
THE ONCOLOGY INSIDER

QUARTERLY NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF ONCOLOGY AND
CENTRE FOR TRANSLATIONAL CANCER RESEARCH (CTCR)

QUOTE OF THE DAY:

"SUCCESS COMES FROM CURIOSITY, CONCENTRATION & SELF-CRITICISM"

Spotlight on Integration

400+ Attendees Participated in Oncology Research and Education Day!



Photo credit to Dr. David Rodenhiser (@drodenhi1) – thank you for the incredible photos!

As a recap, here are a few of the main highlights from R&E Day:

- Opening remarks by special guests, including Mr. Kirk Baines (LHSF Campaign Co-Chair & President, Allied Financial Services Ltd.), Dr. Stephen Robbins (ICR Scientific Director, CIHR) and MP Peter Fragiskatos
- 8 engaging and information TED-Talks by a variety of trainees
- An impactful keynote lecture by Dr. Hergenrother on, *"Anticancer drug discovery, for pets and people"*
- Innovative research poster sessions, with over 80 abstracts submitted and presented!
- Facilitated networking sessions over lunch, swag bags and a photo booth!
- Social media engagement using the hash tags: #ONCRESEARCHDAY and #LndOntOncology
- An afternoon award ceremony celebrating various awards and research contributions

Check out photos from the day by [clicking here!](#)

Find hundreds of tweets from attendees by [clicking here!](#)

Please provide feedback if you have not already done so by [clicking here.](#)

Please contact Ms. Elizabeth Mazza (Project Manager, CTCR) for submissions: elizabeth.mazza@lhsc.on.ca

London Cancer Trials Take Center Stage!

Since the launch of the CCTC in 2011, the consortium has remarkably expanded to over 260 members across 31 institutions, including 12 of the major cancer centers in Ontario. CCTC allows you to look up clinical trials that are actively accruing patients posted by member sites. The search function enables you to select trial criteria from drop-down menus based on *Tumour Type, Tumour Subtype, Tumour Stage, Type of Treatment, and/or Institution.*

In May, there were 4 London trials were featured as, “**TRIALS OF THE MONTH**” ...

May 2017 Newsletter Volume 5, Issue 5				
TRIALS OF THE MONTH				
Type	Acronym	Study Title	Description	Site(s)
Breast	Complement-1	An Open-label, Multicenter, Phase IIIb Study to Assess the Safety and Efficacy of Ribociclib (LEE011) in Combination With Letrozole for the Treatment of Men and Pre/Postmenopausal Women With Hormone Receptor-positive (HR+) HER2-negative (HER2-) Advanced Breast Cancer (aBC) With no Prior Hormonal Therapy for Advanced Disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ER2 Positive Metastatic Systemic Therapy 	London Health Sciences Centre
GU	FASTR 2	Fairly Brief Androgen Suppression and Stereotactic Radiotherapy for High Risk Prostate Cancer – Protocol 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prostate Cancer Locally Advanced Radiation Therapy 	London Health Sciences Centre
Heme	Kallisto	An Open-Label, Phase II, Randomized, Pilot Study to Assess the Effect in Term of Erythroid Improvement of Deferasirox Combined With Erythropoietin Compared to Erythropoietin Alone in Patients with Low- and INT-1- Risk Myelodysplastic Syndrome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Myelodysplastic Syndromes Maintenance Systemic Therapy 	Odette Cancer Centre
GYN	PHL-093	A Randomized Placebo-Controlled Phase II Trial Comparing Gemcitabine Monotherapy to Gemcitabine in Combination With AZD 1775 (MK 1775) in Women With Recurrent, Platinum Resistant Epithelial Ovarian, Primary Peritoneal or Fallopian Tube Cancers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ovarian Adjuvant Systemic Therapy 	London Health Sciences Centre
Lung	NRG CC003	Randomized Phase III/III Trial of Prophylactic Cranial Irradiation With or Without Hippocampal Avoidance for Small Cell Lung Cancer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small Cell Lung Cancer Adjuvant Radiation Therapy 	London Health Science Centre

