



HAPPY NEW YEAR

2008 marked the 15th anniversary of COSEHC during which time COSEHC has made many contributions to reduce the morbidity and mortality from hypertension and related CV disease in the Southeast. As we close 2008 and look to 2009, a few moments are needed to appreciate all that COSEHC accomplished in the last 12 months.

COSEHC – One Partner

After over 10 years of effort, COSEHC finalized a relationship with One Partner to provide the best possible information data security that is currently possible and extraordinary access for COSEHC CV Centers of Excellence™ to new clinical research trials.

COSEHC CME CV Outcome Improvement Initiative

The COSEHC-South Carolina CME initiative demonstrated improved CV outcomes in rural practice settings that are being recognized by the CDC. This successful project led to COSEHC achieving support to extend this CME CV outcome improvement initiative to many additional Southeastern patients with hypertension and CV disease. The project has also been selected for publication by the CDC.

COSEHC New CV Centers of Excellence™

Three new CV Centers were added to the COSEHC family of CV Centers.

- 1. Preserve Health, P.A. in the Cliffs Communities--Travelers Rest, SC**
- 2. Bahamas Health Center-Nassau-- Bahamas**
- 3. Internal Medicine Specialists--Florence, SC**

Each of these Centers will provide opportunities for COSEHC to assist healthcare providers and patients in reducing CV mortality and morbidity in the Southeast and now in the Caribbean.

COSEHC Outcome Improvement CME Process

The COSEHC CME program introduced a new CME format, the COSEHC C3 Project, which will provide COSEHC CV Center Centric CME Programs designed to assist the Center in improving patient CV outcomes and reducing professional competency gaps. The first program will be held in conjunction with Holston Medical Group as the core of the annual 2009 COSEHC meeting at the Meadowview Resort in Kingsport, TN, October 22-25.

COSEHC Clinical Data Base Improvements

In 2008 the COSEHC Database was improved with new reporting formats and the beginning of a multi-year project to evaluate the COSEHC Risk Assessment Tool. Over time this project will compare the validity of the Tool in predicting morbidity and mortality for patients within COSEHC CV Centers.

COSEHC CV Centers Membership Criteria

The membership committee updated the CV Centers membership criteria. Each Center received a packet in the mail with the updated criteria and documents necessary to complete for continued membership as a CV Center of Excellence. Additionally, agreements requesting interest to participate in the Global Risk Factor Registry Project and to join with OnePartner for clinical trial opportunity were included. COSEHC developed a unique password protected web page for each Center where the Center profile, 3 year project, and annual report will be completed and stored. Ongoing communication with the Centers will also be accessed through the website.

COSEHC Expanded Senior Leadership

A new COSEHC Vice President for Development was added to the senior leadership team. Dr. Carlos Ferrario, whose vision and concern for the health of the Southeast began COSEHC, became the first COSEHC Vice President for Development. In this role in 2008, Dr. Ferrario facilitated the expansion of COSEHC to the Caribbean, prepared a summary of the first 15 years of COSEHC, and provided leadership in developing and conducting numerous COSEHC research projects.

COSEHC-Blue Cross/Blue Shield of North Carolina Community Project

COSEHC received funding for a one year pilot community project in Forsyth County from Blue Cross/Blue Shield to screen and educate community citizens on global risk factors. Included in the education is the development of a personal action plan identifying individual's lifestyle goals. A three and six month follow-up is provided to monitor progress on lifestyle goals. BC/BS has evaluated this project very positively and encouraged re-application by COSEHC this next year to expand to other areas in the Southeast.

COSEHC 15th Year Anniversary Publication

Highlights of COSEHC and the progress made since its inception were captured in a publication completed in September 2008, titled "*Unbuckling the PRESSURE in the Stroke Belt*". It also illustrates the devotion, passion, and critical action taken by so many involved in the organization which led to the accomplishments achieved over the years. From these successes, COSEHC has the opportunity to achieve even more in 2009.

SAVE THE DATE
COSEHC 2009 Annual Meeting
October 22-25th
Marriott Meadowview
Kingsport, Tennessee

October 22: 6:00 - 9:00 pm Dinner and Committee Meetings
October 23: 7:00 -10:00 am CV Centers of Excellence™ Meeting
 10:30 am-Noon COSEHC Board Meeting
October 23 1:00-- 5:00 pm Annual Meeting Program Begins
October 23 6:00-- 9:00 pm Poster Session Reception & COSEHC Annual Awards Dinner
October 24 8:00 – 5:00 pm Annual Program
October 25 8:00 – 12:00pm Annual Program

I look forward to working with each of you in 2009 as we continue to strive to reduce the morbidity and mortality from hypertension and related cardiovascular disease in the Southeast.

Michael Moore, MD, FACP, FAHA
President, COSEHC