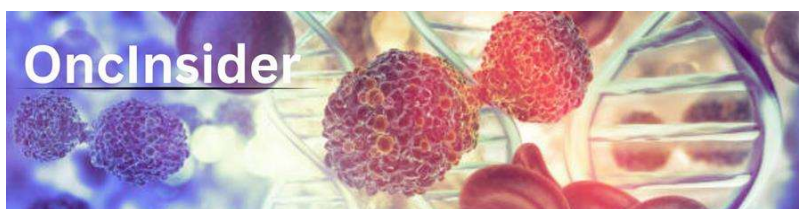


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May 2026

Spotlight





London Health
Sciences Foundation

Verspeeten Chair, Translational Cancer Research Announced

Dr. Samuel Asfaha has been appointed as the inaugural Verspeeten Chair in Translational Cancer Research at the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Western University effective March 1, 2026 to February 28, 2031.

As an MD PhD trained clinician-scientist and practicing gastroenterologist, Dr. Asfaha's career has been dedicated to

bridging discovery for patients with colorectal cancer and inflammatory bowel disease.

Oncology Research & Education Day

The 22nd Annual Oncology Research & Education Day is being held at the Ronald D. Schmeichel Building for Innovation and Entrepreneurship on Thursday June 18. Dr. Peter Scott, University of Michigan will be presenting his research "Theranostics - New Developments in Precision Cancer Care that are Transforming Patient Prognosis.

Join over 300 members of the London and area cancer community for a full day of networking, science and research. Details available [here](#).

London Health Sciences Foundation Celebrates 30 Years

We celebrate the Foundation and its community of donors, volunteers, board members and staff as they mark 30 years of philanthropy in the community they serve.

We are honoured to work alongside this group of talented and selfless individuals who help bring life-changing care, new possibilities and hope to patients at the Verspeeten Family Cancer Centre.

Faculty News and Updates



Drs. Ming Pan, Caroline Hamm, Michael Ott, and Trevor Shepherd attended the Windsor Annual WE-SPARKS Health Research Conference.

Awards

Hamid Mithoowani MD, [Gillian Nicholls Prize](#) for best performance for his MSc. thesis at Kellogg College, University of Oxford.

Pingzhao Hu PhD, Schulich 2026 Awards of Excellence - Research Award (Mid-Career). Dr. Hu's research program builds the bridges between artificial intelligence (AI) or machine learning, statistics and multimodal health data.

Centre for Translational Cancer Research

New Member - Kenneth Tichauer PhD, Prato Chair in Molecular Imaging.

Conferences

Vikas Garg MD, presented a poster at Canadian Cancer Research Conference (Calgary).

Congratulations

Anargyros Xenocostas MD, recipient of LHSC's Great Moments recognized by his patients for his precision, steady clinical judgment, and compassionate approach care. His empathy and clear communication help patients feel confident and supported, even during complex treatment processes.

Funding Awards

Internal Research Funding (2025)

Ricardo Fernandes MD, \$16,098 for Association of Microbiome with Clinical Outcomes in Urothelial Carcinoma Patients Treated with Enfortumab Vedotin and Pembrolizuma.

Anthony Nichols MD PhD, \$20,000 for Immunotherapy for the Management of Anaplastic Thyroid Cancer.

Medical Oncology Research Fund Awards

Danilo Giffoni MD, \$28,806 for Comparative Effectiveness of Anthracycline vs Non-Anthracycline Chemotherapy Backbones in Early HER2-Positive Breast Cancer.

Saurav Verma MD, \$25,000 for Radiomics and ctDNA as Predictors of Treatment Response and Early Recurrence in Resectable NSCLC Receiving Neoadjuvant Chemo-Immunotherapy.

Ricardo Fernandes MD, Association of Microbiome with Clinical Outcomes in Urothelial Carcinoma Patients Treated with Enfortumab Vedotin and Pembrolizumab.

In The News

Samuel Asfaha MD PhD, "Junk DNA" holds clues to colorectal cancer, study finds. [LHSCRI News](#).

Mansour Haeryfar PhD, [The Immunology Podcast](#) featuring his research in MAIT Cell Responses.

Saman Maleki PhD, Innovative 'poop pills' show promising results in clinical trials for multiple types of cancer. [LHSCRI News](#).

David Palma MD PhD, Improving radiation therapy for cancer patients' thorough research. [LHSCRI News](#).

Lisa Porter PhD, Interviewed for [Exeleon Magazine](#) for Advancing Breakthroughs in Cancer Research and Health Innovation.

Moving On

Paul Stewart MD as Medical Oncology Program Director June 30.

We thank Paul for his years of dedication to the residency program.

Presentations

Ayman Sayyed MD, for Beyond Prognostic Risk: Time-Dependent Interaction Analysis Identifies ASXL1, RUNX1, and a mutated AXKI1/RUNX1/BCOR/BCORL1 cluster as predictors of transplant benefit in AML in first remission. European Bone Marrow Transplant Society Conference (Madrid, Spain).

Promotions

John Di Guglielmo PhD (Physiology & Pharmacology, and Oncology) promoted to Full Professor.

Trevor Shepherd PhD (Obstetrics & Gynecology, Anatomy and Cell Biology, and Oncology) promoted to Full Professor.

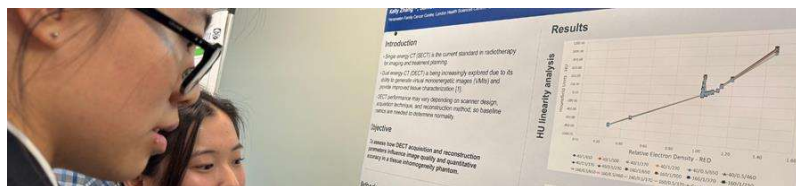
Welcome

Jason S. Lee PhD and Tomi Nano PhD DABR have joined LHSC's medical physicists' team. Both will be presenting at grand rounds on June 2.

