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SPOTLIGHT



Department of Oncology Announces Appointment

Michael Ott MD has been appointed Chair for the Department of Oncology, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Western University; Physician Executive, London Health Sciences Centre; and Chief, St Joseph's Health Care London. In this role, Dr. Ott becomes a non voting Clinical Chairs member of the AMOSO Governing Committee. Dr. Ott's term is from June 1, 2023 to May 31, 2028.



Oncology Academic and Teaching Awards

The Department of Oncology's Excellence in Academics and Teaching Awards were presented during its annual Research & Education Day to **Silvia Penuela PhD** (Experimental Oncology), **Michael Sanatani MD** (Medical Oncology), **Lucas Mendez MD** (Radiation Oncology), **Terry Zwiep MD** (Surgical Oncology), and **Sahar Khan MD** (Division of Windsor Oncology).



Centre for Translational Cancer Research Renewed

Having been established in 2010, the Centre for Translational Cancer Research (CTCR) underwent an internal review under the Western University Manual of Administrative Policies and Procedures (MAPP) 7.9. The CTCR has a membership of over 120 London area clinicians and researcher and has been successfully renewed for a further 5 year term.

CONGRATULATIONS

Academic Promotions

Derek Cool MD/PhD (Medical Imaging, and Oncology) to Associate Professor; **Phillip Blanchette MD, John Lenehan MD, and Vikram Velker, MD** (Oncology) to Associate Professor; **Swati Kulkarni MD, and Junaid Yousuf MD** (Windsor Oncology), to Associate Professor; **Alejandro Lazo-Langner MD** (Medicine) to Full Professor; **Danielle MacNeil MD**, (Otolaryngology, and Oncology), to Associate Professor; **Alexander Timoshenko, PhD** (Biology) to Associate Professor; **Brad Urquart PhD** (Physiology and Pharmacology) to Full Professor.

Faculty News

Alison Allan PhD, re-appointed as Chair, Anatomy & Cell Biology effective July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2028.

Ana Lohmann MD, awarded best Canadian abstract at ASCO for "Concordance between Liquid and Tissue Biopsy in Patients with Newly Diagnosed Metastatic Breast Cancer."

Sarah Kuruvilla MD, new Undergraduate Medical Education Lead. Special thanks to **Phillip Blanchette MD** (Medical Oncology) for his mentorship and leadership during his tenure as lead.

Jonathan Thiessen PhD, Department of Medical Biophysics, awarded 2023 Annual Award of Academic Excellence.

Jerry Baptista Award

LRCP's Homeira Mosalaei, awarded 2023 Jerry Baptista Award. This award is given by the Canadian Organization of Medical Physicists (COMP) to a Canadian Physics Associate or Assistant. Mosalaei has been assisting members of the Medical Biophysics and Oncology departments for over 20 years in the London Regional Cancer Program.

WELLNESS CORNER

Wellness Articles

Ontario's doctors say primary care is in crisis, burnout at record levels. [OMA News Release](#), May 2023

Prescription Progress Report. [OMA's Report](#), June 2023

At a Loss: Patient Deaths and Clinical Research Coordinators. [Journal of Clinic Oncology](#), April 2023

NEWS AND STORIES

19th Annual Oncology Research & Education Day

This annual event was held June 9 and saw over 300 attend the day's long program. The day featured plenary speaker, Sarah Psutka, MD (Seattle, Washington) along with many other cancer focused talks. The Denise Power Cancer Research Staff Award of Excellence recipient was Lee-Anne Pickard, Genomic Research Coordinator, Division of Medical Oncology. Special thanks to **Rohann Correa, MD PhD** and **Melissa Huyng MD** for hosting.

Oral Presentation winners were Frederikke Larsen and Matthew Borrelli. Poster winners were Claire Browne, Adrian Buensuceso, David DeVries, Isabelle Hinch, Seung Joon Kim, Bartlomiej Kolendowski, Sean McRae, Shaunik Sharma, Alexandra Sorge, Emily Tomas, Charles Trelford, and Jack Webb.