If you are interested in learning more about local clinical trials, please contact Mr. Richard McClelland at Richard.McClelland@lhsc.on.ca or Laura Bailey at LauraD.Bailey@lhsc.on.ca

Taking Action to Improve Aboriginal Cancer in Ontario

Together with FNIM nations and other Aboriginal partners, Cancer Care Ontario developed an Aboriginal Cancer Strategy in 2004 to address cancer issues, and create unique and diverse solutions for healing and health. Now in its third edition, the Plan provides a comprehensive roadmap to address the unique cancer care issues affecting Aboriginal communities in Ontario and outlines Cancer Care Ontario’s commitment for improving the FNIM patient journey. Learn more about the Aboriginal Cancer Strategy in Ontario by [clicking here](#) or get in touch with Chantel Antone (RPN, Aboriginal Patient Navigator) at chantel.antone@lhsc.on.ca or ext. 75471.

Londoner named ASTRO Fellow (FASTRO)!

The American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO) Annual Meeting is the world's most important meeting for the Radiation Oncology community, with more than 11,000 people attending each year.

Heartfelt congratulations to **Dr. George Rodrigues on being named the 2017 ASTRO Fellow (FASTRO)**. A well-deserved and great honour! The ASTRO Fellow designation (FASTRO) is awarded based on length of ASTRO membership and commendable service to ASTRO and to the field of radiation oncology.

There is strong London representation at ASTRO this year! Local Radiation Oncologists will be providing talks, moderating, chairing sessions and presenting posters. Rad Oncs include:

Dr. David Palma, Dr. Stacey Davidson, Dr. Joanna Laba, Dr. Tim Nguyen, Dr. Alex Louie, Dr. Chris Goodman, Dr. George Rodrigues, Dr. Mark Corkum, Dr. Glenn Bauman, Dr. Hanbo Chen, Dr. Brian Yaremko, Dr. Rohann Correa, Dr. Edward Yu, Dr. David D'Souza and Dr. Vikram Velker.

Find out more about our Radiation Oncologists involvement by visiting the [ASTRO conference website here](#).

Spotlight on Innovation

Oncology's Strategic Plan

The [Strategic Plan](#) is the result of a 14-month process that saw us engage over 200 faculty, staff and stakeholders through surveys, focus groups and one-on-one interviews.

"Where exceptional cancer care, research and education unite to improve the future of cancer patients" ...grounded in values of respect, trust, collaboration, innovation and life-long learning.

The [Department of Oncology Strategy Map](#) is an excellent framework that can help guide decision-making, project planning, recruitment, accountability and much more!

Leading the Way in the Characterization of Intestinal Stem Cells in Colorectal Cancer

Colorectal cancer (CRC) is the second leading cause of cancer death in Canada. A major risk factor is chronic inflammation; however, the precise mechanism by which inflammation predisposes to cancer is not known. In the rapidly dividing intestine, long-lived stem cells responsible for normal regeneration are also presumed to be the cell of origin for cancer. **Dr. Samuel Asfaha** recently developed a novel colitis-associated cancer model in which he identified the cell of cancer origin. He now aims to determine how inflammation targets these cells in cancer initiation and further identify novel targets for CRC therapy in Ontarians.

"Ontario's current and future prosperity and quality of life depend on how well we innovate, which is why our government partners with institutions across the province to support leading researchers"

– Reza Moridi, Minister of Research, Innovation and Science.

TAKING AIM: New Technology for Assessing Tumour Recurrence

Dr. John Ronald's research focuses on pioneering novel molecular and cellular imaging technologies to improve early cancer detection and treatment, as well as improve monitoring of state-of-the-art cellular therapies for cancer and other diseases. To accomplish this, Dr. Ronald's lab is investigating the development of novel gene-based platforms that strategically integrate disease-specific activatable expression systems with both biofluid-based and multimodality imaging readouts. This work is at the interface of molecular and cell biology, imaging sciences, and nanomedicine and requires a multidisciplinary approach to devise innovative solutions to some of today's most difficult biomedical problems.

ANALYTICS MATTER! Keep an eye on the analytics...

