



# THE CITY-WIDE ONCOLOGY INSIDER

QUARTERLY NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF ONCOLOGY AND CENTRE FOR TRANSLATIONAL CANCER RESEARCH (CTCR)

## Spotlight on Integration

### Network with hundreds of cancer researcher's city-wide!

The second annual “**CTCR Colleagues Collaborate**” networking event brings together hundreds of cancer researchers and clinicians across the city in hopes of increasing translational research teams and encouraging collaborations!

Last year, we had our inaugural networking event with 200+ participants at the beautiful Bellamere Winery. The evening consisted of collaboration sessions, voting activities, social media contests, and delicious flaming donuts! **Check it all out here:** <http://conta.cc/2lhsqWh>.

We are thrilled to announce that **Dr. Mick Bhatia** will be presenting the keynote lecture this year! The event will be held on **Friday, February 2, 2018, at 5:00pm** at the Goodwill Industries Community Hall, with cocktails and hot appetizer stations. **DON'T MISS OUT!**

Register today by [clicking here](#).



Please contact Ms. Elizabeth Mazza (Project Manager, CTCR) for submissions: [elizabeth.mazza@lhsc.on.ca](mailto:elizabeth.mazza@lhsc.on.ca)

## Join the GBM Working Group

The **Glioblastoma (GBM)** Working Group meets regularly to discuss research interests related to GBM and develop collaborative networks that support and facilitate novel GBM research. If you are interested in participating, please contact Dr. John Ronald ([jronald@robarts.ca](mailto:jronald@robarts.ca)) for more details. Check out the buzz on Twitter and follow @WesternU\_CTR for updates...



## NEW: Biochemistry 4455 Translational Cancer Biology

**Dr. David Rodenhiser's** new Biochemistry 4455 course allows students to partner with local community organizations to complete a project defined by the community partner that helps advance their mission. This course will emphasize the translation of cancer research discoveries into clinical practice, emphasizing critical thinking, research design, evaluation of data from the literature and ethics. Read the tentative syllabus by [clicking here](#).

## ONCOLOGY, SAVE THE DATE!!

Please save the date for the **15<sup>th</sup> Annual Oncology Research and Education Day**. This full-day research event will take place on **Friday, June 8, 2018**, at the Best Western Lamplighter Inn! We are excited to announce our keynote speaker is **Dr. Suresh Senan**. Please stay tuned for details from our conference co-chairs **Drs. Alex Louie and Stewart Gaede**, as well as conference coordinator Elizabeth Mazza and Luciana Brown (PEL/CarTT). Check out the amazing photos from last year's event by [clicking here](#). Thanks again to Dr. D. Rodenhiser for snapping these!

## Follow the LRCP Library on Twitter...

The LRCP Health Sciences Library exists to support the needs of our user groups, with a focus on evidence based research translating into direct patient care. Please contact **Gabe Boldt, Clinical Librarian**, to learn more about the LRCP library services (LHSC-VH Rm. B2-125) or follow @LRCPLibrary for frequent updates.

## Collaborative Publication

Dr. Peter Ferguson's manuscript, "Synergistic antiproliferative activity of the RAD51 inhibitor IBR2 with inhibitors of receptor tyrosine kinases and microtubule protein", was recently accepted in the Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics. Congratulations to the authors: **Drs. Peter J. Ferguson, Mark D. Vincent, and James Koropatnick**.

# Spotlight on Innovation

## Rad Onc Bootcamp!

The **5<sup>th</sup> Annual Anatomy and Radiology Contouring Boot Camp for Radiation Oncology Residents** took place November 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Ivey Spencer Leadership Centre. Attendees included radiation oncology residents from centres in Canada, the US, and South America, along with local CAMPEP candidates and physics residents. The Bootcamp combines multidisciplinary radiology and contouring instruction with hands-on anatomy sessions, to provide students with the background needed for modern radiation planning. For more details, please visit: [www.arcbootcamp.com](http://www.arcbootcamp.com).



