

**McMaster Health Forum puts focus on need for better chronic pain management  
July 18, 2011**

A strong endorsement for the creation of a national, multi-stakeholder network to raise awareness about chronic pain and increase support for and coordination in comprehensive chronic pain management was vocalized at a day-long dialogue convened by the McMaster Health Forum to focus increased attention on chronic pain management.

The stakeholder dialogue held in April brought together six health system decision-makers, four patient and professional group representatives, five researchers and one representative from another stakeholder group to examine the need to engage health system decision-makers in supporting comprehensive chronic pain management in healthcare systems in Canada.

The dialogue was informed by an issue brief that mobilized research evidence about the challenge, and offered three options for addressing the challenge as well as key implementation considerations.

Most participants supported the idea for a network comprised of existing organizations and committed individuals who would work collaboratively. Several dialogue participants suggested the network should include those involved in chronic disease management, primary healthcare and other domains that have already been prioritized in many healthcare systems, and that are highly relevant to those living with chronic pain.

An advocacy campaign was noted by several participants as an important function of this network.

Significant challenges related to implementation identified through discussions at the dialogue included identifying a leadership model, ensuring individuals and organizations would be willing to create and sustain the network, and securing the resources to design, launch and operate the network.

The stakeholder dialogue received financial support from a Canadian Institutes of Health Research grant to the Community Alliance for Health Research in Knowledge and Translation on Pain, and the Canadian Pain Summit.

To view a complete [summary](#) of the dialogue, as well as the [issue brief](#) that informed it and video interviews with participants (available as audio or video podcasts on iTunesU and as [videos](#) on YouTube), visit the [McMaster Health Forum](#) website and click on Products in the left navigation menu.