

Focus on Faculty #42

Ari Meguerditchian



[Dr. Ari Meguerditchian](#) is an Associate Professor in the Gerald Bronfman Department of Oncology and the Department of Surgery at McGill University. He is a graduate of Université de Montréal medical school, where he also completed a Masters' degree in Biomedical Sciences. His training in General Surgery at Laval University was followed by a three-year fellowship in Surgical Oncology and health services research at Roswell Park Cancer Institute (Buffalo).

Dr. Meguerditchian has been a Surgical Oncologist at the MUHC since 2008, specializing in the treatment of breast, skin and soft tissue malignancies. In addition to his clinical duties, he is actively involved in teaching, research and administrative leadership at McGill University. He was Site Director of surgical undergraduate education at the Royal Victoria Hospital between 2010 and 2013, during the implementation and roll-out of one45 online student evaluations. Between 2012 and 2014 he served as Program Director of McGill's Surgical Oncology Residency Training Program and was successful in securing Program accreditation both from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and the Accreditation Committee for Graduate Medical Education (U.S.), making McGill the first surgical oncology training program with dual Canadian and American approval. Dr. Meguerditchian was appointed as Graduate Program Director in the Gerald Bronfman Department of Oncology as the MSc in Oncology; Non-thesis program awaits approval from the Quebec Ministry of Education. Dr. Meguerditchian is a member of the Surgery Committee of the Medical Council of Canada and serves as Associate Editor for the Education section of the journal *Current Oncology*. He has received awards recognizing his commitment to teaching: David Owen Undergraduate Teaching Award in surgery, the Gerald Bronfman Centre Award for Teaching and Mentorship (from the Department of Oncology) and the Canadian Association of Medical Education Certificate of Merit.

Dr. Meguerditchian's research focuses on the quality of cancer care. He has received grants from the Fonds de la recherche en santé du Québec and the Canadian Cancer Society Research Institute, and developed expertise in the use of large administrative databases to apply quality metrics and identify irregularities in trajectories of care. In collaboration with colleagues at the Clinical and Health Informatics Research Group, he has published on challenges in delivering quality with a particular focus on high risk contexts such as in older patients, long term treatment toxicity management and self-administered anti-cancer therapy. Most recently, he received support from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research to develop and evaluate a health informatic application that provides real-time patient-specific alerts to health professionals treating breast cancer patients with anti-estrogen therapy.

As the leader of the Cancer Quality & Innovation Program at the Rossy Cancer Network (RCN), over the past five years Dr. Meguerditchian has established opportunities to consolidate McGill's leadership in the field of oncology. He developed the RCN Research Fund to support research that holds potential to improve the organisation, delivery and quality of cancer care. Since 2014, research funded by this mechanism has resulted in abstracts, presentations, publications, CIHR and most recently FRQS funding. The RCN Skills Enhancement Fund developed in collaboration with oncology nursing leadership has allowed close to 200 nurses across McGill hospitals to get cancer-specific training and certification. In 2018, this program received recognition from the Canadian Nurses Association. The RCN Quality Improvement Initiatives Fund developed in collaboration with oncology clinical leadership has supported important quality initiatives such as improving access to fertility preservation and a pilot medicinal cannabis program for cancer patients. Dr. Meguerditchian is also a member of the Institut national d'excellence en santé et services sociaux. He participates in the committee responsible for reviewing new cancer treatments being assessed for provincial funding and is actively involved in the development and validation of provincial guidelines for optimal cancer care.

Outside of his professional activities, Dr. Meguerditchian enjoys spending time with his family, listening to music, reading and spending time outdoors with his two young children.

We asked Dr. Meguerditchian to list a few of his articles whose work he is particularly proud of or enjoyed the most. This is what he provided:

Westley T, Syrowatka A, Henault D, Rho, YS, Khazoom F, Chang SL, Tamblyn R, Mayo N, **Meguerditchian AN**. Patterns and Predictors of Emergency Department Visits among Older Patients after Breast Cancer Surgery: A Population-Based Cohort Study. *Journal of Geriatric Oncology* 2018 May 9(3): 204-213.

Syrowatka A, Chang SL, Tamblyn R, Mayo N, **Meguerditchian AN**. Psychotropic and Narcotic Drug Use in Older Breast Cancer Patients across the Care Trajectory: A Population-Based Cohort Study. *Journal of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network* 2016 Nov 14(11): 1412-1419.

Meguerditchian AN, Dauphinee D, Girard N, Eguale T, Riedel KE, Jacques A, Meterissian SM, Buckeridge DL, Abrahamowicz M, Tamblyn R. Do Physician Communication Skills Influence Screening Mammography Utilization? *BMC Health Services Research*, 2012 July 25(12): 219.