

**INDEPENDENT REVIEW COMMITTEE APPOINTS TWO INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS**

The Independent Review Committee appointed by the Ministry of Health (MOH) to provide an objective and critical review of the Hepatitis C cluster in the SGH has invited two international advisors to strengthen its capabilities and provide additional technical and scientific input to the Committee's review.

2. The two international experts are Dr Scott Dewey Holmberg from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Prof Trish Perl from Johns Hopkins University. They will be assisted by Dr Amanda Beaudoin and Ms JoEllen Harris respectively. Their CVs are in Annex A.

3. Professor Leo Yee Sin, Chairman of the Independent Review Committee said, "We anticipate the enquiry and investigation processes to be challenging. The international experts will work closely with the local team to provide their inputs, as well as to be actively involved in the investigation processes. This is to ensure that the processes taken are thorough, independent and of the highest international standard."

4. The work of the Review Committee is underway. Since its appointment, the Committee has met three times. Investigation work has begun, including ward visits, interviewing staff from SGH, reviewing the movement and care received of the cases, and reviewing existing SGH records. The Committee is appreciative of SGH staff who have been very co-operative in making information available.

5. In order for the Committee to look into the issues more efficiently and effectively, Professor Leo has organised the members into three teams to undertake the review. These are the Epidemiology Team, Quality Assurance and Infection Control Team and Case Review Team. The international experts will assist the Review Committee in providing expert advice on analyses, interpretation and report of findings.

**ISSUED BY MOH INDEPENDENT REVIEW COMMITTEE FOR HEPATITIS C CLUSTER IN SGH RENAL WARD**

20 October 2015

## **CVs of International Experts**

### **Scott Dewey Holmberg**

Scott Dewey Holmberg is Chief, Epidemiology and Surveillance Branch, Division of Viral Hepatitis at the National Center for HIV, Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention (NCHHSTP) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Atlanta.

Dr Holmberg's unit in the CDC is responsible for national surveillance, outbreak investigations and research projects in viral hepatitis. Dr Holmberg's experience includes analyses of many large public datasets, such as multiple-case-of-death data from national death certificates.

### **Trish M. Perl**

Trish M. Perl is a professor in the departments of Medicine (Infectious Diseases) and Pathology at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and in Epidemiology at the Bloomberg School of Public Health. She is Senior Epidemiologist for The Johns Hopkins Health System.

Prof Perl is in charge of putting in place mechanisms at her institution to measure and prevent potential healthcare-associated infections or infections that result because of medical care or problem organisms or pathogens and multidrug resistant organisms. In her role as a healthcare epidemiologist, she had been involved in the study of novel technologies and investigating outbreaks from unintended consequences of new products.

### **Amanda Beaudoin**

Amanda Beaudoin is a Veterinary Medical Officer with the International Health Quality Team, Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Dr Beaudoin received her doctor of veterinary medicine degree from Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine and a Doctor of Philosophy in Veterinary Epidemiology from University of Minnesota.

### **JoEllen Harris**

JoEllen Harris is programme director of the epidemiology and infection prevention at the Johns Hopkins Health System. She is also director of the infection prevention programmes at Sibley Memorial Hospital and Johns Hopkins International; and consultant to the infection prevention programme for Johns Hopkins Community Physicians.

Ms Harris received her associate degree in nursing from St. Petersburg College.