

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Wednesday, February 21, 2007, 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Royal Fork (Columbia Mall)

"INFECTION CONTROL" - Dr. Tim Peterson, Aurora Occupational Medicine

STROKE IDENTIFICATION

• • • *FASTer identification means faster treatment*

Results from a study funded by The Stroke Association indicate that ambulance paramedics can accurately identify a stroke patient before they arrive in hospital.


It is well known that the sooner a patient is diagnosed and treated after experiencing an acute stroke the better the outcome is likely to be. However, it is often difficult for a non-stroke specialist to recognise and diagnose stroke.

The **Face Arm Speech Test (FAST)** has been developed as a stroke identification instrument. The test assesses 3 neurological signs of stroke:

- ✦ **facial weakness** – Ask the person to smile. Does one side of the face droop?
- ✦ **arm weakness** – Ask the person to raise both arms. Does one arm drift downward?
- ✦ **speech disturbance** – Ask the person to repeat a simple sentence. Are the words slurred? Can he/she repeat the sentence correctly?
- ✦ **time** – If the person shows any of these symptoms, time is important. Call 911 or get to the hospital fast. Brain cells are dying.

FAST has been incorporated as an integral component of ambulance paramedics training module, and is included in the rapid ambulance protocol.

Funded by The Stroke Association, Professor Gary Ford and others at the University of Newcastle Upon Tyne conducted the first and largest clinical practice study, in which the ability of ambulance paramedics to detect specific neurological signs in acute stroke patients was compared with that of stroke physicians or neurologists. The researchers demonstrated good inter-observer reliability of FAST when used in a routine clinical setting across a large number of paramedic crews. This lends further support for the use of FAST in clinical and research practice.

Further details of the project and its results are outlined in the [Winter 2004 Stroke News research article \(425 kb\)](#) 

Info found at [http://www.stroke.org.uk/research/stroke_research_news/faster.htm]

"Food For Thought"

BOARD MEETING

BOARD MEMBERS MEET THE FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH / 6:00 – 8:00 PM. / GRAND FORKS PARK DISTRICT / 1210 7TH AVE S
NEXT MEETING → March 1st

- Is there something special you or your company would like to see NOSHA do in 2007 – *Please make the Board aware of any new and exciting ideas you may have!* (Remember, you don't have to be a Board member to attend one of our meetings – All we ask is that you contact us beforehand so we can plan food accordingly).

BOARD MEMBERS

Steve Harken (President) • Al Maloney (Vice President)
Joe Strang (Treasurer) • Debbie Pierson (Secretary)
Pat Balstad • Davis Hoverson • Bonnie Knutson
Greg Lian • Cedric Masa • Lyle Ross • Annette Shane

COMMITTEES

Communication Committee

(Linda Wiley, Carol Gierszewski, Bonnie Knutson, Annette Shane)

MONTHLY MEETINGS ARE HELD THE LAST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH / 12:30 - 1:30 PM / GF CITY HALL / 255 N 4TH ST

NEXT MEETING → February 28th

- Please pay your 2007 membership dues ASAP if you have not already done so. Linda Wiley has the list of unpaid members, so check with her if you are not sure where you stand or if you need a statement sent out. *Thank you.*

Education Committee

(Bonnie Knutson, Pat Balstad)

(Upcoming GM Meeting Presentations)

- **March 21, 2007**
- "Workplace Organization/5S" Dave Jobe, Continuous Improvement Specialist, NCTC
- **April 18, 2007**
- TBA
- Anyone interested in showing off your place of business to NOSHA members, please contact either Bonnie Knutson or Pat Balstad to set a date and time for a tour – This is a great way to share safety ideas and techniques! IT IS ALSO A GREAT LEARNING TOOL FOR ALL OF US!

Membership Committee

(Davis Hoverson, Greg Lian)

- New members are important to us – *Lets make it our goal in 2007 to let others know just how much NOSHA has meant to us!!!*

THANK YOU PAT BALSTAD AND NORTHLAND COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE FOR SUPPLYING DOOR PRIZES FOR OUR JANUARY GM MEETING!