Wellness & Resiliency

The Wellness Committee is hosting a monthly Clinician Breakfast Club first day of April, May and June. Light breakfast is served prior to the start of clinics. Come join your colleagues for coffee and a chat. Contact Dr. Stacey Davidson or Kimberly Scott to RSVP.

Trainee News and Updates



Conferences

Salah Alhajsaleh, Milica Paunic, and Michael Touma presented a poster at American Society of Clinical Oncology (Chicago). All supervised by Caroline Hamm MD.

Laurice Arayan presented a poster at European Society of Medical Oncology (ESMO) and at Artificial Intelligence and Digital Oncology (Berlin). Arayan is supervised by Caroline Hamm MD.

Mohammad Biglari MD Fellow, presented at London Health Research Day and will be presenting at ESMO Breast 2026 (Germany).

Olla Hilal, Anaam Jaet, Christian James-McDonald, Fatima Nadeem, Ria Patel, Depen Sharma, Joanna Tay presented a poster at Canadian Cancer Research Conference (Calgary). All supervised by Windsor faculty.

Isabelle Hinch PhD Candidate, received Rapid-Fire Oral Presentation award, WE-SPARKS Health Research Conference, Windsor. Hinch was also awarded 1st place for the 2026 University of Windsor Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition. Hinch is supervised by Lisa Porter PhD.

Oviya Kanagasabai, 3rd year undergraduate student received two 1st place finishes (poster and 3-minute talk) at the Medical Biophysics Undergraduate Research Day. Kanagasabai is supervised by Timothy Yau PhD Candidate and Stewart Gaede PhD. Also in attendance were Alec Black 3rd year Physics Waterloo student supervised by Doug Hoover PhD, 4th year Physics student Rayhan Abdul Rahman supervised by Hatim Fakir PhD, and Kelly Zhang 2nd year Health Sciences student supervised by Samuel Blake PhD.

Wayne Merkel PGY Windsor, supported by a \$10,000 SRTP grant presented his work as a poster at the recent WE-SPARKS Health Research Conference. Merkel's work has been accepted at September's CARO Annual Scientific Meeting.

Ahmed Mohamed and Timothy Yau, both PhD Candidates presented posters at the 19th Annual Ontario Thoracic Cancer Conference in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Nick Philbin PhD Candidate received Poster Session Award, WE-SPARKS Health Research Conference, Windsor. Philbin is supervised by Lisa Porter PhD.

Congratulations

Isabel Kannampuzha MSc Candidate, awarded a CIHR Canada Graduate Scholarship. Kannampuzha is co-supervised by Alison Allan PhD and Armen Parysan MD PhD.

Farewell

Ryan Au (Western University) starting Medical Physics Residency at Princess Margaret Cancer Centre in September. Au is currently supervised by Aaron Ward PhD.

Timothy Yau (Western University) starting Medical Physics Residency at Ottawa Hospital Cancer Centre in September. Yau is currently supervised by Stewart Gaede PhD.

In the News

Frederikke Larsen Post Doc, Celebrating International Day of Women and Girls in Science. [LHSCRI News](#).

Successful Doctoral Defense

Emily Tomas successfully defended her PhD thesis entitled "Parallel Investigation of Cultured Spheroids and Organoids as Models to Study Epithelial Ovarian Cancer Pathogenesis." Tomas is supervised by Trevor Shepherd PhD.

Welcome

Alana Lopes (Western University) starting Medical Physics Residency in September.

Christine Moon (Queen's University) and Matthew Van Oirschot (Western University) starting Radiation Oncology Program July 1.

Research Publications

Bang, Jin-Young et al (Stewart Gaede & Ting-Yim Lee). Analyzing the effect of neoadjuvant stereotatic ablative body radiotherapy on pancreatic tumor perfusion using computed tomography perfusion. [Frontiers in Oncology](#). March 2026

Fakir, H et al (Tim Nguyen). Practical Aspects of Delivering Radiation for Polymetastatic Disease. [Int. J. Radiat. Oncol. Biol Phys.](#) January 2026

Fifield, Bre-Anne et al (Lisa Porter). Patient perspective of hesitancies and strategies to increase cancer clinical trial participation. [J.Clin.Transl Sci.](#) February 2026

Goncalves, Santiago et al (Muriel Brackstone & Armen Parsyan). A spatial Omics in biomarker discovery in breast cancer. [Annals of Breast Surgery](#).

Johnston, Tiffany et al (Trevor Shepherd). Evaluating the Therapeutic Potential of MRT68921 and Afatinib in Three-Dimensional Models of Epithelial Ovarian Cancer. [Cancers](#). January 2026

Larsen, Frederikke et al (Parisa Shooshtari & Samuel Asfaha). Viral mimicry acts as a tumor suppressor in colitis. [Nature](#). February 2026

Lubanska, D et al (Lisa Porter). Atypical cell cycle regulation over neural stem cell expansion. [Stem Cell Reports](#). January 2026

Mendez, L et al. Ultrahypofractionated Versus Conventionally Fractionated Whole-pelvic Radiotherapy in Prostate Cancer: A Randomized Clinical Trial. [Eur Urol Oncol](#). January 2026.

Vickress, Jason et al (Donna Murrell). A reirradiation workflow for managing patients with treatments planned in a multi-TPS environment. [tipsRO](#). March 2026

Webb, Jack et al (Shawn S-C Li & Trevor Shepherd). ULK1 promotes metastatic progression in experimental models of epithelial ovarian cancer. [Oncogene](#). March 2026



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