ICite Tool and Relative Citation Ratio (RCR)

iCite is a tool to access a dashboard of bibliometrics for papers associated with a portfolio. Users type in a PubMed query or upload the PubMed IDs of articles of interest, optionally grouping IDs for comparison. iCite then displays the number of articles, articles per year, citations per year, and Relative Citation Ratio (a field-normalized metric that shows the scientific influence of one or more articles relative to the average NIH-funded paper). A range of years can be selected, as well as article type (all, or only research articles), and individual articles can be toggled on and off. Users can download a report table with the article-level detail for later use or further visualization.

Read about how the **Relative Citation Ratio (RCR)** is calculated by [clicking here](#). RCR is a new metric tool that uses citation rates to measure influence at the article level.

Altmetrics

Altmetrics is a web-based platform to track, search and measure the attention that scholarly articles are receiving online, primarily via social media. Altmetrics is excellent for those who want to showcase their impact immediately. Find additional resources by [clicking here](#).

Upcoming Altmetric conference September 26-29, 2017, TO, ONT: The program will include recent developments in Altmetrics, Altmetrics in research evaluation, how to use and interpret the data, societal impacts of Altmetrics and much more. Find more about the conference by [clicking here](#).

Cancer System Quality Index (CSQI)

The CSQI tracks Ontario’s progress related to cancer, shows where quality and performance improvements are needed, and reports on 35 evidence-based quality measures covering every aspect of cancer control, from cancer prevention to survivorship. Find the assessment tool by [clicking here](#).

Safe		Good. Many processes for a safe cancer system are in place. However, there is room for improvement in deepening the understanding of complications of care and supporting patients needs, during active treatment phase.
Effective		Good. More cancer patients are receiving care based on the best available evidence across the care continuum. Guidelines selected for CSQI are system-focused and continue to require efforts to achieve targets and consistency across regions.
Accessible		Fair. Ontarians continue to access many specialist services they need within appropriate timeframes. However, wait times for other services including testing, and supportive care require improvements for timely access to these resources.
Responsive		Fair. Opportunities for improvement still exist with respect to real-time measures of patient experience and outcomes. More emphasis is needed on patient quality of life during and after treatment.
Equitable		Fair. Inequity exists, however, for some measures in the cancer system, equitable care is being realized. Coordinated efforts using a holistic approach across the system are needed to ensure equal health status across Ontario.
Integrated		Fair. More efforts are required to measure the level of coordination across the various functions and services within Ontario's cancer system. The goal is to support seamless and effective patient transitions regardless of location or provider.
Efficient		Fair. There are examples of efficient use of services in cancer screening. However, more meaningful measures identifying ways of optimizing system resources are needed without compromising health outcomes.
<p>* Very Good Good Fair Poor Incomplete Data</p>		

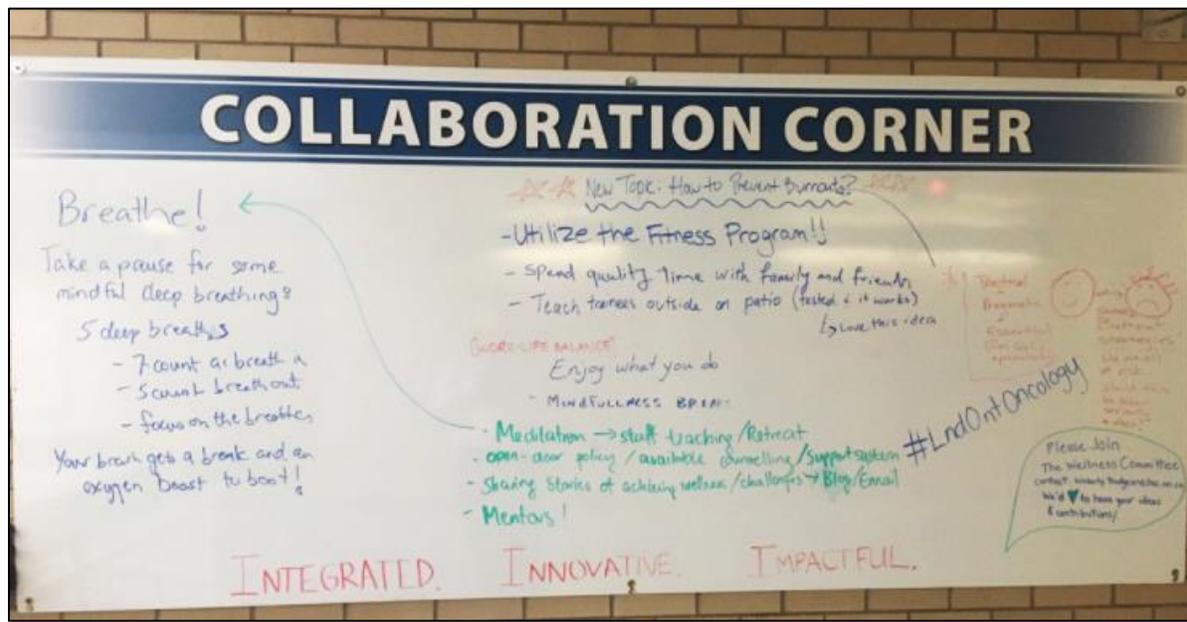
Find other CCO tools by visiting: www.cancercare.on.ca and viewing the CCO toolbox.

