

## SWOSN Team Announcements!



### Lyndsey Butler

It is with mixed emotions that SWOSN announces the resignation of Lyndsey Butler from the Regional Stroke Rehabilitation Coordinator role (effective May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019). Lyndsey has held multiple positions with the Stroke Network, beginning as the Regional Stroke Education Coordinator (2014 & 2016) and most recently as the Regional Rehabilitation Coordinator since 2017. Within these positions, Lyndsey has worked diligently with many partners to support stroke system quality improvement. Some of her many and notable accomplishments have included:

- Providing SWOSN support and leadership to the extremely successful Early Supported Discharge (ESD) Pilot in Stratford. Results included:
  - Improved functional improvement for ESD patients
  - 10-day length of stay savings in inpatient rehab
  - Extremely positive patient/provider feedback
- Development and implementation of a regional education work plan to support realignment and consolidation of stroke services across the South West LHIN to direct care from 28 hospitals to 7 stroke centres.
- Led the final stages in development of the Acute Stroke Unit Orientation as well as co-led the development of the Rehab Stroke Unit Orientation, both of which are now supporting best practices across the province and country.

In addition to her stroke rehabilitation expertise and strong quality improvement focus, Lyndsey is an exceptional team player who focuses on supporting her colleagues at stroke centres and within the regional team. Because of this, the SWOSN team will not only miss her great contributions, but also her friendship and positive influence in the office. On behalf of the Southwestern Ontario Stroke Network and countless colleagues across the province, we wish her the best within her new role as the Regional System Coordination Facilitator within the South West Frail Senior Strategy.

SWOSN is currently interviewing for Lyndsey's replacement and hopes to have a staffing announcement released by the beginning of August 2019.



### Bonnie Thompson

After a 34 year career in health care, most recently as the District Stroke Manager at Stratford General Hospital, Bonita (Bonnie) Thompson announced her retirement in May of this year. Although only with the Stroke Network for three years, Bonnie has worked tirelessly to support improved outcomes for stroke survivors within the Huron Perth Stroke District and has led many quality improvement initiatives including:

- Opening the Stratford General Hospital Integrated Stroke Unit
- Implementing the EMS Pre-Registration and PITSTOP process for stroke care
- Leading the South West LHIN Early Supported Discharge (ESD) program pilot which realized reduced length of stay, net system savings and strong positive patient and provider experiences. This work is currently being considered for ongoing sustainability funding. If supported, this would ensure that the entire best practice stroke journey is fully operationalized in the Huron Perth stroke district with an integrated funding model including: Integrated inpatient care, Early Supported Discharge care for 14 days and Community Stroke Rehabilitation Team care for 12 weeks
- Developing Stratford General Hospital's successful Peer Visiting Program for Stroke Survivors

In addition to strong leadership and change management skills, Bonnie is an exceptional team player, creating high functioning teams and greatly supporting SWOSN's ability to influence change and improvement across our geography and the province. Also of great importance and benefit to her colleagues, Bonnie likes to have fun at work and can always be found with a smile on her face, and a desire to get things done well, but to ensure fun along the way. On behalf of all of us at the Southwestern Ontario Stroke Network, and across the region and province will miss her contagious 'can-do' attitude!

## **A warm welcome to Julie Houben, the new District Stroke Manager in Huron Perth Stroke District!**



Julie Houben, a Registered Dietitian, has worked with the Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance since 2006, most recently in the role of Manager, Therapies and Professional Practice. She brings expansive experience working within, and leading a team across the care continuum from acute care to home care supporting the provision of exceptional care for all patients. She completed her Honours Bachelor of Science degree in Nutrition from Western University in London, and post-graduate internship at London Health Sciences Centre. Julie joined the stroke team in May 2019 and can be reached at [julie.houben@hpha.ca](mailto:julie.houben@hpha.ca). Welcome to the team, Julie!