



Website bridges gap between doctors, patients of other cultures

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An innovative website aimed at closing the gap between cultures and the Hamilton medical community is in the works. The site, called Cultural and Diversity Resources for Health Care Professionals, was introduced yesterday morning in the Hamilton's Centre for Civic Inclusion's (HCCI) report to the community presented at Liuna Station.

Murray Glendining, Hamilton Health Sciences executive vice- president and chair of the HCCI health committee, said the site works for patients and physicians by providing access to web-based knowledge. He said a physician treating a patient from another part of the world can learn about customs, diets and religion by accessing the new database.

"They can go online and get the answers and direct their staff to go online so we can better understand the behaviours and beliefs of people from other parts of the world," he said.

About 2,500 practitioners in the community have signed up and trial runs are under way.

"Once we have that feedback, we will officially launch it," he said, adding the site concept fits well with HCCI's goals of inclusiveness.

The meeting also highlighted HCCI's accomplishments since its inception and discussed implementation of a new planning process.

HCCI works with organizations to create an environment "free of racism and hate," and assists immigrants with training and education.

"We will be the place that can assist organizations to be inclusive and representative of all demographics," said Madina Wasuge, HCCI executive director.

Its new priorities include expanding outreach, increasing communication with the private sector and building a stable financial base.

HCCI receives less than \$300,000 from the city, Canadian Heritage and Hamilton Foundation.

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