It's Coming... Competency-Based Medical Education!

Competency Based Medical Education (CBME) will enhance patient care by improving specialist training and life-long learning, ensuring physicians demonstrate the skills and behaviours required to continuously meet evolving patient needs. CBME measures learning rather than time, and learner's progress by demonstrating their competence or mastery of knowledge or skill. [Find resources and tools for CBME by clicking here!](#)

Collaborators Corner – WHERE GREAT MINDS UNITE!

Collaborators Corner is located on the 3rd floor of the LRCP. It is a virtual and physical space that enables collaboration, learning and brainstorming city-wide. We kindly encourage all colleagues to visit the board and leave research questions, potential collaboration opportunities and respond to others!



Visit the board before or after Grand Rounds, while visiting or meeting at the LRCP, take a quick coffee break and stop by with colleagues or tweet/email Elizabeth Mazza for your comments to be shared on the board!

Spotlight on Impact

NEW! Wellness Committee

The importance of work-life-balance has been clearly identified throughout the Strategic Planning process. A Wellness Committee has been created to proactively address the stressful environment we work in. The Wellness & Resiliency Task Force includes faculty, staff, residents and Dr. Mithu Sen (Assistant Dean, Schulich Faculty Equity and Wellness) to ensure good representation of the Department of Oncology. For more information about the Wellness Committee, or to request to participate, please email Stacie Gowan: Stacie.Gowan@lhsc.on.ca

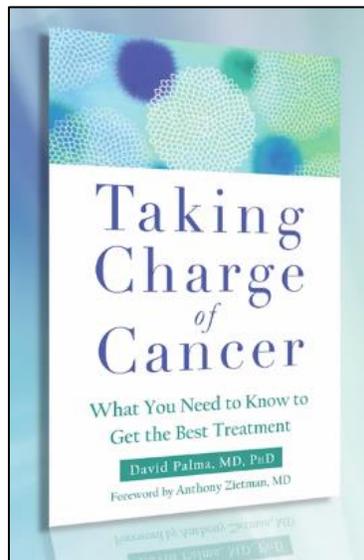
Taking Charge of Cancer by Dr. David Palma

Getting high-quality cancer treatment is important. For a patient with cancer, the quality of their care can have a major impact on their chances of success. Dr. David Palma's new book *Taking Charge of Cancer* is the first book geared towards helping patients' get top-notch cancer treatment. The book helps teach you:

- How to obtain and decipher your medical records.
- How to make sure all the correct tests are done, and that you are assigned the correct stage.
- How doctors decide which treatments are best, and why doctors can be biased.
- How to double-check your doctors' treatment recommendations against published guidelines.
- How to ensure you are receiving top-notch surgery, radiation, or chemotherapy.
- How to make sure all the correct procedures are in place for follow-up after treatment is finished.
- How to distinguish myths from truths about cancer treatment.

In the spirit of the fight against cancer, Dr. Palma has arranged for all author royalties to be sent to the London Health Sciences Foundation, to be used for cancer research.

