

ONC-INSIDER

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SPOTLIGHT



Oncology Research & Education Day Announces Plenary Speaker

Daniel Breadner MD and Saman Maleki PhD, event co-leads would like to announce that **Dr. Diwakar Davar** has been chosen as the 22nd Annual Oncology Research & Education Day plenary speaker. Dr. Davar is an Associate Professor of Medicine at University of Pittsburgh. He is the Clinical Director of the Melanoma and Skin Cancer Program as well as both a Hematologist and Medical Oncologist at UPMC Hillman Cancer Center. Check [here](#) for registration link and for more details about the Thursday June 12 event.



King Charles III Coronation Medal

Dr. Caroline Hamm was awarded the King Charles III Coronation Medal for her outstanding contributions to Canada and to her community. Dr. Hamm is an Associate Professor, Department of Oncology, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry - Windsor Campus and Associate Clinical Professorship, Department of Biomedical Sciences, University of Windsor. Dr. Hamm is also a founding member, and Clinical Research Director, WE-SPARK Cancer Research Group and a medical oncologist at Windsor Regional Hospital.

FACULTY NEWS & UPDATES

Shawn Li PhD - Canada Research Chair in Molecular and Epigenetic Basis of Cancer renewed.

Saman Maleki PhD - featured in LHSF's [Your Impact Magazine](#).

Timothy Nguyen MD and **Glenn Bauman MD** - featured on LHSC's [News](#).

Kun Ping Lu PhD - featured in [Rapport Magazine](#).

Lisa Porter PhD - awarded WE-SPARK Leadership Award, and the Ontario Medical Association Centennial Award.

Congratulations to **Muriel Brackstone MD**, **David D'Souza MD**, **Scott Ernst MD**, **Maria Parent MD**, **Kylea Potvin MD**, **Vikram Velker MD**, and **Eric Winquist MD** for being recognized by LHSC's Great Moments Program.

WELLNESS & RESILIENCY

Hematology Holiday Video

The Department of Medicine's Hematologists had a great time singing and dancing to the sounds of Queen when creating their holiday [video](#). Who would like to challenge them next year to a dance-off?

Physician Wellness Holiday Luncheon

A great lunch was had by all. Special thank you to the Department of Oncology for recognizing physician wellness as part of its Strategic Plan.

Resources: American Medical Association

Take a look at what resources the American Medical Association have [available](#).

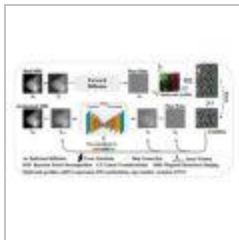
TRAINEE NEWS, EDUCATIONAL AND OTHER UPDATES

Trainee News



Aggregate Science Journal

Research by Nicholas Calvert et al. featured on the inside back cover page of [Aggregate Science Journal](#) (Dec 2024). "The careful selection of zwitterionic nanoparticle coating results in rapid and efficient cell labeling for imaging-based cell tracking." Calvert is supervised by **Paula Foster PhD**.



PLoS Computational Biology Journal

Research by Lianghong Chen PhD Candidate featured on the cover of [PLoS Computation Biology Journal](#) (Oct 2024). "Conditional probabilistic diffusion model driven synthetic radiogenomic applications in breast cancer." Chen is supervised by **Pingzhao Hu PhD**.

Matthew Borelli PhD - successfully defended his PhD thesis. Borelli is the recipient of a Karen Pooley Scholarship in Ovarian Cancer Research and an NSERC PGS-D award recipient. He was also a co-applicant on a successful 2024 Verspeeten Family Cancer Centre Catalyst Grant. Borelli is supervised by **Trevor Shepherd PhD**.

Saurav Verma MD - presented his research (poster presentation) at the 6th Annual Congress of Liquid Biopsy in Denver, Colorado.

CTCR Launches Trainee Spotlight

The Centre for Translational Cancer Research recently launched a bi-monthly trainee spotlight where 5 cancer trainees are randomly selected and featured on its [website](#). To date: Rober Abdo, Ryan Au, Natasha Sophie Bruce, Nitara Fernando, Oneeb Hassan, Morgan He, Megan Hong, Saqib Khan, Katelyn MacNeil, Julia Mason, Zhaocheng Nie, Jack Webb, Alyssa Wu, Timothy Yau and Komila Zakirova have been featured. Reach out to Kimberly.Scott@lhsc.on.ca to inquire about potentially being featured.

Canadian Cancer Society Event - Relay for Life

Hilary Bruce, an undergraduate student is organizing a fundraising event on February 12 from 5pm-8pm in UCC146 for CCS Relay for Life. Event is drop-in and will feature a rotating slideshow showcasing graduate students research. Contact [Hilary](#) for more information.