Elected

Mansour Haeryfar PhD - President, Canadian Society of Immunology (CSI).

Lisa Porter PhD - Board member for Research Canada - An Alliance for Health Discovery, and also as Specialty Chief Editor, Frontiers in Cell & Developmental Biology.

Farewell

Kang Howson-Jan MD retired June 30 from Departments of Medicine, and Oncology, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, and Division of Hematology, London Health Sciences Centre.

Jinka Sathya MD retired June 30 from Department of Oncology, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, and Division of Radiation Oncology, London Health Sciences Centre.

Fundraising Efforts

Head & Neck Above Cancer Walk, Sunday, August 20 930am at Springback Gardens. All funds raised from this event will support LHSC Head & Neck Above Cancer research [program](#).

London Regional Cancer Program's Terry Fox Run, Sunday September 17 at 10am. Join us or support the [LRCP Team](#).

In the News

Joseph Chin MD, David Hill PhD, Saman Maleki PhD, Anthony Nichols MD were featured in LHSF's June edition of [Your Impact Magazine](#).

Len Luyt PhD interviewed by AM1290 iHeartRadio (June 13) about his new research using nuclear medicine and rare isotopes in the fight against cancer. Dr. Luyt was also recently featured in [The Pulse](#).

Saman Maleki PhD, John Lenehan MD, and Michael Silverman, MD interviewed by [CBCNews](#), Toronto Sun and other international outlets for "New study shows human poop pills can help treat advanced melanoma."

Presentations

Silvia Penuela PhD, presented her research at the International Colloquium on Gap Junctions and Cancer (Brazil) on Pannexin 1 channels which promote the tumorigenic properties of melanoma and glioblastoma multiforme.

Remembering

Walter Kocha MD, retired Associate Professor, Departments of Medicine, and Oncology as well as a long time Medical Oncologist, London Regional Cancer Program passed away [June 16, 2023](#). Kocha was an expert in treating neuroendocrine tumours and was a former Director, Post Graduate Medical Program, and former Director, Hematology Laboratory Program.

Welcome

Dr. Brant Inman, to the Cancer Research Laboratory Program (September). Dr. Inman is a uro-oncologist and surgeon-scientist, formally of Duke University. Dr. Inman is keen to establish productive collaborations with London researchers. He has a strong interest in novel drug delivery systems as well as tumour cell genomic analyses.

Pingzhao Hu, PhD (Biochemistry, Computer Science, Epidemiology and Biostatistics) **and Allison Maciver, MD** (Surgery, Oncology) to the Centre for Translational Cancer Research.

Trainee Corner

Nitara Fernando, and Jerry Fu, both MSc. Candidates each awarded best research pitches at Roberts Research Retreat. Fernando is supervised by **Paula Foster, PhD** and Fu, jointly by **Sam Asfaha, MD** and **John Ronald, PhD**.

Muhammad Irfan Karamat, CAMPEP PhD Candidate, successfully completed his PhD requirements and medical physics residency. Karamat will be starting with Saskatoon Cancer Centre, University of Saskatchewan in the Fall. Karamat was supervised by **Stewart Gaede PhD**.

Julia Mason, PhD Candidate presented her research at the International Society of Radiopharmaceutical Sciences conference (Hawaii). Mason is supervised by **Len Luyt PhD**.

Claire Park, CAMPEP PhD Candidate successfully completed her PhD and has started her medical physics residency at Harvard Medical School. Park's was supervised was **Aaron Fenster PhD**.

Urvi Patel and David Susman both MSc Candidates, both recipients of highly competitive CIHR Canada Graduate Scholarships (CGS-M) for the upcoming 2023-2024 academic year. Patel and Susman are both supervised by **Alison Allan, PhD**.

Emily Tomas, PhD Candidate awarded 2023 Morris Kroll Memorial Scholarship. Tomas is supervised by **Trevor Shepherd, PhD**.

