Respiratory Therapy Society of Ontario
Société de la Thérapie Respiratoire de l'Ontario

1972 - 2022
50 ANNIVERSARY

A brief history of the Respiratory Therapy Society of Ontario

1962

A formal six-week course for Inhalation Therapy is started at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto.[1]

1964

Canadian Society of Inhalation Therapy Technicians (CSITT), presently known as the Canadian Society of Respiratory Therapists (CSRT) is established.[1]

1968-1970

Global Outbreak
Influenza A: H3N2

1969

Respiratory Therapy at Toronto Institute of Medical Technology (TIMT) presently know as 'The Michener Institute of Education at UHN' was first introduced

1970

The provincial division of *The Respiratory Technology Society of Ontario representing the Ontario Division of Canadian Society of Respiratory Technologists (CSRT)* is established.

- 37 students in Ontario write the written examination, 30 of them pass
- 21 of the students pass the oral examination

1971

- Ian Reid, Director networked with the Ontario Thoraci
Society and the Canadian Anaesthetists Society to ask
joint statement to inform physicians, administrators, a
government on the profession of Respiratory Therapy.
- Southwestern Ontario (London) chapter joined
- Brian Moccia produced the short 28-minute film "*Resp*
Technology '70" a Super-8- Sound Film for the PR Com
and received the Winthrop Award
- September 1971 – the chapter presidents made up th
nucleus of the Ontario Provincial Board

1972

- Ian Reid, RRT, Donald Hamil
and Valerie Imberto are the
the official '*The Respiratory T*
Ontario (RTSO)' on **May 1st, 1**

● RTSO Events

📍 World Respiratory Events

Respiratory Therapy graduation:
The Michener Institute Archives

References

1. Mirshahi, R. Manogaran, M. and Gamble, B. Respiratory Therapists. Introduction to the Health Workforce in Canada. https://www.hhr-rhs.ca/images/Intro_to_the_Health_Workforce_in_Canada_Chapters/22_Respiratory_Therapy.pdf
2. CRTO Twentieth Anniversary. http://www.crto.on.ca/pdf/Timeline_upto1994.pdf

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1972
Official start of the RTSO

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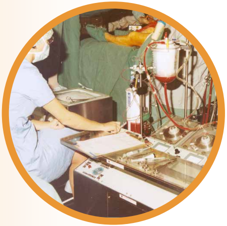
Heart Lung Machine:
University Health Network Archives

1972-1973
(US) Outbreak:
Influenza A H3N2

ton, Carolyn Wood
signing members of
Technology Society of
1972

NICU March 1987:
Women's College Hospital Archives

1978-1979
(US) Outbreak:
Influenza A - H1N1

1979-1980

- RTSO is actively involved in CPR training. The major concern was the reluctance of Ontario Heart Foundation to open Advanced Cardiac Life Support training to professions other than Physicians and Critical Care Nurses

1980-1981

- Respiratory programs were now producing common curriculum and clinical competency charts in order to graduate Technologists with a standard degree of competency. Three schools in Ontario: Algonquin College, Toronto Institute of Medical Technology (T.I.M.T) presently known as The Michener Institute, and Fanshawe College

1981-1983

- The northern Chapter of the RTSO is introduced
- RTSO involved in meetings to set up and discuss class A hospital accreditations to include RT departments.

RTSO Journal: January 1988

1985-1986

Discussion of a Respiratory College by the Legislation Committee

Collection of joint dues CSRT/RTSO

CSRT and RTSO relationship intertwined as the CSRT is presently the certifying body for registration, this will change with the advent of the College

The Ontario Chapter of Anesthesia RTs (OCART) is formed as a Special Interest Group of the RTSO

1986 Credit Valley Hospital is the pilot site chosen for RRTs to begin being trained to insert endotracheal tubes in an emergency situation.

1989-1990

- The OCART changes its name to ARTAO (Anesthesia RT Association of Ontario)

1990-1991

- The Ontario Association of Administrative Therapists (OAART) starts as a Special Interest Group of the RTSO to represent and support RRT Managers/ Administrators

1991-1992

- Under the Regulated Health Professions Act, Respiratory Therapy becomes a self-regulating profession (became law Dec. 1993)[2]

1993-1994

- Arterial Line Insertion included as a Level II skill by the Prescribed Procedures Committee of MOH. ARTAO (Anesthesia RT Association of Ontario) a Special Interest Group (SIG) of the RTSO had put a great deal of effort into this prior to formation of the College!
- Liability Insurance was now included
- Tobacco Control Act was introduced and passed by the Ontario legislature
- Start of the Lung Mobile Project – employing 2 RRT to collect data in large industries
- RTSO contributed to Air Ambulance review
- RT Week is first celebrated October 3-11, 1994

- The end of the Lung M
was moving outside of
- A proposal is made to t
Mines for the 'Northern
Fund' to provide contin
health care to northern
- A joint collaboration wi
program outlines for a
(July 19, 1995).

