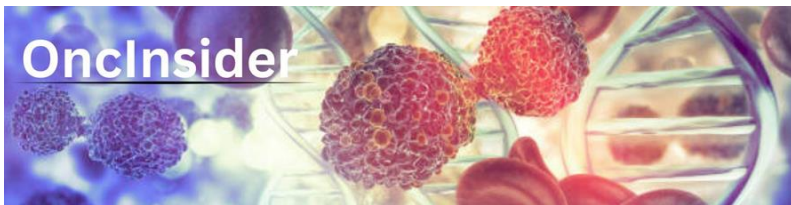


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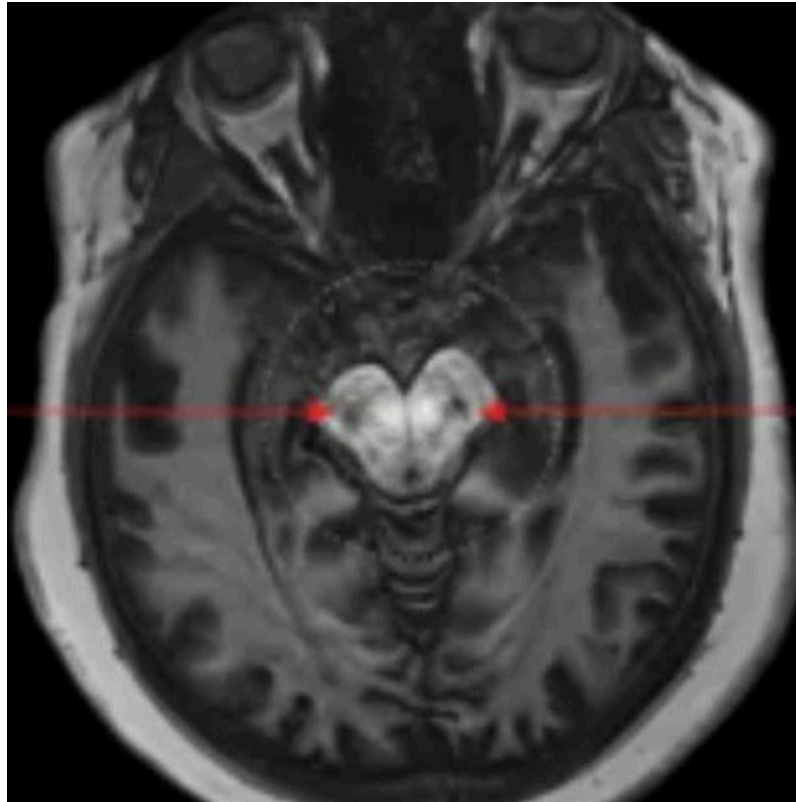


February 2026

Spotlight







Distinguished Scientist Named to Western Secretariat

Dr. Fred Dick is a Professor in the Departments of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, and Oncology was recently named to Western University's Secretariat as a faculty representative in the Medicine & Dentistry constituency. Dr. Dick is a Distinguished Scientist at the Verspeeten Family Cancer Centre, Cancer Research Laboratory Program, London Health Sciences Research Institute.

Oncology Research & Education Day names Plenary Speaker

Dr. Peter J. H. Scott has been named this year's plenary speaker. Dr. Scott is the Paul L. Carson Collegiate Professor of Radiology, with appointments in Medicinal Chemistry, and Pharmacology at the University of Michigan. Dr. Scott is also the Director PET Center,

Associate Chair for Basic Science Research, Chair Radiation Policy Committee and Co-Chair Radioactive Drug Research Committee. Registration for the event is open. More details about the Thursday June 18 event are located [here](#).

Top 12 Stories of 2025: A Year of Medical Discovery

London Health Sciences Research Institute named its top twelve research stories of 2025. Three Department of Oncology faculty members were included in the list: Drs. Glenn Bauman, Derek Cool and Saman Maleki. Full story [here](#) about imaging solutions for recurring prostate cancer, how internal radiation is targeting kidney cancer, and how fecal pills are being used in advanced pancreatic cancer patients.

Faculty News and Updates



Season 2 of [The Catalysts](#) "The Science of Cancer is now streaming. The eight-episode series features seven members of the Department of Oncology namely (in order of episodes) David Palma MD PhD, Sarah Mattonen PhD, Richard Kim MD PhD, John Ronald PhD, Mansour Haeryfar PhD, Saman Maleki PhD, and Ana Lohmann MD PhD.

Cross Appointees to Oncology

We welcome Sara Balvardi MD, Uriel Clemente MD, Farhad Ghasemi MD, Catherine Sarre MD to the Department of Oncology. All are members of the Department of Surgery.

