

## Focus on Faculty #46

### Luis Souhami



[Dr. Luis Souhami](#) is a tenured Professor in the Gerald Bronfman Department of Oncology, Division of Radiation Oncology and a radiation oncologist at the MUHC. He received his medical degree from Escola de Medicina e Cirurgia in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1972. He subsequently undertook post-graduate training at State University of New York at Stony Brook, and completed his residency in internal medicine at Memorial University, St. John's, Newfoundland. He came to North America to become a cardiologist, but changed his mind after being exposed to cancer patients during a rotation in hematology. Dr. Souhami completed his residency in radiation oncology at Princess Margaret Hospital, Toronto, Ontario in 1979, and subsequently served as a Visiting Fellow (Radiation Oncology) at M.D. Anderson Hospital and Cancer Institute, Houston, Texas.

After his residency in radiation oncology, Dr. Souhami returned to his native country of Brazil and worked for seven years at the National Cancer Institute in Rio de Janeiro where he became Chief of the Department of Radiation Oncology. He moved to Montreal and was appointed at McGill University in 1987. Dr. Souhami served as Associate Director of the Division of Radiation Oncology for 19 years and as Co-Director of the Department's Clinical Research Program from 2002 to 2007.

At McGill, together with Drs. Ervin Podgorsak and André Olivier, Dr. Souhami participated in the development and implementation of the first linear accelerator-based stereotactic radiosurgical program in North America. He was also centrally involved with the expansion of the high dose rate brachytherapy program initiated at the old Royal Victoria Hospital, again a first in the whole of North America. Both techniques are now widely used across the world. He has been the McGill principal investigator of the RTOG cooperative group (now NRG Oncology) since 1991 and under his leadership McGill was number one in patient accrual in the

whole of North America for many years. His current research interests include the combined use of chemotherapy and radiotherapy in cancer, stereotactic radiosurgery, genito-urinary, gynecologic and central nervous system malignancies with emphasis on hypofractionated radiotherapy schedules. He has been an invited speaker at numerous congresses across North America and worldwide and has published more than 245 peer-reviewed publications, several book chapters and two textbooks of radiation oncology.

Dr. Souhami is involved in teaching and training of residents, fellows, many international visitors and medical students and has served on the Residency Program Committee for radiation oncology. He is proud to have many of his residents and students co-authoring peer-reviewed papers with him.

Dr. Souhami has been a visiting professor in many countries and several centers in Canada and was the Gordon Richards Lecturer of the annual meeting of the Canadian Association of Radiation Oncologists. In addition, he was nominated a Fellow of the American Society for Radiation Oncology, was awarded the gold medal from the Brazilian Society of Radiotherapy and was inducted into the Academy of Medicine of Rio de Janeiro.

Dr. Souhami is married with two children and five grandchildren. In addition to his professional activities, he enjoys sports, particularly soccer (has been a very successful coach!), music and travelling. He is an avid reader of biographies of Brazilian composers.

We asked Dr. Souhami to list a few of his articles whose work he is particularly proud of or enjoyed the most. He has selected four papers that were practice changing:

**Souhami L.**, Gil R.A., Allan S.E., Canary P.C.V., Araújo C.M.M., Pinto L.H., Silveira T.R.P. A randomized trial of chemotherapy followed by pelvic radiation therapy in stage IIIB carcinoma of the cervix. *J Clin Oncol* 9: 970-977, 1991.

**Souhami L**, Seiferheld W, Brachman D, Podgorsak EB, Werner-Wasik M, Lustig L, Schultz CJ, Sause W, Okunieff P, Buckner J, Zamorano L, Mehta MP, Curran, Jr., W. Randomized comparison of stereotactic radiosurgery followed by conventional radiotherapy with carmustine to conventional radiotherapy with carmustine for patients with glioblastoma multiforme: Report of Radiation Therapy Oncology Group 93-05 protocol. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys* 60:853-860, 2004.

Shipley WU, Seiferheld W, Lukka HR, Major PP, Heney NM, Grignon DJ, Sartor O, Patel MP, Bahary JP, Zietman AL, Pisansky TM, Zeitzer KL, Lawton CA, Feng FY, Lovett RD, Balogh AG, **Souhami L**, Rosenthal SA, Kerlin KJ, Dignam JJ, Pugh SL, Sandler HM; NRG Oncology RTOG. Radiation with or without Antiandrogen Therapy in Recurrent Prostate Cancer. *N Engl J Med* 376:417-428, 2017.

Nabid A, Carrier N, Martin AG, Bahary JP, Lemaire C, Vass S, Bahoric B, Archambault R, Vincent F, Bettahar R, Duclos M, Garant MP, **Souhami L**. Duration of Androgen Deprivation Therapy in High-risk Prostate Cancer: A Randomized Phase III Trial. *Eur Urol*. 4:432-441, 2018.