For more information on this book, please [click here!](#)



CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS...

Deans Awards of Excellence

As educators, researchers, innovators and leaders, this year's Awards of Excellence recipients are making a difference at the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry. For a full list of all award winners, [please click here](#).

A special congratulations to **Ms. Kimberly Trudgeon** (UME & MO PGME Program Administrator & Oncology Grand Rounds Coordinator) for receiving the Dean's Award of Excellence in the Newcomer Award category.

Lawson Impact Awards

The Lawson Impact Awards recognize excellence in academics, leadership, training, operations, industry and innovation. [For a full list of award winners, please click here](#).

Congratulations to members of our Department of Oncology for being recognized:

Dr. Peeyush Lala - Scientist Career Award

Drs. Glenn Bauman and Aaron Ward - Innovation Award

Charles Ishak - Leadership Award (Student & Trainee)

Oncology Research and Education Day Winners and Recognition

Poster Award Winners

Ingrid Qemo, Emily Rodrigues and Katie Parkins, Adrian Buensuceso, Andrew Deweyert and Parima Saxena

Oral Presentation Award Winners

Kara Ruicci and Peter Martin

Department of Oncology's Excellence in Academic and Teaching Awards

Division of Medical Oncology: **Dr. Sara Kuruvilla**

Division of Radiation Oncology: **Dr. Jeff Cao**

Division of Surgical Oncology: **Dr. Jonathon Izawa**

Division of Experimental Oncology: **Dr. Alison Allan**

Division of Windsor Oncology: **Dr. Junaid Yousuf**

Denise Power Cancer Research Staff Award

Carl Postenka

We also formally acknowledged two individuals for their tremendous contributions to cancer research:

Dr. Jerry Batista, recently received the 2017 Canadian Organization of Medical Physics (COMP) Gold Medal Award, he was recently conferred as Professor Emeritus at the Convocation Ceremony for Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry (Doctor of Medicine, Class of 2017) and he was also awarded the prestigious Canadian Association of Physicists and the Canadian Organization of Medical Physicists 2017 CAP-COMP Peter Kirkby Memorial Medal

Dr. Mary Mathews, Resident in Medical Oncology, was recently announced as the winner of the Dr. Ed Brecivic Award for Compassionate Care

Human Touch Awards

CCO's Human Touch Awards recognize and celebrate the compassion and dedication of healthcare professionals, providers and volunteers in Ontario's cancer and kidney care communities.

Congratulations to **Dr. Michael Lock**, Radiation Oncologist, Human Touch Award Recipient for services in cancer care.

Learn more about Dr. Lock's contributions by [clicking here!](#)

When it comes to patient care, Dr. Michael Lock has a reputation for going above and beyond. He is dedicated to ensuring each individual patient receives the best possible care and support – even if that means he is the last person in the clinic each night. Dr. Lock is not only a leader in person-centered care, but a firm advocate of improving treatment by continuing to seek new evidence and innovations. Aside from delivering exceptional care, Dr. Lock is a source of positivity in the lives of his patients and colleagues, bringing kindness, warmth and sincerity to the center each and every day.

Dr. Litchfield Appointed Vice Dean, Research and Innovation

Congratulations to **Dr. David Litchfield**, who has been appointed as Vice Dean, Research & Innovation effective July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2023.

Dr. Litchfield's research is directed toward elucidation of the biochemical mechanisms that control the growth and survival of mammalian cells since defects in these mechanisms underlie many human diseases including cancer, atherosclerosis, neurological disorders and immune dysfunction. The current emphasis of this research is on the development of functional proteomics and chemical biology strategies to investigate protein kinases and the potential of kinase inhibitors as therapeutic agents for applications of Precision Medicine. These studies have involved a number of collaborations locally, nationally and internationally.

Schulich Medicine & Dentistry Internal Graduate Awards recipients named...