Grants

2025 Verspeeten Family Cancer Centre Translational Cancer Catalyst Research Grant Competition. Successful awardees were Alison Allan PhD, Samuel Asfaha MD PhD, Rohann Correa MD PhD with Ricardo Fernandes MD, Fred Dick PhD, Vanessa Dumeaux PhD, Silvia Penuela PhD with Kathryn Roth MD, Jim Petrik PhD with Leslie Jefferies PhD, John Ronald PhD. [More](#)

Cancer Research Society 2025 Operating Grant Funding. Successful awardees were Samuel Asfaha MD PhD, John Di Guglielmo PhD, Shawn Li PhD, Chris Pin PhD, and John Ronald PhD. [More](#)

Canadian Institutes of Health Research. Successful awardees were Silvia Penuela PhD \$994,500 over 5 years for "Proteoforms of PANX1 as novel regulators in melanoma" and John Ronald PhD \$994,500 over 5 years for "Molecular Imaging Tools for Visualizing Base Editing Therapy of Alpha-1 Anti-Trypsin Deficiency."

Hamid Mithoowani MD co-applicant with team from Ottawa Hospital Research Institute for "A Pragmatic, multicentre randomized study evaluating the benefits and risks of adjuvant endocrine therapy in patients aged 70 years or older with low-risk breast cancer (REaCT-70 Study). [More](#)

Octapharma Canada Inc. Chai Phua MD \$20,000 for "Development of a Surgical Planning Protocol Web Form and Adaptive Pharmacokinetic (PK) Dosing Framework with Machine Learning in Patients with Von Willebrand Disease (VWD) Undergoing Surgery."

Surgical Oncology: Surgical Repair Funded (SORS) Team Research Grants. Recipients were Armen Parsyan MD PhD for "Investigating Novel Vulnerabilities in Triple-Negative Breast Cancer: Studies of NF1, ARG1, and G1TR, Surgical Oncology: Surgical Repair Funded 9S. Catherine Sarré MD and Allison Maciver MD for "Evaluation of Compliance with Pan-Canadian Consensus Recommendations for Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumor (GIST) Management in a Regional Cancer Centre."

Congratulations

Hamid Mithoowani MD for completing his Master's of Science from Oxford University with distinction. His dissertation was titled "Outcomes in patients receiving dose-reduced versus full-dose treatment for first-line metastatic breast cancer - a systematic review and meta-analysis."

In The News

Belal Ahmad MD, "Radiation therapy used to treat heart condition in milestone project." [Here](#).

Glenn Bauman MD, Mathew Cecchini MD PhD, Stewart Gaede PhD, Aaron Ward PhD featured in the recent edition of the London Health Sciences Foundation biannual [magazine](#). Dr. Bauman also featured in the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research February [newsletter](#).

Matthew Cecchini MD PhD. "Gamifying Pathology Education". [The Pathologist](#). Cecchini recently started a new YouTube series called [The Augmented Pathologist](#).

Richard Fernandes MD, Saman Maleki PhD. "Poop pills developed in London show promise for cancer patients in early trial." [CTV News](#). Several other media outlets such as The Sun, CP24, and London Free Press also published articles as well as Western's The Pulse.

Lisa Porter PhD, Marathon of Hope Cancer Centres Network." [Q & A with Dr. Lisa Porter](#): Bringing Hope and Discovery to Communities Across Canada. "

South-West Regional Cancer Program 2024-2028 Strategic Plan released. [More](#)

Presentations

Mohammad Biglari MD. MO Fellow, will be presenting his research (via poster) at the Canadian Melanoma Conference, Vancouver BC, February 2026.

Ana Lohmann MD PhD gave a talk at the Breast Cancer Survivorship and Supportive Care International Conference, Windsor Ontario, November 2025.

Saman Maleki PhD, gave a talk at the National Pancreas Conference on microbiome FMT trial and other immune modulators, London Ontario, December 2025. He also gave a talk at the Cancer Translational Research Horizons Conference, Montreal Quebec, December 2025. Dr. Maleki was also a panel member during one of the conference sessions.

Radiation Oncology CaRMS Interviews

RO hosted its annual CaRMS interviews on February 3. Special thanks to the following: Aquila Akingbade MD, June Cheng Baron PhD, Stacey Davidson MD, Chris Goodman MD, Stephanie Gulstene MD, Adam Mutsaers MD, Joanna Laba MD, Timothy Nguyen MD, Shaheer Shahhat MD, Kathleen Surry PhD, Vikram Velker MD. Matches to be announced March 3.

Wellness & Resiliency

Welcome Stacey Davidson MD as the new Oncology Wellness Lead. Dr. Davidson is a radiation oncologist at the Verspeeten Family Cancer Centre.

St Joseph's Health Care London recently launched its [Credentialed Professional SharePoint site](#) detailing a list of available resources. LHSC continues to work on its site. Will advise when live.