Canadian Organoid Network Conference: Save The Date

Save November 5 and 6 in your calendars as the date for the Canadian Organoid Network Conference being hosted at the Best Western Lampligher Inn and Conference Centre. More details to follow.

Immuno-Oncology Symposium: Save The Date

Join us on Wednesday May 7, 2025 for the 6th Annual Immuno-Oncology Symposium. Co-leads Saman Maleki PhD and John Ronald PhD are collaborating on another great event. Stay tuned for details.

Oncology Research Internship (ORIoN)

The ORIoN program was developed by **Chris Goodman MD** and **Tim Nguyen MD** to expose medical students to oncology research and raise awareness about choosing oncology as a medical speciality. This year's winners for Best Manuscript are: Areeb Hassan MD 2026, Jessa Letargo MD 2026, Amn Marwaha MD 2025, and Best Presentation: Ivy Verriet MD 2026, Christina Lim MD 2025, Alisiya Petrushkevich MD 2026.

Welcome

Ragda Ahmed MD - Breast Fellow to the Medical Oncology Program. Ahmed is supervised by **Jacques Raphael MD**.

Inci Yaman Bajin MD - Neuro Fellow to the Medical Oncology Program. Yaman Bajin is supervised by **Seth Climans MD** and **Maria MacDonald MD**.

Vikas Garg MD - Medical Oncologist to Windsor Cancer Program. Garg will be treating Breast, Gynecology, and Sarcoma Disease Sites.

Gopila Gupta MD - Hematologist to Windsor Cancer Program. Gupta will be treating acute leukemia, autologous, allogenic stem cell transplant, management of lymphomas and myeloma cancers.

Prathan Nathan PGY3 - July 1 to Medical Oncology Program. Nathan is currently a resident in Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry's Internal Medicine program.

Joanna Walters PGY2 - July 1 to the Medical Oncology Enhanced Clinical Skills Program. Walters is currently a resident in Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry's Family Medicine program.

WE-Spark Conference

WE-Spark Research Institute is working hard behind the scenes to make their March 22, 2025 conference a success. Follow [here](#) for more information.

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

CIHR Project Grant - 2024 Fall Competition

Catalyst Grant: Development and Validation of New Biomedical Techniques and Technologies

Len Luyt PhD, (Depts. of Chemistry, and Oncology) \$300,000 over 2 years for "Cyclic Peptide Nanotubes as a Platform Technology for Cancer Imaging Agents and Theranostics." Co-applicants include: **Chris Pin PhD**, **Michael Kovacs PhD** (Imaging), **Ting Lee PhD**. Collaborators include **Glenn Bauman MD**.

Project Grants:

Paula Foster PhD, (Depts. of Medical Biophysics and Oncology) – \$677,025 over 5 years for "Developing Magnetic Particle Imaging (MPI) Lymphography." Co-Applicant: **Armen Parsyan MD**.

John McCormick PhD, (Dept. of Microbiology & Immunology) - \$1,155,150 over 5 years for "Staphylococcal superantigens at the commensal-pathogen interface."

Trevor Shepherd PhD, (Depts. of Ob/Gyn, Oncology and Anatomy & Cell Biology) - \$879,750 over 5 years for "Evaluation of pharmacologic LKB1 inhibition as a new therapeutic strategy against ovarian cancer metastasis." Co-Applicants include **Jim Petrik PhD**.

Caroline Schild-Poulter PhD, (Depts. of Biochemistry, and Oncology) – \$100,000 for “Investigating the molecular pathology of WDR26 deficiency”. Co-Applicant: **Natalie Bérubé PhD**.

Krishna Kumar Singh PhD, (Depts. of Anatomy & Cell Biology, and Medical Biophysics) - \$100,000 for “Novel Mechanisms in Doxorubicin-induced Cardiomyopathy.” Co-Applicants include **Alison Allan PhD**.

Congratulations to the following members who were co-applicants on other successful grant applications: **Michael Boffa PhD**, **Dan Lizotte PhD**, and **John Ronald PhD**.

Canadian Space Agency

Paula Foster PhD, \$250,000 - "A novel in vivo imaging approach to reveal the effects of space-mediated immune cell dysregulation in hindlimb unloaded mouse models of cancer and inflammation."

Surgical Oncology Grants Competition (2024)

Catalyst Grant Competition:

Rahul Nayak MD, \$24,577 for "Optimal Palliation of Obstructing Esophageal Cancer."

Armen Parsyan MD, \$25,000 for "Studies of Artemis protein as a potential biomarker and drug target in triple-negative breast cancer."

