



Anesthesia

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Office of the Chair

September 28, 2018

To The Accreditation Committee,

It is my pleasure to support Dr. Rita Katznelson's application for the accreditation of an area of focused competence training program in hyperbaric medicine at the Toronto General Hospital. She currently holds a University appointment in the Department of Anesthesia as an Associate Professor.

Dr. Katznelson became the Medical Director of the Hyperbaric Medicine Unit in July 2014. She became a member of Board of Directors of the Canadian Chapter of Underwater and Hyperbaric Medicine Society in November 2014 and a member of Royal College Specialty Committee in Hyperbaric Medicine in 2015.

The Hyperbaric Team consists of 15 physicians, 18 technicians (including the practice leader), and an administrative assistant. It provides 24/7 care to elective and emergent patients with Health Canada approved indications for hyperbaric oxygen therapy. The unit is one of the very few facilities in North America that has both multi-place and mono-place hyperbaric chambers.

Since July 2014, Dr. Katznelson and her team have focused on increasing patient care services with a strong focus on patient safety. Some of these important initiatives include:

- Clinical forms for patients with decompression illness and CO poisoning were introduced in 2014-2015.
- New clinical forms for elective patients were introduced in 2015-2016.
- The safety check lists for emergent cases, the sign out tool and the new order sheet were implemented.
- The guidelines for triage of emergent/urgent/elective cases were created and implemented.
- The clinical database was created and data collection was initiated.
- The HMU underwent assessment by the infection control specialists and modifications and adjustments were made according to their recommendations.

Sincerely,

Beverley A. Orser MD, PhD, FRCPC, FCAHS

Professor and Chair, Department of Anesthesia, University of Toronto

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