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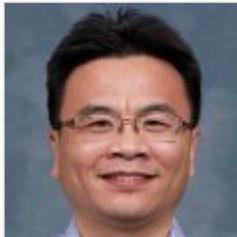


SPOTLIGHT



BCC Translational Research Unit Marks a Milestone

Breast Cancer Canada Translational Research Unit recently marked its [25th anniversary](#). Congratulations to Alison Allan, PhD and the team as the unit continues to provide world-class research and leads the way in translational research to benefit patients as well as provide training to the next generation of translational researchers.



Canada Research Chair Named

Pingzhao Hu PhD Departments of Biochemistry, Computer Science, Epidemiology and Biostatistics, and Oncology named CIHR Tier 2 Research Chair Canada in Computational Approach in Health Research. Hu is developing and applying robust AI and statistical analytical techniques to integrate multimodal health data related to patients' genes, medical history, environment and lifestyle in a fast and cost-efficient manner.



Medical Oncologist named CAMO President-Elect

Stephen Welsh MD has been named President Elect for the Canadian Association of Medical Oncologist (CAMO). Welsh will hold the position of President-Elect from 2023-2025 then President 2025-2027 and Past President 2027-2029. This is the first time someone from London has held this executive position.



Radiation Oncologist named CARO President-Elect

George Rodrigues MD PhD has been named President-Elect for the Canadian Association of Radiation Oncologist (CARO). Rodrigues will hold the position of President-Elect from 2023-2025 then President 2025-2027 and Past President 2027-2029. This is the first time someone from London has held this executive position.

CONGRATULATIONS

Faculty News

Congratulations to the following faculty members on their recent cross appointment to Oncology:

Tallulah Andrews PhD - Biochemistry

John Di Guglielmo PhD - Physiology and Pharmacology

Paula Foster PhD - Medical Biophysics

Teklab Gebregiworgis PhD - Biochemistry

Mansour Haeryfar PhD - Microbiology and Immunology

Pingzhao Hu PhD - Biochemistry, Computer Science, Epidemiology and Biostatistics

Alexander Timoshenko PhD - Biology

Awards and Recognitions

Raphael E. Sanchez-Pupo PhD, named 1 of the top 3 abstract award recipients at International Conference on Information Technology, Kyoto, Japan. Sanchez-Pupo is a postdoctoral associate in **John Ronald, PhD** lab.

Lawson Vanguard Awards presented to:

Leonard Luyt PhD, **Eva Turley PhD**, Alexandra Hauser-Kawaguchi BMSc Student, and Emily Rodrigues, PhD Candidate for "Stapled peptides as mimics of the receptor for hyaluronan mediated motility (RHAMM)".

Lucas Mendez MD and **Douglas Hoover PhD** for "The Ontario Brachytherapy Bladder Applicator (OBBA) device."

Christopher Smith PhD and **Douglas Hoover PhD** for "Real-time, intra-operative dose prediction and needle position optimization on 2D transrectal ultrasound."

WELLNESS CORNER

Wellness Articles

Achieving the Unachievable: Work - Life Balance in Radiation Oncology. Sara Beltran Ponce, Leah M. Katz and Crystal Seldon. [Practical Radiation Oncology](#), June 2023.

PaRx and several participants across Canada have launched a new nationwide [nature-prescription program](#) where doctors can prescribe museums and national park passes to their patients. The program is just getting started so check back for more nature partners.

NEWS AND STORIES

20th Annual Oncology Research & Education Day

Mark **Thursday June 13** as the date for the 20th Annual Department of Oncology Research & Education Day. **Vanessa Dumeaux PhD** and **Ana Lohmann MD** will be acting as co-chairs. More details to follow as they become available.

CaRMs

Division of Medical Oncology interviewed 19 candidates for their 2024-2025 residency program. Special thanks to **Margaret Dow** for organizing the day and for Claire Browne PGY4, **John Lenehan MD**, David Maj PGY5, **Veera Panuganty MD**, **Michael Sanatani MD**, **Paul Stewart MD**, **Stephen Welch MD**, and **Eric Winquist MD** for interviewing 19 candidates. Megan Smith-Uffen, formally of McMaster University is the successful candidate.

Faculty News

Uday Deotare MD completed a Masters of Science (Healthcare Quality) in Quality at Queen's University.

Richard Kim MD reappointed as Wolfe Medical Research Chair in Pharmacogenomics, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry.

Ting-Yim Lee PhD awarded Inaugural Career Achievement Award by WORLDDiscoveries.

In the News

Glenn Bauman MD, Daniel Breadner MD, Derek Cool MD PhD, Aaron Fenster PhD and Paula Foster PhD featured in [OICR Impact Report 2022-2023](#).

Saman Maleki PhD in the [OICR Portal Newsletter](#) for "Fecal transplants bolster melanoma treatment in unique clinical trial."

Mansour Haeryfar PhD [Western News](#) for "Schulich researchers discover molecule with promise to enhance vaccine efficacy."

Trainee Corner

Cristian Cicciretto and Nicholas Bainbridge both MSc Candidates, are new additions to **Len Luyt PhD** lab.

Samuel Blake PhD recently started his CAMPED physics residency with **Stewart Gaede PhD** as his supervisor.

Claire Browne PGY4, best poster in Small Cell Lung Cancer Category at ESMO 2023, Spain. Browne is supervised by **Phillip Blanchette MD**.

Allie Dawson recently completed an Masters of Sciences in Pathology. Dawson is supervised by **Anthony Nichols MD**.

