

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a webpage.](#)

ONC-INSIDER

August 2024 | Volume 1 | Issue 1



SPOTLIGHT



Canadian Organization of Medical Physicists Names President

Dr. Kathleen Surry recently named President, Canadian Organization of Medical Physicists (COMP) for a two year term. During her tenure as president, Dr. Surry aims for the organization to address immediate needs impacting its membership while keeping a keen eye on the future of the profession. Dr. Surry is a clinical medical physicist at the Verspeeten Family Cancer Centre.



Ontario Medical Association Names Centennial Award Recipient

The Ontario Medical Association has recognized Windsor University's Biomedical Sciences Distinguished Professor **Dr. Lisa Porter** with the 2023 Centennial Award, which honours non-physicians for outstanding achievements in advancing the health and welfare of the people of Ontario. Dr. Porter is the Vice President, Research and Scientific Director St. Joseph's Health Care London and Founding Director WE-Spark Health Institute.



Associate Vice-President (Research) Announced

Dr. Alison Allan has been appointed Associate Vice-President (Research) for a 5-year term. Dr. Allan is currently the Chair of the Department of Anatomy & Cell Biology, and a member of the Department of Oncology. Dr. Allan is also a Distinguished Oncology Scientist at the London Health Sciences Centre where she leads the Breast Cancer Canada Translational Research Unit.

CONGRATULATIONS

Faculty Recognitions

Alison Allan PhD and **Pencilla Lang MD** featured in the London Health Sciences Foundation Your Impact [newsletter](#). The articles can be located on pages 8 and 12 respectively.

Muriel Brackstone MD'99, Resident Alumna'04, MSc'08, PhD'16 was recently awarded Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry [Alumni of Distinction Award](#) - Professional Achievement - Medicine. Dr. Brackstone is a trailblazing professor in the Departments of Surgery, and Oncology and an associate scientist at the Lawson Health Research Institute, St. Joseph's Healthcare and London Health Sciences Centre.

Hatim Fakir PhD awarded the [2024 Falcon's Fortunes Award](#) - Ernsting Entrepreneurship Award to support a new radiotherapy solution for Brain SRS.

Caroline Hamm MD and **Junaid Yousuf MD** were honoured at the inaugural [Windsor Hospital Professional Staff Awards](#) event. Dr. Hamm received the Excellent in Research Award for her outstanding contributions to advancing the research mission at Windsor Regional Hospital. Dr. Yousuf received the Educator and Mentor Award which recognizes a professional staff member who has demonstrated longstanding and outstanding contributions to teaching, mentoring, and leadership.

Joanna Laba MD, Alison Maciver MD, John Mathews MD, Chris Pin PhD, and Paul Stewart MD received the Department of Oncology - Excellence in Academic and Teaching Award at the annual Oncology Research & Education Day.

Frank Prato, PhD named the recipient of the Canadian Organization of Medical Physicist highest award, the Gold Medal. Dr. Prato's career has resulted in many firsts in the field of medical imaging. This award recognizes an active or retired member who has worked mainly in Canada, has an outstanding career, and has made significant contributions to the field of medical physics in Canada.

WELLNESS & RESILIENCY



Oncology Wellness Lead Announced

Introducing Andrew Arifin MD as the Schulich Oncology Physician Wellness & Resiliency Lead for the 2024-2025 Academic Year. Dr. Arifin was as a Schulich radiation oncology resident who recently completed a fellowship at MD Anderson Cancer Center. Dr. Arifin will join the Verspeeten Family Cancer Centre on August 1 and treat pediatric oncology patients and adult sarcoma and skin oncology patients.

FACULTY NEWS AND UPDATES

CTCR Membership

The Centre for Translational Cancer Research would like to welcome **Kathryn Roth MD** Associate Professor and Director Undergraduate Medical Education, Department of Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery to its membership as well as **Vasudeva Bhat PhD** Postdoctoral Fellow from the Breast Cancer Canada Translational Research Unit.

Collaboration

Collaboration between Children's Hospital Shared Decision Making/Decision Coaching and LHSC Medical Oncology. Please reach out to **Michael Sanatani MD** or Morgan Black for more details.

Faculty Mentorship Lead Announced

Michael Sanatani MD has been named Oncology Faculty Mentorship Lead.

Farewell

Barbara Barons - after 33 years of dedicated service as an administrative assistant, Barb has retired from LHSC's Medical Physics Department. Barb was a enthusiastic supporter of the Department of Oncology and will be missed.

Monique Bertrand MD - after 20 years of service at LHSC, Dr. Bertrand has retired. Dr. Bertrand was a Professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Oncology.

Christopher Watling MD - Dr. Watling was recently appointed President, Ontario Medical Association and has relocated to Ottawa.

Immuno-Oncology Symposium

The Translational Immuno-Oncology Research Group hosted over 120 attendees throughout the day's event for its 5th Annual Immuno-Oncology Symposium on Thursday May 30. Oral presenter winners were Karla Alnajm and Hasti Gholami. Poster presenter winners were Rober Abdo, Kelly Baines, Tiffany Cheung, Agetha Mahendran, Behnam Motaghi Dastenaeei, Kevin Vytlingam and Nicole Wang.

