

## Focus on Faculty #49

### Lucy Gilbert



[Dr Lucy Gilbert](#) is a Professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and in the Gerald Bronfman Department of Oncology. She is the Director of the Division of Gynecologic Oncology at the McGill University Health Centre and leads a multidisciplinary team providing Gynecologic Cancer Services to the region. Having obtained her medical degree from the University of Mysore, India, she immigrated to the UK. She subsequently obtained her Specialist Certificate of Accreditation from the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (UK), an MSc in Cancer Care from the University of London and was a Fogarty Fellow at the National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, Maryland for two years.

Before coming to McGill, Dr Gilbert served as a Lead for Gynecologic Cancer Services for two Health Districts in the UK and was instrumental in transforming the delivery of cancer services in these regions. She served on a panel that accredited hospitals wishing to provide gynecologic cancer services in the National Health Service (NHS).

Dr Gilbert was recruited by McGill University in 2001 with the mandate of improving the academic profile of Gynecologic Oncology; at that time McGill University did not have a fellowship program in gynecologic oncology nor a dedicated research unit for gynecologic cancer. She delivered on this mandate. She started the Gynecologic Oncology Subspecialty training program at McGill, succeeded in getting the program fully accredited by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and served as its program director for 6 years. Dr Gilbert has received several teaching awards: 2007 - Carl Nimrod Award for Excellence in Teaching from the Association of Professors in Gynecology and Obstetrics (Canada), 2008 - Excellence in Teaching Award from the Association of Professors in Obstetrics and Gynecology (North America), 2009 - the Faculty of Medicine's Excellence in Teaching Award (McGill University).

Dr Gilbert has strengthened the clinical service by introducing state of the art treatments including robotic and laparoscopic surgery, sentinel lymph node detection, intraperitoneal chemotherapy. Under her leadership in 2009, the Gynecologic Cancer Service at the MUHC was the sole recipient of all University Hospitals in Quebec to be awarded Level 4, the highest level, by the Quebec Provincial Government.

Dr Gilbert started the Women's Health Research Unit at the McGill University Health Centre, which has evolved into one of the most active research units in Gynecologic Oncology in North America; it currently employs 28 full time staff. Her primary interest is in identifying a method for the early detection of high-grade ovarian and endometrial cancer: the DOvEE (Detecting Ovarian and Endometrial Cancers Early) project and DOvEEgene project. Her research in this area was included within the top 10 scientific discoveries by Quebec Science Magazine in 2012 and in 2018. In 2019 this work received the top People's Choice Award for any scientific work originating from Quebec.

Dr Gilbert considers it a privilege to be at McGill working with so many talented people and is particularly energized and inspired by the incomparable generosity and support she receives from the Montreal community.

Dr Gilbert is an avid reader and finds reading the best form of relaxation. Outdoors, she enjoys water sports and downhill skiing.

We asked Dr Gilbert to list a few of her articles, which she believes contributed to a change in thinking or practice. This is what she provided:

1. **Gilbert L**, Basso O, Sampalis J, Karp I, Martins C, Feng J, Piedimonte S, Quintal L, Ramana-Kumar AV, Takefman J, Grigorie MS, Artho G, Krishnamurthy S, for the DOvE Study Group. Assessment of symptomatic women for early diagnosis of ovarian cancer: results from the prospective DOvE pilot project. *Lancet Oncol.* March 2012; 13(3): 285-91. PubMed PMID: 22257524
2. Mansoor R, Mirza, Bradley J, Monk, Jørn Herrstedt, Amit M. Oza, Sven Mahner, Andrés Redondo, Michel Fabbro, Jonathan A. Ledermann, Domenica Lorusso, Ignace Vergote, Noa Efrat Ben-Baruch, Christian Marth, Radosław Mądry, René dePont Christensen, Jonathan S. Berek, Anne Dørum, Anna V. Tinker, Andreas du Bois, Antonio González Martín, Philippe Follana, Benedict Benigno, Per Rosenberg, **Lucy Gilbert**, Bobbie J. Rimel, Joseph Buscema, John P. Balsler, Shefali Agarwal, Ursula A. Matulonis. Niraparib Maintenance Therapy in Platinum-Sensitive, Recurrent Ovarian Cancer, *New England Journal of Medicine*, October 2016, 375(22): 2154-2164. DOI:10.1056/NEJMoa1611310
3. **Gilbert L**, Revil T, Meunier C, Jardon K, Zeng X, Martins C, Arseneau J, Fu L, North K, Schiavi A, Ehrensperger E, Artho G, Todd L, Morris D, Ragoussis J. The empress of subterfuge: cancer of the fallopian tube presenting with malapropism. *The Lancet*, Sep 2017; 390 (10098):1003-1004. DOI [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(17\)31586-6](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(17)31586-6)
4. Yuxuan Wang, Lu Li, Christopher Douville, Joshua D. Cohen, Ting-Tai Yen, Isaac Kinde, Karin Sundfelt, Susanne K. Kjær, Ralph H. Hruban, Ie-Ming Shih, Tian-Li Wang, Robert J. Kurman, Simeon Springer, Janine Ptak, Maria Popoli, Joy Schaefer, Natalie Silliman, Lisa Dobbyn, Edward J. Tanner, Ana Angarita, Maria Lycke, Kirsten Jochumsen, Bahman Afsari, Ludmila Danilova, Douglas A. Levine, Kris Jardon, Xing Zeng, Jocelyne Arseneau, Lili Fu, Luis A. Diaz, Jr., Rachel Karchin, Cristian Tomasetti, Kenneth W. Kinzler, Bert Vogelstein, Amanda N. Fader, **Lucy Gilbert**, and Nickolas Papadopoulos. Evaluation of liquid from the Papanicolaou test and other liquid biopsies for the detection of endometrial and ovarian cancers, 21 March 2018, *Sci. Transl. Med.* 10, eaap8793 (2018) DOI: 10.1126/scitranslmed.aap8793