

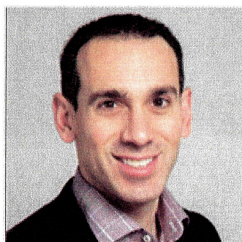
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ONC-INSIDER

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SPOTLIGHT



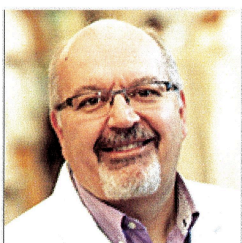
Dr. David Palma presents potentially paradigm-changing trial results for SABR-COMET

This past October, Dr. Palma presented the clinical trial results at ASTRO. This international multi-institutional clinical trial involved 10 institutions in four countries with the London Regional Cancer Program Radiation Oncology team enrolling the majority of the 99 patients. [Read more.](#)
[Read The ASCO Post](#) coverage.



Dr. Allan contributes to international collaborative study

Published in *JAMA Oncology*, the international collaborative is one of the first to demonstrate that a blood test can predict how patients with advanced prostate cancer will respond to specific treatments. The study was also named by the Prostate Cancer Foundation as one of its "provocative papers" for 2018. [Read more.](#)



Donor funded research provides seed funding

The London Health Sciences Foundation Catalyst Grants Program was founded in 2004 and is 100 per cent donor funded. And thanks to a transformational donation of \$1 million from Keith Samitt to London Health Sciences Foundation, it will continue to provide seed funding. The 2018 award recipients include Drs. Allan, Muriel Brackstone, Fred Dick, Matthew Hebb, Jim Koropatnick, Shawn Li, Richard Malthaner, Anthony Nichols, Christopher Pin, and Eugene Wong. [Learn more](#) about their projects and co-applicants, as well as the donors who have made contributions. [Read the 2018 Cancer Research Laboratories Impact Report from the London Health Sciences Foundation.](#)

CONGRATULATIONS



Dr. Kylea Potvin honoured with 2018 President's Award



Congratulations to Dr. Potvin on receiving a 2018 LHSC President's Award. The award was established to mark the excellence in physician leadership provided by the late Dr. Murray Girotti. Dr. Potvin was recognized for her clinical and teaching leadership.

Clinical Teachers' Association awards Dr. Sara Kuruvilla

Dr. Kuruvillas' proposal *Repossessing "Health" in "Health Care Delivery"* was awarded and she was provided partial support to pursue training in the principles of Lifestyle Medicine under the American College of Lifestyle Medicine. [Read more.](#)

Dekoter lab receives important grant funding from Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

Through the study the *"Characterization of driver mutations in a mouse model of B-cell leukemia"* Dr. Rodney Dekoter has developed a new mouse model of paediatric precursor B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia (B-ALL). The Dekoter Lab's goal is to identify mutations responsible for driving cancer development in these mice. [Read more.](#)

Another successful Terry Fox Run in London hosted by Dr. Ferguson

Dr. Ferguson is the organizer of this important cancer research fundraising event locally. The Run contributes annually to cancer research. [View Dr. Ferguson's video for this great day.](#)

Best wishes to Dr. Alex Hammond

Congratulations to Dr. Hammond on his retirement. Dr. Hammond's career spanned 35 years and focused on radiation oncology care to head and neck, sarcoma and gynaecologic patients. He has made significant academic contributions through his teaching, and participation in clinical trials.

Integrated, innovative and impactful research awarded with CTCR Awards

The Centre for Translational Cancer Research recently announced the five recipients of the CTCR Trainee Travel Awards. Congratulations to Alice Eunghung Shin, Cory Lefebvre, Lawrence Yip, Muhan (Violet) Liu and Pirunthan Peranpalam. [Learn more about their research.](#)

A transition for Dr. Stewart Gaede

Congratulations to Dr. Gaede on his transition to the position of Academic Medical Physicist. The new position builds another bridge between the London Regional Cancer Program and Western University. [Read more.](#)

Successful thesis defense

During the summer of 2018, Jason Vickress, PhD, successfully defended his thesis: *"Optimization of Decision Making in Personalize Radiation Therapy Using Deformable Image Registration."* He is currently continuing his training at Credit Valley Cancer Centre in Mississauga in their medical Physics residency program.

Medical Physics Residency Program Completion

Congratulations to Jonatan Snir, PhD, and Donna Murrell, PhD, who successfully completed their Medical Physics residency program, Schulich Medicine & Dentistry at the London Regional Cancer Program.