## The 10<sup>th</sup> successful Imaging Applications in Prostate Cancer Workshop!



The 10th annual "Imaging Applications in Prostate Cancer" Workshop was held on Friday, November 17, 2017 at the Best Western Lamplighter Inn in London, Ontario. This Workshop is a joint collaboration between the OICR Smarter Imaging Program (SIP) – Prostate and the OICR Translational Prostate Cancer Research Initiative (TRIPC).

An exciting feature of this workshop is the **2-minute poster teaser session** where researchers quickly pitch their work to the audience and get them interested!

# Spotlight on Impact

## **Announcement: New Chair of the Division of Experimental Oncology**

We are pleased to announce that **Dr. Joseph Mymryk** will be assuming the role of **Chair, Division of Experimental Oncology**, effective January 1, 2018. In taking on this role, Dr. Mymryk will be building on the tremendous leadership of the Division provided by Dr. Gabe DiMattia over the last 10 years. We thank **Dr. Gabe DiMattia** for his tireless and passionate leadership of the Division, particularly his efforts to advance our translational Cancer Research mandate and his past stewardship of our Research and Education Day.

## **Lots of exciting news from the Allan lab!**

### ***New Grants***

1. Molecular and disease stage determinants of pre-metastatic niche formation during breast cancer metastasis to the lung. Cancer Research Society; Operating Grant Program, \$120,000 total (CAD), 2017-2019, P.I.: Alison L. Allan.
2. Dynamic influence of the epithelial-to-mesenchymal transition on circulating tumor cell (CTC) generation, phenotype, and disease progression in prostate cancer. Prostate Cancer Canada; Discovery Grant Program, \$199,282 total (CAD), 2017-2019, P.I.: Alison L. Allan.
3. Molecular heterogeneity of circulating tumor cells (CTCs) in castrate-resistant prostate cancer. Prostate Cancer Fight Foundation/Ride for Dad (London/Grey-Bruce), \$16,600 total (CAD), 2017-2018, P.I.: Alison L. Allan.

### ***New Trainee External Scholarships***

1. Cory Lefebvre, MD/PhD candidate in the Allan Lab: recipient of a Canada Graduate Scholarship- Master's Award, Canadian Institutes of Health Research, 2017-2018
2. Jenn Kitz, MSc candidate, recipient of an Ontario Graduate Scholarship, 2017-2018

### ***New Publications***

1. Croker, A.K., Xia, Y., Rodriguez-Torres, M., Pardhan, S., Leong, H.S., Lewis, J.D., and Allan, A.L. Differential functional roles of ALDH1A1 and ALDH1A3 in mediating metastatic behavior and therapy resistance of human breast cancer cells. *Int J Mol Sci.* 2017 Sep 22;18(10): E2039.

### ***Invited International Presentations***

2. Allan, A.L. Circulating tumor cell (CTC) analysis in pre-clinical models of cancer metastasis. 5th Annual Tumor Models Boston Meeting, Boston, MA, July 2017.

### ***Conference Poster Presentations***

1. Lowes, L.E., Winquist, E., Ernst, S., Potvin, K., Dittamore, R., and Allan A.L. Novel applications of circulating tumor cells (CTCs) in the management of metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer. 2017 Canadian Cancer Research Conference, November 2017, Vancouver, BC.

2. Kitz, J., Lowes, L.E., and Allan, A.L. Influence of the epithelial-to-mesenchymal transition of prostate cancer circulating tumor cells effects detection and enumeration by the CellSearch System®. 2017 Canadian Cancer Research Conference, November 2017, Vancouver, BC.
3. Goodale, D., Hedley, B., Lynn, K., Postenka, C., Tuck, A.B., Brackstone, M., Palma, D., and Allan, A.L. Development of breast and lung cancer patient-derived tumor xenograft (PDX) models for improved translational research. 2017 Canadian Cancer Research Conference, November 2017, Vancouver, BC.
4. Xia Y., Lowes, L.E., Vieito, M., Kermanshah, Leyla, Mohamadi, Reza, Kapoor, Anil, Kelley, S.O., and Allan, A.L. Validation of circulating tumor cells (CTCs) and circulating endothelial cells (CECs) as biomarkers in clear cell renal cancer. Accepted for presentation at 3rd Advances in Circulating Tumour Cells : Liquid Biopsy in Clinical Practice, October 2017, Rhodes, Greece.