David DeVries recently completed his PhD in Medical Biophysics. DeVries was supervised by **Aaron Ward PhD**. David is now a CAMPEP physics resident supervised by **Stewart Gaede PhD**.

Muhammed Irfan Karamat PhD and Rob Stodilka PhD Candidate presented at CARO 2023. Both were/are supervised by **Stewart Gaede PhD**

Vivian Tan PGY3, presented her research orally at both ASTRO 2023 and at CARO 2023.

Resident Grand Rounds was hosted in August and the successful presenters were David DeVries PhD (CAMPED Resident), Rob Stodilka PhD (CAMPED Resident) and Vivian Tan PGY3.

Congratulations to the 2023-2024 Breast Cancer Research Scholarship [Awardees](#).

The Translational Immuno-Oncology Research Group (TIORG) hosted its annual retreat at the Bellamere Winery and Event Centre and held a Shark Tank Competition for its members. **Saman Maleki PhD** and **John Ronald PhD** presented prizes and trophies to Team Fu, Team Trozzo, Team Suchy, and Team Jabbari Zadeh.

Welcome

Shazia Donachie to Oncology. Donachie is the new Medical Oncology PGME Administrator. Prior to her new position, Shazia had been working in the Schulich UME office as the Curriculum Support Administrator for Longitudinal Courses.

Matthew Mouawad PhD to Medical Biophysics. Mouawad completed his CAMPED residency, and his PhD at Western University under the supervision of **Stewart Gaede PhD** and **Neil Gelman PhD** before practicing at CareCare Manitoba for a few years.

FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

CIHR Project Grant Competition (Spring 2023)

Pingzhao Hu PhD and **Samual Asfaha MD PhD** \$830,023 for 5 years for "A deep-learning approach to identify inhibitors of adherent invasive Escherichia coli in the pathogenesis of inflammatory bowel disease."

Aaron Ward PhD, Stephen Paulter MD and **Glenn Bauman MD** \$592,876 for 5 years for "Histopathology image analysis for prostate cancer prognosis after radical prostatectomy."

Kun Ping Lu PhD, **Xiao Zhen Zhou PhD**, and Douglas Fraser MD PhD \$100,000 for 1 year for "Identification of Novel Disease Drivers, Therapeutic Targets, and Biomarkers of Sepsis."

Lawson Health Research Institute IRF Competition Results (Spring 2023)

Daniel Breadner MD \$19,800 for 2 years for "Detection of Circulating Tumor DNA after Stereotactic Ablative Radiotherapy in Patients with Unbiopsied Lung Tumors (SABR-DETECT).

Danilo Giffoni MD \$18,763 for 2 years for "The Impact of Healthcare Disparities Among Local Health Integraton Networks (LHINs) and Cancer Centres in Ontario, Canada - Real World Data Evidence."

Qi Zhang MBBS PhD \$20,000 for 2 years for "Mapping the synaptic cues of altered neuronal circuit formation in perinatal hypoxia."

Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC)

Tallulah Andrews PhD, \$12,000 (1 year) and \$40,000 (5 years) for "Enabling comprehensive tissue characterication through integrated analysis of spatial transcriptomics and imaging data."

Wenqing He PhD, \$33,000 for 5 years for "Statistical learning of health data with complex features."

Shawn Li PhD, \$52,000 for 5 years for "Systematic identification and characterization of protein lysine methylation."

Joe Mymryk PhD, \$45,000 for 5 years for "A novel protein nuclear import-based methodology for the discovery of protein-protein interactions mediated by short linear motifs."

Timothy Scholl PhD, \$46,000 for 5 years for "Increasing the Sensivity of Magnetic Resonance Imaging with Reporter Genes."

Brian Shilton PhD, \$128,886 for "Preparative Ultracentrifuge and Rotors for Western BioCore Facility."

Schulich's Collaborative Research Seed Grant (CRSG) Program

Qi Zhang MBBS PhD and **Shawn Li PhD**, for "Spatial Proteogenomic landscape of breast cancer brain metastasis."

Vanessa Dumeaux PhD, **Muriel Brackstone MD PhD**, and **Armen Parsyan MD, PhD, DSc, MPH**, for "Tumor and systemic immune markers to measure breast cancer response to therapy."

WE-Spark Igniting Discovery and Incentive Grants (2023)

Caroline Hamm MD \$10,000 for "Expansion of the clinical trials (CTN) program with staged introduction of the navigator program to demonstrate benefit to availability of the CTN program."

Indryas Woldie MD \$15,000 for "A novel translational pipeline for the treatment of Multiple Myeloma."

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

Belyakov, O. et al. Advances in Boron Neutron Capture Therapy - IAEA TECDOC 1223 (Version 2). [International Atomic Energy Agency](#). June 2023.

Childs, M.D. et al. Analogues with Improved Stability and Functional Activity for PET Imaging. [ACS Pharmacology & Translational Science](#). June 2023.

Punchhi, Gopika et al. Real-world challenges in eligibility for MMR vaccination two years after autologous and allogeneic HSCT. [Vaccines](#). August 2023.

Ham, Dalton T. et al. A generalizable Cas9/sgRNA prediction model using machine transfer learning with small high-quality datasets. [Nature](#). September 2023.

Khurshid, H. et al. Systemic Therapy for Small-Lung Cancer: ASCO-Ontario Health (Cancer Care Ontario) Guideline. [Clinical Oncology](#). October 2023.

Lubanska, Dorota et al. E-learning and research experience exchange in the online setting of student peer mentor network during COVID-19 pandemic and beyond: A laboratory case study. [Biochem Mol Biol Educ](#). October 2023.



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