

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
CHIEF OF STAFF REPORT
TUESDAY, JUNE 27, 2017**

Good Morning.

It is my pleasure to speak to you today.

I became the Chief of Staff on April 1st, taking over from Dr. Peter Roney who retired from this position after 10 years.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Roney for his valuable contribution in this very busy role.

Among many duties, the COS acts as an advisor and medical staff representative to the Board on clinical matters which impact on how physicians deliver their services in the hospital, is involved in decision making around resource allocation and participates with the board in strategic planning and the development of the mission, vision and values of the hospital.

Involvement in committee work at the hospital and as a representative at the LHIN level has kept Dr. Roney very busy over the years.

I am excited to take over from where Dr. Roney left off. And I know he is happy to return to a more relaxed timetable in his urology practice.

I have the privilege of working with a committed group of physicians who pride themselves on consistently delivering high quality patient and family centered care with fiscal responsibility.

We are always working hard to adopt best practice guidelines to provide the most up to date care for our patients.

This past year in order to achieve best practice in stroke care, we did something quite unique. I would like to take a minute to share this success story with you.

As most of you know, a stroke can have devastating consequences. Patient may be left with significant disabilities and may not be able to care for themselves independently as a result of a stroke.

The Canadian Best Practice Guidelines recommend that patients with a stroke be treated in an Acute Stroke Unit dedicated to providing expert stroke care from all the staff in the first week after the stroke. This approach results in reduced mortality, complications and better outcomes.

Expertise comes from treating at least 150 stroke patients each year. Our hospital treats an average of 50 strokes each year, BGH treats about 100. By combining these patients, we achieve a critical mass needed to build expertise.

After much consideration, due diligence and collaboration between our hospitals, the ASU opened in Brockville in May 2016.

Since that time, 56 of our patients have been treated at the ASU. I am very happy to report that the in-patient mortality rate for the first 30 days has dropped from 17.4% to 4.3% .

Across the province, we have achieved the greatest improvement in this benchmark. This success has been highlighted in The Annual Stroke Report Card presented to the Ministry of Health and has been noted in a number of press releases.

Only with strong collaboration and engagement between the physicians, senior administration and the board along with our partners at BGH and the SE Stroke Steering Committee has this been possible. I believe it deserves a round of applause to everyone involved.

Over the past year, our hospital has remained active in the Health Care Tomorrow initiative sponsored by the SE LHIN.

Special attention has been given to our chronic, frail and vulnerable population. Care pathways for managing acute hip fractures and COPD in this population will be implemented soon. They will ensure best practices and best outcomes.

In partnership, we continue to explore a regional Health Information Service.

I cannot stress enough that the success of these endeavours is due to excellent communication between everyone.

Going forward, one of my goals is to ensure that we continue to maintain good communication between the physicians and the hospital. This is one of the keys to making physicians feel engaged and committed to the mission, vision and values of our hospital.

In closing, I would like to thank the hospital board, our CEO Bev McFarlane, our senior executives, Michele Bellows, Nancy Shaw and Brian Allen and our amazing support staff including Karen Kelly, Marilyn Lytle and Stephanie Giroux for your great support as I transition into this new role.

And finally, on behalf of our medical staff want to say thank you to our foundations and auxiliaries for their amazing fundraising efforts year after year. The equipment you purchase on our behalf allows us to provide excellent care to our patients.

Respectfully submitted,
Kate Stolee