### **Media Activities**

1. Media Story, Ronald J. and Allan, A.L. Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, September 28, 2017. Cancer researchers rewarded for innovation with Movember Discovery Grants [online media].
2. Featured Researcher, Allan, A.L. Current Affairs Newsletter, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, September 21, 2017. Seizing the day [online media].
3. Featured Researcher, Dick, F., Bauman, G., Allan A.L., Malthaner R., Yu E. Lawson Link Magazine, September 2017; Targeting cancer at every stage [print and online media].
4. Media Story, Allan A.L. London Health Sciences and Lawson Health Research News, August 24, 2017; Research aims to improve prostate cancer treatment [online media].
5. Media Story, Tasnia Nabil and Allan A.L. Lab Business Magazine, July/August 2017 issue, pp. 9-11. Turning up the Heat [print/online media].
6. Media Story, Allan A.L. CTV2 London News, July 31, 2017: New funded cancer research in London [TV/video media].
7. Media Story, Allan A.L. Western News, July 24, 2017: Research looks to slow prostate cancer's 'joyride' [print/online media].
8. Media Release, Angle PLC and Allan, A.L. Market Wired, July 20, 2017. ANGLE plc: Preclinical Study Presented At Tumor Boston Summit [online media].

### **News from the Mymryk Lab!**

MSc Student, **Jessica Hill**, has been working on characterizing the interaction between human adenovirus E1A and STING. She successfully defended her thesis titled, *"Characterizing the interaction between Human Adenovirus E1A and STING"* on December 11th. Thanks to Drs. Shepherd, Koropatnick and Barr for serving as examiners and Dr. Kim for chairing the exam.

PhD Student, **Steve Gameiro**, published a news article in The Londoner in November as part of the *"Promise in Cancer Research – Young Researcher Series"*. Well done, Steve!



## **NEW FACULTY ALERT**



**...Welcome to the team!**



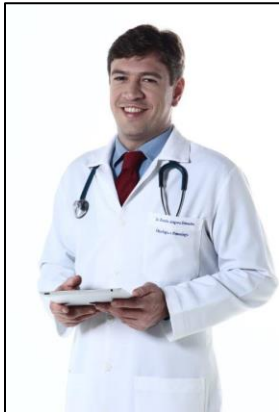
### **Dr. Joanna Laba**

Dr. Joanna Laba completed her undergraduate degree in Applied Science, Engineering, at the University of Windsor. She then obtained her MD from the University of Toronto. She completed her residency in Radiation Oncology at McMaster University and went on to complete her fellowship training in Radiation Oncology at Western University, supervised by our local oncologists Drs. Palma, Louie, and Rodrigues. Dr. Laba will be practicing in London treating Brain Metastases, Lung and Lymphoma.



### **Dr. Erin Morgan**

Dr. Morgan is originally from Newfoundland and completed her first undergraduate degree in Behavioral Neurosciences and Nutrition at Memorial University. She then went to Queens University in Kingston and obtained her MD. She went back to St. Johns Newfoundland to complete 3 years of Internal Medicine training. She re-located to Toronto where she completed the additional 2 years of Medical Oncology training followed by a 2 year fellowship in CNS Oncology at Princess Margaret Cancer Centre. Dr. Morgan will be practicing in London in both Neuro-oncology and GI malignancies.



### **Dr. Ricardo Fernandes**

Dr. Fernandes completed his internal medicine, medical oncology and hematology training in Sao Paulo Brazil and then worked as a medical oncologist for several years in Sao Paulo. He then went to Ottawa where he completed a 2 year fellowship in Uro-Oncology. Over this last year, he was in Oxford UK where he concluded a further fellowship at the Early Phase Clinical Trials Unit. At the LRCP, Dr. Fernandes will be working in the GU and Breast Disease sites. He has a wide variety of research interests which include new drug development, personalized medicine and complications of chemotherapy.



### **Dr. Jaques Raphael**

Dr. Raphael has an extensive background in Oncology. He initially trained and worked in Beirut Lebanon. He has completed fellowships in translational research and thoracic oncology at Gustave Roussy Cancer Centre in Paris, France, and over the past 3 years, completed additional fellowships in Breast and Lung cancer at Sunnybrook in Toronto. He also completed the MSC program in Epidemiology and Health Care Research at University of Toronto. He has published extensively in a wide spectrum of areas in oncology including the impact of Angelina Jolie's story on genetic testing referrals! In London, he will be involved in Thoracic, Breast and GI Disease sites. He will also be involved in the C7 ward service.