Oncology Research & Education Day

20th Annual Oncology Research & Education Day was held on Thursday June 13 at the Best Western Lamplighter Inn & Conference Centre. Over 300 people attended the full day of events. The Oral presenter winners were Jin-Young Bang, and Megan Hong. The Poster presenter winners were Samuel Blake, Jennifer Davis, Stephanie Dinescu, Bianca Garlisi, Isabelle Hinch, Emilie Jaune-Pons, Frederikke Larsen, David Maj, Kasha Mansour, Scott Roffey, David Susman, Emily Tomas, and Komila Zakirova.

New Technology

St. Joseph's Health Care London installed a first of its kind AI driven technology, Omni Legend PET/CT scanner within its Molecular Imaging and Theranostics Department. The scanner has reduced patient wait time from completing one per hour to two or three depending on the procedure. The new PET/CT is expected to lead to groundbreaking clinical research in areas such as breast cancer, prostate cancer, Alzheimer's disease, epilepsy, and obesity.

Frank Prato PhD's OICR's Imaging Program has developed a machine learning tool that could help physicians deliver [kidney cancer treatments](#) more accurately and efficiently.

Radiation Oncology names new Resident Program Director

Timothy Nguyen MD recently announced as the Radiation Oncology Resident Program Director. Nguyen replaces **Joanna Laba MD** who held the position since 2018.

Trainee News

Jin-Young Bang MSc(c), awarded NSERC Canadian Graduate Scholarship - Masters (CGS-M). Bang is supervised by **Stewart Gaede PhD**.

Jaryd Christie PhD, Western Alumni and 2024 Lindau Nobel Laureates Travel Award winner travelled to Germany where he joined other Nobel Laureates on stage to discuss the topic of preserving trust in AI.

Samir Fasih MD awarded 1 year Breast Cancer Canada Clinical Research Fellowship. Fasih will be supervised by **Ana Lohmann MD**.

Hasti Gholami successfully completed her Masters. Gholami's supervisors were **Jeremy Burton PhD** and **Saman Maleki PhD**.

Stephanie Gulstene RO PGY5, has successfully completed her Radiation Oncology residency. Gulstene has started a one year fellowship at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre.

Robin MacKenzie, Umaima Abbas, and Ushra Mosharef Khan all Windsor MD'26(c) have had several successes this year with their research project entitled "Anticoagulant Management of Cancer-Associated Thrombosis and Thrombocytopenia: A Retrospective Chart Review." The group is supervised by **Andrea Cervi MD**.

Urvi Patel PhD(c) awarded Ontario Graduate Scholarship. Patel is supervised by **Alison Allan PhD**.

David Susman successfully completed his Masters. Susman was supervised by **Alison Allan PhD**.

Vivian Tan RO PGY4, awarded the RSNA Roentgen Resident/Fellow Award. This award recognizes outstanding residents and fellows who have made advancements in research.

Terence Tang MD and Sympascho Young MD, both RO PGY4's will be sharing the role of Radiation Oncology Chief Resident with Tang taking on July 1 to December 31, 2024 and Young, January 1 to June 20, 2025.

Kaitlyn Wade MSc(c), awarded CIHR Strategic Master's Awards in Computational Biology and Health Data Sciences. Wade is supervised by **Pingzhao Hu PhD**.

Timothy Yau PhD(c) awarded Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OSC). Yau is supervised by **Steward Gaede PhD**.

Peter (Yu Fan) Zeng MD/PhD completed his PhD in Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and was supervised by **Anthony Nichols MD**. Zeng has started his 3rd year of medical school to complete the next phase of his training.

Schulich-Windsor Opportunities for Research Excellence Program (SWORP) recipients: Chrystal Huynh and Emily Doucet, \$5,000 with supervisor **Mohammad Jarrar MD**. Alexander Mung \$5,000 with supervisor **Swati Kulkarni MD**. Francesco Vito, Rufina Ning, and Allyson Ripley \$5,000 with supervisor **Sahar Khan MD**.

Verspeeten Family Cancer Centre's Biospecimen Lab

The Biospecimen Lab recently celebrated it's third year of operations and remains available to any London oncology investigator. Enclosed is the [Year Three Progress Report](#) and [2024-2025 Price List](#).

Welcome

Andrew Arifin MD has joined the Radiation Oncology Division and specializes in treating pediatric oncology patients, sarcoma and skin oncology adult patients. Arifin is a former Schulich radiation oncology resident who recently completed a fellowship at Sunnybrook Hospital.

Eric Lessard PhD will be joining the cancer program in August as a medical physicist. Lessard completed his PhD in Medical Biophysics at Western University in 2022 and is currently completing his CAMPEP Medical Physics Residency at the Juravinski Cancer Centre in Hamilton.

Michelle Maloney MD has joined the Medical Oncology Division and specializes in neuro-oncology. Maloney recently practiced in Sarnia.