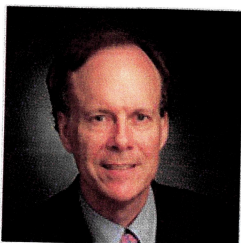
EVENTS AND NEWS

2019

2019 Strategic Planning Refresh - February 4

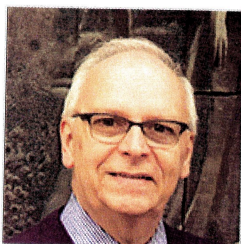
STRATEGIC PLANNING REFRESH

You don't want to miss an upcoming opportunity to participate in the Strategic Planning Refresh. The session takes place on Monday, February 4, in Room A3-924 A/B, at the London Regional Cancer Program from 5:00 - 9:00 p.m. RSVP to [Sonya Collard](#) today. Space is Limited.



Save the Date - 2019 Research and Education Day - June 14

Co-chairs, Drs. Jacques Raphael and Fred Dick invite you to take part in the annual Research and Education Day. Dr. William Kaelin Jr. will serve as the keynote speaker. Dr. Kaelin Jr. is an investigator at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Harvard Medical School. He is a world-renowned cancer geneticist whose work has defined much of the basic knowledge of how cancer cells proliferate and regulate chromatin structure, how they respond to a hypoxic environment and his latest work is defining new metabolic dependencies of cancer. He is an investigator at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and he has won numerous prizes for his research including the Lasker and Gairdner Awards. Registration opens in April 2019.



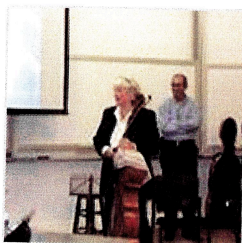
New book fills knowledge gap and leaves educational legacy in radiation oncology

With his new book focused on dose computation algorithms, Professor Emeritus Jerry Battista, PhD, is hoping to fill a gap in knowledge translation between academic instruction and clinical application. Titled *Introduction to Megavoltage X-Ray Dose Computation Algorithms*, the 418-page book explores the physics and mathematics that underlie software used in the precise radiation treatment of cancer. The book is intended for specialists in radiation oncology, including medical physicists, radiation technologists, radiation oncologists and technical staff who support commercial software products. [Read more.](#) [Read an interview with the publisher.](#)



Sarah Mattonen, PhD joins the team at the Baines Centre

Dr. Sarah Mattonen has been recruited to the Baines Research Chair in Translational Cancer Imaging at the Lawson Health Research Institute/London Health Sciences Centre and the Departments of Oncology and Medical Biophysics at Western. She will also join the Cancer Research Laboratory/Program of Lawson and the LRCP. [Read more.](#)



CBME innovation using music instruction

Recent CBME retreats focused on direct observation and the importance of workplace assessment. A musical masterclass (observed lesson) was hosted with cellist Christine Newland teaching Dr. Michael Sanatani. The goal was to demonstrate the culture of immediate observation and feedback that exists in music. This team was also invited to repeat this extraordinary exercise for a larger CBME retreat in October 2018. Congratulations to all involved. For more information about CBME visit the [Schulich Medicine CBME website](#) or the [Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons](#).

A welcome and celebration of trainees

Welcome to Wyatt Anderson and Mackenzie Dodge, MSc Candidates who began in September 2018. Congratulations to Steve Gameiro and Martin Prusinkiewicz, PhD, Candidates from the Mymryk Lab who gave oral presentations at the 2018 DNA Tumour Virus Meeting in Madison Wisconsin.

Welcome to new education leaders

Welcome to Drs. Vikram Velker and Philip Blanchette as the incoming leaders of the Department of Oncology Undergraduate Medical Education (UME) Program, and to Dr. Joanna Laba as the incoming Director of the Radiation Oncology Postgraduate Program. Thank you to outgoing UME leaders, Drs. Belal Ahmad and Michael Sanatani for their expert and diligent past leadership and to Dr. Tracy Sexton, the outgoing Director for the Radiation Oncology Postgraduate Program. Dr. Sexton will be working with Dr. Laba to ensure a smooth transition with the role. As the move to competency-based medical education continues, having strong administrative and medical leaders in the undergraduate and postgraduate programs is important and we are excited about the renewal of our training program leadership. [Read more.](#)

An impact 30 years in the making

Professor Emeritus Duncan Hunter developed a specialized cancer drug in 1988, and it recently received approval from the US Food & Drug Administration. Congratulations to him on this impactful contribution. [Read more.](#)

Oncology Resident Grand Rounds Day

The annual Oncology Resident Grand Rounds was held in the summer of 2018. Once again the calibre of research and presentations by learners shone through. Thanks go out to all of the presenters for their integrated, innovative and impactful presentations.

