

Focus on Faculty #56

Linda Ofiara



In the dressing room at the Bell Centre when I played on Dr. David Muller's "doctor team" at the MUHC Family Day

I started my medical journey at the University of Toronto where I completed my medical degree in 1989. I came to Montreal for a family medicine residency, but after one year of training changed to internal medicine. For subspecialty training I was torn between respirology and medical oncology, and settled finally on respirology because of my love of bronchoscopy. One of my early mentors introduced me to endobronchial brachytherapy that inspired me to complete an additional year of training in medical oncology after completing my respirology training. I returned to McGill University in 1999, after spending two years in London, Ontario where I worked as a respirologist at the St. Thomas-Elgin Hospital and lung oncology associate at the London Regional Cancer Centre.

As an Assistant professor in the Department of Medicine, Respiratory Division and an [Associate Member](#) of the Gerald Bronfman Department of Oncology at McGill, I follow lung cancer patients through their care trajectory: from first contact in the Rapid Investigation Clinic, diagnosis and staging via EBUS bronchoscopy, treatment planning in the lung cancer multidisciplinary clinic and finally providing systemic treatments in the Cedars Cancer Centre. I am truly fortunate to be part of an excellent clinical and clinical research team. These collaborations have led to improvements in wait times by streamlining the diagnosis and staging of lung cancer, improvements in the acquisition of tissue samples for lung cancer biomarkers and in better treatments for lung cancer patients.

I spend most of my time in clinical medicine providing patient care and student and resident teaching. I round on the respirology consult service, respirology ward, internal medicine ward, interventional bronchoscopy service, and the rapid investigation lung clinic service. One of my other roles is Director of the McGill respirology training program. This is my third year as program director. Teaching, curriculum development and evaluation, Royal College accreditation and the transition to competency by design have made this a rewarding and challenging position. I am also co-director of the McGill Thoracic Oncology & Interventional Respirology Fellowship Program.

Best times are those spent with my family. My husband, Anastassios, is from Greece. He loves the summer, I love the winter. Every second year we travel to Greece with our children Patrick and Katerina. On the alternating years, we travel to colder places: the west coast of Newfoundland, Banff (where we hiked through snow this July), Iceland, and PEI where my family lives. Belonging to a large East Coast family (I have 26 first cousins) means that there is always someone to meet up with at Brackley Beach. Reading, watercolor painting and knitting are other activities I enjoy. Twice a week, I can be found on the ice, playing hockey. Focusing on a fast moving puck is an excellent way of leaving hospital cares behind. I am also a hockey goalie mom and I have sometimes found myself at three different arenas on a single day!

Some publications that outline my collaborative efforts include:

Ezer N, Navasakulpong A, Schwartzman K, **Ofiara L**, Gonzalez A. Impact of Rapid Investigation Clinic on timeliness of lung cancer diagnosis and treatment. BMC Pulmonary Medicine 2017 Dec 8;17(1):178.

Ofiara L, Navasakulpong A, Beaudoin S, Gonzalez AV. Optimizing tissue sampling for the diagnosis, subtyping and molecular analysis of lung cancer. Front Oncol. 2014 4:253

Ofiara L, Roman T, Schwartzman K, Levy RD. Local Determinants of Response to Endobronchial High-Dose Rate Brachytherapy in Bronchogenic Carcinoma. Chest 1997 Oct;112(4): 946-953