Maureen Shandling, Executive Vice President, Academic & Medical Affairs



The Antimicrobial Stewardship Program's development of individualized physician antibiotic usage profiles is truly transformative. For the first time, our doctors have data on the quantity and type of antibiotics they are using.”

Dr. Peter Cram, Director of the Division of General Internal Medicine and Geriatrics at Sinai Health System and University Health Network



Over the past 10 years, the ASP has become a vital part of the General Internal Medicine enterprise. The scheduled rounds with the ASP pharmacist have made me a better internist, and I now routinely incorporate what I have learned from ASP material and personnel into how I practice medicine and what I teach medical students and residents.”

Dr. David Frost, General Internal Medicine Site Director, Toronto Western Hospital



The work of the ASP program has been very helpful in guiding the care of infectious diseases in the Emergency Department. A standardized, evidence-based, rational approach to the management of common conditions like skin and soft tissue infections has both significantly improved patient care while at the same time reducing costs. It's an amazing achievement!”

Dr. Bjrg Borgundvaag, Director of the Schwartz/Reisman Emergency Medicine Institute at Sinai Health System



I completed an elective with ASP as a trainee and the experience of working with an interdisciplinary team was profoundly influential. The knowledge I gathered with the ASP team has had a strong impact on my practice as an attending physician in the ICU.”

Dr. Ian Randall, Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine, Department of Anesthesia and Pain Management, University Health Network



We've learned that antimicrobial stewardship is as much a community matter as it is a hospital one, perhaps even more so. Efforts to ensure appropriate use of antibiotics in primary care, like the work undertaken by the Antimicrobial Stewardship Program, has the potential to significantly impact the future availability of safe and effective antibiotics.”

Dr. David Tannenbaum, Family Physician-in-Chief of the Ray D. Wolfe Department of Family Medicine at Mount Sinai Hospital and Lead Physician of the Mount Sinai Academic Family Health Team