Radiation Oncology welcomes Drs. Lucas Mendez and Melody Qu

Welcome to Drs. Lucas Mendez and Melody Qu. Dr. Mendez came from the Toronto Sunnybrook Cancer Centre where he is completing a clinical Fellowship. He brings expertise in brachytherapy and will be focusing on the treatment of genitourinary and gynecologic malignancies. Dr. Qu is focusing on the treatment of lymphoma, lung and brain metastases.

ORIoN Success

The inaugural session of the Oncology Research Internship (ORIoN) has come to a close. It was the first year trialing a new model of resident-directed research mentorship. Nine wonderfully talented medical students each paired with a single resident to try their hand at writing an oncology-related case report. The student-resident pairs worked diligently during the summer to draft reports in accordance with the CARE guidelines for case reporting. The next steps will include preparing manuscripts for final submission. A wrap-up dinner meeting was held where students practised their presentations. All were well-done, informative and interesting.

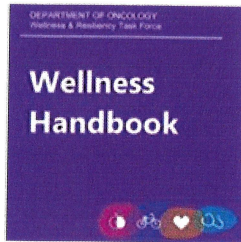
The goal of ORIoN is to connect interested medical students with motivated residents to increase exposure to the field of oncology and break down the barriers between students and research opportunities. The goal is to establish ORIoN as an annual program. However, to accomplish this material is required. If you have a case report you've been dreaming of publishing let us help turn that dream into a reality. You can direct your cases, thoughts or questions to [Chris Goodman](#).

The ORIoN team would also like to express special appreciation to the resident mentors, staff supervisors, Kimberly Trudgeon, Kim Norton, and Dr. Glenn Bauman for all of their support and hard work.

Dr. Ann Chambers Tribute Video

Take a few minutes to watch this tribute video honouring distinguished oncology scientist, Dr. Ann Chambers, upon her retirement from Lawson Health Research Institute and Western University after 35 years of exemplary service and dedication to the cancer research community. [Watch the video.](#)

WELLNESS & RESILIENCY



Dr. Maria MacDonald announced as Wellness & Resiliency Lead

In an effort to promote physician and provider wellness, the Department of Oncology has created the role of Wellness & Resiliency Lead to support the individual and systemic domains of wellness including personal resiliency, work culture and work efficacy (Bohman, 2017). Since September, Dr. MacDonald has been working in this capacity along with the Wellness Committee and affiliated leaders.

Mediation and leadership course statistically significant

In the spring of 2018, the Department of Oncology delivered a successful pilot study showing statistically significant decreases in measures of burnout and perceived stress after faculty participation in a 12-week meditation and leadership course. A one-day faculty retreat by Mr. Guy Gaudry, meditation teacher and executive coach, was well attended and was rated highly by all participants on a post-retreat evaluation. Contact [Dr. Maria MacDonald](#) for more information.

Promoting a Systemic Culture of Wellness

Programming aimed at promoting a systemic culture of wellness has been developed and will continue to do so. Current programming includes ongoing wellness grand rounds to be held three times per year, and the dissemination of the departmental Wellness Handbook.

PSWAC established

In order to address the domain of clinical efficacy, the Department is establishing an advisory council. The PSWAC will discuss solutions to clinical process issues that make our care less time and energy effective.

If you have any suggestions for wellness programming or issues of work efficacy to identify to PSWAC please feel free to email [Dr. Maria MacDonald](#).

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS



Female Genetic Risk for Pancreatic Cancer

Dr. Christopher Pin's paper on the genetic risk for pancreatic cancer in women was recently featured in Western News. [Read more.](#)

Featured Publications

The following papers were recently featured in *Experimental Oncology*:

Prostate. 2018

Inhibition of androgen receptor transactivation function by adenovirus type 12 E1A undermines prostate cancer cell survival.

Li D, Tian G2, Wang J, Zhao LY, Co O, Underhill ZC, Mymryk JS, Claessens F, Dehm SM, Daaka Y, Liao D.

Oncoimmunology 2018

Treatment-naïve HPV+ head and neck cancers display a T-cell-inflamed phenotype distinct from their HPV-counterparts that have implications for immunotherapy

Steven F. Gameiro, Farhad Ghasemi, John W. Barrett, James Koropatnick, Anthony C. Nichols, Joe S. Mymryk & Saman Maleki Vareki



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