



RaDAR Newsletter

Every fall for the last 7 years, Dr. Debra Morgan has hosted the **Summit of the Knowledge Network in Rural and Remote Dementia Care** in Saskatoon. This event is a chance for people from all over Saskatchewan interested in dementia care to get together for an evening poster session followed by a full conference day. All of the posters and presentations focus on individuals with dementia and their

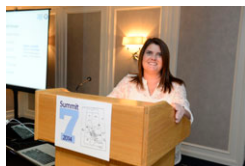


Alzheimer Society of Saskatchewan at Summit 7, including First Link Coordinators

families living in rural and remote communities. This year, 70 people from across

Saskatchewan and elsewhere attended Summit. Representatives from Sun Country Health Region included **Pat Kessler** (Director of Home Care and Palliative Care), **Erica Matthews** (Social Worker), and **Gina Mathieson-Selinger** (First Link Coordinator, pictured below).

Dr. Anthea Innes, Professor and Director of the Bournemouth University Dementia Institute (BUDI), was the



Dr. Anthea Innes

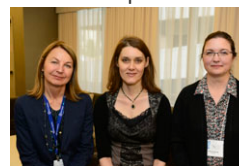
Summit 7 keynote speaker. As a leading researcher in the field of dementia care, Anthea is passionate about improving the lives of those with dementia

and their families. Much of her research engages community members and those living with dementia to support the **public engagement** of individuals with dementia, build **dementia friendly communities**, **enhance services, education and training** for health care providers, and include people with dementia in **tourism, leisure, arts, and culture**.



Summit 7, October 2014

The afternoon session of Summit focused on **A Multi-Method Investigation of Dementia and Related Services in Saskatchewan: Final Report and Recommendations**. Summit participants worked in small groups to revise and rank the 10 initial report recommendations. The study was a partnership between the **Health Quality Council** and the RaDAR team, with **Dr. Jacqueline Quail** of HQC responsible for the hands-on data analysis. The study was guided by a 19-member Steering Committee (including **Pat Kessler** and **Sheena Grimes** from Sun Country Health Region). The 170-plus page report includes a best practice review, prevalence and incidence of dementia for the entire province (plus each health region), and findings from an environmental scan of dementia-related services (also by each health region). The final report is expected to be released later this year.



Debra Morgan, Jacqueline Quail (HQC), Julie Kosteniuk



Dr. Debra Morgan at the entrance to the Rural and Remote Memory Clinic entrance, U of S

RaDAR Team

Principal Investigator

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Co-investigators

Andrew Kirk (U of S)
Megan O'Connell (U of S)
Norma Stewart (U of S)
Julie Kosteniuk (U of S)
Margaret Crossley (U of S)
Haizhen Mou (U of S)
Lesley McBain (First Nations University)
Vanina Dal Bello-Haas (McMaster)
Dorothy Forbes (U of A)
Anthea Innes (Bournemouth, England)
Joanne Bracken (Alzheimer Society of Saskatchewan)
Edna Parrott (Caregiver)

Rural and Remote Memory Clinic Staff

Dr. Drew Kirk, Neurologist
Dr. Megan O'Connell, Neuropsychologist
Allison Cammer, Dietitian
Leslie Holfeld, Registered Nurse
Rhonda Loeppky, Physical Therapist
Duane Minish, Psychometrician
Nadia Smith, Research Assistant
Katherine Stevenson, Physical Therapist

Graduate students

Camille Branger
Rachelle Burton
Joseph Enright
Benjamin Gould

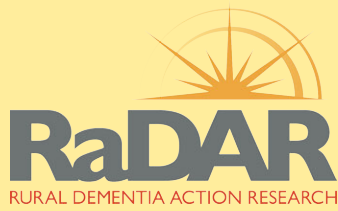


Gina Mathieson-Selinger, First Link Coordinator for SCHR (suncountry@alzheimer.sk.ca or 1-800-263-3069)

First Link® for health care professionals

When patients give permission to their health care professionals to share their information with our First Link staff, we will contact them directly. We will immediately connect patients with a network of education and support services specific to their situation.

If you are a health care professional, please see our [First Link](#) information and download the [First Link Agency Referral Form](#).



Sun Country Dementia Working Group

The Sun Country Dementia Working Group has been meeting since June, 2013. This group also serves as the RaDAR Advisory Council for the health region, as well as the Alzheimer Society of Saskatchewan Dementia Advisory Network. The overall goals of this group are to improve services for individuals with dementia and their families as well as raise public awareness, in the health region and across Saskatchewan.

SCHR Dementia Working Group
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 RaDAR Advisory Council, SCHR
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 Alzheimer Society of Saskatchewan
 Dementia Advisory Network, SCHR

What is RaDAR doing in Sun Country Health Region?

The RaDAR team recently became part of a national research initiative, the Canadian Consortium in Neurodegeneration in Aging (CCNA). The Consortium was announced by the federal government and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research in September, 2014, to address the growing prevalence of neurodegenerative diseases affecting cognition, such as Alzheimer Disease and other dementias. The Consortium brings together 340 researchers across 20 research teams, organized into 3 themes (prevention, treatment, care).

Dr. Morgan, lead of the RaDAR team, also co-leads Team 20 of the Consortium. Team 20 focuses on rural and Indigenous issues in dementia care, with the rural focus led by Dr. Morgan and the Indigenous focus co-led by Dr. Kristen Jacklin (Northern Ontario School of Medicine, Laurentian University) and Dr.



Kristen Jacklin (centre, Team 20 Indigenous co-lead), Wayne Warry, Melissa Blind

Carrie Bourassa (First Nations University, SK). The rural and Indigenous

research streams are distinct but

address three common research areas in dementia care: community-based primary health care (PHC), appropriate tools, and capacity building.

As part of CCNA Team 20, RaDAR will conduct 3 inter-related projects in Sun Country Health Region:

1. Our core project will involve working with PHC teams to develop, implement, and evaluate approaches to improve dementia care. We will start in Sun Country Health Region, with plans to scale up to other regions by the end of the 5-year project in 2019.
2. A pilot project led by Dr. Julie Kosteniuk will look at developing standardized care pathways and clinical support tools for rural PHC professionals.
3. A pilot project led by Dr. Megan O'Connell will develop innovative ways that specialists (from our Memory Clinic) can support and help build dementia care capacity in rural PHC providers, and provide diagnostic support to PHC providers.

Baseline data collection for RaDAR's core project for CCNA Team 20 will involve interviews with 4 members from each PHC team in Sun Country Health Region, plus 2 patient-caregiver dyads from each PHC team. Data collection with the 8 PHC teams is expected to begin early next year (2015).

Kathleen Kulyk, a nursing Masters student, supervised by Dr. Norma Stewart and Dr. Shelley Peacock, will soon be conducting a pilot study in Saskatoon Health Region to test the feasibility, acceptability, and validity of the questionnaires that will be used in the baseline data collection. Kathleen will be interviewing 4 health care professionals from 3 different PHC teams in rural areas of Saskatoon Health Region.



Team 20 of the Canadian Consortium of Neurodegeneration in Aging, October 2014

Rural and Remote Memory Clinic at the U of S

The Rural and Remote Memory Clinic is a major part of the RaDAR team. The focus of the clinic is on diagnosis and management of atypical and complex cases of suspected dementia, where an interdisciplinary team assessment is most needed. The clinic is located in the new Health Sciences E-Wing of the University of Saskatchewan.



Dr. Megan O'Connell
 Clinic Neuropsychologist



Dr. Andrew Kirk
 Clinic Neurologist



Leslie Holfeld
 Clinic Nurse pictured in the Telehealth Room at the Clinic