SOSR Grant Competition:

Anthony Nichols MD, \$50,000 for 2 years for "Temporal Genomic and Transcriptomic Changes in HPV-Induced Carcinogenesis."

Muriel Bracktone MD, \$50,000 for 2 years for "A trial of neoadjuvant hypofractionated radiation with intratumoral pembrolizumab, followed by neoadjuvant chemotherapy, in stage 3 or high-risk stage 2 breast cancer (BRINK)."

Verspeeten Family Cancer Centre Catalyst Translational Cancer Research Grant Competition (2024)

Alison Allan PhD, \$25,000 for "Elucidating the Role of Phosphoproteome Dynamics in Regulating Stemness and Metastatic Behavior of Breast Cancer Cells." Co-applicant: **Vasu Bhat PhD**.

Eva Turley PhD, \$25,000 for "Targetting RHAMM to blunt radiotherapy-induced lung toxicity." Co-applicants: **Len Luyt PhD**, **Sarah Mattonen PhD** and **Eugene Wong PhD**.

Ricardo Fernandes MD, \$22,500 for "Association between androgen receptor pathway inhibitors and gastrointestinal microbiota in patients with prostate cancer (INTEGUT). Co-applicant: **Saman Maleki PhD**.

Jim Petrik PhD, \$25,000 for "Fc3TSR as a novel therapeutic in Advanced Stage Ovarian Cancer." Co-applicants include **Trevor Shepherd PhD**.

Matthew Cecchini MD PhD, \$22,500 for "Leveraging AI to Improve Patient Understanding of Prostate Cancer Pathology and Laboratory Medicine." Co-Applicants: include **Rohann Correa MD PhD**.

Pencilla Lang MD PhD, \$25,000 for "A Feasibility Study on Integrating Real-Time 3D Scanning of Surgical Specimens into Adjuvant Radiation Therapy Planning for Oral Cavity Cancer." Co-PI's: **Sarah Mattonen PhD**, **Doug Hoover PhD**. Co-Applicants: **Danielle MacNeil MD**, **Matthew Cecchini MD PhD**, Edward Wang MD/PhD Candidate.

Chris Pin PhD, \$25,000 for "Defining interplay between cancer and non-cancer cells using patient-derived organoids."

Armen Parysan PhD, \$25,000 for "Artemis as a novel target to enhance radiosensitivity in triple-negative breast cancer." Co-Applicants: **Alison Allan PhD** and **Vasu Bhat PhD**.

Teklab Gebregiorgis PhD, \$25,000 for "Characterizing Metabolic Phenotype of Pancreatic Cancer-Associated Fibroblasts."

Trevor Shepherd PhD, \$25,000 for "ULK-1 mediated regulation of mitochondrial dynamics in ovarian cancer spheroids."

Natalie Bérubé PhD, \$25,000 for "Oligodendrocyte precursors as cells in origin in astrocytomas."

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

Chau, Oi-Wai et al. Dosimetric Planning Comparison for Left Ventricle Avoidance in Non-small Cell Lung Cancer Radiotherapy. [Cureus](#). January 2025.

Fernando, N. et al. Magnetic particle imaging can be used to access tumor associated macrophage density in vivo. [International Journal of Magnetic Particle Imaging](#). March 2024.

MacKenzie R. et al. Anticoagulant management of cancer-associated thrombosis and thrombocytopenia: A retrospective. [Thrombosis Research](#). October 2024.

Nguyen T. et al. Ablative Radiation Therapy to Restrain Everything Safely Treatable (ARREST): A Phase 1 Study of Stereotactic Ablative Radiation Therapy for Polymetastatic Disease. [Int.Jour.RO.Bio.Phy](#). December 2024.

O'Donnell, Brooke L. et al. Pannexin 1 and pannexin 3 differentially regulate the cancer cell properties of cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma. [Journal of Physiology](#). November 2024.

Patel, Ram et al. Real-World Experience with CDK4/6 Inhibitors in the First-Line Palliative Setting for HR+/HER2- Advanced Breast Cancer. [Curr. Oncol](#). January 2025.

Reis, Cristiano Q.M. et al. Feasibility of volumetric-modulated arc therapy gating for cardiac radioablation using real-time ECG signal acquisition and a dynamic phantom. [Medical Physics](#). December 2024.

Sehl, OC. et al. Magnetic particle imaging enables nonradioactive quantitative sentinel lymph node identification: feasibility proof in murine models. [Radiol Adv](#). October 2024.

Trozzo, S. et al. A Comparison of the Sensitivity and Cellular Detection Capabilities of Magnetic Particle Imaging and Bioluminescence Imaging. [Tomography](#). November 2024.

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