## CTCR Travel Award Recipients Announced!

Congratulations to the CTCR Trainee Travel Award recipients on their award of \$1000.00! Check out their innovative **2-minute video applications**. Fantastic work!

- [Adrian Buensuceso](#) | CTCR Supervisor: Dr. Trevor Shepherd
- [Jenna Kitz](#) | CTCR Supervisor: Dr. Alison Allan
- [Ryan Alfano](#) | CTCR Supervisor: Dr. Aaron Ward
- [Jessica Rodgers](#) | CTCR Supervisor: Dr. Aaron Fenster
- [Mary Mahler](#) | CTCR Supervisor: Dr. Eric Winkvist

## Wellness & Resiliency Committee Update

The **Wellness & Resiliency Task Force Committee** will be implementing wellness initiatives throughout the year for the Department of Oncology. An exciting new initiative is hosting **Wellness Grand Rounds** for our faculty and staff. Our first grand rounds wellness talk, by Dr. Puddester in October, was very well attended and intriguing. Upcoming wellness grand rounds include: Tuesday, January 23, 2018 and Tuesday, May 29, 2018. Contact Carol Dolan ([carol.dolan@lhsc.on.ca](mailto:carol.dolan@lhsc.on.ca)) to be included on the email list.

Check out photos from a recent **holiday wellness lunch** hosted by the Wellness & Resiliency Committee:



If you have any suggestions for the task force, please contact Stacie Gowan ([stacie.gowan@lhsc.on.ca](mailto:stacie.gowan@lhsc.on.ca)).

## iCare Seminar Success!

A very big thank you to **Drs. Rohann Correa** and **Alex Louie** for the last iCare seminar which received rave reviews! A thank you to **Dr. Matt Cecchini** for continuing his superlative series of pathology for researcher seminars, and of course **Aren Marshal** and **Steve Gameiro** as our last two Young Cancer Research Trainee Showcase speakers of the year. All three of these events were extremely well attended! Please send your suggestion for future iCare seminars to Dr. DiMattia ([dimattia@uwo.ca](mailto:dimattia@uwo.ca)).

## Resident's Room...

### **Canadian Association Radiation Oncology (CARO) Sept 13-16 2017**

- Residents Attended: Stacey Davidson, Tim Nguyen, Tina Zhang, Hanbo Chen, Mark Corkum, Laura Callan, Chris Goodman, Rohann Correa, Adam Mutsaers
- Resident Awards: Hanbo (Best Resident Oral Presentation), Tim (Best Abstract in Clinical and Population-Based Oncology), Stacey Davidson (CROF Elective Travel Award), Mark Corkum (Best CanMEDS Abstract).
- Resident Presentations:
  - Hanbo (Oral Presentation, Poster Display x 2)
  - Chris (Oral Presentation)
  - Tim (Oral Presentation x 2, Poster Discussion)
  - Mark (Poster Discussion)
  - Rohann (Poster Discussion, Poster Display)
  - Stacey (Poster Display x 2)
  - Tina (Poster Display)
  - Laura (Poster Display)

### **American Society of Radiation Oncology (ASTRO) Sept 24-27 2017**

- Residents Attended: Stacey Davidson, Tim Nguyen, Tina Zhang, Chris Goodman, Rohann Correa, Wei Liu
- Resident Presentations:
  - Rohann (Oral Presentation, Poster Display)
  - Tim (ePoster Discussion, Poster Display x2)
  - Mark (Poster Display)
  - Stacey (Poster Display)
  - Chris (Poster Display)
  - Hanbo (Poster Display x 2)

### **IASLC World Conference on Lung Cancer Oct 15-18 2017**

- Resident Attended: Hanbo Chen
- Resident Award: Young Investigator Award
- Resident Presentations: Hanbo (Oral Presentation)

