Focus on Faculty #48
William Parker

William Parker is an Assistant Professor in the Medical Physics Unit of the Gerald Bronfman Department of Oncology and the Chief of the Department of Medical Physics of the McGill University Health Centre's Cedars Cancer Centre. He was born in Caracas, Venezuela and spent his childhood living in Brazil and Venezuela. Eventually, as a teenager, he landed in Canada. He received a Bachelor's degree in Physics from Concordia University in 1992, and a Master's degree in Medical Radiation Physics from McGill University in 1995. William was first employed as a medical physicist at the Centre Hôspitalier de Gatineau where he helped commission the equipment prior to the radiotherapy opening in 1995. In 1996, he was hired at the Montreal General Hospital where he was a clinical medical physicist specializing in radiation oncology physics. In 2009, he became the Chief of the Department of Medical Physics at the MUHC, a position which he still holds.

William has been active in teaching at many levels. He has been involved in teaching radiotherapy physics in the Radiation Oncology Technologist program at Dawson College, as well as Health Physics, Selected Topics in Medical Physics, and Anatomy and Physiology in Medical Physics courses in the M.Sc. program in medical physics at McGill University. He also is very involved in the training of radiation oncology residents, coordinating weekly teaching sessions, and mentoring three rotations. William is also the Director of the Medical Physics residency program, an accredited two-year clinical training program that has graduated 50 residents to date.

William has been given the opportunity to collaborate and lead many research initiatives, has directly supervised 14 M.Sc. thesis students, and has been author or collaborator on 35 peer reviewed publications. His research interests are varied ranging from development of treatment techniques for pediatric radiation therapy to clinical trials.

William is very involved in professional associations, he is Chair of the Continuing Professional Development committee and member of the Education Council of the American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM) and is currently the President of the Association québécoise des physiciens medicaux cliniques (AQPMC). He is also lead physicist for gastrointestinal trials at the NRG Oncology and is a member of the executive committee of the Comite nationale de radio-oncologie reporting to the head of the direction generale de cancerologie of the MSSS.

On the personal front, William is the father of two wonderful daughters, and enjoys running, swimming, hiking, and is an avid cyclist. He also holds a private pilot license and is an aviation enthusiast.

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

Coen JJ, Zhang P, Saylor PJ, Lee CT, Wu CL, **Parker W**, Lautenschlaeger T, Zietman AL, Efstathiou JA, Jani AB, Kucuk O, Souhami L, Rodgers JP, Sandler HM, Shipley WU. Bladder Preservation With Twice-a-Day Radiation Plus Fluorouracil/Cisplatin or Once Daily Radiation Plus Gemcitabine for Muscle-Invasive Bladder Cancer: NRG/RTOG 0712-A Randomized Phase II Trial. J Clin Oncol. 2019 Jan 1;37(1):44-51. doi: 10.1200/JCO.18.00537. Epub 2018 Nov 15. PubMed PMID: 30433852; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC6354769.

Videtic GM, Paulus R, Singh AK, Chang JY, **Parker W**, Olivier KR, Timmerman RD, Komaki RR, Urbanic JJ, Stephans KL, Yom SS, Robinson CG, Belani CP, Iyengar P, Ajlouni MI, Gopaul DD, Gomez Suescun JB, McGarry RC, Choy H, Bradley JD. Long-term Follow-up on NRG Oncology RTOG 0915 (NCCTG N0927): A Randomized Phase 2 Study Comparing 2 Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy Schedules for Medically Inoperable Patients With Stage I Peripheral Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer. Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys. 2018 Dec 1. pii: S0360-3016(18)34048-3. doi: 10.1016/j.ijrobp.2018.11.051. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 30513377.

Parker W, Brodeur M, Roberge D, Freeman C. Standard and nonstandard craniospinal radiotherapy using helical TomoTherapy. Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys. 2010 Jul 1;77(3):926-31. doi: 10.1016/j.ijrobp.2009.09.020. Epub 2010 Mar 16.

Parker W, Filion E, Roberge D, Freeman CR. Intensity-modulated radiotherapy for craniospinal irradiation: target volume considerations, dose constraints, andcompeting risks. Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys. 2007 Sep 1;69(1):251-7.