Of eCARES and ePAROS

“Dr Bryan McNally sharing about eCARES at the PAROS Open Meeting [Photo by Dr Goh E Shaun]

“You can’t manage what you can’t measure! The first step to improving survival rates is to begin collecting data in order to better understand performance,” read a key slide from Dr Bryan McNally’s presentation. Speaking at the Open Meeting, Dr McNally from the Emory University School of Medicine stressed on the importance of collecting essential information for OHCA as he introduced the audience to the Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (CARES or eCARES). This registry, first initiated in October 2004, uses web-based software to allow consolidation of data from EMS, Hospital and Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) system. To date, CARES is implemented in 22 US cities and has a combined population of 14 million (Ann Emerg Med. 2009 Nov;54(5):674-683).

Recognising that a uniform dataset would form the cornerstone of any future attempt to benchmark or conduct quality research, PAROS has closely studied the CARES model to develop an online data capture system called the ePAROS (http://eparos.org/).

Since the work on datasets commenced about a year ago, Ms Susan Yap and Ms Shahidah, research nurse and research coordinator of the Singapore General Hospital respectively, have worked with the eight participating countries and Sansio (system developer) on the design of the system, data variables and collection methods. Even with the launch of ePAROS, both of them are not resting on their laurels, and they will be actively involved in site training in the coming months.”