Brent Wakefield, PhD Candidate received the Suzanne M. Bernier Award for best publication of the year in the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology. Wakefield is supervised by **Silvia Penuela PhD**.

FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Bristol Myers Squibb

Caroline Hamm MD et al. \$50,000 for "Development of a Patient Directed Tool for Early Identification of Grade 2 toxicity in immunotherapy."

AMOSO

Danilo Giffoni MD \$32,000 for 2 years for "Inequities in The Delivery of Oncology Care for Women with Breast Cancer in Ontario, Canada – A Real-World Data Study".

Maria MacDonald MD \$81,500 for 3 years for "Neurofibromatosis Clinical and Research Academic Database".

Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI)

Lisa Porter PhD et al. \$75,001 for "Virus and Cell Fraction Isolation and Characterization for Biomedical Research."

Canadian Neuroendocrine Tumor Society (CNETS)

Sarah Mattonen PhD \$40,000 for 2 year for "Radiomics and Machine Learning for Response Prediction to Lu-DOTATATE in Patients with 68Ga-DOTATATE Somatostatin Receptor Positive Neuroendocrine Tumors."

Cancer Therapeutics Innovation Pipeline (CTIP - OICR)

Fred Dick PhD for investigating 'dormant' cancer cells that elude the usual treatment options. Ovarian cancer cells can survive treatment by entering a period of dormancy and then spreading again once treatment has completed. Dr. Dick has uncovered a process that keeps dormant cells alive and will use OICR support to look for ways to disrupt this survival mechanism.

LRCP Catalyst Grants for Translational Cancer Research

Grant opportunity available. Details available [here](#).

Innovation to Implementation (I2I) Award - OICR

Anthony Nichols MD \$200,000 for 2 years. Dr. Nichols is developing a molecular test to predict how patients with HIV-related head and neck cancers will respond to treatment. The award will be used to confirm the test accuracy and explore how it could be integrated into clinical care.

Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of Canada

Rodney DeKoter PhD Operating Grant, \$199,534 for two years for "Function of IKZF3 in precursor B cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia."

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

O'Donnell, B.L. et al. PANX3 Channels Regulate Architecture, Adhesion, Barrier Function, and Inflammation in the Skin. [J. Invest Dermatol](#), February 2023

Shin, A.E. et al. F4/80+Ly6C^{high} Macrophages Lead to Cell Plasticity and Cancer Initiation in Colitis. [GI Cancer](#). April 2023.

Xu, Li S et al. Spi-C and PU.1 Counterregulated *Rag1* and *IgK* Transcription to Effect V κ -J κ combination in Small Pre-B Cells. [J. Immunol.](#) May 2023

Liu, Q et al. Development and validation of a prognostic 15-gene signature for stratifying HER2+/ER+ breast cancer. [Comput Struct Biotechnol J.](#) May 2023

Chau, OW et al. PET/MRI Assessment of Acute Cardiac Inflammation 1 Month After Left-Sided Breast Cancer Radiation Therapy. [J Nucl Med Technol.](#) June 2023

Patel, U et al. Influence of extracellular vesicles on lung stromal cells during breast cancer metastasis. [Int J Mol Sci.](#) June 2023

Rasheduzzaman R et al. Targeting the MR1-MAIT cell axis improves vaccine efficacy and affords protection against viral pathogens. [PLOS Pathogen.](#) June 2023

Wang, N.I. et al. Classic costimulatory interactions in MAIT cell responses: from gene expression to immune regulation. [Clinical and Experimental Immunology.](#) June 2023

Dayan, G.S. et al. Oncologic Significance of Therapeutic Delays in Patients With Oral Cavity Cancer. [JAMA.](#) July 2023

Routy, B et al. Fecal microbiota transplantation plus anti-PD-1 immunotherapy in advanced melanoma: a phase I trial. [Nature.](#) July 2023



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