Trainee News and Updates



ORIoN - Oncology Research Internship Awards

Lais Marques Eiras, Anthony Luginaah, and Angel Wong were recipients of an Oncology Research Internship (ORIoN) Award. This program offers medical students the opportunity to be mentored by radiation oncology residents. The program takes the students through all the steps of writing an oncology case report to submitting it for publication. Special thanks to Enxhi Kotrri RO PGY3 and Andrea Vucetic RO PGY3 for coordinating this year's program.

Awards

Vivian Tan RO PGY5, recipient of the Betty Rice Award, Canadian Lung Cancer Conference. Only three awards are given out each year to promote lung cancer research by clinical fellows or graduate students at the Canadian Lung Cancer Conference.

Peter Zeng MD PhD Candidate - 2025 CGS//PROQUEST Distinguished Dissertation Award for "One Patient to Hundreds: Molecular Portraits of Common and Rare Diseases in the Head and Neck. Only two awards are given out each year. Zeng is supervised by Anthony Nichols MD PhD. [More](#)

Congratulations

Fatema Abdullatif MSc Candidate, supervised by Teklab Gebregiworgis PhD and to Danial Hadi MD Fellow, supervised by John Lenehan MD for both receiving poster awards at National Pancreas Conference.

Danial Hadi MD Fellow and Stephanie Leighton PhD Candidate were selected to represent graduate trainees on the Centre for Translational Cancer Research (CTCR) management committee.

Faisal Hussain MO MD PGY5 will be starting a GU Fellowship July 1 in London. Raman Sambhi MO MD PGY5 will be starting a Breast Fellowship July 1 in Toronto.

Dan Stefan MSc. Candidate awarded best talk at Anatomy & Cell Biology Research Day while Justin Tang PhD Candidate won a best poster award. Both are supervised by Silvia Penuela PhD.

Vivian Tan RO MD PGY5 and Sherif Ramadan RO MD PGY5 both passed their written and oral Royal College examinations. Tan will be traveling to Melbourne Australia in July and starting a fellowship at Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre while Ramadan will be starting his pediatric and CNS malignancies fellowship at Princess Margaret Hospital in Toronto.

Elena Tay 3rd year nursing student, mentored by Pencilla Lang MD PhD and Eric Winkvist MD had her abstract selected for poster presentation at 2026 Multidisciplinary Head and Neck Cancers Symposium in Palm Springs, CA.

Meet the Researcher

Nitara Fernando PhD Candidate featured on Breast Cancer Canada website. [More](#)

Successful Doctoral Defense

Julia Mason PhD, for "The Design and Synthesis of Fluorine-Contained Peptides for the Discovery of Targeted Radiopharmaceuticals". Mason was supervised by Len Luyt PhD.

Welcome

Jacob Moreau, McMaster University co-op student for an 8-month internship in the Luyt Lab.

Angela Tsai MO PGY3 to Medical Oncology Residency Program starting July 1. Tsai will be joining us from the University of Toronto.

Research Publications

Bainbridge, Nicholas A. (Len Luyt). Synthesis and lanthanum coordination of a BzMacropa analogue for convenient solid-phase peptide synthesis towards targeted alpha therapeutic discovery. [Journal of Inorganic Biochemistry](#). April 2026.

Duttagupta, Sreya (S. Maleki, B. Routy & A. Elkrief). Fecal microbiota transplantation plus immunotherapy in non-small cell lung cancer and melanoma: the phase 2 FMT-LUMINate trial. [Nature Medicine](#). January 2026.

Fernandes, Ricardo (M. Silverman & S. Maleki). Fecal microbiota transplantation plus immunotherapy in metastatic renal cell carcinoma: the phase 1 PERFORM trial. [Nature Medicine](#). January 2026.

Jeong, Jessica (S. Maleki). Microbial-Derived Metabolites and Their Impact on Cancer Immunotherapy. [Cancer Immunology Research](#). January 2026.

Lubanska, Dorota (L. Porter). Atypical cell cycle regulation over neural stem cell expansion. [Stem Cell Reports](#). January 2026.

Mendez, Lucas C. Ultrahypofractionated Versus Conventionally Fractioned Whole-pelvis Radiotherapy in Prostate Cancer: A Randomized Clinical Trial. [European Urology Oncology](#). January 2026.

Sanchez-Pupo, Rafael Enrique and Kelly John Joseph (J. Ronald). Imaging CRISPR-edited CAR-T cell therapies with optical and positron emission tomography reporters. [Theranostics](#). January 2026.

Sun, Yan (Pingzhao Hu). Generative AI for the Design of Molecules: Advances and Challenges. [Journal of Chemical Information and Modeling](#). November 2025.

Yau, Timothy (S. Gaede). Feasibility of ultra-low-dose volumetric 4D-CT with frame averaging for high-fidelity respiratory motion assessment and improved image quality. [Medical Physics](#). January 2026.



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