1994-199

- College of Respirato
Therapists (CRTO) is

1995-1996

obile and RTSO involvement as the research
Ontario boundaries

the Ministry of Northern Development and
Health Professional Development Pilot
uing education programs for the delivery of
residents.

th Seneca College to develop and draft
10-hour Air Medical Escort Program

5

ry
formed.[2]

1996-1997

- ARTAO (Anesthesia) provides guidelines to anesthetic gas
- The end of the Government Relations Committee
- The Respiratory Therapy Act allows RRTs to take orders from Dental Surgeons
- RTSO invited to join CORHP (Coalition of Regulated Health Professions) to work on primary health care reforms
- The OAART ends

1997-1998

- Involved with a degree program between Michener and Queens. The curriculum start date is 1999
- The Michener Institute starts to offer a Master's program with Charles Sturt in Australia
- Joint Critical Care Symposium

1998-1999

- Last RTSO journal is printed and replaced with *Airwaves* newsletter. This will be published 7x per year.
- Development of an email directory to network with other RRTs in Ontario based on your geographical area is created.
- Offering joint dues with the CSRT

1999-2000

- RTSO formed alliances with smoking cessation programs
- HPRAC and the issue of core competency exams. RTSO fighting on the issue of fairness and the great disparity amongst health regulated bodies. This was in relation to lack of consistency amongst the Colleges on how to determine if a person is competent to practice. HPRAC was also very concerned.

Respiratory Technician:
Women's College Hospital Archives

2002-2003

- The CBRC is reviewed in terms of a credential yearly exam
- RTSO's 30th Anniversary
- Discussion of removal of RTs for PCs a political activist group which continued to exist under the RTSO umbrella
- April 30, 2004: RTSO has created a Registry Database for Respiratory Therapists to enable RTs to respond to any future need or emergency. This was funded by the MOH and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC).

FEBRUARY
2003–2004

Global contagious outbreak,
SARS outbreak in Asia

2005-2006

- The ARTAO ends

Hospital Archives,
St. Joseph's Health Centre, Toronto

RRTs intubating:
Trillium Health Partners

2009

Global Outbreak: Swine Flu: Influenza A: H1N1

APRIL 2012

Global Outbreak: MERS – CoV outbreak in Jordan

P56475 Pulmonary: Hospital Archives,
The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto c. 1966

DEC. 26, 2013 – JUNE 9, 2016

West African Ebola virus epidemic

APRIL 2015

November 2016- Zika virus epidemic, originating in Brazil and spread to the Americas

APRIL 2015 – NOVEMBER 2016

Global pandemic

2016

A combined effort between the Association of Ontario Health Centres, Association of Family Health Teams and RTSO to provide a provincial framework and support on the role of the RRT

DECEMBER 2019 – PRESENT DAY

Start of world-wide Coronavirus in China (COVID-19-SARS-CoV-2) pandemic

JAN 25 2020

(COVID-19-SARS-CoV-2) first Toronto case

2020-2021

- RTSO at the government table advocating for RRTs to be recognized as frontline to receive Pandemic Pay, successfully implemented on May 27, 2020
- At the government table advocating for initial access to vaccines.
- Identifying and clarifying challenges with the management of COVID-19 patients in the community settings
- Finalizing a comprehensive, Integrated RT Job Profile to provide a broad, inclusive role description for RRTs working in a variety of practice settings across the continuum of care
- Key role in an Applied Health Research Question (AHRQ) study being conducted at the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES) that will map RRT practice by LHIN sub-region across Ontario and correlate access to RRTs and health care utilization by COPD patient prevalence.
- PTSD feedback collated and shared with the Ministry and the CRTO.
- Webinars offered relating to Mental Health, PTSD & OSI

2021-2022

- PTSD support/network offered for frontline RRTs
- Continuing advocacy at the Ministry to amend legislation of RHPA Ultrasound Legislation Changes on RRT's
- Resources and updates to the medical delegation and medical directive samples and other resources for RRTs and RRT-AA's to implement the use of ultrasound in their facilities
- Representation with MOHLTC, MOL, CORHPA
- Facilitation of and participation in various provincial and working groups to set standards on Respiratory related topics, such as Health Quality Ontario's Asthma and COPD Quality Standards, clinical working groups, and BORN (Better Outcomes Registry and Network) Ontario.
- AHPDF continuance advocacy