### **The Canadian Conference on Physician Health Sept 7-9 2017**

- Resident Attended: Tina Zhang

### **International Conference on Resident Education Oct 19-21 2017**

- Resident Attended: Stacey Davidson

### **Radiation Oncology PGY-5 Post-Graduation Plans (after June 2018):**

- Stacey Davidson: Staff Radiation Oncology position at Health Sciences North in Sudbury
- Tim Nguyen: 1-year Fellowship in CNS/Spine at Sunnybrook Hospital in Toronto

### **The CBME Innovation Grant Goes To...**

Congratulations to **Drs. Tim Nguyen and Vikram Velker** on receiving the **CBME Innovation Fund!** Details on their innovative project coming soon...

### **CBME in London – UPDATE!**

**Competency Based Medical Education (CBME)** will enhance patient care by improving specialist training and life-long learning ensuring physicians demonstrate the skills and behaviours required to continuously meet evolving patient needs.



[VIDEOS, RESOURCES, AND MORE DETAILS CAN BE FOUND BY CLICKING HERE...](#)

Our **London team** is busy and working hard to effectively transition to CBME!

#### **PGME Medical Oncology: CBME launches July 1, 2018**

Dr. Kylea Potvin, Program Director, Medical Oncology

Dr. Karin Hahn, CBME Lead, Medical Oncology

Kimberly Trudgeon, Program Administrator, PGME Medical Oncology

#### **PGME Radiation Oncology: CBME launches July 1, 2019**

Dr. Tracy Sexton, Program Director, Radiation Oncology

Dr. Vikram Velker, CBME Lead, Radiation Oncology

Cassandra Ratelle, Program Administrator, Radiation Oncology

#### **UME: CBME Launches September 2018**

Dr. Michael Sanatani, UME Co-Program Director

Dr. Belal Ahmad, UME Co-Program Director

Kimberly Trudgeon, Program Administrator, Oncology

## OPEN MIC!

**"Open Mic" is a new initiative aimed at encouraging colleagues to send in feedback, suggestions, ideas or aspirational goals for the Department of Oncology! These will be anonymously shared... Please send us your ideas...**



# Oncology News Hub

**ONE-STOP SHOP – HYPERLINKED FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE!**

**Various communication outlets:**

- [Canadian Institutes of Health Research \(CIHR\) Institute of Cancer Research](#)
- [Lawson Health Research Institute](#)
- [Windsor Cancer Research Group](#)
- [Windsor Regional Cancer Program](#)
- [Centre for Translational Cancer Research \(CTCR\)](#)
- [Ontario Institute of Cancer Research \(OICR\)](#)
- [Robarts Research Institute](#)
- [WORLDiscoveries](#)
- [London Health Sciences Foundation](#)
- [BioCanRx](#)
- [Canadian Cancer Clinical Trials Network](#)
- [Cancer Care Ontario](#)
- [London Regional Cancer Program](#)
- [Department of Oncology](#)
- [Canadian Cancer Society](#)
- [South West Regional Cancer Program](#)
- [Wellspring London and Region](#)
- [Cancer RIOT](#)
- Mady Hymowitz (via [Mady.Hymowitz@schulich.uwo.ca](mailto:Mady.Hymowitz@schulich.uwo.ca))
- Kimberly Trudgeon (via [Kimberly.Trudgeon@lhsc.on.ca](mailto:Kimberly.Trudgeon@lhsc.on.ca))
- Stacey Dinell (via [stacey.dinel@schulich.uwo.ca](mailto:stacey.dinel@schulich.uwo.ca))
- Donna DeFrancesco (via [ddefranc@uhnresearch.ca](mailto:ddefranc@uhnresearch.ca))
- Newsletter from Glenn and Neil (via email)
- Oncology Grand Rounds (via [Carol.Dolan@lhsc.on.ca](mailto:Carol.Dolan@lhsc.on.ca))
- Gabe Boldt LRCP Library (via [Gabriel.Boldt@lhsc.on.ca](mailto:Gabriel.Boldt@lhsc.on.ca))



As this year comes to a close, we, the Department of Oncology, would like to wish you and yours a very happy and healthy holiday season!

We hope the New Year is full of health, joy, and success.

Thank YOU for your continual support, dedication and hard work.