Congratulations to the recipients of the Schulich Medicine & Dentistry Internal Graduate Awards, including:

Norman E. Nixon Marie Rämö Nixon Award

Katie Parkins, MSc Candidate, Medical Biophysics

Supervisors: John Ronald, PhD, and Paula Foster, PhD

Morris Kroll Award

Ashley Makela, PhD Candidate, Medical Biophysics

Supervisor: Paula Foster, PhD

Nellie Farthing Fellowship in Medical Sciences

Tyler Beveridge, PhD Candidate, Anatomy and Cell Biology

Supervisors: Brian Allman, PhD, and Dr. Nicholas Power

Jonathan & Joshua Memorial Graduate Scholarship

Renee Tamming, PhD Candidate, Biochemistry

Supervisor: Nathalie Berube, PhD

For a full list of all award winners, [please click here](#).

Habits of Effective Leaders and Teams

Follow the simply [H.A.B.I.T. framework](#) as a guide to help you improve your leadership and teamwork skills.

Whenever possible, simply choose, even in the smallest way, to behave in a way that is more aligned with these 5 positive traits that are the building blocks of a highly effective leadership habit: **Humility, Authenticity, Bravery, Intention, and Tenacity.**

“Good habits have the power to transform your leadership...”

Humility – There is research to support the importance of humility to an effective leadership habit. Jim Collins, in his well-known book, [“Good to Great”](#), studied successful CEOs to discover the secrets of their effectiveness. He found that the most high-performing leaders had a combination of both “humility and fierce resolve.”

Authenticity – Authenticity is essential for building trust and guiding your leadership decisions to ensure you behave in a way that is true to yourself.

Bravery – Bravery can be practiced. The more you practice leaning in, no matter how daunting it can be, the easier it will get, and the more meaningfully you’ll be able to respond to problems with agility and skill.

Intention – Adopting a mastery model in which you treat leadership as a craft: honed with intention, practiced mindfully, and improved constantly.

Tenacity – Professor Angela Duckworth finds in her book, [“Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance”](#), tenacity predicts success. Frankly, you can have astounding levels of innate talent, but if you aren’t able to persist when the going gets tough, you’re not going to get very far.

“Habits are formed by practice and repetition — by simply making better choices more often”

Department of Oncology & CTCR

"Where exceptional care, education and research unite to improve the future of cancer patients"

OPEN MIC!

"Open Mic" is a new initiative aimed at encouraging colleagues to send in feedback, suggestions, ideas or aspirational goals for the Department of Oncology and CTCR!



Email Elizabeth Mazza (elizabeth.mazza@lhsc.on.ca) to be featured in our next newsletter!

Oncology News Hub

LIST OF ALL ONCOLOGY-RELATED NEWS...

ONE-STOP SHOP – HYPERLINKED FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE!

Various organization news outlets:

- [Canadian Institutes of Health Research \(CIHR\) Institute of Cancer Research](#)
- [Lawson Health Research Institute](#)
- [Windsor Cancer Research Group](#)
- [Windsor Regional Cancer Program](#)
- [Centre for Translational Cancer Research \(CTCR\)](#)
- [Ontario Institute of Cancer Research \(OICR\)](#)
- [Robarts Research Institute](#)
- [WORLDiscoveries](#)
- [London Health Sciences Foundation](#)
- [BioCanRx](#)
- [Canadian Cancer Clinical Trials Network](#)
- [Cancer Care Ontario](#)
- [London Regional Cancer Program](#)
- [Department of Oncology](#)
- [Canadian Cancer Society](#)
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Individuals distributing Oncology-related news:

- Mady Hymowitz (via Mady.Hymowitz@schulich.uwo.ca)
- Kimberly Trudgeon (via Kimberly.Trudgeon@lhsc.on.ca)
- Stacey Dinel (via stacey.dinel@schulich.uwo.ca)
- Donna DeFrancesco (via ddefranc@uhnresearch.ca)
- Newsletter from Glenn and Neil (via email)
- Oncology Grand Rounds (via Carol.Dolan@lhsc.on.ca)
- Gabe Boldt LRCP Library (via Gabriel.Boldt@lhsc.on.ca)
- Elizabeth Mazza (via elizabeth.mazza@lhsc.on.ca)

If you would like your website or news outlet featured on the Oncology News Hub, please submit a request to Elizabeth Mazza (elizabeth.mazza@lhsc.on.ca).