

Focus on Faculty #30

Carmela Pepe



[Dr. Carmela Pepe](#) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine and the Gerald Bronfman Department of Oncology at McGill University. In 2007 she joined the Pulmonary Division at the Jewish General Hospital as a Respirologist with sub-specialty expertise in lung cancer diagnosis and treatment.

After completing Internal Medicine and Respirology Fellowships at McGill, Dr. Pepe pursued Pulmonary Oncology Clinical Fellowship training at Princess Margaret Hospital - University Health Network under the mentorship of Dr. Frances Shepherd and Dr. Natasha Leighl. During her fellowship, she developed an interest and expertise in the treatment of lung cancer in the elderly, helping to develop algorithms to assess their fitness for chemo and supportive therapies. She continues to pursue an active clinical interest in this vulnerable and often underserved group of patients.

Dr. Pepe's pulmonary oncology practice is part of the multidisciplinary group at the Peter Brojde Lung Cancer Centre which focuses on a patient-centered clinical and holistic approach to lung cancer care. Her clinical and research activities include participation in clinical trials in lung cancer with targeted therapies and immunotherapy, as well as investigator-led clinical research. During this time of exciting changes in the diagnosis and treatment of lung cancer, the explosion of treatment options and an increasing emphasis on the personalization of care, Dr. Pepe is thrilled to be providing cutting edge care to her patients.

From an academic standpoint, Dr. Pepe has an avid interest in medical education and teaching. She has been a mentor and teacher at every level of training: respiratory physiology teaching, Transition to Clinical Practice (TCP) leader, Osler Fellow for McGill's Physicianship course, and Site Supervisor for the Jewish General Hospital respirology rotation. She is in charge of

arranging and supervising the educational experience of students and residents in the Pulmonary Division, including their pulmonary oncology training, as well as scheduling academic pulmonary rounds within the division. She also is a member of the McGill Respiriology Training Committee.

Dr. Pepe serves on the Respiriology Board of Examiners for specialty certification at the Royal College. She has been an invited speaker at numerous local, national and international meetings and has served as a medical expert for Quebec's Institut National d'Excellence en Sante et en Services Sociaux (INESSS). More recently, she has become involved in women's issues in pulmonary medicine and is a founding member of the "Groupe Féminin en Pneumo". This group, which includes women respirologists across Quebec, holds bi-annual talks which focus on topics that touch women's health in pulmonary medicine. Dr. Pepe also organizes the annual "Women in Pulmonary Spa Getaway" which serves as a wonderful social and team-bonding experience for all the women physicians and staff in the Pulmonary Division at the Jewish General Hospital!

Outside of work Dr. Pepe values her time spent with her husband and two boys. She also enjoys getting together with family and friends, music and concerts, and outdoor pastimes.

We asked Dr. Pepe to list a few of her articles whose work she is particularly proud or enjoyed the most. This is what she provided:

Pepe C, Hasan B, Winton TL, Seymour L, Graham B, Livingston RB, Johnson DH, Rigas JR, Ding K, Shepherd FA; National Cancer Institute of Canada and Intergroup Study JBR.10. Adjuvant vinorelbine and cisplatin in elderly patients: National Cancer Institute of Canada and Intergroup Study JBR.10 J Clin Oncol. 2007 Apr 20;25(12):1553-61.

C. Pepe, F. Shepherd. EGFR Inhibitors in Treatment of Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer. Oncology Exchange 2006; 5: 23-26.

Albanna AS, Kasymjanova G, Robitaille C, Cohen V, Brandao G, **Pepe C**, Small D, Agulnik J. Comparison of the yield of different diagnostic procedures for cellular differentiation and genetic profiling of non-small-cell lung cancer. J Thorac Oncol. 2014 Aug;9(8):1120-5