Meg Smith-Uffen MD and Raman Sambhi MD, both MO PGY4's, Saqib Khan MO Fellow, and to Faisal Hussain MO Fellow starting August 27.

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

AMOSO Funding Recipients (Spring 2024)

Chris Goodman MD - \$65,000 over 3 years for "3-5 FrAction Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy for Palliation of Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma: the FAST Phase II Randomized Trial."

Joelle Helou MD - \$65,000 over 3 years for "Focal versus Whole Gland High Dose-Rate Brachytherapy (HDR-BT) Boost to External Beam Radiotherapy in localized Prostate Cancer: a Phase 2 Randomized Trial."

Allison Maciver MD - \$33,000 for 2 years for "Improving access to care for patients with peritoneal malignancies: Initializing a Regional Multidisciplinary Clinic and Provincial Tumour Board."

Ephraim Tang MD - \$33,000 for 2 years for "Transversus Abdominis Plane Catheter Following Kidney Transplantation."

Association of Medical Education in Europe (AMEE)

Beatrice Preti MD, Michael Sanatani MD - £3,875 for joint Schulich/Emory University (Atlanta, US) study for "Where there's fear, there is power: Exploring medical trainees' concerns and consultant-mediated consequences of their own actions."

Breast Cancer Canada - 2024 Precision Oncology Research Grant

Caroline Hamm MD - \$75,000 for "Assessing the effectiveness and implementation of the CTN program, using a navigator-assisted clinical trial enrollment platform."

Lisa Porter PhD - \$75,000 for "Establishing a Biomarker Platform for Postpartum Breast Cancer."

Mark Vincent MD - \$50,000 for "Evaluating small molecule RAD51 inhibitors."

Canadian Cancer Society and Weston Foundation

John Lenehan MD, Saman Maleki PhD, and Michael Silverman MD - in collaboration with CRCHUM and Queen's University - \$2M for "ME17 Fecal microbiota transplantation (FMT) in combination with immune checkpoint blockade in patients with advanced melanoma: A randomized phase II trial."

Lawson Internal Research Fund Competition (Spring 2024)

Leandro Cardarelli Leite MD - \$20,000 over 2 years for "Cost-effectiveness of radiofrequency ablation versus surgery for the treatment of symptomatic benign thyroid nodules."

Ana Lohmann MD - \$20,000 over 2 years for "Association of Liquid Biopsy and Endometrial Cancer Outcomes."

Adrian Mendez MD - \$20,000 over 2 years for "Brief Electrical Stimulation of the Spinal Accessory Nerve."

Donna Murrell PhD - \$20,000 for "A Safety and Efficacy Trial of Reirradiation Dose Escalation in Thoracic Cancers: Re-evaluating previous dose and allowing increasing recovery (REPAIR)."

Elena Tsvetkova MD - \$20,000 over 2 years for "A Phase I study of ATRA and ATO in combination with chemotherapy and anti-PD-L1 inhibitor in patients with advanced Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma."

Anayra Goncalves (Supervisor: **Armen Parysan MD**) Studentship, \$20,000 for "Spatial Omics for Biomarker Discovery in Triple-Negative Breast Cancer".

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

Algouneh, A. et al. Comparison of Volumetric Modulated Arc Therapy (VMAT) and Conventional Intensity-Modulated Radiotherapy (IMRT) for Locally Advanced Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma: A Retrospective Cohort Study. [Cureus](#). May 2024.

Li Y. et al. ST-CellSeg: Cell segmentation for imaging-based spatial transcriptomics using multiscale manifold learning. [Plos Computational Biology](#). June 2024.

Neposlan, Joshua et al. Malignant Phyllodes Tumors of the Breast With Rhabdomyosarcomatous Differentiation: A Case Report and Literature Review. [Cureus](#). July 2024.

Nguyen, Timothy K. et al. Ablative Radiation Therapy to Restrain Everything Safely Treatable (ARREST): A Phase I study of Stereotatic Ablative Radiotherapy (SABR) for poly-metastatic disease. [IJROBP](#). July 2024.

Paczkowski, F. et al. Durable Response to Atezolizumab in Extensive-Stage Small Cell-Lung Cancer Leading to 60 Months Overall Survival: A Case Report. [Current Oncology](#). June 2024.

Palma, DA. Stereotactic Radiation Therapy in Early Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer and Interstitial Lung Disease: A Nonrandomized Clinical Trial. [JAMA Oncol](#). May 2024.

Pan, Ming. Metastasectomy and Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy for Colorectal Cancer with Liver and Lung Oligometastases: A Case Report of Complete Remission in a 96-Year-Old Patient. [Cureus](#). April 2024.

Tan, Vivian S. et al. Long-term Renal Function Outcomes After Stereotactic Ablative Body Radiotherapy for Primary Renal Cell Carcinoma Including Patients with a Solitary Kidney: A Report from the International Radiosurgery Oncology Consortium of the Kidney. [European Urology Oncology](#). July 2024.



800 Commissioners Road East - A4-901A
London, ON N6A 5W9

[Unsubscribe](#)