

Focus on Faculty #35

Carmen G. Loiselle



Born in Montréal, [Dr. Carmen G. Loiselle](#) always wanted to be a nurse although her father tried to convince her (unsuccessfully) to become a full-time lifeguard. She obtained a Ph.D. in Nursing and Psychology from the University of Wisconsin in Madison. At McGill she is a Professor in the Gerald Bronfman Department of Oncology where she is the Director of the Oncology Nursing and Psychosocial Oncology programs. She is also a Professor in the Ingram School of Nursing. In 2011 Dr. Loiselle was appointed as the Christine and Herschel Victor/Hope & Cope Chair in Psychosocial Oncology and was reappointed for another 5-year term in 2016. At the Jewish General Hospital she is the Co-Director (Academic) of the Segal Cancer Centre.

Dr. Loiselle's interest in research was sparked early through her work as a research nurse at the Royal Victoria Hospital's clinical research unit. This prompted the beginning of a program of research on how to best support individuals newly diagnosed with cancer and enhance their experience with the health care system using e-health and m-health platforms. As the national leader of a Strategic Training Initiative in Health Research called PORT (Psychosocial Oncology Research Training), Dr. Loiselle established a 13-year CIHR-funded transdisciplinary training program for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows from a variety of disciplines pursuing research in cancer survivorship at six renowned Canadian universities. Over the years, PORT fellows produced over 340 peer-reviewed publications and 400 scientific presentations.

As Scientific Director of Hope & Cope—a cancer support community initiative with more than 500 volunteers—Dr. Loiselle noticed a growing need for an evidence-based distress screening that would be more sustainable and could use support from volunteers. A recently completed pilot study showed significant improvements in distress following personalized cancer information and volunteer support. Dr. Loiselle has also partnered with the Rossy Cancer Network (RCN) to survey over 2,400 patients about their experience and satisfaction with cancer care across three participating hospitals. The active dissemination of these findings will better inform clinicians and researchers about patients' needs and preferences. In addition to these pursuits, Dr. Loiselle is actively involved in community outreach through young adults with cancer retreats, public lecture series, and short documentaries (for an overview of ongoing projects, please see: www.loisellelab.ca).

On the question of personal interests outside of academia, Dr. Loiselle is passionate about hiking, snowshoeing, traveling in developing countries, wine tasting and spending quality time with her family, friends and pets.

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

Loiselle, C. G., & Ahmed, S. (2017). Is Connected Health Contributing to a Healthier Population? *Journal of Medical Internet Research*. 19(11), e386.

Duthie, K., Strohschein, F. J., **Loiselle, C. G.** (2017). Living with cancer and other chronic conditions: Patients' perceptions of their healthcare experience. *Canadian Oncology Nursing Journal*, 27(1), 43-48.

Chaturvedi, S. K., Stroshchein, F. J., Saraf, G., & **Loiselle, C. G.** (2014) Communication in cancer care: Psychosocial, interactional, cultural, and technological issues. A general overview and the example of India. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 5, 1332.

Loiselle, C. G., Edgar, L., Batist, G., Lu, J., & Lauzier, S. (2010). The impact of a multimedia informational intervention on psychosocial adjustment among individuals with newly diagnosed breast or prostate cancer: A feasibility study. *Patient Education and Counseling*, 80(1), 48-55.